

Whistle

Stop

December 2024



A publication of the Grand du Michigan Forty and Eight

From the Grand Chef de Gare

Voyageurs,

I sincerely hope you had a happy and fruitful Thanksgiving. I also wish you a very merry Christmas as we move into that holiday's sphere. May you have safe travels and spend quality time with your loved ones.

You will likely notice the change in The Whistle Stop's masthead this month. Since I resumed issuing The Whistle Stop in 2015, the appearance of the front page has remained the same. As L'Editeur, I felt it was time for a change and hope you enjoy the different look.

First I would like to address membership, We have until the end of this month to have all members signed up to be in good standing for 2025. Here's a look at Michigan's current numbers, according to Nationale Sous Directeur Membership Region 4 Thomas Reesman, who said in a recent email "You submitted 7 membership this past week. You have 8 of 28 Voitures at 100%. You have 327 to go to get to 100% GREAT JOB keep them coming." The numbers are: Voiture 659 in Iron Mountain is at 200%. Outstanding! Voiture 756 in Owosso is at 109%, again, excellent work!

Voitures 161 (Kalamazoo), 600 (Saginaw), 721 (Newaygo County), Voiture 868 (St. Johns), Voiture 957 (Washtenaw County), Voiture 1116 (Genesee County)



From the Grande La Presidente

Hello Dames.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. I know we all have so much to be thankful for. I made an official visit to C-997 in November, accompanied by PNP Lori Bolley. It was nice visit with good food and friendship. Thanks to Carrie Haynes for driving us down. We were able to break in her new truck.



Grande de Michigan has prospects for a couple of new Cabanes. More to come on this as we move forward. Looks like Spring Cheminot may have a new host. That would be awesome. Will have more info and will share more when known. Lastly, I wish each and every one of you a blessed Holiday season. Personally, I am getting ready to move and embarking on my new adventure. I think next year is gonna be great! Happy Holidays!!

Yours in service,

Lori Coe

Grande la Presidente

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From the Grand Chef

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and Voiture 1288 (Menominee County) are all at 100%. Fantastic work!

The remaining numbers are Voiture 102 (Wayne County) at 95.65%, Voiture 120 (Port Huron) at 68.18%, Voiture 181 (Calhoun County) at 44.44%, Voiture 396 (Lapeer County) at 81.25%, Voiture 545 (Three Rivers) at 20%, Voiture 553 (Grand Rapids) at 12.5%, Voiture 599 (Marquette) at 25%, Voiture 669 (Oscoda County) at 15.63%, Voiture 746 (Jackson County) at 29.03%, Voiture 767 (Harrison) at 71.43%, Voiture 946 (Ingham County) at 59.3%, Voiture 997 (Lenawee County) at 54.02%, Voiture 1002 (Dearborn) at 10.71%, Voiture 1061 (Macomb County) at 4%, Voiture 1153 (Monroe County) at 29.17%, Voiture 1420 (Montcalm County) at 0%, Voiture 1425 (Midland County) at 8.70% and Voiture 1536 (Lapeer County) at 16%. Michigan all told is 51.41%, 327 Voyageurs short of full membership. Let's start working harder to boost our numbers. Try asking your children or grandchildren if they have friends who are veterans, and try to get

the word to them about the benefits to their community membership entails. Nationale has instituted a new incentive for Voyageurs to bring in new members. The "I Got 2" program entitles Voyageurs who bring in two new members to the "I Got 2" pin. The form to collect your pin is in this edition of The Whistle Stop.

We had a decent showing for Fall Cheminot in October, and had one of the best Executive Committee meetings I can remember having. We discussed issues at length and it was decided to have Spring Cheminot on March 8 in Rochester, Michigan, home of Voiture 102. Details can be found in the Official Call, which will be sent out separately once details are finalized. But please mark your calendar.

We also celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Merci Boxcar with a short program about the history of the Boxcar. Thanks to the Michigan Historical Museum and Dame Lisa Woods from Cabane 946 for sharing photos of items that arrived on the train 75 years ago and are being kept in

the museum.

Also mark your calendar for April 12, which is the date of my homecoming. It will take place at Voiture 946 in Lansing at 4 p.m. The registration information is in this edition of The Whistle Stop. I hope you can join in on the good food and fun.

And again, I want to visit as many Voitures Locale as possible in the next eight months. Even if it is simply a chance to sit down and have a libation with a few Voyageurs at their home venues, please let me know if you are interested. I'll be reaching out to Correspondants Locale to get details on planned Promenades. If you want a visit, please contact me at richadams946@gmail.com or call me at 517-388-4962. Great Lakes Promenade is June 5, 6 and 7 in DeKalb, Ill., and is always a fun gathering. Details and registration are in this edition.

I hope you have a delightful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Merci Boxcar's 75th anniversary marked at Fall Cheminot



Voyageurs and Dames attending Fall Cheminot pose in front of the Michigan Merci Boxcar after a ceremony celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Boxcar's arrival in the United States.



Grand Chef Rich Adams and Lonnie Haynes display the cake made to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Merci Boxcar's arrival in the United States. Photos of gifts sent by the French were displayed during Fall Cheminot.



Above, Lonnie Haynes gives a brief history of the Merci Train. Below, Grand Chef Rich Adams is interviewed by WILX TV.



The Michigan Merci Boxcar got an amazing renovation thanks to the SEA Cadets who spent an entire day painting the Boxcar, located at Voiture 946 in Lansing. Dame Debbie Smith of Cabane 946 did a remarkable job either repainting the plaques on the Boxcar or, in a few cases, creating new ones to replace those too damaged to be repainted. Thanks to all the SEA Cadets, their adult leaders and Voyageurs who were involved in making the Merci Boxcar look beautiful.



Grand du Michigan



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La Societe Des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

To: Grand Officers
 Grand Cheminots
 Voiture Officers
 Grand Committeemen
 Grand Executive Committee
 Interested Voyageurs

By order of the Chef de Gare, Grand Voiture du Michigan, the Fall Cheminot will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at American Legion Hall Homer Wing Post 172, 234 Walnut Blvd. Rochester, MI 48307.

Pre-registration \$10, send to Gary Bourdeau, 34 W. Phillips Ave., Milan MI 48160,
 MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO GRAND VOITURE DU MICHIGAN.
 Doughnuts, fruit and coffee will be available at registration desk.

Femmes pre-registration \$10, make pre-registration checks payable to Grande Cabane de Michigan and send to Carrie Haynes, 506 Mill St., Leslie MI 49251.

Registration for voyageurs and dames begins at 1000.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets at 1100, then each committee will be called in order, then the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will close the meeting.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 8, 2025 Executive Committee, 1100
 Lunch 1130, included in voyageur registration, lunch available for \$6 for Dames and guests. Menu is to be announced at a later time.
 CHEMINOT CONVENES at 1230.

ALL OFFICERS, CHEMINOTS AND COMMITTEE DIRECTEURS ARE ADVISED TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN COPY OF THEIR REPORT to the Correspondant.

Rich Adams
 Grand Chef de Gare

Gary Bourdeau
 Grand Correspondant