



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

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March-April 2015

ISMA LETTER

CONVENTION REPORT

The International Ship Masters' Association Grand Lodge convened on Friday morning, February 6, 2015, at Duluth, MN. "Deep Blue is the New Green," was the convention theme.

Grand President Capt. **Robert Schallip** presented his report covering his year in office. He attended a number of ISMA and other functions around the Great Lakes, including the memorial service for Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member and PGP Capt. **Dean Hobbs** early in 2014. **Bob** also attended the spring Blessing of the Fleet as well as the fall Great Lakes Memorial Service in Detroit. He made shipboard visits to a couple of ISMA Past Grand Presidents. "I have truly enjoyed the friendship and fellowship extended to me this past year as I traveled around. It gives a sense of purpose, and I wish Captain **Joe Walters** the best as he takes the helm for the coming year," he concluded.

Capt. **John Sarns**, Chairman of the Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee (NELC) reported on committee activities over the past year. **John** and committee members Capt. **Tom McMullen** and Capt. **Patrick Beard** attended numerous meetings, wrote letters, and discussed issues.

Other committee reports were presented, including Newsletter, Scholarship, Website, and Grand President's Award. Scholarship Committee chairman Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue** read thank you letters from the three award recipients. A Grand President's Award went to Capt. **Dave Miller** (Buffalo Lodge #1) and the crew of the *Manistee* for rescuing a diver in the Straits of Mackinac. Another went to Capt. **Norman Raymond** (Detroit Lodge #7) and crew on a vessel that rescued two people in the Detroit River in 2013.

Green Bay Lodge #18's proposal requesting that the US Coast Guard alter the lighted characteristics of the Milwaukee Breakwater Light (LLN 20635) at the north side of the main entrance to Milwaukee Harbor (Chart 14924) from FL R 10s to FL(2) R 10s was approved unanimously and the NELC will pursue this request.

In addition to Grand Lodge business, there were a number of guest speakers who gave informative talks, largely centered on "green" initiatives on the Lakes.

Grand Lodge officers elected for the ensuing year are:

Grand President:	Capt. Joseph Walters
Grand 1 st Vice President:	Capt. Robert Lund
Grand 2 nd Vice President:	Capt. Lee Barnhill
Grand Secretary-Treasurer:	Capt. Albert Tielke

Appointed officers for 2015 are:

Grand Chaplain:	Capt. Robert Libby
Grand Marshal:	Capt. Harold Dusseau
Grand Warden:	Caitlin Clyne
Grand Sentinel:	Amy Seeley



2015 Grand Lodge officers: (front) Al Tielke, Lee Barnhill, Joe Walters, Bob Lund; (back) Caitlin Clyne, Harry Dusseau, Amy Seeley, Bob Libby.

The Grand Lodge Installation Ceremony and Grand Ball were held Friday evening at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center.

The 2016 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, hosted by Chicago Lodge #3, will be held February 4-7, 2016, at the Embassy Suites, Chicago Lakefront.

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMA Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries.

Make sure your local lodge secretary has your correct e-mail address.

ISMA Letter is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time. (Arrangements can be made for members without e-mail or internet access to receive a printed copy.)

Thank you.



FROM THE LODGES

Port Huron Lodge #2:

Lodge #2's Annual Dinner Dance was held on March 7, 2015, at the DoubleTree Hilton (formerly Thomas Edison Inn).



At the Port Huron Dinner Dance:

Bob Lund, Joe Walters, Rebecca Hancock, George Haynes.

Chicago Lodge #3:

Chicago Maritime Industry Day, hosted by Lodge #3, was held on March 12, 2015. The all-day forum with US Coast Guard and other government agencies provided a chance to hear pertinent maritime information, ask questions, and voice concerns.

Detroit Lodge #7:

Lodge #7's 124th Annual Dinner Dance was held on February 28, 2015, at Sindbad's Restaurant and Marina in Detroit.

Lodge #7 concluded its winter schedule by holding its last luncheon meeting at Mariners' Church on April 7, 2015. The Board of Governors approved donations to the Noble Odyssey Foundation, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and the Lost Mariners Remembrance event, scheduled for November 10, 2015 at Dossin Museum.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Lodge #15 held their election meeting on March 30, 2015. The following officers were elected/appointed for a term of two years:

President	Capt. Seann O'Donoghue
1 st Vice President:	Capt. Keith Filby
2 nd Vice President:	Capt. John Brookham
Secretary-Treasurer:	Thomas Aulinger
Chaplain:	Capt. James Van Overbeek
Marshal:	Tim Westmorland
Warden:	Capt. Gordon McNeil
Sentinel:	Christopher Buckley
Webmasters:	Tina Gentile, Capt. Seann O'Donoghue

Chair Scholarship Committee: Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue**
Mariners' Service Captain: Capt. **Ray Schrempf**

Lodge #15 members **Andrea O'Donoghue** and **Julianne Hull** are now Canadian account treasurers for Grand Lodge funds, following the January 2015 death of PGP Capt. **Jerry Bisette**, who had been handling those duties.

On March 31, the annual awards ceremony was held at Georgian College. Lodge #15 presented two scholarships for Best Kept Logbooks to **Kaitlin Whittall**, MNT2; and **Chrijtian Van Wissen**, MET2. Lodge #15 member **Tina Gentile** received the NOAC Scholarship Award, and **Tim Westmorland** received the Company of Master Mariners Scholarship Award. Lodge #15 member **Julianne Hull** presented a scholarship named in memory of her husband Capt. **Robert Hull**.

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Lodge #15 member **Jason Davenport** starred in recent radio commercials promoting Georgian College.

Northeast Michigan Lodge #19:

Lodge #19 was recognized in the *Alpena News* for their annual donation to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary to cover transportation costs for students from schools around northern Michigan, enabling them to see the museum and exhibits at the NOAA building. Over the last eight years, Lodge #19 and individual lodge members have donated over \$5000 to the TBNMS. The *Alpena News* article included a photo of Lodge #19 president **Lee Barnhill** presenting this year's check while members **Pat Labadie**, **Wally Watkins**, **Ted Rayha**, and **Max Lund** looked on.

From the NELC

At the Grand Lodge Convention in Duluth, Green Bay Lodge #18 submitted a proposal directing the NELC to petition the USCG about changing Milwaukee Harbor Breakwater Light from a single flashing red light (10 sec) to a group flashing light (FL (2) R 10 sec) to make the light more distinguishable from shore lights.

Immediately after the convention the NELC contacted the USCG, and within just a few days received a positive response. The USCG concurs with the proposal, and they intend to publish the proposed change in the Notice to Mariners for the next eight (8) weeks. If no objections are voiced, the change will be made in mid-May.

--John Sarns, NELC Chairman

Here is the response received from the US Coast Guard:

I have received your request to change the characteristic on Milwaukee Harbor Breakwater Light (LLNR 20635). I concur with your concerns and the change from FL R (2) 20s to FL (2) 10s is not a difficult task. In accordance with our policy we have to advertise the proposed characteristic change in the Local Notice to Mariners for a period of 8 weeks. Unless we receive strong objections, you can expect the change to take place in mid May 2015.

FINAL BELLS

Port Huron Lodge #2 member **Fred Mitchell** (Honorary, #A-10849) passed away on October 6, 2014.

Long-time Detroit Lodge #7 member Capt. **Warren F. Fuller** (#9857) passed away on January 26, 2015, at the age of 95. A member of Lodge #7 for 54 years, **Warren** received the Lewis Ludington Award in 2012. He began his sailing career with the Wyandotte Transportation Company, and later worked for Frank Becker Towing. Later, he and his wife **Anita** founded Fuller Marine Towing Company. In 1964, **Warren** sold Fuller Marine to one of his employees, **Bill Hoey** (PGP, deceased), who then founded Gaelic Tugboat Company. **Warren** was preceded in death by **Anita**, and is survived by seven children, 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Former Toledo Lodge #9 member Capt. **Gordon Conklin** (#10214) passed away in January 2014.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Opening the 2015 navigation season in the St. Lawrence Seaway was the new *CWB Marquis* captained by Lodge #15 member and PGP **Seann O'Donoghue**.

When the ship reached Thunder Bay, ON, on April 13, **Seann** was

quoted in a Thunder Bay news article at TBNewsWatch.com.



Seaway opening ceremony; Seann O'Donoghue is 2nd from right.

An article in the *Warton Echo* (wartonecho.com), "Local Captain awarded posthumously," covered the Lewis Ludington Award for the late Capt. **Robert Hull** of Lodge #15. An accompanying photo of award recipients at Mariners' Church of Detroit showed **Julianne Hull** accepting the award on behalf of her late husband.



Lewis Ludington Award recipients (l to r) Ray Sheldon, Wayne Coulston, Julianne Hull on behalf of Robert Hull.

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Members of Northeast Michigan Lodge #19 greeted the first ship of the 2015 season at Stoneport, MI, on March 25, 2015. An article in the *Alpena News* pictured Lodge #19 president **Lee Barnhill** and members **Ted Rayha** and **Paul LaBrecque** aboard the tug-barge *Joyce VanEnkevort-Great Lakes Trader* at Stoneport.

The Grand Lodge Convention at Duluth was the subject of an article in the *Duluth News Tribune* on February 7, 2015. Included were photos of new Grand President Capt. **Joe Walters**, and Past Grand Presidents Capt. **Robert Schallip** and Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue**. The convention also received TV news coverage on WDIO channel 10 & 13, and KQDS channel 21.

The Summer 2014 issue of *North Star Port*, publication of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, included an announcement about an art exhibition of marine drawings by Twin Ports Lodge #12 member Capt. **Dennis Aho**. One of his drawings was pictured in the magazine. "Close Quarters; Open Waters" was on exhibit at the North End Arts Gallery in Superior, WI, from September 27 through November 29, 2014.

Blessings of the Fleet

The 23rd Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet was held at St. Georges Anglican Church in Owen Sound, ON, on Sunday, February 15, 2015. A luncheon and fellowship followed in the church hall. The event was sponsored by Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15.

The 51st Annual Blessing of the Fleet was held at Mariners' Church of Detroit on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Flags were presented for blessing at the altar. The service included presentation of the Captain Lewis Ludington Award to Capt. **Wayne**



Coulston, Capt. **Raymond Sheldon**, and Capt. **Robert Hull** (posthumously). ISMA members participating in the service included **Art Brooks**, **Wayne Coulston**, **Bill Griffore**, **Art Herrala**, PGP **Ron Ingram**, **Ron LaPlante**, **Joseph Mastripolito**, **Kathy McGraw**, PGP **Tom McMullen**, **Steve Nelson**, **Ray Oset**, **Scott Reynolds**, **Rick Scott**, and **Ken Suddick** of Lodge #7; **Jim Semerad** and **Roger Hewlett** of Lodge #2; Grand 1st Vice President **Bob Lund** of Lodge #3; Grand President **Joe Walters** of Twin Ports Lodge #12; PGP **Ray Sheldon** and **Gerald Achenbach** of Lodge #23. (Lodge #7 photos left and above.)

In Duluth, the Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers held their annual Blessing of the Port on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- Great Lakes water levels are predicted to rise to nine inches above average this summer. The Lakes will be generally over two feet higher than their record low levels in January 2013.
- The President's fiscal year 2016 budget funding for the Civil Works program of the US Army Corps of Engineers includes more than \$69 million for USACE Detroit District projects around the Great Lakes.
- On April 1, 2015, a notice was published in the *Federal Register* announcing that the US Coast Guard is changing Light List distribution. Electronic, online versions will continue to be free, but the Coast Guard will no longer produce printed Light List volumes. Read the *FR* notice at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-01/pdf/2015-07501.pdf.
- For a complete list of all US Coast Guard Safety Alerts from 1996 through 2014, see www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/96_14SA.pdf.
- The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (ISMA is a member) released their 2014 Annual Report, available at www.glmf.org/category/annual-reports/.
- US-flag iron ore shipments for March 2015 were nearly 60 percent below the month's five-year average because of heavy ice and a lack of icebreaking on both sides of the border due to a number of mechanical issues.
- The opportunity to obtain an extended expiration date TWIC ended December 31, 2014. Renewal now requires the full enrollment process. However, the TWIC fee was reduced from \$129.75 to \$128 due to lower FBI fingerprint processing costs.
- Canadian Shipowners Association and Lake Carriers' Association will hold the Canada-US Maritime Gateway 2015 Conference in Ottawa, ON, from May 20-22, 2015. The conference will focus on new developments in the industry in a rapidly changing marketplace. Industry leaders as well as key political and governmental stakeholders will participate. For more information, see the CSA website at <http://shipowners.ca>.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers held a Great lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop in Chicago on April 14, 2015.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation marked the opening of the Seaway's 57th navigation season with the transit of the new *CWB Marquis* (Lodge #15 member **Seann O'Donoghue**, captain) through the St. Lambert Lock. **Terence Bowles**, SLSMC president and CEO, noted that he hopes 2015 will bring a repeat of the strong results in 2014, when the Seaway recorded 40 million tonnes of cargo.
- The US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation approved S. 373, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, in March 2015. This measure would replace overlapping and conflicting Federal and state regulations with a uniform Federal framework for vessel discharge regulation. The bill is expected to reach the Senate floor this spring.

Great Lakes Mariners Attend MITAGS

Completing the License Advancement Program (LAP) at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), Baltimore, MD, were **Dan Manning**, **Mark Walrath**, and **Ryan Bright** of Grand River Navigation, and **Jeffrey Hostutler** of Interlake Steamship. The course concluded February 20, 2015, with students testing for their original license credential the following week.

—Capt. **Christopher Edyvean**, member Twin Ports Lodge #12

Boat Trip Raffle Winner

At the ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, Twin Ports Lodge #12 drew the winner of their raffle for a trip for four aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel. The winner was **Robert Oliverius** of Traverse City, MI.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

Attention Lodge Treasurers—Remember that your 2015 Grand Lodge dues are due April 30. Thanks.

International Ship Masters' Association	
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