



Voiture Nationale 40&8



VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Send your Articles and photos with descriptions to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com

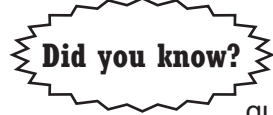
Frank Campo- Chef de Chemin de Fer

Hello Voyageurs and Dames,

We have entered the long days of summer. Some say it's the dog days of summer. I really am not sure what that exactly means, but oh well, we are there. My days as Chef are starting to end in a couple of months and I have enjoyed serving as your "Big Chef". My travels have been great meeting all the voyageurs and dames in the 40&8. There really haven't been any big hiccups or issues that I have had to deal with.



We only have a month left for this year's membership term. Many of our Locals are at 100% or more. Some even need only 1 or 2 to make goal. Make sure you get your reports to the appropriate person. Let's finish the year strong and over our targeted goal.



During my last article, I asked "can you guess what famous rock-

star whose wife I worked with? Here's a hint: he was attributed to be the "eggman in a Beatles song as well as a close friend of Jimmi Hendrix. He was also the lead singer for two rock bands." The answer is the Animals and War's front man, Eric Burdon. Eric's wife and manager Mariani worked with me in a small tax office in Joshua Tree, CA.

I have really enjoyed seeing the different Chateaus and meeting spaces the voyageurs have used. The food and hospitality were A1. I haven't had a bad meal nor stayed in a horrible hotel/motel. The only trouble I ran into was weather related when I was stuck at the airport in Chicago for over 12 hours due to weather-related issues.

This year, 2024 brings some exciting events. We have the Olympics that will be held in Paris in July. I've always enjoyed rooting for Team USA. Paris will be an exciting location with many venues to visit. The city is filled with a rich history and the architecture is unique, from the Arch de Triumph to the Eifel Tower. We also have "silly season" approaching in November with the election of the next president. I'm already tired of the political ads.

Having lived in Southern California for thirty years, I have run across several famous people. I rode motorcycles with the Terminator's Robert Patrick; Full Metal Jacket's Animal Mother Adam Baldwin and Buffy the Vampire Slayer's Kristy Swanson. I've attended a dinner with Forrest Gump's Lt. Dan, Gary Sinise and Criminal Minds, Joe Mantegna. I actually saw Joe again in Washington DC the day after Memorial Day this year as I visited the Air and Space Museum.

Frank Campo, Chef de Chemin de Fer, 2024

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Correspondent National

Ron Rolfes



Greetings Voyageurs,

The Summer heat has arrived and with that things are heating up at Voiture Nationale. I am happy to report that for the most part the staff has completed the move to the new building. That being said, we are asking that **all** future mailings be sent to the new address: **Voiture Nationale, 1635 Hawthorne Dr, Plainfield, IN 46168**. We are also planning an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 26th. More details can be found on the website at www.fortyandeight.org/408-headlines.

The 105th Promenade Nationale is now just 3 short months away and will be here before we know it. Now is a good time to get your registration and hotel reservations made. The registration form can be found on the website at www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale. Information for making your hotel reservations can be found on the same web page. Be sure to use **CODE ID 37072** when speaking with the agent.

If you have not already done so, now would be a good time for Voyageurs, Dames, Locales, Grandes, and Cabanes alike to get your AD in for the 105th Program Book. Your AD's help the Convention Corporation immensely. Do not forget about the "AD" challenge, that ALL Grandes and Cabanes submit a minimum Half Page Ad for the program book. (If we get 100% participation, each Grand Chef de Gare or Cabane La Presidente will receive a token of my appreciation). I understand that the AD campaign is doing okay, but I know we can do better. For more information on Ad's or registration for the 105th Promenade Nationale go the website at www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale. The Grand or Cabane with the highest percentage of Locals represented in the program book (at a minimum of a Quarter Page Ad per Voiture Local or Cabane) will receive the Grand Prize to be announced at the Banquet in Sandusky Friday September 20th, 2024.

Be sure to check out the Emblem Sales featured item! The 2024 Promenade Nationale Challenge Coin came out so much better than anticipated! The picture does it no justice.

Lastly, anyone thinking of running for an elected position for the 2025 year, please reach out to me with a letter of intent. Also, to all Grandes, be sure to get your recommendations in.

See you in Sandusky

Emblem Sales



These ONE-OF-A-KIND memorable challenge coins for Promenade Nationale 2024 are on sale NOW! Give the office a call and order your coins now! **Prices go up in Sandusky.**

Currently: **\$15 each or 10 for \$120.**

In Sandusky they will be **\$20 each or 10 for \$150.**

To order please call or e-mail Voiture Nationale and ask for Emblem Sales at (317) 634-1804 (ttaylor@fortyandeight.org). *(Not currently available online)*

Voyageur Briefs Concepts

Would you like some more publicity for your Locale, Grande, or Community? Submit an article in Microsoft Word with some clear photographs for inclusion into the Voyageur Briefs. You may email clear photos with a description of each photo including date, names of people, and location to voyageurbriefs@gmail.com.

Some quick guidelines....

First: Let's keep the Voyageur Briefs just that.... brief. Submit your short articles and photos (with names, dates, descriptions, and locations) and I'll get the quality photos into this format to enhance the effectivity of your harassment. Note: The photos cannot be blurry, must have appropriate zoom, and be of high enough resolution for print. I can help wordsmith some things for you if writing is not your strength.

Second: The Voyageur Briefs are published quarterly. This means articles for specific holidays may be best described for the next quarter. The next Voyageur Briefs will be published in mid-September, so articles for holidays in October through December would be most effective.

Third: Keep it fun! There is no formal requirement for photo or story submission but keep it brief. Chapeau's aren't required and reasonably PC photos will be published!

Lastly: Laugh a little. We are the "fun loving" veterans organization!

Please submit articles and photos no later than **September 1st** for inclusion into the next Voyageur Briefs!



WE'VE MOVED!

It has been a long ride, some parts we could set the cruise on 70, other parts we were slamming on the brakes because of the potholes. We finally made it to our destination, our forever home. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this move and we still have a lot of unpacking to do. Please start using our new address for future mailings and include this message in your monthly newsletters. Ensure each Locale and Grand gets the message.

Voiture Nationale
1635 Hawthorne Drive
Plainfield, IN 46168-1868



Thank You!
Terri, Becky, Tammy

DIGITAL UPDATE! IT'S 2024, NOT Y2K!

This is the place to add links to important forms, communicate, etc. Links and descriptions only! That's the purpose of a digital presence... You can just click-and-go.

Nationale: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/>

Chef Campo (and Sous Chefs) Bios: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/biographies/>

See what you're officers are up to! Official Travel: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/official-travel/>

INDIANA AND OHIO JOIN TEAMS TO HOST PROMENADE NATIONALE!

Jim Maxwell- President of Indiana/Ohio Convention Corporation

Indiana and Ohio has joined to host Promenade Nationale for 2023 and 2024. 2023 went well and the Convention Corporation congratulates Voyageurs and Dames from both Grande Voitures for the success.

There has been several changes on menus and the hotel has promised to locate the guest rooms closer to the Convention Center. Terri and Becky will, once again, be doing a professional job at the National office in Sandusky. Mary Orval and her crew will be managing the Dames office. Stop by and purchase a chance on their raffles.

Once again we are asking for donations for the Hospitality Room. There has not been a Hospitality Room at Promenade Nationale for the entire week in modern times and we are going to have it again this year for our Voyageurs and Dames to enjoy. If you can, bring your donations to the Hospitality Room in Sandusky. Again, we are very grateful for your help.

Since the Heritage Corporation does not print the Program book after going out of business several years ago, the Grande Voiture hosts have had to solicit ads themselves. Your ads, regardless of size, helps tremendously to the present and future Promenade Nationale Convention Corporations. On the 40&8 web page at fortyandeight.org you will find the drop down menu under Promenade Nationale all the details pertaining to Promenade Nationale.

40 & 8

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Home News & Notes Resources Membership Programs Promenade Nationale Emblem Sales LaFemmes Contact Us

Don't forget to register to join us for your Promenade Nationale. We hope to see you in Sandusky, Ohio in September.

Mike Worrell and Mitch Newell (Indiana) have volunteered to handle the registration desk at Promenade. They sure could use more help. Stop by the desk and give them a hand if you wish.

Thanking you in advance for any help that you can contribute!

<https://www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale/>

Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Agenda

Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Registration Form in PDF

Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Registration Form (Fillable)

Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Program Book Ad's **DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1ST**

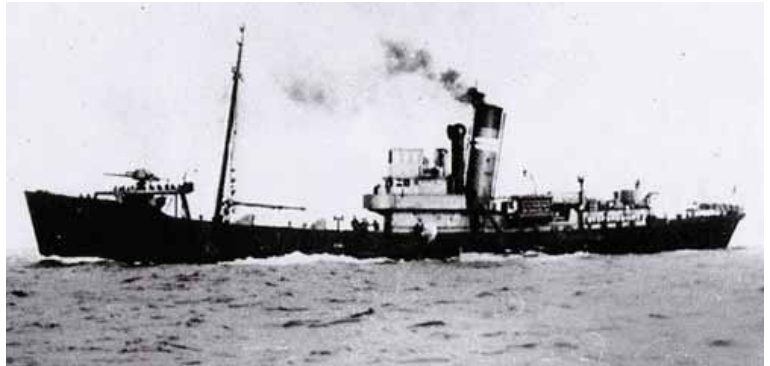
Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Shirt Order Form

Click [Here](#) to View or Print the 105th Promenade Nationale Past Chef & Generals Club Luncheon Form

REMEMBRANCE OF THE BRITISH SAILORS WHO DIED OFF OUR COAST IN WWII

Randall Shrader

Youth Sports Directeur, Randall Shrader, participated in the annual Ceremony at Ocracoke Island for the remembrance of the British Sailors who died off our coast in WWII. Directeur Shrader along with members of the American Legion and the Royal British Legion have been participating in this event since 2017.



This year marks the 82nd anniversary of the sinking of H.M.T. Bedfordshire off the North Carolina coast on May 11th, 1942. Representatives from the British Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy will be in attendance, as well as members of the United States Coast Guard, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and students from Ocracoke School.



The annual graveside ceremony traces its ties to the Ocracoke community back to May 1942, when an island family donated the land for the cemetery and honored the men with a burial service. The British Cemetery site continues to resonate with island residents for its historical significance, and it has also become an important stop for visitors to pay their respects. The Ocracoke community, the

U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum have worked together to care for the gravesites and honor these British sailors each year since 1942.

GRANDE du PENNSYLVANIA

Mike W Tomolonis (Baby Mike)

On Friday June 14th, 2024, Grande Du PA gave a donation to Troy Youth Sportsmans. This was our second time donating to Troy Youth Sportsmans. The donation was given at Comfort Suites Inn at 132 Village Dr, State College, PA 16801 during our Grande Cheminot weekend June 14th-16th, 2024.



GRANDE du KANSAS

Vance Chartier, Directeur Merci Box Car

Members of the Grande du Kansas were in Topeka on June 27th, 2024 with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly where she signed a Proclamation declaring July 20th, 2024, Kansas Merci Boxcar Day. The reason for the proclamation was to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of The Kansas Merci Boxcar in the state of Kansas.

July 20th is the date that *The Kansas Merci Boxcar and Museum* and *The Friends of the Kansas Merci Boxcar and Museum Society* have scheduled their 75th anniversary celebration at Veterans Memorial Park (1305 Canterbury Drive) in Hays Kansas. The public is invited to the celebration and other local veterans' groups such as the American Legion, the VFW, the Marine Corps League and the Vietnam Veterans Association will be helping put together a meaningful celebration of the history of the boxcar.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration on July 20th will include honoring our current veterans with a rendition of the Armed Forces Medley, reading of the Flanders Field poem and an honor salute to remember those who gave all. A brief history of the boxcar shall be read and the guest speaker for the event is Patrick Zollner - Executive Director of The Kansas Historical Society, who will be speaking about the importance of preserving the unique history of the Friendship Train and the Kansas Merci Boxcar and how it represents the giving nature of the people of the United States and Kansas. As part of the ceremony, the Mayor of Hays, KS will read a proclamation declaring July 20th as Merci Boxcar Day in Hays and the 40&8 will read the governor's proclamation.



Left: The Voyageurs that participated in the signing event with Governor Kelly are Nick Weyers - Grande Chef de Gare center right, Vance Chartier - Grande Chef De Train and Directeur Merci Boxcar center left holding the proclamation. Then from left to right, Donald Yost - Voiture 1543 Correspondant, Jim Cook - Grande Chef de Gare Passe, Tom Emerson - Grand Du Kansas Avocat, Curt Renard - Grande Correspondant, Aaron Winkelman - Grand Chef De Gare Passe, Tim Evans - Grande Sous Chef De Train, and Jordan Wieber - Grande Directeur of Public Relations.

GRANDE du SOUTH DAKOTA

Gena Keller, Correspondant

Spring Cheminot 2024, held in Watertown SD, was a momentous occasion filled with celebrations and achievements. The event was deemed a great success, leaving participants and organizers alike with a sense of pride and accomplishment. The highlight of the gathering was the well-deserved recognition of Larry Bohms as the Voyageur of the Year. Larry's dedication and commitment to La Société were unparalleled, with over 50 years of service to his credit.



Throughout his journey, Larry exhibited exceptional leadership qualities and played a crucial role in the success of his first Voiture Locale 146 in Aberdeen. His unwavering commitment as the SD Grande Chef de Gare earned him respect and admiration from his peers. Larry's transfer to Watertown, Voiture Locale 773, marked another chapter in his illustrious career. His strong leadership skills were evident as he spearheaded numerous initiatives for the betterment of La Société.

The presentation of Larry's much-deserved award was a proud moment for everyone in attendance. Greg Hall, the Directeur of Special Awards, VL 522, honored Larry with utmost respect. It was a fitting tribute to a man who had dedicated his life to the growth and success of La Société. Larry's accomplishments, including his exceptional protocol and willingness to go the extra mile, were acknowledged, and celebrated by his peers, creating an atmosphere of appreciation and admiration.

Congratulations Larry Bohms! Your remarkable achievements, outstanding leadership, and unwavering dedication have made a significant impact on La Société. Your contributions have not only shaped the success of Voiture Locale 773 but also inspired countless others along the way. Your recognition as the Voyageur of the Year is a testament to your remarkable character and commitment to excellence. May your future endeavors bring you continued success and fulfillment as you continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.



As Grande du SD celebrated a successful Spring Cheminot, Carville Star Sous Directeur Jerry Shepherd decided to add some extra fun and excitement to the celebration of La Société Birthday. One of the highlights of the event was the presence of Greg Hall, the most mature and wise voyager, who shared his experiences and wisdom with everyone. Alongside him stood the youngest voyager, Victor Vandemark, representing the bright future of our organization. It was evident that Victor had a promising journey ahead. The birthday girl, Charlotte Vandemark, added an extra touch of joy to the occasion. How fitting it was to witness the passing down of Americanism's passion to the younger generation in such a fun and engaging way!

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GRANDE du SOUTH DAKOTA (Continued)

Gena Keller, Correspondant

It was truly heartwarming to see the camaraderie and connection between the different generations of La Société members during the celebration. Jerry Shepherd's decision to spice up the event with the participation of individuals from various age groups not only brought joy to the attendees but also emphasized the importance of inclusivity and unity within our organization. The image of Greg Hall, the embodiment of wisdom and experience, standing proudly beside Victor Vandemark, the embodiment of youth and potential, sent a powerful message of hope and continuity for La Société. Additionally, having Charlotte Vandemark, the birthday girl, join in the festivities further highlighted the spirit of fun and celebration that permeated the event. The presence and involvement of these individuals showcased the true essence of Americanism, encapsulating the values of mentorship, growth, and passing down knowledge to future generations.

Chef de Gare Sean Johnson was happy with the turnout at the Grande du SD Spring Cheminot, and how much was accomplished. He is happy to report that 21 Anniversary Box Car Coins were sold! He thanks all who bought one. Grande du SD Correspondant Keller will be placing another order soon!

At the recent Grande du SD Spring Cheminot Banquet, people were eagerly putting their intelligence to the test by asking themselves the question, "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" Amidst the laughter and enjoyment, it became a topic of amusement as everyone wondered, "Is that really a fifth-grade level question?" However, the overall atmosphere was one of pure fun, and it was a delightful occasion for all. The photo below captured the moment of triumph as each individual proudly held their diploma, declaring with a supportive tone, "Yes, I am smarter than a 5th Grader."



GREAT WESTERN PROMENADE

Bill Hauser, Voiture 99, Vancouver, Washington

Voyageurs from eight States met in Vancouver, Washington for the Great Western Promenade April 10th-13th, 2024. Representatives from Alaska, California, Illinois, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Washington were hosted by the Grand DU Washington and Voiture 99 of Vancouver, WA.

Participants were treated to tours of PT 658, one of the last completely restored and fully operational World War II Torpedo Boats in existence. Additional tours to Fort Vancouver, a re-creation of one of the earliest fur trading posts in the Pacific Northwest and Pearson Air Museum, which focused on the contributions that the area (Pacific Northwest) made during the First World War. Local golf outings and a trip to a local casino were also well attended.



Above: GW President Anne Beaton and Chef de Chemin de fer Frank Campo discuss the history of PT 658 with volunteer crew

Below: Chef Campo and Chef Todd Boyd (Voiture 99) met at the PT 658 Museum entrance.



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GREAT WESTERN PROMENADE (Continued)

Bill Hauser, Voiture 99, Vancouver, Washington

During the banquet held on Saturday evening, the keynote speaker, the Honorable Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, WA spoke highly of contributions to the community made by veterans and veterans' organizations. Chef de Chemin de Fer, Frank Campo and President of the Great Western Promenade, Passe Chef Anne Beaton (Voiture 99) provided additional comments and insight.



Left: National Director of the POW/MIA Scholarship Program, Steve Slegers and Chef Campo at Great Western Banquet Dinner.



Above: Members of the Great Western met for lunch at Voiture 99 after tours.



Above: New street side sign for Voiture 99, Vancouver Washington.

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GREAT WESTERN PROMENADE (Continued)

Bill Hauser, Voiture 99, Vancouver, Washington



Left: Chef Campo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Officers of the 2025 Great Western. (L to R) Chef Campo, Gary Galinat (SD) Finance Officer, Dan Evers (OR), Aumonier, Linda Cousineau (MT) 2nd VP, Troy Wilkins (ID) 1st VP and Brett Cooley (OR) President.

Below: Passe Grand Chef (WA) Hank Severin (V1213) and Frank Matlock Sous Director of the National Child Welfare program chat at the Great Western Promenade.



Above: Grand DU Washington, Chef de Gare Frank Falbee escorted the Honorable Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, WA to the Podium for her welcoming address.



Right: Lady Voyageurs of the Great Western (L to R) Sarah Lee (WA), Linda Cousineau (MT), Anne Beaton (WA), Sandy Castellano (ID) and Jennifer Dalrymple (MT).

VOITURE 36 du SAN BERNADINO of GRANDE du CALIFORNIA

Paul C. Pfeifer, Correspondant



Americanism Directeur (and Aumonier) Gregory 'Rocky' Torres of Voiture 36 du San Bernardino CO visited St. Adelaides First Graders to explore and expand knowledge about our American Flag.



The team presented each pupil with a desk flag and information pamphlet, then asked and took questions. Teacher Mrs. Lopez invited the Voiture back in the fall for another presentation.

Accompanying Rocky are Chef de Gare (and Alternate Cheminot Nationale) Ruben Alvarado, Commissaire Intendant (and Box Car Dir) Lee Lombard, POW/ MIA Dir and Nurses Training Dir Norma Martinez.



VOITURE 336 du MOUNTAIN HOME of GRANDE du IDAHO Daniel Damigo, Historien

The 40&8 started their support of nurses training in 1955 and has supported over 35,000 nurses since its inception. In keeping with this tradition, VL336 of Mountain Home, ID held their 1st annual Nurses Training Fundraiser Dinner on April 20th, 2024.



We received over 30 donations for auction from 15 different local companies, members, and spouses. The dinner raised over \$2,200 to support local nursing students like Amber Belmonte; a Senior at Boise State who was awarded with a check for \$750 that night. The funds raised during the dinner will allow us to provide for 3 future scholarships. With the help of our amazing community, we hope to continue this fundraising event for many years to come.

Above: VL336 members with Nursing student recipient.



Right: (L-R) Nurses Training Program Directeur for Grand Du Idaho Goldsby Recipient Amber Belmonte, Chef De Gare Binion.

VOITURE 245 du WILMINGTON of GRANDE du NORTH CAROLINA

Paul Yager, Grand Publicist

Recently, members of Wilmington NC's Voiture 245 joined The Foundation of Brunswick Community College in closing Season 30 of Odell Williamson Auditorium's concert series with its annual fundraiser in support of BCC Nursing students. This organization has contributed over \$10,000 to BCC Nursing students empowering them to deliver top-notch care to all patients.



Right: Pictured are Chef de Gares Passe' Don Eisenman, Rick Sessa, BCC Nursing Student and George B. Boland Nurses Training Scholarship recipient Chelsea Vasaur, Conducteur Jim Giroud, and The Foundation of BCC Executive Director Teresa Nelson.

VOITURE 394 du RIVERSIDE of GRANDE du CALIFORNIA

Dan Weller, Correspondant

Voyageur David Sanchez of Voiture 394 in Riverside, CA donated jackets to the Veteran's Village on March Air Base in Moreno Valley, CA in February.



VOITURE 1635 du Marietta of GRANDE du GEORGIA

Victoria Turney, Correspondant

Voyageur Rich Sestili was invited to attend a picnic and classic car show in White, GA on May 25th, 2024 hosted by local resident Marion Benson. The picnic theme was to remember those who gave everything in fighting for our country.

During the day's activities, Rich gave a small speech to the more than 50 guests about the mission and background of Forty and Eight. At the conclusion, Rich pointed out 40&8 bucket for donations. Due to the generosity of Benson and guests, the bucket idea was a very successful idea and will be used in other upcoming efforts.



Above: Voyageur Rich Sestili presented Marion Benson with a Sestili original painting for the gracious invite and donations.



Right: A great idea to remind folks that it's OK to put money in the buckets!

RANDO!!! (Submit RANDOm photos with info to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)



Above: Chef Frank towers next to the Wisconsin Merci Boxcar

Below: April 6th 2024 - The National Director for Youth Sports, Randall Shrader, presented a Youth Sports Challenge Coin to Captain Jack Sparrow. Captain Sparrow and some pirates sailed their old Scow up from the Caribbean to preside over the Blessing of the Bikes hosted by Caroline American Legion 221 Riders in Virginia. A good time was had by the over 100 riders who attended. Captain Jack Sparrow in return presented 1 gold doubloon to Director Shrader.



Below: Voiture 58 prepares for a Promenade at their Chateau



Below: Voyageurs enjoy some fellowship at Voiture 58 after a spring Promenade



Far Left: Voyageurs Nick Weyers and Bruce Kouba prepare to grill KC Strip steaks for Voiture 58.

RANDO!!! (Submit RANDOm photos with info to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)

Voiture 605 of El Paso, TX executes a perfectly choreographed Memorial Day Service



What a great job V605 does!
And the photos are fantastic!
Check them out!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/125752713@N04/albums/>

Roger Kopf, Correspondant for Voiture Locale 1015 of Nebraska City, NE recently received two awards from Virgil Blum, Grande Chef de Gare.



The awards were for Voiture Locale Correspondant of the Year, and The George Boland Award for being the Voiture Locale with the best Nurses Training Program.

The awards were presented at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday night, May 29th, 2024.

