



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMALLETTER

Volume 36, Number 2
March-April 2022

FROM THE LODGES

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7's Annual Dinner Dance was held on Saturday, March 12, 2022. A number of out-of-towners attended the event and then stayed overnight at the Renaissance Marriott Hotel in order to attend the Blessing of the Fleet the next day. Find more photos on the Lodge #7 website at www.detroitlodge7.org.



Above: Kathy Trax and Grand 1st VP Luke Clyburn, Grand President Bill and Mary Rabatsky, PGP Mark Mather, Deb Kozlowski, Laura Mather, PGP Lee Barnhill, PGP Ray and Peggy Sheldon.



Left: Lodge #7 members Paul Jagenow and Ray Oset, Secretary-Treasurer.

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, the lodge held its rejuvenated spring barbecue at the J. W. Westcott Co, after a two-year break in this lodge tradition due to Covid. Nearly 50 persons attended. **Bill and Mary Lou Griffore** (and their friend **Marsha Stanley**) handled the cooking. The main course of ribs, chicken, red potatoes, drinks and tableware for the barbecue was funded by the J. W. Westcott Co. through the generosity of company President **Jim Hogan**. Attendees provided plenty of side dishes and desserts to go around. Again, more photos are posted on the Lodge #7 website.



Grillmaster Bill Griffore

continued next column...

The final meeting of Lodge #7's winter schedule will be held at Mariners' Church on April 12. Speakers from the US Army Corps of Engineers are scheduled to address the lodge on projected water levels for the ensuing shipping season.

Georgian Bay-Huronina Lodge No. 15:

On March 24, 2022, Top Hat Ceremonies at the Welland Canal celebrated both the first upbound and downbound vessels of the navigation season. This year's celebrations were in-person events. In St. Catharines, Lodge #15 member Capt. **Peter Lynch** accepted the top hat on behalf of *CSL Welland's* master Capt. **Jamie Thorne** and Chief Engineer **Nicolas La-voie**. *CSL Welland*, chosen to be the 2022 Canada Games' torch bearer from Montreal to Niagara this summer, is proudly displaying a mural – featuring four runners – on its accommodation block.



Capt. Peter Lynch shows off top hat.

Lodge #15 members were invited to join the Company of Master Mariners for a Zoom meeting on March 22, 2022. Guest speaker was **Ted Kirkpatrick**, Director of Business Development and Government Relations for Heddle Marine. Based in Hamilton, Heddle (HeddleShipyards.com) has facilities in several locations around the Great Lakes.

At Lodge #15's in-person annual general meeting on March 15, 2022, members were also able to enjoy a presentation, "Planning for the Return of Cruise Ships to the Great Lakes in 2022." This was Lodge #15's last meeting prior to the shipping season. Meetings will resume in autumn.

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,



BLESSING OF THE FLEET at Mariners' Church

by Paul Jagenow

The 58th annual Blessing of the Fleet was held on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at Mariners' Church in downtown Detroit. ISMA was represented by numerous members from the Grand Lodge and several member lodges. Representing the Grand Lodge were Grand President **Bill Rabatsky** of Cleveland Lodge No. 4; Grand 1st Vice President **Luke Clyburn**, Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** and Grand Lodge Historian **Paul Jagenow** of Detroit Lodge No. 7; PGP's **Joe Ruch** and **George Haynes** of Port Huron Lodge No. 2; PGP **Lee Barnhill** of Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19; and PGP's **Ray Sheldon** and **Mark Mather** of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23. Other ISMA members participating in the honor guard during the service included **Jay Downen**, **Mike Nall**, **Ray Oset**, **Scott Reynolds**, **John Sarns**, **Jim Semerad**, NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak** and **Chris Stevens** of Detroit Lodge No. 7; **Roger Hewlett** of Port Huron Lodge No. 2; **Aaron Burnett** of Cleveland Lodge No. 4; **Thomas Foster** of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15; **Patrick Hart** of Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19; and Admiral **Jerry Achenbach** of Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 23.



Above: Honor Guard participants. Below: Mariners' Church Rector Jeffrey Hubbard, reader Scott Reynolds, Ludington Award recipient Roger Hewlett, Jeremiah Ludington III.



Captain **Roger Hewlett** of Port Huron Lodge No. 2 was the recipient of this year's Lewis Ludington Award. During the presentation ceremony, Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard** represented Mariners' Church, **Scott Reynolds** of Detroit Lodge No. 7, served as reader of the recipient's biography, and **Jeremiah Ludington III** represented the Ludington family. The Captain Lewis Ludington Award was established by the Ludington Family and Mariners' Church in 1994. Since the award's inception, over 90 Shipmasters 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.

Bell ringers, including **Ray Sheldon**, **John Sarns** and **Scott Skrzypczak**, rang the *Octorara* bell as names of departed mariners during the past year were read by necrologist **Kathy McGraw** of Detroit Lodge No. 7. Lt. Col. **Scott Katalenich** 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 **Joe Ruch**, Grand President **William Rabatsky**, **Thomas Foster** and **Luke Clyburn** presented the wreaths representing the maritime dangers of Storm, Reef, Fire and Collision. **Brian Eickel**, **Chris Stevens**, **Jay Downen** and **Mike Nall** served as receivers during the presentation of flags. Rector of Mariners' Church **Jeffrey Hubbard** officiated at the service, assisted by Deacon **Frank Bateman** and Acolyte **Joseph Mastripolito**, who are also members of Detroit Lodge No. 7.

Final Bells

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 Honorary Member **Percy Warrilow** passed away on February 11, 2022, at the age of 98. **Percy** served in the Royal Canadian Navy and was the last known survivor of Canada's first aircraft carrier HMS *Nabob*. He survived the ship being torpedoed in the North Sea during the Murmansk Run. His wife **Betty** wrote the book *Nabob, Canada's First Aircraft Carrier*. **Percy** is survived by his wife **Betty** and two sons. A private service was held in Owen Sound.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member **Archie Dickson** passed away on February 18, 2022, at the age of 76. **Archie** retired as Director of the Great Lakes International Marine Training and Research Centre, Georgian College in Owen Sound in 2008; in 2020 he retired as Harbour Master and Wharfinger of the Port of Owen Sound. **Archie** is survived by his wife **Mary**.

Members in the News

The February-March 2022 issue of *Positively Superior* magazine contained an article featuring Twin Ports Lodge #12 member Capt. **Ed Montgomery** and his company, Sea Service LLC, which provides pilot boat services and a number of other maritime services. Read the illustrated story at <https://positivelysuperior.com/psmagazinefm22/index.html?r=43#>.

On March 23, 2022, *The Spinal Column* weekly newsletter (West Oakland, MI, and surrounding area) contained an article, "1 Minute Interview with Captain **Luke Clyburn**." The piece points out that 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Division of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Read it at <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Luke%20Interview%202022.pdf>.

continued next column...

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 **Alexander Murtha**.

To the ISMA Scholarship Committee Board:

I, Alexander Murtha, wish to extend my deepest gratitude to the ISMA Scholarship Committee for awarding me the honour of being the recipient of the 2022 Hawsepiper Scholarship Award. This Scholarship will greatly assist me in studying for my Electro-Technical Officer Certificate of Competency Examination from Transport Canada.

This Scholarship is the means for me to complete my education in the Canadian Coast Guard and Canadian Merchant Navy as an Electro-Technical Officer. Because of your courtesy in offering me this scholarship, I will be greatly honoured to give back in the future when fully certified in my chosen occupation to the shipping community of the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway that has assisted and supported me so much in my educational endeavours.

Thank you very much for honouring me with this scholarship.

Yours Aye,
Alexander Murtha



Industry Newsbriefs --

- In February 2022, it was announced that the *Thomas Jefferson*, an oceangoing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hydrographic survey ship from Norfolk, VA, will enter the Great Lakes through the Seaway this spring. It will map portions of Lake Erie's bottom off Ohio and Pennsylvania that haven't been surveyed since the 1940s. This will be the first visit to the Lakes by a NOAA survey ship since Lake Huron was mapped off Alpena in the early 1990s. The 2022 Great Lakes mission will also involve surveying parts of the Detroit River and Lake Michigan off Wisconsin. Read more at <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/02/on-first-mission-to-great-lakes-noaa-ship-will-sonar-map-lake-erie.html>.
- On April 5, 2022, President **Biden** nominated ADM **Linda Fagan** to serve as the 27th Commandant of the US Coast Guard – the first woman to lead a US military branch. She has 36 years of USCG service and has been serving as the Coast Guard's Vice Commandant since June 2021.
- On April 1, 2022, forty members of Congress, led by **Marcy Kaptur** (D-OH), sent a letter to President **Biden**, urging him to appoint an Administrator for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The letter highlighted the importance of the Seaway to Great Lakes ports and the regional economy. The position of Seaway Administrator has been vacant since **Betty Sutton** left the agency in early 2017.

continued next column...

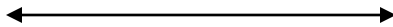
Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- On April 15, 2022, the US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement reaches its golden anniversary. The agreement was signed on April 15, 1972, by President **Richard Nixon** and Prime Minister **Pierre Trudeau**.
- The Chamber of Marine Commerce has published its 2022 edition of *Marine Delivers* magazine. View it at https://issuu.com/chamberofmarinecommerce/docs/md_magazine_2022_email.
- On May 21 and 22, 2022, the H. Lee White Maritime Museum and other waterfront organizations in Oswego, NY, will host the Lake Ontario Waterfront Festival. Oswego's West Pier and Wright's Landing will offer free activities from 10 am to 5 pm both days.
- The 2022 St. Lawrence Seaway's 64th navigation season opened on March 24, 2022. First upbound vessel in the Welland Canal was *CSL Welland*; first downbounder was *CSL Trillium*. A recording of the Seaway opening can be viewed at <https://impactav.ca/opening-ouverture2022-live/>. Read a Seaway press release at https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SLSMC_Press_Release_Opening_2022_EN.pdf.
- The April 2022 issue of *The Compass*, newsletter of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, is at <https://gsgp.org/media/fyzhpkd3/april-compass-2022.pdf>.
- Port Milwaukee will receive \$1,175,000 in WI Harbor Assistance Grants to repair and reconstruct a section of dock wall along the Jones Island Inner Mooring Basin.
- Subcommittees of the US Coast Guard's National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee are meeting virtually in early April.
- The annual Mariners' Service at St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church in Port Colborne was held on March 20, 2022.
- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's Annual General Meeting will be held in person in St. Catharines, Ontario, on June 22-24, 2022. For more information, see <https://glslcities.org/events/annual-meeting/>.
- Two Sault, Ontario, businesspeople have signed an agreement to buy *Miss Toronto*, a 100-passenger yacht that has served the Toronto area for more than three decades. After the sale closes in mid-April 2022, *Miss Toronto* is expected to be relocated to the Sault with charters and lock tours beginning later this summer.
- On March 17, 2022, Capt. **Bradley Clare**, Commanding Officer of the USCG's National Maritime Center (NMC) announced that the NMC is hosting an examination working group from April 12 to 14 to review USCG Deck Officer exam questions related to piloting knowledge topics (Chart Plot) required by 46 CFR 11.910, and is soliciting participants. Those desiring to participate should visit the Examinations page of the NMC Website, open the Working Group tab, and follow the instructions. A schedule of upcoming sessions is also posted. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/03/17/merchant-mariner-examination-working-group-update/>.
- On March 10, 2022, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, awarded a \$5.98 million contract to conduct dredging of the federal navigation channel in Cleveland Harbor.
- Canada's largest icebreaker, *Louis S. St-Laurent*, is set to undergo major repair, refit, and maintenance work to extend its lifespan and keep the ship in service, allowing more time for the construction of two replacement icebreakers. The *St*

continued on page 4...

Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- Laurent* was launched in 1966, making it among the oldest working government vessels in North America.
- The US Coast Guard Cutter *Spar* has relocated from Baltimore to Duluth.
- In a March 10, 2022, release, the Canadian Fisheries Department said it will again implement seasonal and temporary fishing area closure in Gulf of St. Lawrence, Bay of Fundy, and critical habitat areas where North Atlantic right whales have previously been spotted. Transport Canada's vessel traffic management measures will include speed restriction for vessels over 13 metres through most of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, thus protecting areas where whales are detected.
- For one day each year, Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding opens their doors to the public for tours. The 29th Annual Rotary Shipyard Tour will take place on May 7 this year, from 9 am to 2 pm. The 1 1/2 hour guided walking tour is focused on multiple informational sites moderated by shipbuilding professionals. For more information and to purchase tickets, see <https://www.sturgeonbay.net/events/community-calendar/rotary-shipyard-tours-1>.
- After a 2½-year absence, cruise ships return to the Great Lakes this season. The Great Lakes Cruising Coalition expects close to 21,000 cruise passengers in 2022.
- It was reported in March 2022 that the United Soybean Board is looking at how much more of an economical advantage it could be for American farmers to make more use of the Seaway for soybean exports.
- On March 3, 2022, the Great Lakes Commission issued a request for proposals for the 2022 Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction grant program. Applications are due by April 22.
- On March 1, 2022, the US Coast Guard's National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee appointed **Deyne Umphress** to serve on the committee representing qualified members of the engine department.
- On February 23, 2022, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) totaling \$9 million for the replacement or repowering of freight switchers, and the repowering of ferry boats and tugs. The RFP also includes the installation of shore-side power for vessels that operate within the Great Lakes. Applications will be accepted through September 23. For more info, see https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3308_3323-577405--,00.html.
- The April 2022 issue of *The Voice*, online newsletter of American Maritime Voices is available. Subscribe at www.americanmaritimevoices.org.



May 1, 2022 - Battle of the Atlantic Sunday WW2 Remembrance at Cenotaph Owen Sound, Ontario Royal Canadian Legion, ISMA, Sea Cadets

May 18, 2022 - IMO International Day for Women in Maritime

May 22, 2022 - National Maritime Day - USA

June 25, 2022 - International Day of the Seafarer

June 26, 2022 - Thunder Bay Blessing of the Fleet

July 10, 2022 - Sea Sunday - Mission to Seafarers: Canada



Convention Photos Reminder

An extensive gallery of photos taken by professional photographer **Orville McEachron** at the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention can be accessed at <https://orvillemceachronphotography.pic-time.com/-2022ismagrandlodgeconventioncleveland/gallery>.



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

International Ship Masters' Association

Grand Lodge President
Captain **William J. Rabatsky**
2104 Bassett Rd.
Westlake, OH 44145
(216) 392-5443
E-mail:
raboatsky@sbcglobal.net

Grand First Vice President
Captain **Luther "Luke" Clyburn**
9000 Gale Rd.
White Lake, MI
(248) 666-9359
E-mail: Lclyburn@comcast.net

Grand Second Vice President
Captain **James P. Hummert**
1005 Marina Mile Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
(414) 690-5269
E-mail:
Captainjamespeter@gmail.com

Grand Secretary-Treasurer
Captain **Brian L. Eickel**
3566 Pratt Rd.
Metamora, MI 48455
(810) 338-6352
E-mail:
ismasecretary@aol.com

Navigation, Engineering, and Legislative Committee

Chairman....Scott Skrzypczak
35705 Erie Dr.
Brownstown Twp, MI 48173
(231) 590-2884
E-mail: NELC@shipmaster.org

Canadian Co-Chairman...

Captain **Seann O'Donoghue**
527 5th Avenue E
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2R4
(519) 371-2723
Email: capt.s.odonoghue@gmail.com

Membership/Outreach/Website Committee

Chairman....Thomas Blakely
2172 W Wilson Ave, Apt 2F
Chicago, IL 60625
(312) 315-3829
E-mail: info@shipmaster.org

ISMALetter is published bi-monthly by the ISMA

Editor....Christine R. Rohn-Tielke
39039 Bridle Court
Avon, OH 44011
(440) 934-6960 Cell (440) 452-6960
Email: chilston@aol.com

Website: **www.shipmaster.org**

Contact... **Thomas Blakely** Email: info@shipmaster.org

