



September 19, 2014

### An Interesting Quote from Inside Michigan Politics

At our last Board Meeting we had an interesting conversation about Proposal 1 and the non-partisan, public/private sector team that was created to support the elimination of PPT. This dramatic change in our tax law received overwhelming bipartisan support in the legislature. Because GVMC is focused on collaboration/cooperation, I wanted to share with you an interesting quotation from Inside Michigan Politics.

Glen Czuba of the the Glenariff Group which did the polling for Prop 1 stated:

*“More intriguing to me on the broader scale was the story on Prop 1 that too many either missed or were unwilling to tell. We hear a constant drumbeat about how civility has been lost, how partisanship is hurting things, how neither side will work with the other side. Proposal 1 was the exact opposite of the dysfunction narrative... and who in the press told that story? Nobody. Stories of bipartisanship don’t get told, because ‘people working together’ doesn’t sell ink. If there’s a valuable lesson in Proposal 1, it’s that the press holds as much responsibility for dysfunction as everyone else, because they’re unwilling to tell stories of when both sides of the aisle work together”*

*“Inside Michigan Politics”, 8-21-2014*

### West Michigan Celebrates 30 Years of Service by the Pere Marquette Line

On Tuesday morning a celebration took place to mark the 30th anniversary of Pere Marquette train line serving Grand Rapids to Chicago.

Speakers at the event included John Weiss, Executive Director of GVMC, Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, MDOT Director Kirk Steudle, Ray Lang of Amtrak, Peter Varga, CEO, The Rapid, and Al Koole, from the Michigan Association of Rail Passengers.

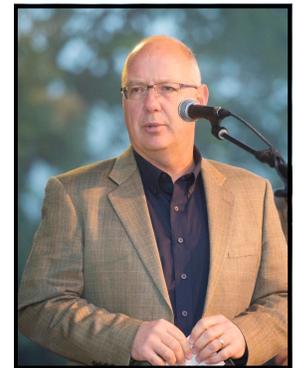
The Pere Marquette is a passenger line operated by Amtrak that is funded in part by MDOT. It carries passengers on the 176-mile route from Grand Rapids to Chicago with several stops along the way. Over 104,000 passengers a year ride the Pere Marquette.



Grand Rapids Mayor  
George Heartwell



GVMC Executive Director  
John Weiss



MDOT Director  
Kirk Steudle

## Save the Date!

**What:** West Michigan Prosperity Alliance General Session

**When:** October 10, 2014 10:00 am to Noon

**Where:** GVSU Kirkhoff Center (Allendale Campus)

**Topic:** Review and Priority Selection of the Nominated  
Projects of Regional Economic Significance

**RSVP:** Respond to this email or [mccrathg@gvmc.org](mailto:mccrathg@gvmc.org)