

Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a safe and enjoyable New Year's celebration bringing us into 2025. It's been a bit cold leading up to Groundhog's Day, and apparently the rodent saw his shadow, so we're in for another six weeks of winter.

We have a lot of events coming up, and I'll get into them later on. Right now I want to talk about membership.

We have several Voitures that have hit 100% for 2025, which is admirable. Thanks go out to those Voitures for their persistence. Please check your membership - if you do not have a 2025 membership card, then you need to pay your dues, please, and be brought up to date. You are currently not a member in good standing and not eligible for the benefits of being a member of La Societe. Please help us attain as close to 100% membership as possible. I would hate to be upstaged by Ohio in terms of membership at the Great Lakes Promenade.

I know many of us have seen our ranks shrink. A few years ago Voiture 868 in St. Johns indicated it might be disbanded. There were only three members and Promenades were not taking place.

In January I was approached by Voyageur Jeff Nichols, who said there was interest in not only continuing V868, but adding members who have shown interest in the 40 et 8. I commend Voyageur Nichols for spearheading this effort and am extremely pleased that an inactive Voiture could be brought back to La Societe.

Our next gathering will be Spring Cheminot. It will take place March 8 at American Legion Hall Homer Wing Post 172, 234 Walnut Blvd.

Rochester, MI 48307. Executive Committee meets at 11 a.m., lunch is at 11:30 and Cheminot begins at 1 p.m. The official call and registration sheet are included in this edition of The Whistle Stop and can be downloaded at the Grand du Michigan website.

Having Cheminot in a Detroit-area city should make it more convenient for northern Michigan Voyageurs to attend without having to travel the extra hour-plus to Lansing, where recent Cheminots have taken place. I certainly hope more members attend this Cheminot. We have some decisions to make before Grand Promenade in August.

We also are planning a Mother's Day Wreck at Voiture 946 in Lansing. It will take place on May 10, and I urge all Voitures to bring their PGs to be initiated into La Societe.

A few suggestions: First, stress to your PGs that this is not hazing. It is a fun ritual that has roots in World War I.

Secondly, remember to bring chapeaus for your PGs.

We are going to use coveralls during the ceremony, and unfortunately all of the coveralls at Voiture 946 were too damaged to be used again and were tossed out. If anyone has several sets of coveralls, please reach out to me via email or phone and let me know if we can borrow them for the wreck. Also, feel free to bring any stunts you think could be included in the wreck. Let's make it as fun as possible!

Another event this spring is my Homecoming, taking place 4 p.m. April 12 at Voiture 946 in Lansing. The menu is corned beef and cabbage and chicken piccata, with a few side dishes and desserts.

At Homecoming, we will have a drawing for a Wagon of Fun I have assembled. It includes a nice wagon filled with a variety of alcohol. Also included is a weekend hotel package in

Mackinaw City, a wall clock depicting the Three Soldiers Memorial statues, an 8-foot by 5-foot knitted American flag throw, a small Fallen Soldier Cross and a 42-inch-long wooden train. Tickets are \$10 each and only 100 tickets will be sold. If you want to buy a ticket in advance contact me and I'll reserve one for you. I will add spirits to the wagon based on anyone desiring to donate a bottle or two to the cause.

Grand Promenade will be conducted Aug. 9 at the Best Western, located at 2209 University Park Dr., Okemos. We will have a hospitality room with food and beverages on Aug. 8 and 9. We have a pretty decent Grand line, but some positions will be coming open for the 2025-26 year. I encourage Voyageurs to consider running for a Grand office or offering their services as a Directeur for one of the appointed positions. The registration sheet for Grand Promenade, as well as for Great Lakes Promenade, are in this edition.

Feel free to reach out to me at 517-388-4962 or via email at richadams946@gmail.com. I am eager to travel to as many Voitures Locale as possible between now and August. If you would like a visit, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan