

Voyageurs,

My, this year has sped by. I want to thank everyone for their support and very helpful advice since you chose me as Grand Chef de Gare last August. I have truly been honored to have worked with so many of you in advancing the visibility and programs of the Forty et Eight. Thank you for this opportunity.

We did beat Ohio in our membership renewals, which is always rewarding. Michigan came within 24 renewals of 100 percent, and I appreciate everyone who worked so hard to achieve 100 percent (or more) on the Locale level.

Now as we head into August (and I am putting this out early so registration is still possible), it is important that you make plans to attend Grand Promenade at the Best Western in Okemos on Aug. 8 and 9. We will have registration and a hospitality room on Friday, Aug. 8, with lots of good food and drink. On Aug. 9 we will conduct Promenade and Rendezvous during the day and continue to offer food and drink in the hospitality room after our gatherings, so try to make it a weekend stay and enjoy the company and hospitality we offer.

We will be having elections on Aug. 9, and we need to get the Grand Line in order. Voyageur Ted Hendges has laid claim to Grand Garde de la Porte as long as he can see everyone's membership card and hear them repeat the password. We will be electing Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Conducteur, Grand Avocat and Cheminot Nationale. Please attend so you can have a voice - or even better a position - in the Grand Line. You must have served as a Chef de Gare Locale to be eligible for a Grand elected position.

This has been a busy summer. I attended Great Lakes in DeKalb, Ill. There was a lot of information shared during the various official and unofficial gatherings, as well as enjoying the various hospitality room events put on by Grand du Illinois. There was a distillery tour Dawn and I took advantage of that was so much fun, and Dawn took a vineyard tour. It was a great trip.

I had the honor of attending Voiture 181's Promenade in June and installing incoming officers. It was a great time and I met many of the Voyageurs there who I had not met at previous events.

Congratulations to the new officers and I appreciate the invitation.

Grand du Michigan has a new Hero of the Year. Macomb County Deputy Nicole Miron was on patrol last September when she and her partner got a call about a driver having a medical emergency and losing control of his pickup truck. Miron, who was passenger in the patrol car, climbed from her seat to the moving truck and brought the truck under control. The driver of the truck has since recovered from his condition, and Miron is truly a hero. She will be presented with an award at Grand Promenade.

Also in this edition is information on how to register for Promenade Nationale in Gettysburg, Penn. It's too late to get the early discount on registration, but you can still sign up until Aug. 31. This is a very enjoyable and educational gathering and you can let your voice be heard by attending.

I want to thank those who served as officers and program directeurs and other assigned positions for the past year. Your service is always recognized and appreciated. Special thanks to Grand Correspondant Gary Bourdeau for stepping up and taking the office. His help was essential to our success.

Last (but not least) I would like to thank Grand La Presidente Lori Coe for her service leading La Femme for the past few years. I enjoyed working with her and feel she and I were able to amplify communication between Voyageurs and Dames and work together to make our Grand Cheminots and Promenade enjoyable. Thanks also go to the hardest working La Correspondante Carrie Haynes for her role in ... well, everything.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan