



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 33, Number 1  
January-February 2019

# ISMA LETTER

## 2019 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention

As this is written, the 129<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention is underway in Traverse City, MI. A full report will appear in the next (March-April) issue of *ISMA Letter*.

Congratulations to the newly elected Grand Lodge officers:

Grand President:	Capt. <b>Mark Mather</b>
Grand 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Capt. <b>Joseph Ruch</b>
Grand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Capt. <b>William Rabatsky</b>
Grand Secretary-Treasurer:	Capt. <b>Brian Eickel</b>

## A New Beginning for Two Lodges Milwaukee Lodge No. 6 Reopens

Article and photos by Captain George Haynes, PGP

A great step forward for ISMA occurred on January 16, 2019, at a small neighborhood pub in the old port section of Milwaukee. After much discussion over the last several years, one lodge has become two. Green Bay Lodge #18 divided its members and Milwaukee Lodge #6 had its charter re-instated after 40 years of missing from the ISMA ranks.

Green Bay Lodge #18 has been known unofficially as a "Traveling Lodge" since 1979 when Milwaukee Lodge #6 disbanded and remaining members transferred to Green Bay. Members from both ports traveled up to two hours to either port or ports in between to hold meetings. In the 1990s, Capt. **Dave Blomberg** of Milwaukee started recruiting members of the Milwaukee area to join Green Bay. As more Milwaukee members joined, the idea of re-establishing Milwaukee #6 grew.

Twenty-one members and Grand Lodge members from Lodges 2, 3, 7, 9 & 18 attended the January 16 event. The meeting was held at O'Lydia's Irish Pub, which is two blocks away from where Milwaukee Lodge #6 held its first meetings when 1<sup>st</sup> Grand President **Alex Clarke** of the Excelsior Marine Benevolent Association came and organized the lodge on February 16, 1891.

The meeting started with a cocktail hour and snacks at 1700 followed by dinner. The ceremony to re-instate opened with the President of Lodge #6, Capt. **Todd Taylor**, recognizing and thanking Grand President **Harry Dusseau**, Grand Secretary-Treasurer Capt. **Brian Eickel**, myself, Capts. **Paul Haley** and **Mike Nesbitt** of Green Bay, **Amy Seeley** and **Mike Wiedel** of Chicago for attending. Capt. **Greg Stamatelakys**, long-time Green Bay Lodge #18 secretary-treasurer and dele-

gate who has done much of the work to re-organize Milwaukee Lodge #6, spoke and thanked everyone for attending. Grand President **Dusseau** read the names of charter members

of Milwaukee, many of whom transferred from Green Bay Lodge #18 and Chicago Lodge #3. New certificates and pennant numbers were handed to new members. Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Eickel** presented the lodge with the original seal embosser which had been in custody of the Grand Lodge for decades.



Left: Beth Fernandez, crew aboard RV Neeskay, receives ISMA membership certificate from Todd Taylor.

In a true showing of Ship Masters' benevolence, Capt. **Mike Nesbitt**, Secretary-Treasurer of Green Bay Lodge #18, handed a check to Capt. **Todd Taylor** for a significant amount of funds to help get Milwaukee off the ground. The transition to restart Milwaukee has been difficult and evoked heated debate within the Green Bay lodge. Members of Green Bay should be commended for their good will.



Mike Nesbitt presents a check from Green Bay Lodge #18 to Todd Taylor and Greg Stamatelakys to help fund Milwaukee Lodge #6.

Capt. **Dave Blomberg** was recognized for 25 years of effort and support to build Green Bay Lodge membership. **Dave** is retired from an extensive and diverse career including 20 years as an officer in the Coast Guard, 12 years as an officer for American Steamship Co., and a chief officer delivering Staten Island Ferries and research vessels out of Sturgeon Bay. He also was a volunteer in the building and organizing of the Milwaukee tall ship *Denis Sullivan*.



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**A New Beginning for Two Lodges**, continued

Dave was presented with a custom framed photo of the M/V *American Mariner*.

After the ceremony, President Taylor held discussion on some navigation matters in the Port of Milwaukee.

There was discussion on who could represent Lodge #6 at the Grand Lodge Convention coming up and how to pay for them. Capt. John Slanga of the tall ship *Denis Sullivan* volunteered to be delegate. A silent auction of many prizes was held and, with enthusiasm to fund the delegate, brought in generous donations. By 2130, ISMA had Milwaukee Lodge #6 back among its membership.

Green Bay Lodge #18 is now truly a Green Bay Lodge with its own identity. Work will now commence on recruiting new members and bringing back past members. Current members of both lodges are committed to the health and growth of each lodge. With large working waterfront populations in both areas and renewed energy, the prospect is excellent for both lodges to flourish and grow.



Dave Blomberg receives photo of American Mariner.



Top: Foreground: Dale Barrett, Gonzo Couto-Lane, Don Doggett; background: Paul Haley, Mitchell Olds.

Above: John Slanga, Jerry Guyer, Tiffany Krihwan, Todd Taylor, Greg Stamatelakys.

Right: Amy Seeley, Paul Haley, Mitchell Olds.

**FROM THE LODGES****Port Huron Lodge No. 2:**

Port Huron Lodge #2 will hold their 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, 800 Harker Street, Port Huron. A hospitality suite will be open from 3:00 - 5:30 pm and again at 10:30 pm. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm, with a buffet dinner at 6:30. PGP Capt. **George Haynes** will present "Grand Presidents of Port Huron Lodge: 1898-1994," followed by music and dancing until 11:00 pm. Tickets are \$60 US/\$75 Can per person, and reservations must be made by February 19, 2019. For more information, see the Port Huron Lodge #2 page on the ISMA website ([www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org)); call 810-679-2171; or email [eandipitrango@att.net](mailto:eandipitrango@att.net).

**Cleveland Lodge No. 4:**

On January 30, 2019, Cleveland Lodge #4 held an evening dinner meeting with guest speaker **Henry Billingsley II**, who has practiced Admiralty Law for 40 years. Mr. **Billingsley** presented his views on not only the cause of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald's* sinking, but also the legal ramifications for the entities involved. It was a captivating presentation. Despite an outdoor temperature of -4F, the meeting was well attended.



Henry Billingsley II (left) is introduced by Bill Rabatsky of Lodge #4.  
—photo by Mary Rabatsky

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**ISMA Membership Applications  
Available Online at**  
[www.shipmaster.org/learn-more.html](http://www.shipmaster.org/learn-more.html)





From the Lodges, continued

### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Detroit Lodge #7 held its annual election of officers on January 5, 2019. Results are as follows:

President: **Neil C. Schultheiss**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Scott R. Skrzypczak**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Dominic M. Principe**  
 Secretary-Treasurer: **Raymond E. Oset**

The following officers were appointed:

Chaplain: **Rev. Lynne A. Kogel**  
 Marshal: **Dennis E. Pomeroy**  
 Warden: **Laddie L. Hudson**  
 Sentinel: **Michael W. Nall**  
 Lodge Surgeon: **Dr. Larry W. Stephenson**

Lodge #7's Annual Dinner Dance will be Saturday, February 23, 2019, at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township, MI. For more information, see the Lodge #7 website at [www.detroitlodge7.org](http://www.detroitlodge7.org).

Members of Detroit Lodge #7 were invited to tour the Port of Monroe on December 11, 2018. The tour was conducted by Port Director **Paul LaMarre III**, who is a member of Toledo Lodge #9. Attending from Detroit Lodge #7 were **Tom and Sheryl Allor, Chuck Wagner, Brian Eickel, Art Brooks, Malcolm McAdams, Paul Jagenow** and **Wayne Sapulski**. Port Director **LaMarre** gave a presentation showing how the Port of Monroe has evolved and expanded over the years. The Port of Monroe markets itself as "The Biggest Little Port: Michigan's only port on Lake Erie" and serves as the gateway to the state's far reaching multimodal transportation network. Mr. **LaMarre** explained the multifaceted aspects of the port that merges maritime shipping, truck transportation and rail service. After the presentation,



*Paul Jagenow, Tom Allor, Chuck Wagner, Malcolm McAdams, Brian Eickel, Wayne Sapulski, Art Brooks, Paul LaMarre III.*

the attendees were driven around the port facilities and shown in real life the sights described during the presentation. The tour concluded with a visit to the Tug *Wisconsin*, which serves the port by providing ship tows and ice breaking services. Upon departure



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from the port, the lodge members adjourned to nearby Bolles Harbor for lunch.  
—by Paul Jagenow

The Installation of Rev. Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard** as the 19th Rector of Mariners' Church took place on December 2, 2018, at the church. **Ray Oset** and his wife **Sandy**, PGP **Tom McMullen** and **Paul Jagenow** attended the service as representatives of Detroit Lodge #7, ISMA. Lodge member **Kathy McGraw** was present in her official duties as Sexton of Mariners' Church. Lodge member Deacon **Frank Bateman** assisted the Bishop during the service. Members of Lodge #7 have had a long relationship with Mariners' Church, attending the Blessing of the Fleet in the Spring and Great Lakes Memorial Service in the Fall.

Detroit Lodge #7 had a guest speaker at its January 15, 2019, lodge meeting at the Great Lakes Yacht Club in St. Clair Shores, MI. Dr. **Jeffrey Ram** of Wayne State University's Dept. of Physiology spoke to the lodge about the history of ballast water technology on ships.



*Scott Skrzypczak presents Dr. Jeffrey Ram with a certificate of appreciation from Lodge #7.*

—photos and text by Paul Jagenow

In December 2018, Lodge #7 member **Luke Clyburn** received a special tribute from Michigan Secretary of State **Ruth Johnson**. The certificate recognized "Captain Luke Clyburn for the important role he has undertaken as a champion of marine ecology and for his steadfast support of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps in its mission to develop and train American youth in seagoing skills and teach them 'patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues.'"

### Georgian Bay-Huronina Lodge No. 15:

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet will be held Sunday, February 17, 2019, at 10:00 am, at St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound. For more information, see the Lodge #15 website at <https://sites.google.com/view/isma-lodge-15/mariners-service>.

Several Lodge #15 cadet members are recent scholarship recipients. **Brian Barty** received a 2019 ISMA Grand Lodge scholarship. 2018 and 2019 Marine Club scholarships were earned by **Dakota Birkenheier, Yesley Bonte, YevGeny Belgradov, Matt Merrifield, and Thomas Monsma**.

The 2019 ISMA Talks Marine Day will be held on February 27, 2019, at Georgian College. The event features presentations from The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, Wartsila (autonomous ship technology), the Marine Club, Canadian Company of Master Mariners, and Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering.

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**From the Lodges, continued**

Congratulations to Lodge #15 member **Thomas Aulinger** on accepting the position of Operations Manager, Centre for Marine Training & Research at Georgian College. Congratulations to Lodge #15 member **Greg Aldworth**, master of the *Chippewa III*, on being featured nationwide in October 2018 on the Sportsnet My Hometown feature. **Greg & Sandy Aldworth** were interviewed while sailing through Georgian Bay, and the home of Bobby Orr. Congratulations also to Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp**, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing of his book, *Weather Bomb 1913*, and the exhibition of his marine photography entitled "Sweetwater Lives" in Ottawa during November 2018.

Cadets and Lodge #15 members **Elizabeth Megan, Marlee Kuchma**, and **Lubov Anissimova** attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women on the Water Conference at Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, ME, from November 1-3, 2018.

**Final Bells**

Thunder Bay Lodge #16 announced the recent passing of the Lodge's Chaplain, Archdeacon **Mark S. Conliffe**. He served the lodge for many years and was a friend to all.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Chicago Lodge #3:**

Active Professional: **Timothy J. Agra** #13090  
**Michael Blanchard** #13091  
**Erich Totsch** #13092

**Cleveland Lodge #4:**

Active Professional: **Susan Scott** #13097  
Associate: **Bill Kloss** #A-13096

**Detroit Lodge #7:**

Active Professional: **Andrew D. Picot** #13095

**Green Bay Lodge #18:**

Active Professional: **Dale Bennett** #13093  
**Mike Loescher** #13094

**Grand Traverse #23:**

Cadet: **Heidi Kristine Wager** #C-13098

**Annual Mariners' Services**

ISMA Lodge #15 is presenting the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mariners' Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet beginning at 10:00 am, Sunday, February 17, 2019, at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound, ONT. Mariners who wish to be in the procession should arrive early (wearing uniforms if possible). For more info, see <https://sites.google.com/view/isma-lodge-15/mariners-service>.

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Point Edward, ON, is holding its Annual Mariners' Service at 10:00 am, Sunday, March 3, 2019. Guest speaker is **Jamie Forsythe**, retired Director Canadian Coast Guard. Refreshments will follow the service, and there will be marine displays.

The Annual Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church, Detroit, MI, will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at 11:00 am. Uniformed participants should arrive by 10:30.



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**



Scan the QR code at left. It will take you to the ISMA web-site.

**International Ship Masters' Association**

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