



Volume 35, Number 1  
January-February 2021

Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

**ISMA LETTER**

**2021 Grand Lodge Meeting**

The ISMA Grand Lodge annual meeting was held via Zoom on February 6, 2021. In addition to Grand Lodge officers and local lodge delegates, 13 Past Grand Presidents were in attendance. Following committee reports, two proposed constitutional amendments were considered. Upon revision, the amendments, as revised, were passed by the delegates. All Grand Lodge officers were re-elected and re-appointed for the following year. Cleveland Lodge #4 will host the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention at a time and location to be determined.

Look for more information about the 2021 Grand Lodge meeting, including committee activities, as well as the upcoming 2022 Convention in the next issue of *ISMA Letter*. And you can always contact your lodge's delegate to learn more.

**2021 GRAND LODGE  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Congratulations to the 2021 Grand Lodge scholarship award winners:

- Thomas Monsma**, Georgian College,  
member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15
- Trevor Schick**, Great Lakes Maritime Academy,  
member of Twin Sault Lodge #22
- Sarah Lewis**, Hawsepipeline candidate,  
member of Thunder Bay Lodge #16

While there were not personal award presentations, each recipient will have their scholarship award certificate and cheque mailed to them, along with a congratulatory letter and a free ISMA membership for 2021. Look for their Thank You messages in this and the next issue of *ISMA Letter*.

**FROM THE LODGES**

Due to COVID restrictions, local lodges have cancelled in-person meetings until it is once again safe to meet. Some lodges are meeting virtually online including Lodge #3, Lodge #4, Lodge #7.

**Buffalo Lodge No. 1:**

Lodge No. 1 President **Dave Miller**, master of the *Calumet*, shot a time-lapse video of the ship entering Buffalo, which appeared in the online Buffalo News. View it at <https://buffalonews.com/news/local/watch-now-viral-time-lapse-video-of-cargo-ship-arriving-in-buffalo-at-night/article/5726edac-3840-11eb-bfc7-8b41805b8ea7.html>.

**Detroit Lodge No. 7:**

Lodge #7 member **Scott Reynolds** reports that the Detroit Fire Department has a new quick response fire rescue boat. *Sivad Johnson* entered service late last summer. *Johnson* is 32' x 10', draws 32", and is powered by two 350-hp Mercury outboards. Top speed is 50 mph with a crew of 4. *Johnson* is equipped with a 1000-gpm fire pump and also has AFFF fire-fighting foam aboard. The boat is set up for rescue recovery, where the fire-boat *Curtis Randolph* is designed for long term fire-fighting. Both vessels are in service from 1 May through 15 December.



Lodge #7 has cancelled in-person meetings as well as their 2021 annual dinner dancel due to COVID-19; however, the lodge continues to hold virtual Zoom meetings, most recently on February 9, 2021.



Lodge #7 member **Mike Drooglever** and the NautiBuoy Social Club (a nonprofit recreational club) held their annual visit to Dossin Great Lakes Museum in mid-January 2021. The trip also included touring Belle Isle and other historic sites along the Detroit River.

**Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:**

Lodge #15 will not hold meetings this winter, but are looking at possibly hosting a few Zoom meetings.

The annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet, normally held at Owen Sound's St George's Anglican Church, was not held in 2021, but will return in 2022.



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## From the Lodges, continued

Lodge #15 member **Amanda Slade** worked with Transport Canada on pioneering the method for performing oral exams videostream, where the examiner conducts the oral exams with candidates at home from a remote TC office.

In September 2020, the Royal Canadian Mint released the SS *Keewatin* coin.

**The 2022 Grand Lodge Convention will be hosted by Cleveland Lodge #4, likely at the end of January 2022, with the specific dates and location to be determined. Hope to see you there!**



## Scholarship Winners Say Thank You

Here's a thank-you message from the 2021 Hawsepipe Scholarship winner, **Sarah Lewis** (member of Lodge #16):

*I want to thank you for your most generous scholarship toward my certification upgrade. It truly is an honour to be recognized by such a time-honoured organization as the ISMA.*

*I am very proud of the work we do here in Thunder Bay and I only hope to continue to represent my company and ISMA with my ongoing career.*

*Being from a small shipping community and an even smaller company, this scholarship will allow me to take the time to complete my masters exams and give me the training to be the best mariner I know I can be. It really means the world to be nominated as this year's ISMA Hawsepipe Scholarship recipient.*

*Thank you so much, and thank you in advance for all the mariners who will receive ISMA support in the future.*

**Capt. Sarah Jane Lewis**

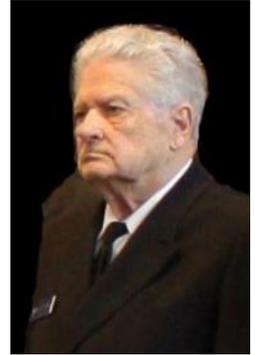
[Note: **Sarah** also served as the Lodge #16 delegate to the 2021 Grand Lodge meeting.] Watch for more from our Cadet Scholarship winners in upcoming issues of *ISMA Letter*.

## Mariners' Church to Hold Blessing of the Fleet

Mariners' Church of Detroit has announced that the annual Blessing of the Fleet will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, March 14, 2021. In-person attendance will be limited to approximately 70 people, and the service will also be livestreamed on Mariners' Church Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/marinerschurchofdetroit>. To attend the service in person, a reservation is required. For more information, see the notice on the Detroit Lodge #7 website at <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/2021%20Blessing.pdf>.

## Final Bells

Detroit Lodge #7 member Capt. **Arthur "Art" S. Herrala** (#10764) passed away on January 13, 2021, at the age of 91. **Art** was a member of Lodge #7 for the past 34 years, and is survived by his wife **Woodie Neme Herrala**. **Art** began his maritime career as a deckhand aboard the Bob-Lo boats, where he worked for 43 years before retiring as master of the *Columbia* when the ship laid up for the final time in September 1991. He also spent time working aboard the passenger vessels *Greater Detroit* and *South American*. In addition, he spent some time working on freighters in the ore trade. In 2009, **Art** received the Lewis Ludington Award. A visitation was held on January 17 at Resurrection Funeral Home in Clinton Township, MI.



## Calling All Ship Masters!

As our organization endures this pandemic, our lodge meetings may be virtual, but our goals and mission remain strong. I am reaching out to all members to ask that you consider standing by our Mission Statement which says in part, "To encourage and assist those preparing for careers as Merchant Marine Officers."

Our ISMA Scholarship Fund is in need of more contributions to meet next year's goal of once again awarding three \$1500 scholarships to qualified license seekers: one U.S. Cadet, one Canadian Cadet, and one Hawsepipe applicant.

The ISMA Scholarship Committee, led by Chairman Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue**, PGP and Lodge #15 member, has been pleased with the number of well-written applications received each year. It is always difficult determining the most-deserving applicants. Last year, we had four applicants from Georgian College, four from Great Lakes Maritime Academy, and three through the hawsepipe. And eight of these eleven applicants were ISMA members! They are the future of our organization.

Unfortunately, the 2021 ISMA Grand Lodge meeting was not the gala convention event that we are used to attending. And with COVID restrictions, it is more difficult reaching out to our member lodge delegates personally. However, it is critical that all ISMA members recognize the importance of Scholarship Fund contributions to the scholarship program's sustainability.

Please consider donating!! Large or small, each donation adds up toward our goal of helping aspiring Merchant Marine Officers. Contributions should be sent to the ISMA Scholarship Fund, c/o Capt. Brian L. Eickel, 3566 Pratt Rd., Metamora, MI 48455.

If you have any questions about the ISMA Scholarship Fund or Program, feel free to contact me at [rbrohl@cros.net](mailto:rbrohl@cros.net), **Seann O'Donoghue** at [capt.s.odonoghue@gmail.com](mailto:capt.s.odonoghue@gmail.com), or your Grand Lodge delegate.

Fraternally,  
Capt. **Russell Brohl**, PGP, Lodge #4  
Scholarship Committee

## Buy American Executive Order Supports Jones Act

“In case you missed it,” said NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak**, “President Biden laid out his government procurement plan which emphasizes buying American-made products to support government function. He specifically mentioned support of the Jones Act, American shipyards, ports, and mariners. This is the first time a President has publicly stated support of the Jones Act in the first week of office and backed it up with an executive order.”

The executive order, signed on January 25, 2021, is titled “Strengthening ‘Buy American’ Provisions, Ensuring Future of America is Made in America by All of America’s Workers.” It calls for increasing the amount of US content that must be in a product for it to be considered made in America. You can read the American Maritime Partnership’s comments in a press release at <https://www.americanmaritimepartnership.com/press-releases/american-maritime-leaders-applaud-biden-administration-for-prioritizing-support-of-the-jones-act-in-buy-america-executive-order/>.

## Survey of US Mariner Mental Health Needs during COVID-19

The US Committee on the Marine Transportation System COVID-19 Working Group encourages mariners from all segments of the US maritime industry to take ten minutes to anonymously complete the “Mariner Mental Health Needs during Covid-19” online survey at <https://redcap.link/mariners>. The confidential survey asks mariners a variety of questions about COVID-19, mental health, and their experiences and feelings when aboard a vessel during the challenges of this pandemic. No mariner identification data will be collected. Participation from a significant portion of mariners in each industry segment will help in understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their mental health. The survey is available from January 22 through May 31, 2021. Read more about the survey at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/01/29/cmts-covid-19-working-group-survey-of-u-s-mariner-mental-health-needs-during-covid-19/>.

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- On February 1, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 02-21, “COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Marine Transportation System.” This MSIB noted that Executive Order 13998, “Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,” requires masks be worn on all “public maritime vessels, including ferries” to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. The MSIB also noted that Centers for Disease Control (CDC) order, “Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks while on Transportation Hubs, 29 Jan 2021,” requires all persons traveling on all commercial vessels to wear a mask. Since the MSIB release, the USCG received numerous questions concerning the mask mandate. Based on the CDC order, all commercial vessels – inclusive of fishing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels, cargo ships, tankers, charter passenger vessels, ferries, towing vessels, etc. – should implement mask wear protocols. Read more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/02/01/msib-covid-19-safety-requirements-in-the-maritime-transportation-system/>.

## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

MSIB 02-21 is available at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2021/MSIB-02-21-Mask-Requirement.pdf?ver=AYSVn-il9fNn4LDmdFdzw%3d%3d>. The CDC order can be found at [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC\\_GMTF\\_01-29-21-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf).

- The National Museum of the Great Lakes (NMGL) in Toledo presented the online event “Port of Toledo: Then and Now” on February 3, 2021. The entire program can be found on NMGL’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/4taf9v4Wpio>. NMGL’s next program in their spring series will be “Ladies of the Lights: Michigan Women in the US Lighthouse Service” on February 24 at 7 pm EST. You can sign up to view the program live at <https://nmgl.eventbrite.com>. Then on March 17, NMGL presents “The Heroic Age of Diving: America’s Underwater Pioneers.” These programs are free; donations are suggested.
- 2021 Light Lists are available on the US Coast Guard Navigation Center’s website at <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightLists>.
- The US NOAA has undertaken a survey project in southern Lake Michigan, covering approximately 290 square nautical miles and includes the approaches into Burns, Calumet, Chicago, and Indiana Harbors. The contractor is using multiple survey vessels. The majority of the project area has not been surveyed since the 1940s. See more at <https://www.glbottommapping.glos.us/2020/08/nautical-charts-ground-americas-third-largest-city-will-soon-get-an-update/>.
- The US Coast Guard announced in the *Federal Register* the re-solicitation of applications from persons interested in membership on the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee to represent the viewpoint of those credentialed with ratings as a qualified member of the engine department. Completed applications must reach the USCG on or before March 15, 2021. See more information at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/01/13/federal-register-notice-national-merchant-marine-personnel-advisory-committee-vacancy>.
- On January 13, 2021, *Marine Log* ran an article “Great Lakes bulker successfully retrofitted for automatic dock-to-dock operation,” about the *American Courage*. Read it at <https://www.marinelog.com/news/great-lakes-bulker-successfully-retrofitted-for-automatic-dock-to-dock-operation/>.
- Here is a link to a short video overview of layup at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay. It includes floating footage of a portion of Interlake’s newbuild, *Mark W. Barker*. <https://www.marinelink.com/news/video-interlake-steamships-new-laker-484226>.
- On December 29, 2020, the US Coast Guard published MSIB 13-20 (Change 2) to provide updated to TWIC Reader Rule implementation and enforcement. See more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/12/29/msib-exemptions-to-twic-requirements-related-to-covid-19-update-change-2/>.
- The US Water Resource Development Act of 2020 (WRDA) was signed into law on December 20, 2020, as part of an omnibus spending measure, HR 133.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- On December 23, 2020, the US Coast Guard posted Change 5 to MSIB 08-20, "COVID-19 – Mariner Credentials," which updated information on extensions to merchant mariner credentials, medical certificates, and course approvals. See more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/12/23/msib-novel-coronavirus-mariner-credentials-update-change-5/>.
- During December 2020, Transport Canada issued four new Ship Safety Bulletins:
  - On December 30, Canada announced a reciprocal agreement with Australia to recognize STCW certificates. See <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/australian-seafarers-can-now-see-canadian-recognition-their-stcw-certificates-ssb-no-29-2020>.
  - On December 25, TC Bulletin 28/2020 was issued to provide guidance regarding the mobility of asymptomatic, presumed non-COVID-19 carrying seafarers. See <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/mobility-asymptomatic-presumed-non-covid-19-carrying-seafarers-marine-sector-during-covid-19-pandemic-ssb-no-28-2020>.
  - On December 24, TC Bulletin 27/2020 provided details on a new online process to check validity of Canadian marine documents. See <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/new-way-check-validity-canadian-marine-electronic-documents-ssb-no-27-2020>.
  - On December 12, TC Bulletin 25/2020 announced changes to validity of marine medical certificates for domestic operations. See <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/changes-validity-marine-medical-certificates-domestic-operations-ssb-no-25-2020>.
- On December 30, 2020, Interlake Holding Company announced the purchase of Pere Marquette Shipping Company (T/B *Undaunted/Pere Marquette 41*) and Lake Michigan Car Ferry Company (SS *Badger*). Interlake Maritime Services will manage the new businesses along with The Interlake Steamship Company fleet.
- On December 16, 2020, in Cleveland, Great Lakes Towing Company and Great Lakes Shipyard christened the new tugs *Wisconsin* and *Pennsylvania*.



**ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

ISMALetter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. Therefore, **Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

Remember that ISMALetter is always available on our website, [www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org), for viewing at any time.



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



Scan the QR code at left. It will take you to the ISMA website.

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