

Greeting Voyageurs,

First, I am very honored and humbled to be your Grand Chef de Gare. I take the role seriously and will do everything I can to promote the Grand du Michigan and the Forty et Eight.

I attended Promenade Nationale at Kalahari in Ohio. It was my pleasure to nominate Passe Grand Chef de Gare Lonnie Haynes to the office of Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer. He was elected and will do a fantastic job of representing our district. And congratulations to Grande La Presidente Lori Coe for being elected for another year. I look forward to working with her.

Our new Chef de Chemin de Fer is Paul Emmert Sr. From Baltimore, Maryland. He is big on communication and membership and will be an asset to La Societe on all levels. And thanks to Passe Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo for the work he did during his term, and additional thanks for attending our Grand Promenade in August and swearing in our new officers.

My goal also is to improve communications. I am in the process of visiting as many Voitures Locale as I can. In September I visited Voiture 599 in Marquette and attended their Promenade. Locale. Chef de Gare Mike Trickey and a handful of Voyageurs and I had a good discussion and I appreciate the opportunity to visit with them. I also attended a dinner celebrating the 100th anniversary of Voiture 756 in Owosso. I appreciate that invitation and congratulate Voiture 756 on a century of service to the community and La Societe. If you would like a visit please reach out to me and let me know details and I will happily pay a visit.

One element of Promenade Nationale was special awards. The Forty et Eight has four special awards: Voyageur of the Year, Hero of the Year, Law Officer of the Year and City of the Year. It would be well worth it if each Voiture in Michigan could contact their state, city and county law enforcement offices asking for recommendations. If you read about someone in your community who has exhibited a heroic action, please consider nominating them to Grand. The report paperwork is on the Nationale website, which has been redesigned and updated.

If a city or township in your community, please note if officials are doing things and have programs to benefit veterans. That would qualify them for City of the Year. At Grand Promenade, the Chef de Chemin de Fer awarded City of the Year to Voiture 181 Chef de Gare and Grand Chef de Train Alice Berger, who had nominated Climax as City of the Year. Please consider nominating one of your communities for this award.

Voyageur of the Year is another award to recognize any Voyageur who goes above and beyond the call of duty in service to their Voiture and their community. Again, the paperwork is on the Nationale website.

Spring Cheminot will take place on March 8. A location has not been decided on yet, and if your Voiture would like to host it please contact me. I would like to see a larger attendance than we have seen in the recent past. I will send out an Official Call when we select a site.

I am still looking for a Grand Correspondant. The position is not that time consuming. I will help with preparing the minutes, filing online for nonprofit status with the IRS and state of Michigan and reading the roll call of officers. Please let me know if you will accept this important and necessary assignment.

Membership is also very important, because our numbers continue to dwindle. We need younger men and women to join our ranks. If you have adult children and even grandchildren, they likely know peers who are veterans. Perhaps they could introduce you to these veterans and you can introduce them to La Societe.

I look forward to working with my comrade Voyageurs and Grande La Presidente Coe to bring energy to the Grand Voiture du Michigan and Grande de Cabane Michigan. We are the fun and honor club, and we need more of the fun aspect.

You can reach me via email at [richadams946@gmail.com](mailto:richadams946@gmail.com), call me at (517) 388-4962 or via snail mail at 1283 Chartwell Carriage Way N, East Lansing MI 48823.

Yours in service,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan