

Greetings Fellow Voyageurs,

As your new Grand Chef de Gare, I thought it might be appropriate to introduce myself and share a little bit of my background. I am a retired SFC from the Army, serving two years in West Germany and 18 years with the Michigan National Guard. In 2009, I joined the 40 & 8 where Voiture 946 became my second home. Because I love what this organization is about, I became fully immersed in it a few months after my induction. I have served several positions at the Local, Grand level and currently serving as National Sous Directeur of Youth Sports.

As a retired high school teacher and coach, Youth Sports became my passion. This is a program I will continue to support and emphasize during my term, providing guidance and information to our Local Youth Sports Directeur.

The next thing I will concentrate on is membership. As of now, Grand du Michigan is at 97%. This is great, but we need to do better. I would love us to exceed 100%.

In the next couple of weeks, I plan to attend Nationale Promenade in Gettysburg. I hope to see many of you there. On Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025 will be our Grand Fall Cheminot in Lansing at Voiture 946. Refer to the Official Call, which is included in this issue of The Whistle Stop. Please consider attending, even if you are not a local officer. Attending functions like this will give you more information as to how the 40 & 8 works at the Grand Level.

Finally, I would love to visit each Voiture around the state. Please reach out to me and let me know when you have your promenade or other special events. I will make every effort to attend. If possible, I would like each Local Chef de Gare and Correspondant send me their contact information; primarily your phone number and email address. I want to send out an email monthly to keep everyone updated on what is happening around the 40 & 8.

You can reach out to me with any questions and/or concerns through my email at barber4158@comcast.net.

Thank you for giving me this honor to be your Chef de Gare. In return, I will do my best to make sure Grand du Michigan is the best grand in the 40 & 8.

Sincerely Yours,

Lori Barber

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan