



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMALLETTER

Volume 36, Number 1
January-February 2022

2022 Grand Lodge Convention

The Grand Lodge convened in Cleveland, OH, on January 27, 2022, presided over by outgoing Grand President **Joseph C. Ruch**, who served two years as a result of the COVID pandemic. He reported, "This past year, I have been little more than custodian to this Grand Lodge office. We as an organization, along with the nation and the entire world, continue to struggle through this pandemic... To the mariners who every day are but a few feet from disaster, yet continue to bring the goods that help sustain us, I give thanks... There have been 113 Grand Presidents before me; may there be 113 more to follow."

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** indicated that membership totaled 539 as of December 31, 2021. This was a decrease of five members from a year earlier.

NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak** presented both the Canadian and US NELC reports. He noted that efforts in general have been to continue to refine electronic navigation systems throughout the Great Lakes as new technologies are rolled out. **Seann O'Donoghue**, Canadian NELC chair, is working on expanding AIS coverage throughout the lakes into traditionally dead areas, especially in Georgian Bay. **Scott** reported on the issue of the Port of Windsor implementing a fee for using the Ojibway Anchorage in the Detroit River. The NELC continued the slow process of building awareness and creating contacts within government, at both the state and national levels. The passage of the US Infrastructure Bill, has increased funding for the maritime sector. **Nathan Dawson** of Thunder Bay Lodge #16 is working with the Canadian Hydrographic Service as they use an autonomous survey vessel in northern Lake Superior in preparation for surveying the Canadian Arctic. **Scott** noted that 2022 will remain challenging. "Priorities remain the completion of a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie as well as the USCG acquiring a new heavy ice-breaker for the Great Lakes."

PGP **Russ Brohl** presented the Scholarship Committee report. This year's awards went to Canadian Cadet **Matthew Merrifield**, US Cadet **Logan Vasicek** (read his thank-you on page 5), and Hawsepiper **Alexander Murtha**. The Scholarship Committee is again soliciting donations from local lodges and individuals so that the program will continue to provide important funds for future licensed mariners.

Paul Jagenow gave the Historian's report, which included a listing of Ship Masters' plaques (shown on p. 6) displayed at seven locations around the Great Lakes, and an extensive spreadsheet listing all Grand Lodge elected and appointed officers each year throughout ISMA's history as well as convention locations, number of active lodges and estimated

continued next column...

number of ISMA members. You can view the report at <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Historian%20report%202022.pdf>.

After lengthy discussion, the wording in a Constitutional amendment to revise the Cadet membership category, proposed by Chicago Lodge #3, was changed to include mariners actively pursuing a license. The revision narrowly passed; further change is expected to be made in 2023 to add clarification to the membership category's name.

New elected Grand Lodge officers for 2022 are:

Grand President:	William J. Rabatsky
Grand 1 st Vice President:	Luther "Luke" Clyburn
Grand 2 nd Vice President:	James P. Hummert
Grand Secretary-Treasurer:	Brian L. Eickel

Appointed officers are:

Grand Chaplain:	Mary Ann Schallip
Grand Marshal:	Aaron Burnett
Grand Warden:	Charles "Chip" Duggan
Grand Sentinel:	Rich Cappicioni



Grand Lodge Officers: (front) Brian Eickel, William J. Rabatsky, Luke Clyburn, James Hummert, (back row) Aaron Burnett, Charles "Chip" Duggan, Rick Cappacioni, Mary Ann Schallip

photo by Orville McEachron

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Grand Lodge Convention, continued

On Saturday, Grand President **Bill Rabatsky** appointed committees, and formed a special committee – the “Course Change” Committee – to consolidate ideas to move the organization forward. Also, those individuals or lodges who wish to make a donation in memory of **Richard Gray** may write a check to the Grand Lodge with “Richard Gray” in the memo line.

Keynote speaker at Friday evening’s Grand Ball was RADM **Michael J. Johnston** (right), US Coast Guard Ninth District Commander – a position he has held since May 2021. Other lunch and dinner speakers included **David S. Gutheil**, Chief Commercial Officer at the Port of Cleveland; **Kirsten Buccigrossi**, Director – Marketing & Communications for Great Lakes Towing Company and Great Lakes Shipyard; and Capt. **Andrew D. Ferguson**, President, Phastar Corporation.



photo by Orville McEachron

Convention attendees were able to participate in a visit to Cleveland’s Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School; Samsel Supply Co.; Collision Bend Brewery; and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. If you missed the R&R Hall of Fame trip, you missed some talented ISMA musicians who entertained us with a jam session in the “Garage” area of the museum!



“Garage” at Rock Hall. photo by Orville McEachron

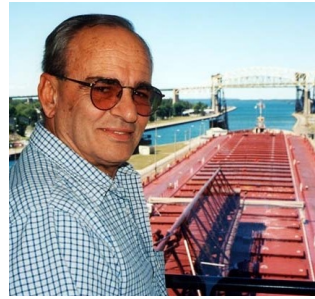
The 2023 Grand Lodge Convention, hosted by Detroit Lodge #7, will be held January 26-29, 2023, at the DoubleTree Dearborn Hilton – Detroit.

Convention Photos

An extensive gallery of photos taken by professional photographer **Orville McEachron** at the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention can be accessed at <https://orvillemceachronphotography.pictime.com/-2022ismagrandlodgeconventioncleveland/gallery>. **Orville** did a wonderful job documenting the entire event.

Final Bells

Detroit Lodge #7 member Capt. **Constanttine “Gus” Markakis** (#11722) passed away in Florida on February 5, 2022, at the age of 84. He had been a Lodge #7 member for 24 years. **Gus** was born in Greece and emigrated to the US in 1968. After sailing for US Steel and Inland Steel, he began a 28-year career with Oglebay Norton in 1972. He retired as master of the *Oglebay Norton* in 2000. In 2003, he received the Lewis Ludington Award. **Gus** is survived by his wife **Antoinette**, two children, and three grandchildren.



Port Huron Lodge #2 member (#10996) Capt. **Nathan L. Smith** passed away on January 19, 2022, in Sarnia, Ontario.

Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member **Richard James Gray** passed away at the age of 35 following an accident aboard MV *Walter J. McCarthy*, where he was 2nd Mate, on January 17, 2022. **Richard** had served as Lodge #23’s delegate to the Grand Lodge and was instrumental in forming the Membership and Outreach Committee of which he was a member. He is survived by his wife **Danielle**, children **Richard C.**, **Alice**, **Eleanor**, and baby number four due in September 2022. A service was held at Immaculate Conception Church in Traverse City on January 26.



Long-time Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member Capt. **Gordon Harry McNeill** (#10691) passed away on December 22, 2021, at the age of 91. He had been a captain with Hindman Transportation, a Great Lakes pilot for over 25 years, a navigation instructor, and Owen Sound Harbour Master. He was a charter member of Lodge #15 in the 1980s. A service was held in Owen Sound on January 2, 2022.

Chicago Lodge #3 member **Jay Crissey** passed away on November 11, 2021.



Past Grand President Capt. **Gordon Albert “Pete” Jimerson** passed away on February 27, 2021, at the age of 82. His career on the Great Lakes with Boland & Cornelius/American Steamship Company spanned 41 years. **Pete** served as ISMA Grand President in 1989. He is survived by four children and six grandchildren.

Adolph N. Ojard, former Duluth Seaway Port Authority executive director and president of the American Great Lakes Ports Association, passed away on December 30, 2021, at the age of 72.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

14 Past Grand Presidents Attend Cleveland Convention



Past Grand Presidents in attendance at the 2022 Cleveland Convention: (front row) Bob Lund, Bob Schallip, John Wellington, Ron Brezinski, Ron Ingram, Joe Ruch, Harry Dusseau; (back row) George Haynes, Joe Walters, Al Tielke, Lee Barnhill, Ray Sheldon, Mark Mather, Russ Brohl.

photo by C Rohn-Tielke

Members in the News

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's resident historian and Detroit Lodge No. 7 member, **Wayne Sapulski**, was interviewed by **Helen Brohl** of the American Shoreline Podcast Network for a segment titled: The Silent Watchkeepers - Lighthouses of the Great Lakes/North Coast Chronicles. The segment aired on November 26, 2021. **Helen Brohl** is the sister of PGP Captain **Russ Brohl**. Find the interview at <https://www.coastalnewstoday.com/podcasts/the-silent-watchkeepers-lighthouses-of-the-great-lakes-north-coast-chronicles>.

A January 4, 2022, article in *Macomb Daily* describes efforts to locate submerged structures and other evidence of a former church and community lost to flood waters in the mid-1800s along Lake St. Clair. The Noble Odyssey Foundation is conducting an underwater survey to document the existence of the former St. Felicity Territorial Mission as well as the lost town of Belvidere. Both sites were abandoned around 1856 due to rising waters that began about 20 years earlier. Grand 1st Vice President **Luke Clyburn** is mentioned in the story, which can be found at <https://www.macombdaily.com/2022/01/04/macomb-county-supports-effort-to-find-lost-church-town-along-lake-st-clair/>.

The US Coast Guard District 9 Auxiliary Newsletter contained an article written by Lodge #7 member **Christopher Stevens** about the Lost Mariners Remembrance ceremony; several members were mentioned.

The January 7, 2022, *Navy League Weekly Newsletter* ran a story about Detroit Lodge #7 member **Jim Semerad**. See <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Newsletter%20January%207%202022.pdf>.

Salute Your Fellow Members with the
SHIP MASTERS' SALUTE:
3 Long, 1 Short

FROM THE LODGES

Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

The following Lodge #2 officers have been elected and appointed to a two-year term for 2022-23:

President:	George P. Haynes
1 st Vice President:	Joseph C. Ruch
2 nd Vice President:	Aaron P. Menough
Secretary/Treasurer:	Victoria S. Conradson
Marshal:	Anthony R. Zolinski
Warden:	David J. Allen
Sentinel:	Joseph P. Kennedy
Chaplain:	Edward A. Pitrago
Surgeon:	Dr. Dawn M. Severson

Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

At Lodge #4's annual meeting in October 2021, the following officers were elected and appointed to two year terms, 2022-2023:

President:	William J. Rabatsky
1 st Vice President:	Aaron Burnett
2 nd Vice President:	Steve Nimrod
Secretary-Treasurer:	Christine R. Rohn-Tielke
Marshal:	Chip Duggan
Warden:	William Bratton
Sentinel:	Kevin (K2) Bem
Chaplain:	Francine Pate

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Newly elected and appointed officers for Lodge #7 are:

President:	Michael W. Nall
1 st Vice President:	Brian L. Eickel
2 nd Vice President:	Jeffery A. Haeseker
Secretary-Treasurer:	Raymond E. Oset
Marshal:	Dennis E. Pomeroy
Warden:	Laddie L. Hudson
Sentinel:	Scott E. Reynolds
Co-Chaplains:	Rev. Dr. Lynne A. Kogel Fr. Jeffrey M. Hubbard
Lodge Surgeon:	Larry W. Stevenson, MD

On February 8, 2022, Lodge #7 met at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Guest speaker was marine artist and historian **Robert McGreevy**, who presented "What Really Happened to the S/V *Griffon*." On February 19, Lodge #7 will meet at 6:30 pm at First United Methodist Church, Hazel Park, MI. Following dinner, the guest speaker will be Grand 1st Vice President and Lodge #7 member Capt. **Luke Clyburn**.

Toledo Lodge No. 9:

Captain **Michael Majewski**, former Commanding Officer of USS *Toledo* and currently the Commodore of Submarine Squadron 7 in Pearl Harbor, was the guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by Lodge #9 on December 22, 2021. Approximately 20 people, including representatives from the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority and the National Museum of the Great Lakes, attended the event. Capt. **Majewski** shared stories about commanding USS *Toledo*, his current responsibilities overseeing eight Los Angeles Class nuclear submarines, and recruiting challenges facing both the Navy and maritime industry. Much discussion centered around the possibility of Lodge #9 becom-

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From the Lodges, continued

ing more community-involved with adopting USS *Toledo*. USS *Toledo* (SSN-769) is a Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack submarine and the third U.S. Naval vessel named for the city of Toledo. She was launched on August 28, 1993, and commissioned on February 24, 1995.

In 2014 while in command of USS *Toledo*, Capt. **Majewski** brought several sailors from the sub to Toledo where they visited schools, hospitals, area attractions, met with city officials, etc. "Visits to the classrooms inspired students to want to learn more about not only the armed forces, but the maritime industry as well. Anything we can do to plant the seeds for the next generation workforce in the maritime industry is helpful," he said.

"We would like to lead the way to help bring officers and sailors from the ship to Toledo so they can learn first-hand about the city their sub represents," said Lodge #9 President **Rick Brown**. "Other communities with submarines named after their cities are already doing this. We see many advantages to adopting USS *Toledo*. At some point the submarine will be decommissioned, and we'd like to play a role in bringing USS *Toledo* to our port when her service is completed."



*Rick Brown, PGP Harry Dusseau, Capt. Michael Majewski
--photo courtesy Matt Zaleski*

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

Lodge #15 will hold an in-person meeting on March 8, 2022, beginning at 1730 hours, at Shorties Grill in Owen Sound.

On January 27, 2022, Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp** presented a program to the Midland Bay Sailing Club (via Zoom) on his book, *Weather Bomb: Life and Death on the Great Lakes*. He is available for presentations by contacting bruce@brucekempphotography.net.

Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19:

Lee Barnhill reports that Lodge #19 held its first meeting of 2022 on January 12. "We had a large turnout, with six active members, two past members, one member from Port Huron Lodge #2, and one new member who joined at the meeting. Capt. **Dave Malcolm**, who was in town for ice operations at Lafarge, joined us for the lunch meeting. **Pat Labadie** and **Ted Rayha** gave an update on donation of the *S. T. Crapo* from Lafarge to Alpena to become a museum ship."

Lodge #19 Officers for 2022 were elected and appointed at the meeting as follows:

President:	Pat Hart
1 st Vice President:	Will St. Amour
2 nd Vice President:	Chad Mushlock
Secretary-Treasurer:	Wally Watkins
Marshal:	Deb Kozlowski
Warden:	Bob Haworth
Sentinel:	Ben McClain
Chaplain:	Carol Lund

130th Annual Detroit Lodge No. 7 Dinner Dance

The 130th Annual Detroit Lodge No. 7 Dinner Dance is scheduled for 6 - 10:30 pm, March 12, 2022, at Highlands Detroit, located on the 72nd floor of the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit. Discounted hotel rooms are available at the RenCen Marriott. For more information, or to purchase dinner dance tickets, visit <https://www.payit2.com/e/detroitisma>.

GLMTF Calls for More Icebreaking Capacity on Lakes

On February 2, 2022, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) issued a press release, "Lack of Coast Guard Icebreaking Disrupts Supply Chain and Delays Soo Lock Dewatering." In part, the release says:

*Despite a relatively mild and delayed onset of winter in the Great Lakes, US-flag "lakers" were hampered by a lack of Coast Guard icebreaking assets. A total of 750,000 tons of carrying capacity for iron ore, coal and cement were delayed. 20 voyages were delayed for a total of 325 hours. "The inefficiency introduced into the Great Lakes Navigation System by inadequate Coast Guard icebreaking resources impacts the carriers, their customers and the entire North American manufacturing supply chain," said **Jim Weakley**, President of GLMTF and the Lake Carriers' Association. He continued, "The men and women of the US Coast Guard do the best they can with the resources they are provided. Unfortunately, they do not have enough icebreakers to keep the system operating efficiently." Budget reconciliation legislation now being considered in the US Senate would provide the Coast Guard with funding for an additional Great Lakes icebreaker.*

Read the entire release at <https://glmtf.org/lack-of-coast-guard-icebreaking-disrupts-supply-chain-and-delays-soo-lock-dewatering/>. ISMA is a member of GLMTF.

Blessing of the Fleet - Mariners' Church

The annual Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church of Detroit, will be held at 1100 on Sunday, March 13, 2022. The Lewis Ludington Award will also be presented at this time. (Nominations were due by February 8.)

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NEW MEMBERS

Port Huron Lodge #2:

Active Professional: **Anthony V. Brandano** #13209
Scott Still #13216

Cleveland Lodge #4:

Active Professional: **William "Bill" Bratton** #13206
Kirsten Buccigrossi #13211
Beth O'Kain Kilbane #13203
Nicholas Walinder #13205
Associate: **Dennis C. Robb** #A-13214
Gregory Rudnick #A-13204
Cadet: **Zachary Olson** #C-13212

Milwaukee Lodge #6:

Active Professional: **Morgan M. Maxwell** #13201
Brandy Poort #13202
Eugene "Gene" Schnagl #13210
Associate: **Francis Patrick Davis** #A-13207
Michael Moser #A-13208

Twin Ports Lodge #12:

Associate: **Ethan Rentschler** #A-13213

Georgian Bay-Huronina Lodge #15:

Associate: **Andrew Blair** #A-13215

Scholarship Winners Say Thank You

This year's ISMA Scholarship Awards went to Canadian Cadet **Matthew Merrifield**, US Cadet **Logan Vasicek**, and Hawsepiper **Alexander Murtha**. We print below the thank you from **Logan Vasicek**. Thank yous from the other recipients will follow in the next issue of *ISMALetter*.

Dear International Ship Masters' Association,

I am deeply honored to have been selected as the recipient of this year's International Ship Masters' Association Cadet Scholarship. I would like to offer my sincere thanks for your generosity, as this gift will aid me in completing my education at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and beginning a career as a mariner.

I am currently a senior in the Deck Officer Program at GLMA, and will graduate this upcoming May. I have completed three unique sea projects and have walked away from each with an incredible amount of new knowledge. These projects have reaffirmed my passion for this career path. I have also realized that the opportunities for learning will never cease in this industry. The financial support received through this scholarship will directly contribute to my success. It will allow me to focus more heavily on my school work during my final semester and support continued education during my first year on the job.

Once again, I am very grateful for receiving this scholarship. Scholarships like this have allowed me to pursue higher education and turn my childhood dreams into a reality. I am proud of the success I have found while attending the GLMA. I cannot wait to put my skills into practice. It is truly humbling that you have chosen me to receive this scholarship. I look forward to returning the favor and investing in future generations of mariners.

Your gift is sincerely appreciated,
Logan Vasicek
Great Lakes Maritime Academy

Industry Newsbriefs --

- The US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center (NMC) receives more than 50,000 applications annually for Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMCs). On average, more than 50 percent of those applications are incomplete, causing delays in processing and frustration for mariners. The five most common reasons applications are delayed include: 1) certificates and documents are missing or incorrect; 2) incomplete or incorrect application; 3) sea service documentation incorrect or missing signatures; 4) fees not paid or incorrect; 5) drug screen missing, incomplete or incorrect. For further details, see https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2022/top_five_ai_reasons_for_mmcs_2021.pdf.
- Several ports around the Lakes reported tonnage increases for 2021 compared with 2020. HOPA Ports saw tonnage increase by nine percent at Hamilton and Oshawa. The Port of Cleveland has reported a 69 percent increase in tonnage across its docks in 2021, including increases in goods both in and out of containers and iron ore shipments. Port of Duluth-Superior tonnage rebounded by 27 percent over a pandemic-induced low in 2020. The Port of Toledo saw a 22.1 percent tonnage increase in 2021 from 2020, and in fact, the 11,428,753 tons of cargo was the most through the port since 2011.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) has announced a toll rate increase of 2 percent for the 2022 navigation season. View the revised toll schedule at <https://greatlakes-seaway.com/en/commercial-shipping/tolls-schedule/>.
- The US Coast Guard's National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (N-MERPAC) will hold three upcoming subcommittee meetings covering: Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault-Prevention and Cultural Change in the Merchant Marine on February 16-17; STCW Convention and Code Review on February 22-23; and Military Education, Training, and Assessment for STCW and National Mariner Endorsements on March 2.
- Toronto plans to replace its fleet of aging ferries with fully electric vessels. A newly-passed initiative mandates that the city transition 20 percent of its fleet to zero emissions by 2025, and 50 percent by 2030. Read more at <https://professionalmariner.com/?s=Toronto+electric+ferries>.
- The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has published its January 2022 "Making Waves" newsletter. It is available at <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Making-Waves-Newsletter-January-2022.html?oid=1120225568610&aid=r28MYJy1ooM>. The organization's Annual General Meeting will be June 22-24.
- The January 2022 issue of Green Marine's newsletter, "The Green Wave" is available at <https://mailchi.mp/green-marine.org/the-green-wave-january-2022-issue>.
- The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers' January 2022 newsletter "Compass" is available at <https://gsgp.org/media/uwdnwyev/january-2022-compass.pdf>.
- On January 31, 2022, the US Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance issued a reminder to towing vessel owners and operators that the deadline for 100% Subchapter M phase-in is approaching. Owners and operators are responsible for ensuring that all their

continued on page 6...

Industry Newsbriefs, continued

towing vessels receive a Certificate of Inspection before July 19, 2022. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/01/31/final-deadline-for-subchapter-m-phase-in-arriving-in-july-2022/>.

- The USCG announced in the *Federal Register* that it has issued a final rule, effective January 21, 2022, to make technical and editorial corrections throughout Titles 33 and 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These changes will update authority citations, correct errors, update contact information, and make other non-substantive amendments that improve the clarity of the CFR. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/01/21/final-rule-navigation-and-navigable-waters-and-shipping-technical-organizational-and-conforming-amendments/>.
- On December 27, 2021, the US Coast Guard announced appointment of two members of the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC). Appointed to three-year terms were **John D. Baker Jr.** representing Great Lakes maritime labor organizations, and **Paul C. LaMarre III** representing Great Lakes port authorities and marine terminals. More information can be found at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/12/27/great-lakes-pilotage-advisory-committee-appoints-new-members/>.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers will invest \$479 million over five years toward construction of the new Soo Lock as part of the funding it is receiving from the bipartisan infrastructure package.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway has amended its “Seaway Practices and Procedures,” effective March 21, 2022. You can review the changes at https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SeawayHandbook2022Rev_En.pdf.
- The International Maritime Organization has set May 18 annually as the International Day for Women in Maritime.

Ship Trip Raffle Winner

The winner of the Lodge #4 2022 Ship Trip Raffle, drawn at the Cleveland Convention, is **Margaret “Mickey” Brumm**, of Marquette, MI. While attending Michigan Tech, she worked two summers at the Empire Mine in Palmer, MI, where she learned about transport of the pellets to the gravity docks in Marquette for loading into the holds of ore boats. Ever since, “I always wanted to go onto an ore boat. This is a dream come true.”

Mariners Service to Return to Owen Sound in 2023

The 30th Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet will be hosted at St. George’s Anglican Church in Owen Sound on **Sunday, February 23, 2023**. The event has once again been postponed this year due to COVID considerations.



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

International Ship Masters’ Association

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Image of Ship Masters’ plaque as described in *Grand Lodge Historian’s report*.

--photo courtesy Paul Jagenow

