

Whistle Stop

August 2024



A publication of the Grand du Michigan Forty and Eight

From the Grand Chef de Gare

Greetings, Voyageurs,

My term as your Grand Chef de Gare wound down earlier this month, and I cannot tell you what an honor it has been to serve as your Grand Chef.

Unforeseen health issues have prevented me from being as active as I would have preferred, but the time I have spent with you either at Grand du Michigan or Voiture Locale events have been very rewarding. I look forward to serving Grand du Michigan in new roles in the coming years.

We had another less-than-stellar turnout at Grand Promenade on Aug. 10. Correspondant Rich Adams made a huge effort to mail information to more than 350 Voyageurs, but attendance remained stagnant. We nonetheless had elections and the results are as follows:

Grand Chef de Gare, Rich Adams, V946;
Grand Chef de Train, Alice Berger, V181;
Grand Commissaire Intendant, Randal Gregor, V946;
Grand Conducteur, Lori Barber, V946;
Grand Avocat, Michael Spitzley, V946;
Grand Garde de la Porte Ted Hendges, V746
Cheminot Nationale, Clare Knickerbocker, V746

There are many appointed offices still open for



From the Grande La Presidente

Hello, Dames!

It was nice to see many of you at Grande Rendezvous. I am honored and thankful for you electing me as your Grande La Presidente, for one more year. I'm not going anywhere, just have a different plan going forward. Let's talk membership. As reported by our Nationale La Presidente, Lori, in the latest issue of the Chatter, membership was 100.65%, which is awesome. So far for the year 2024-25 in Michigan, C-1536 is already at 100%. Great job Dames! And, Lori's project, POW/MIA exceeded her goal of \$6,000, totaling \$6,661.02. Coming in just a couple of weeks is Rendezvous Nationale in Sandusky, OH. Hope to see many of our Michigan Dames in attendance. I will have a full report at Fall Cheminot. Speaking of Fall Cheminot, it will be held in Lansing the second weekend of October. Looking toward next year, it would be nice to have either Spring/Fall in another location. We can discuss at fall how we could work it out to move someplace and make it work without putting extra burden on the host Voiture/Cabane. Oscoda is always a nice location (hint, hint...) to visit. No pressure, just an idea to mull over for future discussion. Everyone enjoy what remains of our summer, and be safe whatever you are doing.



Yours in service.

Lori Coe

Grande La Presidente

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From the Grand Correspondant

Greetings Voyageurs,

First, I want to thank those of you who attended Grand Promenade in Okemos. Despite an aggressive attempt to communicate with 380 or so Voyageurs who might not have had email addresses, we still had the usual 25 or so show up for Promenade and elections. That's out of more than 700 in the Grand.

Obviously something has to change, so let's address the elephant in the room.

When the Grand du Michigan switched from the traditional two-day Grand Promenade with a banquet to the current one-day event (even though the hospitality room was open for two days), attendance dropped dramatically. The COVID pandemic added to the



difficulties.

So we need to ask: is this the new normal? I certainly hope not. Yes, the traditional catered banquet might be out of the equation, because the costs might be prohibitive. But perhaps a buffet-style banquet and hospitality room would suffice. And that's what we need to discuss as new business at Fall Cheminot, which is planned for October 12 at Voiture 946 in Lansing. The Official Call is included in this edition of The Whistle Stop. We will also have program pins and more information coming out of Promenade Nationale.

As you will see, Passe Grand Chef de Gare Gary Bordeau (2015-2016) has very generously agreed to be very temporary Grand Correspondant for this Official Call only - I am looking to appoint a permanent replacement for ... well, for me. I will help whomever volunteers to be Grand Correspondant.

After our lunch we will also have

a short ceremony

commemorating the 75th anniversary of our Merci Boxcar. I hope to gain access to some of the items in the Michigan Historical Museum so I can take photos or make a video of some of the gifts the people of France sent to Michigan three-quarters of a century ago,

I congratulate the slate of officers elected to the Grand Line for the current term: Chef de Train Alice Berger, Commissaire Intendant Randy Gregor, Conducteur Lori Barber, Avocat Michael Spitzley, Garde de la Porte Ted Hedges and Cheminot Nationale Clare Knickerbocker.

Please feel free to contact me by email at richadams946@gmail.com, by calling (517) 388-4962 or by mail at 1283 Chartwell Carriage Way N, East Lansing MI 48823.

Yours in service,

Rich Adams

Outgoing Grand Correspondant
Incoming Grand Chef de Gare
Grand du Michigan

From the Grand Chef de Gare

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There are many appointed offices still open for the 2024-25 year, including Grand Correspondant, and anyone interested in the following positions should reach out to Rich: Historian, Organizer, Membership Directeur, Time and Place Directeur, Americanism Directeur, and Directeurs for Carville Star, Child Welfare and Ways and Means.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you as Grand Chef and good luck to the new officers in the coming year,

Respectfully,

Clare Knickerbocker

Grand Chef de Gare (2023-2024)

Grand du Michigan

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, Oct. 12, 2024, at Voiture 946, 2949 S. Waverly Highway, Lansing MI 48911.

Pre-registration \$10, send to Rich Adams, 1283 Chartwell Carriage Way N, East Lansing MI 48823

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, Oct. 12, 2024 Executive Committee, 1100

Lunch 1130, included in voyageur registration, lunch available for \$6 for Dames and guests. Menu is hearty beef stew, biscuits and desserts. A commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Merci Boxcar will follow.

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

Please consider

The following directeurships and appointed positions are currently open. If you are interested in any of these programs please let

DIRECTEURSHIPS

Grand Chef Rich Adams know of your interest:

Grand Directeur Membership
 Grand Directeur Time & Place
 Grand Americanism Directeur
 Grand Directeur Carville Star
 Grand Child Welfare Directeur
 Grand Directeur Ways and Means

APPOINTMENTS

Grand Correspondant
 Grand Aide de Camp
 Grand Historian
 Grand Photographe
 Grand Organizer
 Executive Committee member
 Dignitary Host

ELECTED BY DISTRICT VOITURES

Grand Cheminot District 1
 Grand Cheminot District 4
 Grand Cheminot District 5
 Grand Cheminot District 6

September military

observances and events National Suicide Prevention Month

National Service Dog Month

VJ Day - Sept 2

Voiture 1002 Promenade - Sept.
5

Patriot Day - Sept 11

Constitution week - Sept. 17-23

Air Force Birthday - Sept. 18

Air National Guard Birthday -
Sept 18

Voiture 1153 Promenade - Sept.
18

Voiture 545 Promenade - Sept.
19

National POW/MIA Recognition
Day - Sept. 20

Voiture 946 Promenade - Sept.
25

Voiture 599 Promenade - Sept.
28

Gold Star Mother's Day - Sept.
29



Lenawee Voiture 997 recently presented checks to all 11 school districts in Lenawee County for an educational program for which funds were not available. Presenting checks are Chef de Gare Locale Nick Pulver and Americanism Directeur Locale Dave Loop.