



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 35, Number 2  
March-April 2021

2022 Grand Lodge Convention

Plan now to attend the ISMA Grand Lodge Convention in Cleveland, hosted by Lodge #4. The convention will be held Thursday, January 27 through Saturday, January 29, 2022, at the DoubleTree Cleveland Downtown, 1111 Lakeside Avenue E. The delegate caucus will be Wednesday evening, January 26. Lodge #4 has secured a room rate of \$109/night (king or double queen), with \$10/day parking in the attached garage.

See you there!!



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.

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

During the last week of March, PGP Ron Ingram was recovering from surgery, and following up with rehab. You can send him a message at [captainingram@yahoo.com](mailto:captainingram@yahoo.com).

Georgian Bay-Huronian Lodge No. 15:

The first ship arrival of the year at Owen Sound was the *Algoma Sault* on March 9, 2021. Receiving the annual Top Hat Award from Owen Sound Mayor Ian Boddy was Captain Ray Schrempf, member and past president of Lodge #15.



Lodge #15 member Bruce Kemp authored a recent article, covering youth Tall Ship sailing, published in Great Lakes Scuttlebutt Magazine (<http://digitaledition.greatlakesscuttlebutt.com>). Also, Bruce's new book, *The Whales of Lake Erie*, is out in paperback, and available for order from [www.brucekempphotography.net](http://www.brucekempphotography.net).

More from the 2021 ISMA Scholarship Winners

Dear ISMA Scholarship Committee:

As the Georgian College winner of the ISMA Scholarship, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for selecting me as the recipient. I wish to expressly thank you for providing me with both monetary support and professional recognition within circles of the Great Lakes maritime industry.

Unfortunately, the current pandemic has severed many people's source(s) of income since the government imposed lockdowns. During my final year of studies, like many other schools, our education shifted completely online. In the process, my program completion was pushed by roughly two months, accounting for two months of additional living expenses and two months of lost working wages — additionally, I was assisting my parents who were both unemployed as a result of the prevailing lockdowns.

Largely thanks to the benevolence of the International Ship Masters' Association and the generosity of their donors, I can now reaffirm my financial footing at the beginning of my working career, relieving unnecessary stress and allowing me to focus exclusively on my profession. I greatly appreciate the outreach and support of the International Ship Masters' Association, which has surely been instrumental in seeing cadets and unlicensed crew through to higher certificates and advancing in their careers.

I am proud to receive recognition from an organization like the International Ship Masters' Association, with such an extensive history of advocacy within the Great Lakes — this scholarship has aided me in the pursuit of my Watchkeeping Mate certificate and will certainly be remembered as I continue to strive for higher certificates during my career. Thank you.

Yours Aye,  
Thomas Monsma



Thank you. The ISMA Scholarship Award has made it safety to me here in Traverse City.

Trevor Schick,  
Great Lakes Maritime  
Academy



## Members in the News

The Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church was highlighted in a March 15, 2021, *Detroit Free Press* article, "Seamen kick off shipping season with Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church." A number of the participating ISMA members were mentioned and pictured. Read the article at <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2021/03/14/boaters-celebrate-blessing-fleet-mariners-church/4665060001/>.

On March 12, 2021, *Alpena News* included an illustrated article, "Alpena man receives maritime award," highlighting PGP **Lee Barnhill**, his career, and his receipt of the Captain Lewis Ludington Award. Read it at <https://www.thealpenanews.com/news/local-news/2021/03/alpena-man-receives-maritime-award/>.

**Gordon Laco**, member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15, and retired Canadian Navy, is a military historical advisor for film and television. His latest work in the film *Greyhound*, starring Tom Hanks, and depicting a World War II Allied convoy crossing the Atlantic, pursued by German U-boats, culminating in the Battle of the Atlantic. Read about it at <https://www.ctvnews.ca/entertainment/canadian-warships-give-greyhound-authentic-touch-thanks-to-ont-naval-consultant-1.5034537?cache>.

## Final Bells

**Janet Pomeroy**, wife of Detroit Lodge #7 member **Dennis Pomeroy**, passed away on March 28, 2021. At this time, there are no planned services.

## GLMTF Annual Report

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) has issued its 2020 Annual Report. ISMA is a member of GLMTF. You can find the entire document at <http://www.glmtf.org/2021/03/10/2020-annual-report/>. The report begins with "GLMTF 2020 Year in Review." Here is the opening paragraph:

2020 was a year that caught everyone by surprise. Maritime commerce on the Great Lakes was expected to keep on rolling like 2019 with big cargo numbers for the U.S. fleet and strong cargo numbers moving through US ports from domestic and international carriers. But you have to play with the hand you're dealt. In 2020, that was COVID-19. And of course, the number one priority was our crews, the men and women onshore, in the office, in the mines, in the mills, on the docks, in the wheelhouse, and down in the engine room. So, the name of the game was planning, prevention, preparedness, response, and awareness. Our internal and external messaging, partnering, communicating, and refining our actions in the name of safety were key to a successful year. As an industry, we are proud of our accomplishments. We keep America moving, building, and farming.

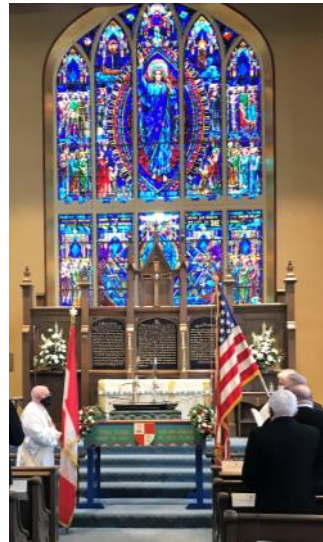
Salute Your Fellow Members with the  
**SHIP MASTERS' SALUTE:**  
*3 Long, 1 Short*

## Annual Mariners' Service St. Paul's Anglican Church, Point Edward

St. Paul's Anglican Church in Point Edward, ON, held their Annual Mariners' Service on March 7, 2021. This year, however, it was a virtual service. The Mariners' Service is available on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wHz29BfE2s>. The church is looking forward to an in-person service in 2022.

## Blessing of the Fleet Mariners' Church, Detroit

by **Paul Jagenow**, Lodge No. 7



The 57<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Fleet was held on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at Mariners' Church in downtown Detroit. Attendance was limited this year by Covid restrictions. ISMA was represented by Grand Lodge officers and members from several local lodges. They included Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President **Luke Clyburn** of Detroit Lodge No. 7, Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** of Detroit Lodge No. 7, Grand Lodge Historian **Paul Jagenow** of Detroit Lodge No. 7, PGP **Joe Walters** of Twin Ports Lodge No. 12, PGP **Lee Barnhill** of Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19, and PGP **Ray Sheldon** of Grand Traverse Lodge No.

23. Other ISMA members participating in the service were Adm. **Jerry Achenbach**, Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23; and Detroit Lodge No. 7 members Deacon **Frank Bateman**, **Jay M. Downen**, Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard**, **Kathy McGraw**, **Mike Nall**, **Ray Oset**, **Scott Reynolds**, and **Ray Werth**.

**Scott Reynolds** served as reader of recipient biographies during the Ludington Award presentations. **Luke Clyburn**, assisted by **Mike Nall**, rang the *Octorara* bell as the names of departed mariners from the past year were read by necrologist **Kathy McGraw**. Lt. Col. **Garrett Barr** of Detroit District, US Army Corps of Engineers, rang the bell for military personnel who have given their lives in service to the nation. **Lee Barnhill**, **Mike Nall**, **Roy Werth**, and **Jay Downen** presented wreaths representing the maritime dangers of Storm, Reef, Fire, and Collision. **Brian Eickel**, **Ray Oset**, and **Scott Reynolds** served as receivers for the presentation of flags. Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard**, Rector of Mariners' Church, officiated, assisted by Deacon **Frank Bateman**.

The following ISMA members received the Captain Lewis Ludington Award:

Capt. **Jay M. Downen**, Detroit Lodge No. 7  
Capt. **Thomas Foster**, Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15  
Capt. **Lee Barnhill**, Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19

**Thomas Foster**, unfortunately, was unable to attend due to Canada-US border restrictions, so **Mike Nall** accepted the award on **Thomas'** behalf.

You can watch the Blessing of the Fleet at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=180281063701319&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=180281063701319&ref=watch_permalink).

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Top: Luke Clyburn rings the Octorara bell in memory of departed mariners, assisted by Mike Nall. Lt. Col. Garrett Barr (USACE) rang the bell for departed military personnel. Above: Blessing of the flags: Rector Jeffrey Hubbard left of the altar, Deacon Frank Bateman to the right. Right: Ludington Award recipients Jay M. Downen and Lee Barnhill.

## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

21, Covid-19 Crew Change Issues, providing guidance for crew change issues abroad, and for foreign mariners who may experience crew change issues in the US. For more info, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/03/18/msib-covid-19-crew-change-issues/>.

- In mid-March 2021, Canada welcomed a new shipping line. Doornekamp Lines, founded by a family-run Ontario construction company, will move boxed cargoes inland from the nation's eastern seaboard. Operating a chartered, 2007-built, 869-TEU boxship, the company will begin biweekly services in May on the St. Lawrence from Halifax to Picton on Lake Ontario. Future plans include service between Picton and Cleveland. For more information, see <https://www.doornekamplines.ca/d/>.
- In March, the Chamber of Marine Commerce honored three US Senators and three Representatives for their support of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway maritime commerce. 2021 Champion of Great Lakes Maritime Commerce Awards were presented to Senators **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), **Todd Young** (R-IN), **Gary Peters** (D-MI), and Representatives **Mike Gallagher** (R-WI), **Marcy Kaptur** (D-OH), and **Jackie Walorski** (R-IN).
- On March 22, 2021, the St. Lawrence Seaway celebrated the opening of the 63<sup>rd</sup> navigation season. A virtual opening ceremony was held honoring *Baie St. Paul* as the first ship through the St. Lambert Lock. *Algoterra* was the first ship to enter the waterway in the Thousand Islands region.
- The first cases of Covid-19 aboard a US-flag laker enrolled in Lake Carriers' Association occurred aboard the *Presque Isle* in Lake Michigan in March. The vessel anchored off Milwaukee until a berth was available to permit crew change-out and quarantine, as well as thorough disinfecting of the tug-barge.
- On March 19, 2021, the USCG Sector Buffalo announced a change in location where they will conduct security boardings on vessels transiting the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes bound for US ports. These boardings will now occur at anchor in the designated Tibbett's Point Anchorage Area. See Seaway Notice No. 14-2021 at [https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/notice20210319\\_en.pdf](https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/notice20210319_en.pdf).
- The Soo Locks opened 12 hours early this year, at noon on March 24, 2021.
- After 25 years at the Seaway, Ship Inspector **Captain Farrokh Kooka** has retired. His successor, Captain **Tito DeConcily**, took over on March 8, 2021, after finishing a 20-year career as a marine captain with the Toronto Fire Services and a marine instructor at Georgian College.
- *From the Bridge*, the bimonthly publication of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada contains many items of interest. Read the latest issues at <https://www.mastermariners.ca/from-the-bridge/>.
- Two new ferries slated for Amherst Island and Wolfe Island on Lake Ontario will be delivered to Ontario Ferries by late

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- On March 22, 2021, the US Coast Guard published Change 1 to Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 02-21, providing updated guidance on the requirement for wearing masks on commercial vessels contained in Executive Order 13998 issued on January 21. This change reflects inclusion of sea ports, provides additional information on mask wear in the marine transportation system, and includes links to USCG and CDC pages. Read more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/03/23/msib-covid-19-safety-requirements-in-the-maritime-transportation-system-change-1/> and <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/Sp/MSIB/2021/MSIB-02-21-CHI.pdf?ver=wWn9HhQoEGBzIiUpCyWaKg%3d%3d>.
- On March 31, 2021, President **Joe Biden** unveiled his infrastructure plan that proposes an additional \$17 billion for inland waterways, coastal ports, land ports of entry, and ferries, which he called “vital to our nation's freight.”
- On March 17, 2021, the US Coast Guard issued MSIB 04-

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

2021 or early 2022. The ferries will be the first fully electric, non-cable vessels in Canada, operating on battery power. Approximately 900,000 passengers and 400,000 vehicles are transported between Wolfe Island and Kingston each year; and approximately 300,000 passengers and 145,000 vehicles to and from Amherst Island annually. The Ontario government signed a \$61 million contract in 2018 with Damen Shipyards of the Netherlands to design and build both ships.

- On March 3, 2021, US Senators **Tammy Baldwin, Todd Young, and Gary Peters** reintroduced the Great Lakes Water Commerce Act, which aims to codify the US Coast Guard's icebreaking mission on the Great Lakes and increase icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.
- The Coast Guard announced in the Federal Register the establishment of new base pilotage rates for the 2021 shipping season. This final rule will adjust the pilotage rates to account for changes in district operating expenses, an increase in the number of pilots, and anticipated inflation. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/03/12/federal-register-notice-great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2021-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology/>.
- As the 2021 Great Lakes shipping season began, the US Army Corps of Engineers reported water levels tracking below 2020 levels, although Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair, and Erie levels remain well above their long-term averages.
- On December 15, 2020, Windsor Salt Ltd. and Canada Steamship Lines announced the construction of a new, state of the art self-unloading ship, deadweight of 26,000 metric tons, for service in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Great Lakes region. It will deliver deicing salt from the Mines Seleine salt mine in the Magdalen Islands to stockpiles in Montreal, Quebec City, and other destinations. Diesel-electric Tier 3 engines, a unique hull design, ballast water treatment system, and quieter machinery are incorporated in the new design. The keel laying ceremony at Chengxi Shipyard in Jiangyin, China, occurred on January 29, 2021, with delivery expected in 2022.

Reminder...

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

The US Committee on the Marine Transportation System COVID-19 Working Group encourages US mariners 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 pandemic. No mariner identification data will be collected. Participation from a significant number of mariners 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/>.

**Aquarama Short Video**

Recently, **Harrison Engle**, son of the former general manager of the SS *Aquarama*, posted a short video about the ship on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/KN3rTgCIETc>. The 13-minute video is a tribute to the ship which sped passengers between Detroit and Cleveland in the 1950s and '60s. Thanks to Detroit Lodge #7 member **Patrick McKee** for providing the link to this video.



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

**International Ship Masters' Association**

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