

Greetings Voyageurs,

Spring has sprung, and Spring Cheminot is in the books. Bravo zulu to Voiture 102 for hosting the event, which drew 25 or so Voyageurs to American Legion Post 172 in Rochester. V102 worked very hard to set up the Cheminot and fed us some really great food. I had hoped we would draw more Voitures from other parts of the state, but it was a success despite the low (or post-pandemic normal) turnout.

One of the issues we addressed was a new Grand du Michigan Constitution, copies of which were handed out during Cheminot. The primary changes are that any honorably discharged veteran can be a member of La Societe. It had not been updated in decades and it will be discussed at Grand Promenade in August, which will once again take place in Okemos.

Mark your calendars for May 10. For the first time since COVID-19 shut things down, Grand du Michigan is hosting a Mother's Day Wreck. It's a ceremony that mixes fun with seriousness as PG's take their first initiative step into the Forty and Eight. The flyer is in this edition of The Whistle Stop and on the Grand website at www.40et8michigan.com. The \$10 entry fee includes lunch for Voyageurs. Those Voitures bringing PG's must remember to bring chapeaus for their victims ... er, participants.

I am ready for traveling. At this point I plan to visit Voiture 545 in April. I also hope to visit with Voiture 181. If you want a visit during a Promenade, or even just an informal get-together with Voyageurs at a local watering hole, please reach out to me.

I have been sending emails and calling Voyageurs listed as Correspondants Locale trying to get information. Primarily I am seeking to find out if the Voitures are actually active and have officers in place. If you are a Correspondant and receive this edition, please either call me at 517-388-4962 or email me at richadams946@gmail.com. I simply want to bring our roster up to date.

We also need to know of any Voyageurs who have passed away, not only to ensure we have a correct roster, but more importantly we need to know about services planned for the departed Voyageur so we can be present at the funeral or memorial service. We also need to honor those who have died at our memorial service at Grand Promenade.

Our membership is decent at this point, but we can do better. We are at 85.44 percent, with 12 of 28 Voitures Locale at 100 percent or better. We can do better. Anyone who does not have a 2025 membership card they are not Voyageurs in good standing and are not entitled to the benefits and services of the Forty and Eight. Let's put on a push to increase membership before Great Lakes Promenade in June. I would hate to lose to Ohio again.

As I mentioned, Grand Promenade will take place Aug. 9 at the Best Western Okemos/East Lansing Hotel & Suites, 2209 University Park Dr. in Okemos. We will have hospitality rooms Aug. 8 and 9 and will have plenty of food and drink for those participating. The registration and Official Call are included in this edition of The Whistle Stop. Please plan on coming to this important meeting, when officers for the 2025-26 year will be elected. If you are interested in an elected office or appointed directeurship, please let me know.

Again, feel free to contact me for any reason. I usually let unknown phone numbers go to voicemail, so if I don't answer please leave me a message and I will call back.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan