



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

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May-June 2015

# ISMA LETTER

## FROM THE LODGES

### Port Huron Lodge #2:



Galen Witham —photo by Frank Frisk

Several Lodge #2 members attended the US Coast Guard retirement ceremony in honor of fellow Lodge #2 member Operations Specialist First Class **Galen R. Witham** on May 1, 2015, at the USCG Station Port Huron. **Galen** is also a veteran of the US Navy, and plans to return to commercial shipping on the Great Lakes.

### Cleveland Lodge #4:

Nearly 50 members and guests of Lodge #4 enjoyed a Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor cruise aboard member Capt. **Wayne Bratton's** MV *Holiday* on June 4, 2015. This has become an annual event for Lodge #4 and marks the lodge's last meeting of the spring prior to summer break. Lodge #4 will resume biweekly meetings on September 10.

### Twin Ports Lodge #12:

Lodge #12 member Capt. **Christopher Edyvean** was recently elected National President of American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2015. AMMV seeks recognition of mariners who served in support of all wars and conflicts, and supports current maritime issues such as the Jones Act, cargo preference laws, and the Maritime Security Program. AMMV was founded in 1984 by WWII Merchant Marine veterans, but has since opened membership to any US mariners who served in war or peace in any era. AMMV is currently actively promoting HR 563, the Honoring our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2015. **Chris** advises that Lodge #12 has two eligible WWII mariner

veterans as lodge members. "We ask that fellow ISMA members 'climb up the gangway' in support of HR 563. Here is a link for sending a quick letter to your representative:" <http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=64051356>. The AMMV website is <http://ammv.us/>.

### Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Lodge #15 President Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue** recently received Georgian College's Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to the college and the marine industry.



Seann O'Donoghue, centre, receives the Georgian College Board of Governors' Distinguished Alumni Award from Board Chair Chris Gariepy, left, and Georgian College President and CEO MaryLynn West-Moynes. —Georgian College photo

- Other Lodge #15 members who received recent awards are:
- **Tiger Ellis** – Naval Officers Association of Canada Scholarship Award (*photo next page*)
  - **Tina Gentile** - Naval officers Association of Canada Scholarship Award

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### 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](http://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, continued

- **Matthew Schmidt** - Marine Club Award
- **Kathryn Watton** - Robert Hull Memorial Award supported by Great Lakes Pilotage Authority
- **Tim Westmorland** - Company of Master Mariners of Canada G.O. Baugh Memorial Scholarship Award
- **Kaitlin Whittall** - City of Owen Sound Leadership Award; 2015 ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Award; Lodge 15 Scholarship Award for Best Kept Logbook



Tiger Ellis receives his award.

On May 16, 2015, Lodge #15 members enjoyed a custom two-hour tour of the museum ship SS *Keewatin*, built in 1907, in Port McNicoll, ON. The tour was led by the *Keewatin*'s Capt. **Rick (Eric Conroy)**, member of Lodge #15.



### Discounts Available

ISMA members can receive a 10 percent discount when visiting the SS *Keewatin* at Port McNicoll, ON. Please call ahead (855-533-9284). The ship was built in Scotland in 1907. She measures 355' LOA x 44' beam. Power was supplied by two Scotch boilers powering a quadruple expansion steam engine. Her interior is finished in fine wood and brass. For more information, see [www.sskeewatin.com](http://www.sskeewatin.com).

ISMA members can also receive a 10 percent discount from 30,000 Island Tours, MV *Chippewa III*, Parry Sound, ON. Please call ahead (705-746-6064). For more information, see [www.spiritofthesound.ca](http://www.spiritofthesound.ca).

Thanks to Lodge #15 for this information.

## Thunder Bay Communication Services Discontinued

*Canadian Notice to Shipping No. C500-15, issued on May 3, 2015:* Mariners are advised that effective 04 May, all marine communications and traffic services provided from Thunder Bay will consolidate into Sarnia. Vessels previously calling Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio should now call Sarnia Coast Guard Radio. The MMSI for Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio will be discontinued. Vessels using VHF DSC should now use Sarnia Marine Communications and Traffic Services MMSI Number 003160030.

*Canadian Notice to Shipping No. C486-15, issued on May 1, 2015:* Effective 04 May, Thunder Bay Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centre will no longer be monitoring VHF Channel 12 on behalf of the Thunder Bay Port Authority, and no further service advisory will be needed from the MCTS. Mariners may contact the Thunder Bay Port Authority via email at [guy@tbport.on.ca](mailto:guy@tbport.on.ca).

## US Coast Guard Issues New AIS Rules

On January 30, 2015, the US Coast Guard published new Automatic Identification System (AIS) regulations which became effective on March 2, 2015. The new rules apply in all navigable US waters, with no exceptions. The following commercial self-propelled vessels must have operational AIS no later than March 1, 2016:

- Vessels 65 feet or more in length.
- Towing vessels 26 feet or more in length and more than 600 hp.
- Vessels certificated to carry more than 150 passengers
- Dredges operating near a commercial channel.
- Vessels carrying certain dangerous cargo or flammable or combustible liquid bulk cargo.

AIS must remain on when underway, at anchor, and at least 15 minutes prior to unmooring, unless its operation compromises safety or security. AIS is now included with other navigation equipment that, when not working properly, must be brought to the attention of the Coast Guard.

The full text of the regulation can be found at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-30/pdf/2015-01331.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-30/pdf/2015-01331.pdf).

## FINAL BELLS

Northeast Michigan Lodge #19 associate member **Robert Fournier** passed away on May 30, 2015. Services were held in Alpena on June 3.

We have also received word of the deaths of two members that were not previously reported:

- John Chalmers**, honorary member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15
- Jimmie Hobaugh**, honorary member of Twin Sault Lodge #22

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Detroit Lodge #7 Chaplain Msgr. **Russ Kohler**, was interviewed by the *Detroit Free Press*. The May 2, 2015, article detailed plans by the “Detroit Mass Mob” to visit Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Parish on May 3 at noon. Chaplain **Kohler** is the pastor at Ste. Anne’s. You can read the article at [www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/05/01/detroit-mass-mob-ste-anne-sunday/26710130/](http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/05/01/detroit-mass-mob-ste-anne-sunday/26710130/).



## Marine City Maritime Days

Marine City Maritime Days will take place July 31-August 2, 2015. For the first time, the event will include a steam whistle set up in the park north of the ferry dock. The historic whistle is from the Harrisburg tugboat. Children will sound the traditional hello, in hopes of receiving a whistle from passing ships in response to their greeting. A display banner will read “Maritime Days Salutes You and Your Crew.” Involved in planning and running the event is **Kenneth Keith**, grandson of Captain **Ezra D. Purdy**, who was ISMA Grand President in 1949.

ISMA Membership Applications  
Available Online at

[www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm](http://www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm)

*Below: Grand President Capt. Joe Walters’ vessel KIYI, at Grand Marais, MN, June 17, 2015.*



## Industry Newsbriefs –

**US Coast Guard Authorization Act.** On May 18, the US House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation authorizing funding for the US Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (HR 1987) also includes provisions to improve CG mission effectiveness, increase Congressional oversight, support the Jones Act and modernize aging vessels. Important to the Great Lakes, the bill includes a provision authored by Rep. **Candace Miller** (R-MI) directing the Coast Guard to design and build a new, multi-mission Great Lakes icebreaker. A similar provision must be included and passed in the Senate’s version of the bill.

**No River Barge Route to Muskegon.** In April 2015, the US Coast Guard issued its ruling on a proposal made a year and a half ago by the Michigan Agri-Business Association regarding allowing barges from the Mississippi River system to travel the western shore of Lake Michigan from Calumet, IL, to Muskegon, MI. The Coast Guard found significant differences between this proposed route and the currently permitted routes from Calumet to Burns Harbor, IN, and Calumet to Milwaukee, WI. The Coast Guard cited a history of more severe weather on the eastern side of Lake Michigan, the lack of ports of refuge on the west coast of Michigan, and a lack of quantified potential economic benefits.

**New Safety Zones for Recreational Users.** The US Coast Guard proposes to amend Great Lakes Regulated Navigation Areas to include two new safety zones to close waters for recreational users – specifically, waters of Saginaw Bay and waters of Lake Erie in the vicinity of South Passage and the Erie Islands. Also proposed are three new Regulated Navigation Areas to manage vessel traffic in ice-prone waterways – specifically Maumee Bay Entrance Channel, Straits of Mackinac, and Green Bay. Comments must be received by July 6, 2015. View the full text of the proposal at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-22/pdf/2015-11804.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-22/pdf/2015-11804.pdf).

**Great Lakes Seaway Partnership.** On June 9, 2015, American Great Lakes Ports Association, Lake Carriers’ Association, Fednav Limited, and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation launched The Great Lakes Seaway Partnership. The new bi-national public affairs program’s website features sections dedicated to the program’s three messages—Economy, Environment, and Safety—as well as facts and figures and the latest industry news. Visit the new website at [www.greatlakesseaway.org](http://www.greatlakesseaway.org).

**Maritime Information Bureau.** Quebec’s maritime industry, through the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council, has created the Maritime Information Bureau to provide quick access to information about the marine sector and its activities in Quebec.

**US Coast Guard Change of Command.** On June 3, 2015, RAdm **June Ryan** became Commander of the US Coast Guard

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### Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Ninth District in a Change of Command ceremony in Cleveland. She replaced RAdm **Fred Midgette**. **Ryan** comes to the Ninth District from her position as military advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security. **Midgette** moved to Coast Guard headquarters in the position of special flag assistant to the Vice Commandant.

**LCA Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. Thomas Rayburn** recently joined Lake Carriers' Association as Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. He spent a number of years with the Great Lakes Commission and USCG Ninth District, and was also Program Manager for EnSafe Inc.

**Chamber of Maritime Commerce.** The Chamber of Maritime Commerce is urging changes that will foster growth in the maritime industry, including:

- Practical and harmonized ballast water regulations.
- Changing the North American Emission Control Area (ECA) from 200 to 50 nautical miles from shore for short sea shipping.
- Adding icebreaker capacity for the Great Lakes/Seaway system.
- Reducing mandated fees that increase costs.

**Duluth Groundbreaking.** On May 27, Duluth Seaway Port Authority officially broke ground on the Port of Duluth Intermodal Project. The \$17.7 million renewal project will redevelop the 28-acre site of Dock C & D.

### National Museum of the Great Lakes

To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* this November, the National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo, OH, will provide a series of *Fitzgerald*-related programs between June and November. On June 6, the museum began offering a specialty tour aboard the *Col. James M. Schoonmaker* museum ship, exploring technical and historical topics related to the *Fitzgerald*.

The Museum has also entered into a cooperative agreement with other maritime museums to promote the history of the *Fitzgerald*. The "Edmund Fitzgerald Historical Trail" will feature four other museums with significant *Fitzgerald* artifacts and displays, including Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Museum Ship *Valley Camp*, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, and Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center.

### Job Availability

Purvis Marine Limited is looking for a mate for a tug on the Great Lakes – minimum 500-ton mate or Master or WKM. Will train if not experienced in tugs; competitive salary; great crew. Position could be as short as one month or ongoing. Contact **Gregg Culp** at [gregg.dragonkraft@gmail.com](mailto:gregg.dragonkraft@gmail.com).

Lakes Pilots Association, Port Huron, MI, is seeking applications from those interested in employment as a US Registered Pilot on foreign vessels in District 2 of the Great Lakes. Applicants must hold a US Master, Mate or Pilot license with at least 24 months licensed service, or comparable experience on vessels or integrated tugs and tows, of 4,000 gross tons, or over, operating on the Great Lakes or Oceans. A complete list of requirements can be found in CRF Title 46, Shipping, Part 401, Subpart B. Interested persons must first apply to the Director of Great Lakes Pilotage, US Coast Guard, 2100 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20593-7580, 202-372-1537, to determine eligibility. For more information, contact Lakes Pilots Association, PO Box 610902, Port Huron, MI 48061, 810-941-5152.

### Coming Events

- September 3, 2015 - Canada Merchant Navy Day
- November 10, 2015 - Lost Mariners Remembrance, Detroit
- November 10, 2015 - *Fitzgerald* Commemorative Event, Toledo, OH
- November 11, 2015 - Remembrance Day, ISMA lays CMNVA wreath at Owen Sound Cenotaph
- November 26, 2015 - William Hamilton Merritt Day, Welland Canal



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

### International Ship Masters' Association

#### Grand Lodge President

Captain **Joseph Walters**  
710 Hillside Dr.  
Washburn, WI 54891  
(715) 492-8676  
E-mail:  
jwaltersisma12@gmail.com

#### Grand First Vice President

Captain **Robert Lund**  
13436 S. Avenue M  
Chicago, IL 60633  
(773) 677-5086  
E-mail:  
boblund1958@comcast.net

#### Grand Second Vice President

Captain **Lee W. Barnhill**  
2630 Hobbs  
Alpena, MI 49707  
(989) 464-6009  
E-mail: capt.slim@hotmail.com

#### Grand Secretary-Treasurer

Captain **Albert M. Tielke**  
39039 Bridle Ct.  
Avon, OH 44011  
(440) 934-6960  
Cell (216) 533-1157  
E-mail: ismasecretary@aol.com

#### Navigation, Engineering, and Legislative Committee

Chairman....Captain **John Sarns**

1846 Dorothea Rd.  
Berkley, MI 48072  
(248) 761-8464

E-mail: jsarns@aol.com

Canadian Co-Chairmen...

#### Captain **Dino Dini**

4 Jill Court  
St. Catharines, ON L2S 1A6  
(905) 687-8458  
Cell (905) 327-7421  
E-mail: dino.dini@sympatico.ca

#### Captain **Seann O'Donoghue**

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

#### Membership/Fundraising Committee

Chairman....**Rebecca Hancock**

2740 Beitner Road  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 883-6828

E-mail: boardman.river.lover@gmail.com

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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](http://www.shipmaster.org)

Chairman....**Frank Frisk** Email: mvfrisk2@yahoo.com

