



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMALLETTER

Volume 34, Number 2
March-April 2020

From the Grand President

April 1, 2020

Greetings from the comfort of my home. I hope this finds you well.

Fit-out is upon many and the transition is often difficult for sailors and their families. This year we have the added stress of a pandemic and all that it implies. In the interest of our collective health and safety, please stay home, if you can. Self isolate, if you can. Help others, if you can. Give blood, give platelets, if you can.

We face an uncertain path, but we are not alone and we will see our way to the other side. The economy is struggling and may take a while to recover. It may become difficult for the membership to remain in good standing. I leave it to the various member lodges to address their membership in an effort to provide relief for those in financial need. I expect all will retain their pennant number, if they wish.

Take heart in knowing that Spring comes and then the Summer. Flowers bloom and birds sing and the majesty of our Great Lakes remains.

Recognize the good in life. Be the good in the life of others.

Sailors, keep your chin up and your socks dry.

Excelsior!
Joe Ruch

Grand Lodge Proceedings – 2020 Convention

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** has sent the *Proceedings* of the 130th Meeting of The International Ship Masters' Association (held in Port Huron, MI, January 31-February 1, 2020) to all local lodge secretaries, as well as Past Grand Presidents. Local lodge secretaries also received a USB drive containing the *Proceedings* as well as photographs from the convention. Contact your lodge secretary for more information.

**2020 Convention Program Book
Available Online**

Couldn't make it to the convention? Port Huron Lodge No. 2, host of the 2020 Grand Lodge Convention, has made the program book available online at <https://online.flippingbook.com/link/515498/6/>.

FROM THE LODGES

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

On March 3, 2020, Lodge No. 7 held a luncheon meeting at the Dossin Museum on Belle Isle. Thirty members and guests attended, including members from Port Huron Lodge No. 2 and Toledo Lodge No. 9. Guest speaker was **Kent Lund**, whose

presentation was titled "Belle Isle Model Power Boats from the 1930s – Tether Boat Racing."

From 1924 to 1941, Belle Isle and Water Works Park was the epicenter of Tether Boat Racing,

where model boats were raced on a 52-foot tether cable, one at a time. These boats, with gas and steam engines, were all



Joel Stone, curator of Dossin Museum; Rick Scott, Lodge 7 program chairman; Kent Lund, guest speaker. —photos by Paul Jagenow



Examples of tethered powered model racing boats.

homemade, scratch-built by toolmakers and machinists of the 1924-1955 era of tether boat racing. Lodge No. 7 program chairman **Rick Scott** presented a certificate of appreciation to **Kent Lund**. The luncheon meal was prepared by lodge members **Bill Griffore** and **Paul and Sarah Jagenow**.

Lodge 7's 129th Annual Dinner Dance was held on February 22, 2020, at Greektown Casino in downtown Detroit. You can find event photos on the Lodge 7 website, www.detroitlodge7.org.



Members in the News

The February 2020 issue of *Professional Mariner* ran a story, "Ice-fighting crew on Great Lakes ATB keeps cargo flowing," about the ATB *Clyde S. VanEnkevort/Erie Trader* during winter operation. Mentioned in the article were PGP Capt. **Mark Mather**, and Grand President Capt. **Joe Ruch** (who was sailing MV *Hon. James L. Oberstar*) at the time. You can read the article at www.professionalmariner.com/February-2020/Ice-fighting-crew-on-Great-Lakes-ATB-keeps-cargo-flowing/.



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

Marine Weather Survey

The US Coast Guard and the National Weather Service are conducting a survey of the maritime public in order to gain a better understanding of the current use of Marine Weather Information, and to determine the level of interest in potential future products and dissemination methods. The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R96SFPP>.

Final Bells

Harold M. Brown, Jr. (#11056), member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for 29 years, passed away on January 18, 2020, at the age of 99. **Harold** began as a coalpasser on the Great Lakes in 1939, and continued working on the Lakes for seven years during World War II. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, **Hilka**. He is survived by two children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on February 8.

The 2021 Grand Lodge Convention
will be held in
Cleveland, Ohio
February 4-6, 2021.

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMA Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address. ISMA Letter is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time.

56th Annual Blessing of the Fleet, Detroit

Article and photos by Paul Jagenow

The 56th annual Blessing of the Fleet was held on Sunday, March 8, 2020, at Mariners' Church in downtown Detroit. A large contingent of ISMA members from the Grand Lodge and several member lodges attended the service and served as members of the Honor Guard. Representing the Grand Lodge were: Grand 1st Vice President **Bill Rabatsky** of Cleveland Lodge No. 4; Grand 2nd Vice President **Luke Clyburn** of Detroit Lodge No. 7; Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel**, also of Detroit Lodge No. 7; PGP **John Biolchini** of Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19; and PGP **Mark Mather** of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23. Other ISMA members participating in the honor guard included **Roger Hewlett** and **Jim Semerad** of Port Huron Lodge No. 2; **Tom Foster** and **John Brookham** of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15; and from Detroit Lodge No. 7: **Sam Buchanan**, **Jay Downen**, **Bill Griffore**, **Dale Mason**, **Kathy McGraw**, **Mike Nall**, **Ray Oset**, **Scott Reynolds**, **Rick Scott**, **Scott Skrzypczak** and **Chris Stevens**. Other ISMA members in the congregation included **Al Brata** and **Paul Jagenow** of Detroit Lodge No. 7 and **Phil Knetchel** of Toledo Lodge No. 9.

Scott Skrzypczak, President of Detroit Lodge No. 7, and **Mike Nall**, 1st Vice President of Detroit Lodge No. 7 rang the *Octorara* bell as the names of departed mariners during the past year were read by necrologist **Kathy McGraw**. MAJ **Garrett Barr** of the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, rang the bell for military personnel who have given their lives in service to the nation. PGP **Mark Mather** of Lodge 23, Grand 2nd Vice President **Luke Clyburn** of Lodge 7, Grand 1st Vice President **Bill Rabatsky** of Lodge 4, and **Roger Hewlett** of Lodge 2 presented the wreaths representing the maritime dangers of Storm, Reef, Fire and Collision. **Brian Eickel** of Lodge 7, **Ray Oset** of Lodge 7, and **Roger Hewlett** of Lodge 2 served as receivers for the presentation of flags. Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard**, Rector of Mariners' Church, officiated at the service, assisted by Deacon **Frank Bateman**. Both are members of Detroit Lodge No. 7. A social hour following the service was held in the Julia Anderson Room in the lower level of the church.

Two ISMA members were recipients of the Capt. Lewis Ludington Award: Capt. **William Griffore** of Detroit Lodge No. 7, and Capt. **John Brookham** of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15. **Scott Reynolds** of Detroit Lodge No. 7 served as reader of recipient biographies during the Ludington Award presentations. **Dana Ludington**, great-grandson of Capt. **Lewis Ludington**, presented the two Ludington Awards on behalf of the Ludington family. The award was established by the Ludington family and Mariners' Church in 1994. Since the award's inception, over 90 ISMA members have been recognized for their contributions to the maritime industry on the Great Lakes. Detroit Lodge No. 7 is honored to have a role in the selection process.



Honor Guard on the altar as Kathy McGraw reads names of deceased mariners from the pulpit.

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Left: Ludington Award recipients William Griffore and John Brookham with Ludington family representative Dana Ludington.



Right: Scott Skrzypczak prepares to ring Octorara bell in honor of deceased mariners.



Right: MAJ Garrett Barr, USACE, rings Octorara bell in honor of deceased military personnel

More photos from the Blessing of the Fleet can be found on the Detroit Lodge No. 7 website, www.detroitlodge7.org.

[pdfs/announcements/2020/MSA_01-20_Potential_for_Positive_Drug_Test_Result_from_Use_of_Hemp_Plant_Products.pdf](#).

- The Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering, Atlantic Branch, has postponed the Mari-Tech Conference and Exhibition 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation. The conference, which was scheduled for April 28-30 at the Halifax Convention Centre, will be rescheduled for spring 2021. More information will be announced at a later date.
- The US Coast Guard has issued several updates to its Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-20, "Novel Coronavirus." You can find the latest Coast Guard information on this and other issues on the Coast Guard Maritime Commons website at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/>.
- In view of the COVID-19 outbreak, on March 13, 2020, the US Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 06-20, "Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness or Death." For more information, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/03/13/msib-vessel-reporting-requirements-for-illness-or-death/>.
- On March 13, 2020, the US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center released a notice concerning "COVID-19 and Mariner Credentialing Program Impacts." Find it at https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020/COVID19_13MAR2020.pdf.
- On March 17, 2020, the National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo, announced the opening of an online, interactive exhibit highlighting the importance of the Maumee River and the Port of Toledo over time. The "Port of Toledo: Then & Now" exhibit can be accessed for free by visiting <https://nmgl.org/portoftoledo/>.
- On March 19, 2020, the USCG's National Maritime Center updated its "COVID-19 and Mariner Credentialing Impacts." Effective that date, the USCG's 17 Regional Examination Centers (REC) and 3 Monitoring Units (MU) are closed to the public until further notice. Expiring MMCs and other credentials have been extended until October 31, 2020. Affected mariners must carry a copy of MSIB 08-20 with their credential(s). The Coast Guard's Marine Safety Information Bulletin 08-20 details these extensions and administrative measures. For more information and updates, see https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020/covid19_update_031920.pdf and https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020/covid19_update_033020.pdf.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation issued Seaway Notice 10-2020, "Limitations to Interfaces at Canadian Locks due to COVID-19." It was replaced on March 25, 2020, by Notice 11-2020, which can be found at https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/notice20200325_en.pdf.
- On March 24, 2020, the cement carrier *NACC Argonaut* opened the navigation season on the Welland Canal. The Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the Seaway opened on April 1, with passage of the *Baie St. Paul* through the St. Lambert Lock.
- On March 25, 2020, MV *H. Lee White* opened the Soo Locks when she locked upbound. MV *Burns Harbor* was the first downbound passage.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announced on January 15, 2020, that tonnage on the Seaway during the 2019 navigation season totaled 38 million tonnes.
- On February 10, 2020, the US Coast Guard issued Marine Safety Advisory 01-20 to ensure that mariners, marine employers, and sponsoring organizations are aware that some products marketed as hemp or cannabidiol (CBD) may contain enough tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to cause a positive drug test. See <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/>

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- Read about COVID-19 and the maritime industry at <https://www.greatlakesnow.org/2020/03/covid-19-coronavirus-shipping-freighters-safety-health>.
- On March 29, 2020, the US Coast Guard published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 10-20 to reiterate the importance of drug and alcohol testing and provide suggestions to overcome challenges of compliance during the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/03/29/msib-guidance-for-maritime-operators-on-compliance-with-federal-drug-testing-requirements/>.
- The 2020 edition of the *Seaway Handbook* is available at <https://greatlakes-seaway.com/en/commercial-shipping/seaway-handbook/>.
- On April 3, 2020, the US Coast Guard published Marine Safety information Bulletin 13-20, "TWIC Operations," to clarify temporary exemptions to credential expiration related to COVID-19. Find more information at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/04/03/msib-exemptions-to-twic-requirements-related-to-covid-19/>.
- The USCG's Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee met via teleconference on April 8, 2020.

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(Note: Events subject to future
COVID-19 Restrictions)



- May 3, 2020**—Battle of the Atlantic Sunday WW2 Remembrance at Cenotaph Owen Sound, Ontario Royal Canadian Legion, ISMA, Sea Cadets
- May 22, 2020** - National Maritime Day (US)
- June 2-4, 2020** - GreenTech 2020 Green Marine Conference, Montreal
- June 8, 2020** - World Oceans Day
- June 25, 2020** - Day of the Seafarer
- June 27, 2020** - Thunder Bay Blessing of the Fleet
- July 9, 2020** - Sea Sunday The Mission to Seafarers: Canada
- August 8-9, 2020** - Sidelaunch Days Waterfront Festival Collingwood, Ontario
- August 10, 2020** - St. Lawrence Day
- August 11, 2020** - St. Clair Day
- August 17-18, 2020** - Georgian Bay Tugfest Midland, Ontario
- September 3, 2020** - Annual Canada Merchant Navy Day
- September 28, 2020** - World Maritime Day
- November 11, 2020** - Veterans Day (US) Remembrance Day (Canada) ISMA lays CMNVA Wreath at Cenotaph, Owen Sound, Ontario
- November 26, 2020** - William Hamilton Merritt Day Welland Canal
- December 4, 2020** - 180th Annual Grunt Club Dinner, Montreal

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



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

International Ship Masters' Association

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