



Chef de Chemin de Fer Jim Vissers

In 1967, following high school graduation, Jim enlisted in the U. S. Navy. After boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, he attended service school in San Diego, then transferring to the USS Wasp. In February of 1970, Jim was united in marriage to his wife "Cher" and they eventually were blessed with three children; Laurie, Adam, and Eric. While stationed aboard the USS

Wasp, he was a Steward for two years, then cross-rated to Storekeeper. Jim was part of the decommissioning crew in 1972.

His next duty assignment was the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT where he did accounting for 22 different submarines, along with the Engineering and Repair Department. The final year of his tour was spent as outbound clerk for household goods.

During his seven years of service, Jim was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

After being honorably discharged in 1974, Jim worked 37 years in the paper industry, six years as a union employee and thirty-one in management. He was a member of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, chairing the Packaging Committee for three years. Retired since 2011, Jim is currently working part-time as a courtesy shuttle and parts driver for a local car dealership.

A member of American Legion Post 258 in Little Chute, WI for fifty years, Jim has served as Assistant Finance Officer and two terms as First Vice Commander.

In 1998, Jim was invited to join the 40 & 8, serving Voiture 1140 as Aumonier, Chef de Gare, and currently as Correspondant and Commissaire Intendant.

On the Grand level, he has served as Aide de Camp, Directeur of Box Car, Garde de La Porte, Conducteur, Chef de Train, Chef de Gare, and currently as Area 3 District Cheminot and Commissaire Intendant.

Jim has served on the National level as Alternate Cheminot, Cheminot, Sous Box Car Directeur, Aide de Camp, Box Car Directeur, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, and Sous Nurses Training Directeur. He was named the National Voyageur of the Year in 2015