

Dale H. Oatman
405 E 10th Ave.
Antigo, WI 54409

November 15, 2017

Dear Voyageurs and Special Awards Team,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Veterans Day – thank you all for your service. I spent the day on the road attending Master Chief Petty Officer James Romnek's funeral. Most of you know him as National Sous Directeur Special Awards selecting Hero of the Year. It was a moving ceremony as his family and Pastor provided insights on his life. He will be greatly missed as a dedicated member and officer in the 40 et 8, VFW and The American Legion. A few weeks earlier, I also attended a funeral for Fred Burns, Director of WI Boys State. Like Jim Romnek's funeral, this too was difficult for me since I am President of the Board of Directors for Boys State so he too will be sadly missed.

For the new Grand Chef De Gares, I would like to introduce myself with a little of my background. I have been a proud member of La Societe for 11-years serving as 100% Chef de Gare for 3-years, Grand Box Car Directeur for 3-years and currently Grand Garde De La Porte and Grand Child Welfare Directeur. I have been an American Legion life member for 48 years serving on many Post, District and Department levels to include Past Department Commander. I am a life member and past Commander of my VFW Post, life member and past DAV Chapter Officer, life member of VVA and a member of SAL. I served in the Air Force for 20-years with most of my time as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. I served a tour of duty in Vietnam and retired as an E-7. I also retired as a County Veterans Service Officer. I am a past officer with the Knights of Columbus and past Boy Scout leader. I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. I have been married for 46 years and we have one son.

We are early into the 2017-18 year, but it is not too early to be thinking about your submittals for Voyageur, City, Law Officer, and Hero of the Year. Our submittals last year were few and we want to see more applicant packages from all Grands. In the months to come, I will provide more information for your submittals.

The National program winners are supported by the Generals Club for their travel and lodging for Promenade Nationale. Please consider joining this club for \$10 per year by submitting an application to me or another club member since membership is by invitation only. Additional information and the application can be found online at: www.fortyandeight.org/generals-club/.

In closing, I wish all and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Dale H. Oatman
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