



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for February 2026

Membership is currently at twenty five (25) out of thirty (30) 2026 membership year (our numbers are shrinking rapidly).

As usual membership is life blood of any organization so let's get out there and find new members to help support the Forty and Eight and its programs.

Les Kelsay, John-Paul Kopp, Tina Petterson, and Darrell Richards still have not paid their 2026 dues.

WHY A CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM? Do YOU know the history? 1922 During the Promenade Nationale in New Orleans, a Children's Welfare project was established, with monies to be raised via an annual assessment of 50 cents from dues collections, to be used for the care of orphaned children. 1923 The Forty & Eight was integrated as an equal partner with The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, all with common interests in Child Welfare. Forty & Eight Child Welfare Program funds (\$24,823.91) were safely invested to grow to meet future needs. A joint policy committee of members from all three organizations was established. 1925 During the 6th Promenade Nationale, in Omaha, Nebraska, \$25,000.00 was set aside to establish a Child Welfare Fund. (This was a precursor to today's Charles Ardery Child Welfare Trust). 1928 Forty & Eight programs expanded in concert with The American Legion. Membership, Child Welfare, Junior Baseball, Americanism and Emergency Relief became key Forty & Eight programs. Annual donations continued to the Child Welfare Fund, with \$18,960 earmarked in 1928. Voiture Locales devised their own charitable programs. 1932 The Forty & Eight declared War on Childhood Diphtheria. Vaccination toxin was distributed via Voiture Nationale to children whose parents could not afford it. Physicians donated their services, and educational campaigns were carried out to combat the disease. 1938 The Forty & Eight began sponsoring Boys State in 20 states. Charitable efforts increased as Voitures provided iron lungs, sponsored anti-juvenile delinquency programs, and supported Legion Baseball and Scouting. 1945 The Forty & Eight's annual contribution to the Legion's Child Welfare Fund continued throughout the war. Due to an increase in numbers of World War II veteran's children, the Forty & Eight increased its annual Child Welfare contribution to \$30,000 in 1945 and to \$50,000 in 1946. 1959 (1960) The Forty & Eight severed ties with the Legion and became an independent organization. The Forty & Eight had monetary resources many in the Legion deemed theirs. Conversely, the Forty & Eight objected to funding Legion programs with large amounts of money, without adequate recognition in return.

Don't forget the upcoming Grande du Missouri Spring WRECK being held March 6th – 8th in Springfield.

This month's Promenade will be on February 25th at Post 61 – Kansas City – With meal at 18:00 HRS followed immediately by the Promenade.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379

Check us out on the web <http://www.voiture1379.com>

Check out the Grande du Missouri web site <http://www.grandedumissouri.com>