

Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope you all were able to make Memorial Day a day of reflection honoring those who gave their last full measure of devotion to preserve our nation. It is a day sacred to La Societe and we should give it the respect it so richly deserves.

We had our Mother's Day Wreck at Voiture 946 in May, and considering we had not conducted one in at least 10 years, I think it was a success. Granted, it was a bit more subdued than others, but we wrecked seven PGs.

We had a relatively good turnout, 25 Voyageurs in all, from V946, V868, V181, V756, V1420, V545 and V1153. PGs wrecked were Richard and Lisa Nowakowski and Wendy Retzliff from V1420; Alexander Darnell from V868; and Louann Fowler, Gary Higgins and Harold Webb from V756.

I appreciate Grand Commisaire Intendant Randy Gregor for being the Wrecking Chef, Grand Avocat Michael Spitzley serving as Wrecking Chef de Gare, Grand Aumonier Thomas Trumble for double duty as Aumonier and The Chairman of the So-Long Committee, Voyageur David Keyes serving as Wrecking Conducteur, Passe Grand Chef Bob Bialecki as Wrecking Garde de la Porte, Voyageur Steve Smith as the Mayor and District 3 Grand Cheminot Jim Broadbridge assisting the Conducteur, as well as the other Voyageurs who helped out with the stunts and other tasks. Thanks also to V946 for hosting the Wreck.

In May a group of Grand officers from V946 traveled to V868 in St. Johns to install Locale officers. New officers are Chef de Gare Ervin Currie, Chef de Train Alexander Darnell, Correspondant Jeffrey Noble, Commisaire Intendant Jeff Nickols, Aumonier Randy Schmidt, Conducteur Gerald Roberts and Garde de la Porte Robert Paski. The group from Lansing included yours truly, Gregor, Grand Sous Avocat Michael Brokenshire, Grand Conducteur Lori Barber, Grand Drapeau Curtis McLendon and Grand Aide de Camp Tom Walker. It is very exciting that this Voiture is being brought back to life after several years of dormancy. Bravo Zulu to Voyageur Nickols for spearheading the effort to restore the Voiture to active duty.

If you haven't already, mark your calendars for Grand Promenade 2025, which will take place Aug. 9 in Okemos. It will be a one-day event but a Hospitality Room will have food and drink both Aug. 8 and 9. The day Saturday will begin with the Memorial Service and progress from there, with elections in the afternoon session following the Passe Grand Chef luncheon. We will also vote on a Grand du Michigan Constitution during Promenade. Rooms at the Best Western are the same rate as last year. I hope to see many, many Voyageurs at Promenade this year.

Great Lakes Promenade is during the first weekend of June in DeKalb, Ill. I know the Grand du Michigan has been doing fairly well in terms of membership at 89.6 percent. That bests Ohio, which sat at 88.6 percent in May, so maybe Michigan will win that unofficial rivalry. Other Great Lakes states were: Wisconsin, 92.58 percent, New York at 88.6 percent, Pennsylvania at 87.45 percent, Indiana at 83.38 percent and Illinois at 80.95 percent. Good job, Michigan Voitures, but keep at it. Let's get those Voyageurs who still are not in good order and are not entitled to the benefits of the Forty and Eight.

I plan to continue visiting Voitures for Promenades. I am going to Voiture 1546 in Lapeer on June 14 and to Climax for Promenade and installation of officers for V181. I encourage anyone interested to join me at these events, and if your Voiture wants a visit please let me know. I'll be in Alaska for a week-and-a-half in mid-July, but will try to fit in visits in all of this month and when I am in the state in July.

I appreciate those who attended my Homecoming in April. It was a good showing and I was very happy to see so many familiar faces. I appreciate Grande du Michigan Cabane Correspondante Carrie Haynes for assisting in the kitchen cleanup. The wagon of joy went to a person who comes to Build-a-Burger at Voiture 946. Apologies to Passe La Presidente Nationale Cheryl Jamnick for not saving a ticket for her to buy.

Although I still have a few months left on my service as Grand Chef, I want to let you know I have been honored by your confidence in me this past year. I did not get in as many visits as I had hoped, but many Voitures have not resumed Promenades since the COVID pandemic came under control. I hope those Voitures start official monthly gatherings again, because it strengthens the camaraderie amongst Voyageurs that is vital to La Societe.

Finally, I was reminded by one of our Voitures that sending membership money and documents to Nationale will be delayed if they are being mailed to Indianapolis. Nationale Headquarters moved last summer and the correct address is Voiture Nationale, 1635 Hawthorne Dr., Plainfield IN 46168. Speaking of membership, Michigan is still among the top Grands in the Great Lakes. Last report had us at number 22 in the nation with 89.90%. Congratulations to those Voitures at 100% or better. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or just want to discuss something with me. My phone number is 517-388-4962 and my email address is richadams946@gmail.com. My home address has changed since the last Whistle Stop. I now live at 1195 Chartwell Carriage Way N, just about a tenth of a mile from my last address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Rich Adams

Grand Chef de Gare

Grand du Michigan