

*Your Membership Invitation to join the  
Merchant Marine Officer's Respected Voice*

**International Ship Masters' Association**



**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

The International Ship Masters' Association (ISMA) invites you to join other maritime professionals and those interested in the maritime industry. Only through a commitment to the our profession can our voices continue to be heard and respected. Your voice has value!

Take a few moments to read this brochure and learn about the history of an organization that has supported the maritime industry and its people for more than 130 years. Learn about our tradition, philosophy, concerns and goals. If you support these goals and the philosophy of the ISMA, if you want to make a difference in the maritime industry, and if you enjoy meeting and sharing friendship with maritime people from around the Great Lakes, then you should join us through one of the following membership categories:

**Active Professional**

An individual who currently holds a merchant marine license recognized by the U.S. or Canadian government.

**Active Retired**

An individual who holds or has held a merchant marine license recognized by the government of either the U.S. or Canada but is now retired from active service.

**Associate**

An individual who is interested in or associated with the maritime industry.

**Cadet / Student**

An individual who is enrolled in any maritime academy in pursuit of a maritime-related career.

**Honorary**

Bestowed on individuals recognized for their contributions and achievements in the maritime industry.

**Click on the link below to apply on-line**

**[Shipmaster.org](http://Shipmaster.org)**

# ISMA - A LEGACY OF TRADITION IN MARITIME



Captain Harold Dusseau, past president ISMA Grand Lodge, presents a check from Toledo #9 Lodge to Christopher Gillcrst, Executive Director, National Museum of the Great Lakes.

## A Maritime Tradition Continues on the Great Lakes

In 1886, a group of Buffalo ship masters united to form an organization for the mutual benefit of professional mariners and their families.

Originally called Excelsior Marine Benevolent Association, the organization was to provide financial support to disabled members or their beneficiaries in case of death, to provide educational opportunities for the improvement of navigational skill, and to insure that the Great Lakes ship masters had a voice in the formation of safety, navigation rules, and regulations.

The organization was not conceived as a labor union, but as a voluntary association of individuals committed to the betterment of their profession.

The association was soon embraced by most Great Lakes ship masters and changed its name to the Ship Masters' Association in 1893.

A growing Canadian presence was reflected in the change of the name to the International Ship Masters' Association in 1917.

From then on, and continuing today, mariners from both countries work with government agencies and the marine industry toward the creation of a safer and more efficient maritime commerce.

# ISMA - A LEGACY OF TRADITION IN MARITIME

## Our Philosophy

"The purpose of the Association shall be to unite all ship masters and licensed merchant officers of good moral character; to elevate the character of its members; and to utilize their professional experience to promote safety on the Great Lakes and any navigable waters." (ISMA Constitution)

The ISMA functions as the representative of all Great Lakes mariners in many important ways. Through meetings, committees, newsletters, and communication between members, ISMA informs and educates its members on issues of vital concern to mariners.

And through the respected ISMA name, mariners of all levels have a collective voice when critical decisions on maritime affairs are made by government. The Association plays a cooperative role with the Canadian and US Coast Guard and various other maritime organizations and associations.



## Goals of the ISMA

-  To promote the fraternity of our profession through exchange of ideas and experiences;
-  To serve as the respected voice of Merchant Marine Officers in regards to safety, navigation and the environment;
-  To provide opportunities, support and enrich the experiences of Associate Members;
-  To apprise, inform and educate the public on maritime issues;
-  To advocate for Great Lakes Shipping.

# TELL ME ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION

## BENEFITS

Local ISMA lodges from around the Great Lakes conduct regular meetings that feature lodge business, maritime related programs and speakers and, most importantly, the opportunity for members to share in conversation. Local Lodges are active in:

- ⚓ Meet maritime industry professionals with the same interests and concerns as your own;
- ⚓ Forums to exchange ideas on issues concerning maritime operations and safety;
- ⚓ Being informed on maritime issues and the industry through our quarterly newsletter;
- ⚓ The opportunity to meet and discuss issues with industry and regulatory officials;
- ⚓ The opportunity to play an essential part in the future of our profession;
- ⚓ Recognition by your peers through your involvement in a maritime organization where the goal is the betterment of our profession.



## ISMA Accomplishments

- ⚓ Continue to provide input into the establishment of recommended courses on the Great Lakes
- ⚓ Continue to advise U.S. & Canadian Coast Guards on the placement of countless aids to navigation
- ⚓ Continue to work with the U.S. Corps of Engineers in the planning of channel improvements
- ⚓ Continue to advise the National Weather Service on ways to improve marine weather forecasting

# TELL ME ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SHIP MASTERS' ASSOCIATION

## ISMA Newsletter

Providing the backbone of communication throughout the year, ISMA publishes a quarterly newsletter to maintain a consistent avenue of information to all members including those who are on board ship for extended periods.

The association's quarterly newsletter, contains information on maritime operation, navigation, and safety items; details of maritime events of interest; ISMA Convention information; news from the local lodges; member news; and history.

## ISMA Committees

The ISMA appoints numerous committees to investigate issues facing mariners, and issue reports for consideration by the membership. Commissioned on both the Local Lodge and the Grand Lodge levels, committees include, navigation, engineering, legislation, membership, events, and jurisprudence.

## Annual Grand Lodge Convention

The ISMA sponsors an annual Grand Lodge Convention for all members to gather for events ranging from educational sessions and guest speakers to discussion of issues and ISMA business. Hosted by a different local lodge each winter, activities also include business luncheons, theme dinners, and excursions around the convention city. Each convention is capped by the impressive Grand Lodge Officer Induction Ceremony followed by the formal Ship Masters' Grand Ball.



Betty Sutton, former administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, delivers the keynote address at an ISMA Grand Lodge Convention in Toledo.

## The Grand Lodge

The ISMA Grand Lodge is made up of elected officers, elected delegates, and appointed officers from the local lodges. It is the body through which ISMA forms its official positions regarding legislation and conducts the majority of its official business.

At least once each year, the Grand Lodge convenes to consider proposals offered by the local lodges, elect new Grand Lodge Officers, and set a course for the organization for the coming year. All ISMA members are invited to attend each session of the Grand Lodge at the annual ISMA Convention.

## Local Lodges

Local ISMA lodges from around the Great Lakes conduct regular meetings that feature lodge business, maritime related programs and speakers and, most importantly, the opportunity for members to share in conversation. Local Lodges are active in these areas:



[Buffalo, NY](#)  
[Lodge #1](#)



[Port Huron, MI](#)  
[Lodge #2](#)



[Chicago, IL](#)  
[Lodge #3](#)



[Cleveland, OH](#)  
[Lodge #4](#)



[Bay City, MI](#)  
[Lodge #5](#)



[Milwaukee, WI](#)  
[Lodge #6](#)



[Detroit, MI](#)  
[Lodge #7](#)



[Toledo, OH](#)  
[Lodge #9](#)



[Twin Ports](#)  
[Duluth, MN](#)  
[Lodge #12](#)



[Georgian Bay](#)  
[Huronia, ONT](#)  
[Lodge #15](#)



[Thunder Bay,](#)  
[ONT](#)  
[Lodge #16](#)



[Green Bay, WI](#)  
[Lodge #18](#)



[Northeast](#)  
[Michigan](#)  
[Lodge #19](#)



[Niagara Dist.,](#)  
[ONT](#)  
[Lodge #20](#)



[Twin Sault,](#)  
[MI / ONT](#)  
[Lodge #22](#)



[Grand Traverse](#)  
[Traverse City, MI](#)  
[Lodge #23](#)

Join the approximately 700 ISMA members from these local lodges. Let your voice be heard!

Apply on-line today

[Shipmaster.org](#)

**This presentation was proudly  
produced by the members of**



# **ISMA TOLEDO LODGE #9**

**P.O. Box 5218 | Toledo, OH 43611**



**For more information visit  
[Shipmaster.org](http://Shipmaster.org)**



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