



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 35, Number 3
May-June 2021

ISMA LETTER

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

Cleveland Lodge No. 4:



Putzfrau on the Cuyahoga River, May 8, 2021, with Lodge #4 member Mary Rabatsky in front of pilot house.

Lodge #4 President and Grand 1st VP **Bill Rabatsky** offered Lodge #4 members the opportunity to volunteer as crew aboard the *Putzfrau* for this year's annual River Sweep clean-up of the Cuyahoga River on May 8. River Sweep is currently organized by Canalway Partners, and includes teams working on shore and on the river. The annual clean-up has been held for 30 years. "*Putzfrau* was the brainchild of long-time Lodge #4 member **Frank Samsel**, who designed the vacuum system and crane for the boat following passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, and put her to work as probably the first boat to retrieve garbage from the Cuyahoga River," said **Bill**. "I thought it fitting to honor **Frank** with getting the *Putzfrau* into the River Sweep event, so I got her running. Pictured in the pilot house are Lodge #4 members **Peter Hotchkiss**, myself, and **Steve Neuman**, along with Pe-

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From the Lodges, continued

ter's son **Gabriel**. Member **Mary Rabatsky** was also aboard along with a couple family members. A contingent of West Creek Conservancy volunteers completed the crew."



Above: In the Putzfrau pilot house - Lodge #4 members Peter Hotchkiss and son Gabriel, Bill Rabatsky, Steve Neuman..

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

The Spring 2021 edition of *Great Lakes Scuttlebutt* (online) contained an article by Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp**, "Before the Mast – Tall Ship Training on the Great Lakes." Read it at http://digitaledition.greatlakesscuttlebutt.com/publication/frame.php?i=698758&p=&pn=&ver=html5&view=articleBrowser&article_id=3965835.

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

*ISMA*Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. Therefore, **Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

*Remember that ISMA*Letter is always available on our website,



Members in the News

Grand 2nd Vice President and Detroit Lodge No. 7 member **Luke Clyburn** was quoted and pictured in a March 25, 2021, article about Sea Cadets and current projects aboard the *Pride of Michigan*. Sea Cadets participate in professionally led research missions which are conducted to produce documentary films and increase public awareness about the Great Lakes. This research focus results from a partnership between the Sea Cadets and the Noble Odyssey Foundation. **Luke** is president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation and captain of the *Pride of Michigan*. Read the article at <https://www.secondwavemedia.com/metromode/features/lake-st-clair-shipwrecks-noble-odyssey-sea-cadets-belvidere-felicity.aspx>.

Final Bells

Former Detroit Lodge #7 member (1975-2004) **Theron C. Baganz** (#A-1503) passed away at the age of 92 on April 16, 2021.

Niagara Lodge #20 member Capt. **John Richard Tackaberry** (right) of St. Catharines, Ontario, passed away on April 21, 2021, at the age of 93. **John** retired as a St. Lawrence Seaway pilot in 1994. He is survived by his wife **Doreen**, one son and three daughters, one grandchild, and three great-grandchildren. No memorial service is planned.



Detroit Lodge #7 member **Malcolm "Mac" McAdam** (#A-12375) passed away at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital on May 8, 2021, at the age of 80. **Mac**



is survived by his wife **Carol**, and two sons. Long active in Lodge #7 and other maritime organizations, he helped plan the annual Lost Mariners' Remembrance Ceremony at the Dossin Museum. In 2010, he raised money for the ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund by organizing a tour of the Detroit Salt

Mine in exchange for a donation from each guest. In 2016, he helped plan the recovery of the *Greater Detroit's* anchor from the bottom of the Detroit River. Then in the summer of 2020, **Mac** restored a ship's anchor for display in Detroit's Riverside Park. His account of the project was featured in the Sept-Oct 2020 *ISMA Letter*. A memorial service is scheduled for August 14, 2021, at Dearborn Congregational Church.

Rev. **William R. Fleming**, past rector of Mariners' Church in Detroit, passed away on May 28, 2021, at the age of 83.

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



ISMA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

This is a reminder to all members that Ship Masters' scholarships are available! **Deadline for application for this year's Scholarships is November 1, 2021.** If you know someone who may qualify, please encourage them to apply! Currently, ISMA Scholarship Awards are \$1500.00 each.

Access the HAWSEPIPE SCHOLARSHIP at
<http://www.shipmaster.org/hawsepipe-scholarship.html>

Access the CADET SCHOLARSHIPS at
<http://www.shipmaster.org/cadet-scholarship.html>

Seann O'Donoghue (Canada) and
Russell Brohl (USA)
Scholarship Chairmen

Industry Newsbriefs –

- On May 24, 2021, the US Coast Guard announced it is seeking input from mariners who hold national Merchant Mariner Credential Deck Officer endorsements for unlimited tonnage vessels to validate information gathered as part of a job task analysis (JTA). This is an opportunity for you to provide insight into your job as a deck officer on unlimited tonnage vessels and contribute to USCG examination improvements. Mariners who hold unlimited tonnage deck officer endorsements will receive an email from JobTaskAnalysis@uscg.mil containing a link to the survey and the dates the survey is open. The information provided will remain anonymous. Participation is encouraged for the benefit of the maritime community and safety of the marine transportation system. If you have questions, you may contact the USCG at the above email address.
- In a May 7, 2021, US Coast Guard Ninth District Change of Command ceremony, Rear Adm. **Donna Cottrell** turned over command of the Ninth District to Rear Adm. **Michael Johnston**. **Cottrell**, an Ohio native who is retiring after 38 years of service, has commanded the district and its 6700 miles of coastline since June 2019. She was also presented

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

with the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the United States. Read more about her at <https://chroniclet.com/news/260934/cottrell-wished-smooth-seas-retiring-as-great-lakes-commander/>.

- On May 10, 2021, the Chamber of Marine Commerce announced a new video series featuring voices from the businesses and communities that depend on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence shipping for their success. In this series of four short vignettes, interviewees share their stories on how marine shipping puts communities on the map. In addition, the Chamber has created a series of four videos showing how the cargoes carried by Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ships impact our daily lives and shipping keeps our economy moving. View the videos at <https://www.marinedelivers.com/great-lakes-st-lawrence-seaway-stories/>.
- The University of Wisconsin Superior has begun to study the feasibility of year-round shipping on the Great Lakes. The study is considering decreasing ice on the Lakes and the impact of a new lock at the Soo. The study is also looking at the impacts of a year-round season, including more ships on the water. UWS Professor of Transportation and Logistics **Richard Stewart** said planning for the future is vital. “Our highways are crowded, railroads are crowded. We have the ability to move far, far more cargo on the Great Lakes marine highway system without being crowded.” The researchers are cooperating with many organizations, including Lake Carriers’ Association, US Coast Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers, and several Great Lakes ports.
- On May 20, 2021, the US Coast Guard published Marine Safety Bulletin 07-21, “COVID-19: Spotlight on the Mental Health of Mariners.” Mental health concerns are of importance to the USCG as they may affect vessel operations and life at sea. The USCG seeks to assure mariners that seeking mental health care will not jeopardize a mariner’s medical certification. Read the MSIB at https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2021/MSIB_07-21_mariner_mental_health.pdf?ver=zAcGhlcW7XtdcRYRyH0Pug%3d%3d.
- In 2021, the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District received \$19.2 million in federal funding to dredge Ohio’s commercial harbors. Dredging is scheduled for Toledo, Huron, Lorain, Cleveland, and Ashtabula. None is scheduled for Sandusky, Fairport, and Conneaut harbors because they do not currently have an approved placement area for the dredged material.
- The US Maritime Administration (MARAD) recently announced availability of \$10.8 million in grant funding for America’s Marine Highway Program (AMHP). Only Marine Highway Projects previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation are eligible to receive funding under the AMHP. Grant applications were due by June 4, 2021.
- On June 3, 2021, Green Marine announced the results of participants in North America’s leading environmental certification program for the marine industry. Green Marine has 154 participants throughout Canada and the US. All participating ship owners, port authorities, Seaway administrators, terminal operators, and shipyards assess their envi-

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

ronmental performance on an annual basis. Assessments during 2020 showed the greatest overall improvement in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Significant progress was also made toward reducing underwater noise. The entire 2020 Annual Performance Report is available at <https://green-marine.org/certification/results/>.

- On May 20, 2021, the US Navy exercised the first of nine potential options by awarding Fincantieri Marinette Marine approval to build the second Constellation-class guided missile frigate (the USS *Congress* (FFG 63)) for the Navy.
- After two years of record-setting Great Lakes water levels, lake levels are expected to fall in 2021, though most will remain above average. “We’re not expecting any water level records,” said **Christopher Warren**, chief of watershed hydrology at the US Army Corps of Engineers Detroit office. The forecast predicts Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie will likely remain above the long-term average, while Lake Ontario will be close to the long-term average.
- The Navy League of the United States, Detroit Women Council in cooperation with the Brodhead Association and Navy League of the US, Michigan Councils, began hosting a monthly webinar in May. The first webinar was held on May 20, 2021, presented by **Gretchen Hubbard**, Supervisor, USCG Regional Exam Center, Toledo. She discussed REC operations, the licensing examination process, and merchant mariner credentialing.
- On May 10, 2021, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued Notice No. 16-2021. In March, Seaway Notice 10-2021 “Speed Management Changes” was issued and resulted in a noticeable improvement in adherence to speed limits. Notice No. 16-2021 makes the tighter speed management program permanent, effective May 20, 2021.
- In a May 9, 2021, letter to industry, RDML **Richard V. Timme**, USCG Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, highlighted the importance of MTS workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in a letter to industry. Read it at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/05/09/mts-workers-continue-to-fulfill-critical-role-during-covid-19-pandemic/>.
- On May 3, 2021, the US Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, and Ohio EPA, with support from the Ashtabula River Advisory Council, recommended that the Ashtabula River be removed from the US-Canadian list of the most heavily polluted areas on the Great Lakes. If it is delisted, the Ashtabula River would be the first of Ohio’s four Areas of Concern to be delisted.
- On April 27, 2021, the *Federal Register* published a US Coast Guard notice setting the random drug testing rate for covered crewmembers for 2021 at 50 percent for the period January 1 through December 31, 2021. Read the notice at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-27/pdf/2021-08706.pdf>.
- On April 22, 2021, the US Coast Guard’s National Maritime Center published an announcement of the status of CG-719 Series Forms, which show an expiration date of 3/31/2021.

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The forms are progressing through the renewal process, and until they receive final approval, the current version of CG-719 forms should continue to be used. See https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2021/cg719_series_status_042221.pdf.

- On April 21, 2021, the US Coast Guard published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 13-20 - Change 3 to provide updates to TWIC Reader Rule implementation and enforcement. For more information, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/05/04/msib-exemptions-to-twic-requirements-related-to-covid-19-update-change-3/>.
- On April 20, 2021, **Walter Sendzik**, Vice-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (www.glslcities.org), and mayor of St. Catharines, announced that the Initiative supports Canada’s Budget 2021. “Budget 2021 investments into environment and infrastructure programs create a foundation for municipal governments on the shores of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to start investing in critical shoreline projects,” he said. The Initiative is a binational coalition of US and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.
- The American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) has proposed a list of Great Lakes navigation infrastructure investment priorities. Following President **Biden**’s release of his infrastructure investment plan, AGLPA sent an April 7 letter detailing these priorities to Representative **Marcy Kaptur** (D-OH). Items included: (1) Repair and modernize port and dock infrastructure; (2) Construct a new Great Lakes icebreaker; (3) Complete construction of the new Soo Lock; (4) Repair the existing Soo Locks; (5) Eliminate the regional dredging backlog; (6) Repair and rehabilitate Great Lakes navigation structures. Read the entire letter at <https://www.greatlakesports.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Kaptur-GL-Nav-Infrastructure-Ltr-2021.pdf>.
- On April 8, 2021, the US EPA issued a release, “EPA’s Floating Laboratory *Lake Guardian* Sails Again.” After a year in lockdown due to COVID-19, the EPA’s largest research vessel *Lake Guardian* is working again. Eleven scientists supported by a 15-member crew were working aboard the vessel in April. For more information, see <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epas-floating-laboratory-lake-guardian-sails-again>.
- On April 5, 2021, Algoma Central Corporation announced that it took delivery of the *Captain Henry Jackman*, the fifth Equinox Class gearless dry-bulk carrier and the tenth Equinox Class vessel to join the fleet. Following her voyage to Canada from China, the *Jackman* is expected to begin trading on the Great Lakes in late June.
- In late March 2021, the *Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal* ran an article, “Shipping crucial for economy,” which included a photo of CCG *Samuel Risley* working to open the slip at Thunder Bay’s Viterra A grain elevator. The piece emphasized the importance of the St. Lawrence Seaway to both Canada and the US.
- Due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will be holding a virtual Annual Conference this year on August 25-26, 2021.



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



Scan the QR code at left. It will take you to the ISMA web-site.

International Ship Masters' Association	
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