

Whistle



Stop



December 2025



A publication of the Grand du Michigan Forty and Eight

From the Grand Chef de Gare

Greetings, Voyageurs,

Or, should I say, season's greetings. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Christmas is just around the corner and I wish you all a very merry and blessed Yuletide. If you are traveling this season, please be safe and have a wonderful holiday. And if you are ringing in 2026, please do so safely and responsibly.

I want to thank all who attended Fall Cheminot at Voiture 946. I had a family emergency and regret I was unable to be there. Special thanks go to Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe Lonnie Haynes for filling in for me and my fellow voyageurs at 946.

Spring Cheminot is on the books for March 7, 2026, and I am inviting any Voiture that wants to host it to please contact me. We've had it at Voiture 946 several times, and it would be great if another Voiture stepped up for a change of scenery. The Official Call will be posted on the Grand website and will be in the February Whistle Stop.

While at Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg in September, Grand du Michigan received four national awards.

Our Grand Hero of the Year, Macomb County Sheriff's Deputy Nicole Miron, was named Hero of the Year by Nationale. Deputy Miron was passenger in her



From the Grande La Presidente

Greetings from Grande du Michigan.

We held our Fall Cheminot at C946 in October. A big thank you goes out to the dames of 946 for hosting and being generous with your time and food. In addition to lunch there were doughnuts and fruit available during registration which was a lovely addition.

Sharon Shulte put on a fantastic school of instruction prior to Cheminot. It was very informative and covered reporting information regarding the various programs. Sharon fielded questions regarding what can and can not be reported and we could pose specific examples to get clarification.

An important takeaway was that simply attending an event is not enough to be able to report it. You must participate in some way that is outside of your assigned duties. Another is that, if it involves a direct family member it likely does not count. For example, if I attend my son's soccer match I cannot report it on the Youth Sports report. If I provide a snack for the entire team, I can. For those individuals who hold chairmanships and have additional questions or need a little hand-holding to complete your reports, bring them to Spring Cheminot. Sharon will be offering time to actually complete your reports with her assistance. I think even more helpful than the program overview was the explanation of the official Child Protection policy as well as some of the



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From the Grand Chef

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Our Grand Hero of the Year, Macomb County Sheriff's Deputy Nicole Miron, was named Hero of the Year by Nationale. Deputy Miron was passenger in her squad car when they received notice of an out-of-control pickup truck. The truck driver was suffering a medical emergency and Deputy Miron crawled through the squad car's window into the truck and brought it to a halt. Congratulations Deputy Miron.

Grand du Michigan also received the 2025 Donald K. "Bucky" Harris Trophy recognizing a Voiture with a membership in excess of 500 and less than 1,000 having the greatest participation in the Youth Sports Program as of the year just ended.

Also recognized was The Whistle Stop. Grand du Michigan received the John Kilgus Award presented to the Grand Voiture

presenting the best publication for the fiscal year. Michigan also was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for its donation of \$115 to the National Child Welfare Program of La Societe. The award said "Your remarkable fundraising efforts during the year 2025-2025 have made a significant impact, and we sincerely thank you for your unwavering support."

Congratulations to all who contributed to making these programs possible. Photos of the awards appear in this edition of The Whistle Stop.

This spring we are planning a State Wreck on Saturday, May 9, 2026. This will be the second State Wreck we are staging since the end of the pandemic, and I encourage all of you to bring your P.G.s to this important and fun ceremony. At this time we are planning to conduct the

Wreck at Voiture 946 in Lansing. Look for more in the February edition of The Whistle Stop.

Finally, I am encouraging any Voyageurs interested in taking directorship of a program that interests

them to contact me. Grand Conducteur Jim Broadbridge is our Grand Nurses Training Directeur, Joshua Ramy is our Child Welfare Directeur and I am the Grand Youth Sports Directeur. If you have a program that you are passionate about, please feel free to contact me and we can look into filling one of these important offices.

Again, I wish you the happiest holiday season and success in the coming new year.

Respectfully,

Lori Barber

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan

From the Grand Correspondant

Hello, Voyageurs and Dames, I hope all is well with you and your families during this holiday season.

One thing to remember is to do buddy calls to those that you have not heard from in a while, both family and friends. Membership is still an

important part of our duties. When you meet a veteran ask if they belong to a Veterans Organization? If not invite them to an event at your Voiture.

On another subject, we know reports are very important to Nationale, it is never to soon to

start working on your reports on a monthly basis.

Respectfully

Gary Bourdeau

Grande Correspondent.

From the Grande La Presidente

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reimbursement opportunities. The subject of child protection was raised at Grande in August and so it was reassuring to learn that a policy does exist and to hear how comprehensive it is. For the full policy feel free to reach out to Sharon directly. Looking ahead, I am excited to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. In addition to the various events which will be held across the state, the Marine Toys for Tots program will collect toys on behalf of needy children all across the country. Many organizations also assist veterans in need by supplying warm coats, hats and socks. Be on the lookout for these opportunities to support

those outside our own organization. I would love to hear about all the ways our dames and voyageurs are showing generosity in our communities. Finally, as the weather begins to chill and travelling becomes more treacherous, I urge everyone to exercise caution while you are out and about. Think about the dames and voyageurs who may not feel comfortable driving on the icy roads or who may be unable to leave home for other reasons. How can we better include them in our activities? Many would like to participate but just don't know how. Perhaps they can be put in charge of making phone

calls or sending out cards to those who may be forgotten? Maybe you could drop off a plate of cookies and spend a few minutes visiting? Too many feel blue during the holidays which is a shame because there is so much joy to be had. I look forward to celebrations and to the promise the new year has to offer. Stay safe, stay sane and look for ways to love those around you. Wishing you all a happy holiday season!

**Yours in service,
Krissy Brokenshire
La Presidente
Grande du Michigan**

From the Grand L'Editeur

Voyageurs,
First, it was a complete surprise to have The Whistle Stop honored as the best Forty et Eight publication in the nation at Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg. All involved in making The Whistle Stop possible are committed to sharing important information about upcoming events. Keeping the lines of communication open is vital to the success of any organization, and that is what I have tried to do as Grand L'Editeur of this publication.

I took on the task of resurrecting The Whistle Stop in 2015, when

then-Grand Chef de Gare Gary Bourdeau asked me if I could try to put an edition out every other month. Since then it has morphed into the publication it is now, but it's difficult to achieve that without much input from Voitures Locale. I encourage you to contribute material for future editions. Maybe Voyageurs took part in a Flags for First Graders presentation or gave out a Nurses Training scholarship and a photo is available. If so, please send the photo to me with information about who is in the photo (from left to right) and I can include it in The Whistle Stop. K

I have recently been tapped to be L'Editeur of Voyageur Briefs by Nationale, and I could also use those photographs as part of that publication.

You can email them to me at richadams946@gmail.com or via snail mail at 1195 Chartwell Carriage Way N, East Lansing MI 48823. I welcome your contributions to both publications.

Respectfully,
**Rich Adams
Grand L'Editeur
Grand du Michigan**

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