

Fellow Voyageurs,

I want to thank you for electing me as Grand Chef de Gare for 2023-2024. I am honored and humbled by your confidence in me to lead Grand du Michigan for the next year.

I also want to thank those who stepped up and volunteered to be in the Grand Line. We have a full Grand Line for the first time in several years. Our officers are:

Grand Chef de Gare Clare Knickerbocker, Voiture 746

Chef de Train John Bradford, Voiture 1002

Conducteur Alan Hyde, Voiture 120

Garde de la Porte Ted Hendges, Voiture 746

Commissaire Intendant Randy Gregor, Voiture 946

Avocat James Coe II, Voiture 946

Rich Adams will continue to be Grand Correspondant and Thomas Trumble will continue as Grand Aumonier.

We had a good one-day Promenade in August at the Okemos Best Western. At Grand Cheminot on October 14, which will take place at Voiture 946 in Lansing, we can discuss what the 2024 Grand Promenade will look like. This is why you need to come to Cheminot, so your voice can be heard in relation to this and other matters coming before Grand du Michigan.

One major focus for the year is the need to focus on membership. And by that I mean we need new members. Many of you have life memberships and I appreciate your commitment to the Forty and Eight, but our numbers continue to dwindle. Unless we add members who are going to be active participants in Locale and Grand events, our future is in jeopardy. As our Chef de Train would say, get two!

As Grand Chef de Gare I plan on visiting as many Voitures Locale as time will allow. If you want me to assist in any ceremonies please contact me. My email address is ckcovv@yahoo.com, my phone number is (970) 946-9756, and my mailing address is 2360 Tecumseh Drive, Brooklyn MI 49230. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year,

Respectfully

Clare Knickerbocker

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan