



Volume 36, Number 3
May-June 2022

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

2023 Grand Lodge Convention

Detroit Lodge No. 7 will be hosting the next ISMA Convention, January 26-29, 2023, at the DoubleTree Dearborn Hilton Hotel. (The NELC meeting and delegate caucus will take place on Wednesday evening, January 25.) For the latest information, visit the Lodge 7 website at www.detroitlodge7.org or the convention website at <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Convention23.html>.



From Our Grand President

by Capt. William J. Rabatsky

Search for a New Grand Lodge Secretary/
Treasurer

Our Grand Lodge Secretary/Treasurer, **Brian Eickel**, announced at this year's Grand Lodge meeting that he's interested in passing his duties along to someone else. Filling this important position presents an opportunity to improve the Grand Lodge recordkeeping methods currently in place. The processing of membership information and financial reporting can be made easier to make the Secretary/Treasurer's job less burdensome while ensuring accuracy. This may make the position more desirable for those of you considering it.

Streamlining the process of adding a new member's information to the Grand Lodge roster can be made. Currently the local lodge secretary/treasurers submit the membership forms to the Grand Lodge Secretary/Treasurer, who enters it into the Grand Lodge database spreadsheets. A new Grand Lodge database can be developed so the local lodge secretary/treasurer electronically transmits the new member's information directly into the Grand Lodge database spreadsheets. The original membership form with the local lodge seal can accompany this via regular mail to document the new member. The Grand Lodge database can then generate a new member's pennant number and with information taken from the spreadsheet produce a new membership certificate accompanied by a mailing address label. The local lodge secretary/treasurers can update their annual lodge membership in the same fashion so that the Grand Lodge accounting of members and dues is instantaneously accurate with no transfer of information required by the Grand Lodge Secretary/Treasurer.

The new Grand Lodge Secretary/Treasurer should be open to the development and implementation of a new database system. A candidate that possesses some knowledge of email data entry and processing spreadsheet information is beneficial but not necessary. The Grand Lodge can help develop and implement a new system. Some of our younger member-

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ship having a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from a maritime academy may possess these skills. All demographics of our membership are encouraged to consider the potential of this Grand Lodge position. When a new system is in place, many of the Secretary/Treasurer duties can then be done remotely.

The position pays a \$4000 stipend and an \$800 expense reimbursement for attending the Grand Lodge convention. Anyone interested in the Grand Lodge Secretary/Treasurer position can email Grand President **William J. (Bill) Rabatsky** at raboatsky@sbcglobal.net.

ISMA Facebook Page Coordinator

The Grand Lodge is looking for a member to help the membership/outreach/website committee manage the ISMA Facebook page. We need someone to actively monitor and direct the page. Facebook is widely popular, and we want to utilize this asset to its full potential so that more people recognize the International Ship Masters' Association thru our members' activity. If you are interested, please contact Grand Lodge President **William J. (Bill) Rabatsky** to coordinate a meeting with this committee's chairman.

FROM THE LODGES

Chicago Lodge No. 3:

On National Maritime Day, May 22, 2022, Chicago Lodge #3 participated in the Blessing of the Fleet ceremony. Lodge #3 president **Tom Blakely** concluded the ceremony on Navy Pier by talking about the impact of merchant mariners throughout our nation's history.

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

On May 12, 2022, the Oakland County (MI) Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation honoring the Noble Odyssey Foundation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. ISMA 1st Grand Vice President and Lodge #7 member Capt. **Luke Clyburn** has served as president of the foundation since 2002.

Toledo Lodge No. 9:

On February 16, 2022, Toledo Lodge #9 President **Rick Brown** announced a \$2000 donation to the National Museum of the Great Lakes (NMGL) in Toledo. The funds are directed toward renovation of the *St. Marys Challenger* pilot house. PGP

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From the Lodges, continued

and Lodge #9 member Capt. **Harold Dusseau** presented a check to **Christopher Gillcrist**, executive director of NMGL.



PGP Harold Dusseau, Toledo Lodge #9, presents check to Christopher Gillcrist, NMGL.

On April 12, Lodge #9 held a members' meeting at the NMGL to hear a presentation on the investigation to determine the identity of a recently discovered wreck in Lake Erie. The wreck is a 47-foot vessel found east of the islands lying on its port side in 37 feet of water. There is a good possibility it is the *Lake Serpent*; **Carrie Sowden**, marine archaeologist at the Great Lakes Historical Society, hopes to resume diving on the site to confirm the identity.



Carrie Sowden, NMGL, speaks to Lodge #9 meeting.

Lodge #9 booked a suite at Fifth-Third Field for the Toledo Mud Hens baseball game on June 20, 2022. A good time was had by all.

Georgian Bay-Huronion Lodge #15:

Lodge #15's Annual Logbook scholarship winners are:
Sadie Nash 2022 Best Kept Deck Logbook MNT2
Marius Bujor 2022 Best Kept Engineering Logbook MET2

The 2022 ISMA Bursary Student Award (MNT 1) went to **Balaji (AJ) Dhananjay**.

On April 19, 2022, Lodge #15 president **Seann O'Donoghue** spoke at the monthly virtual meeting of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada. He spoke about "Great Lakes Pilots Preparing for the Arrival of Cruise Ships to the Great Lakes in 2022."

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From the Lodges, continued

On June 23, 2022, the Mission to Seafarers – Southern Ontario at Hamilton is hosting a celebration dinner in honour of the International Day of the Seafarer. This is the first in-person dinner since 2019. For more information, see <https://www.mtsso.org/>.

Final Bells

ISMA Cleveland Lodge #4 member **William A. "Buck" McSweeney** (#11106) passed away on May 19, 2022, at the age of 75. A service was held at St. Christopher Church, Rocky River, OH, on June 17, 2022. He is survived by a son, **William Patrick McSweeney**. **Buck** was a third-generation Great Lakes mariner working for Interlake Steamship Company; his father, **William J. McSweeney** (deceased), was a captain with Interlake, and his grandfather also sailed.

ISMA Georgian Bay-Huronion Lodge #15 member Capt. **James H. Van Overbeek** (#11537) passed away on May 3, 2022, at the age of 76 following a long cancer battle. **Jim** graduated from Georgian College's Marine Navigation Program in 1977. He spent many years at sea, working on tankers on the Great Lakes and in the Canadian Arctic. In 1995, he came into the Soconav office to manage the annual tanker sealift and resupply mission in Canada's Arctic. He retired from sea service in 1997, and then spent 19 years teaching many courses in Marine Navigation at Georgian College. He retired from that in 2017. **Jim** is survived by two daughters, three grandsons, and his partner for the past 15 years, **Nora DeRoeven**. No funeral service was held.



Jeanine Kraemer Beaupre, wife of long-time ISMA Georgian Bay-Huronion Lodge #15 member **Ron Beaupre**, passed away on April 4, 2022. A celebration of life was held in Morrisburg, ON, on April 30.

NEW MEMBERS**Bay City Lodge #5:**

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Active Professional: | Dan Beebe | #13222 |
| | Todd Shorkey | #13221 |
| Associate: | Mike Bouckaert | #A-13221 |

Detroit Lodge #7:

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Associate: | Brendon Buchanan | #A-13219 |
| | Scott Simon | #A-13218 |

Georgian Bay-Huronion Lodge #15:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Active Professional: | Kent A. Simpson | #13217 |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------|



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

Scholarship Winners Say Thanks

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 **Matthew Merrifield**. (Thank-yous from the other two recipients have been printed in previous issues of *ISMA Letter*.)

Dear Captain Seann O'Donoghue and the International Ship Masters' Association,

I would like to express my utmost gratitude for selecting me to be the recipient of this year's Cadet Scholarship Award. The honour alone of having so many highly respected professionals from the industry select me to receive the scholarship is an award in itself. It is even more humbling that this investment is still being offered in the face of the pandemic. The industry is very fortunate that ISMA has weathered the storm of the pandemic and continued to provide a platform of advocacy, community, and education.

The monetary fund associated with the award will provide me with huge relief from economic pressures this winter. I have just completed my final four months of sea-time as a Cadet, during which time my income was very limited. I will be renewing my Marine Advanced First Aid in addition to my MEDs; this is a large investment to make before I start earning income as an Officer this March. Your investment into my future will allow me to complete this required training and study for my Final Oral Exam without being distracted or hindered by financial stress.

I look forward to having the opportunity to thank everyone in person whenever we are able to have in-person lodge meetings again. I also look forward to reciprocating your generous investment through membership and involvement with the International Ship Masters' Association for the entire duration of my career.

*Thank you all very much,
Matthew Merrifield*

Members in the News

On April 22, 2022, Fox 21 Online featured a piece on PGP Capt. **Ray Sheldon** who retired as master of the *Joseph L. Block*. See <https://www.fox21online.com/2022/04/22/recently-retired-ship-captain-recalls-time-out-on-the-great-lakes/>.

From the Editor

2022 marks the 28th year of my tenure as *ISMA Letter* Editor. (*ISMA Letter* was founded in 1969 by then Grand President Capt. **Vic Chamberlain**.) During each of those 28 years, we published six bi-monthly issues of *ISMA Letter*. After 28 years, I feel that it's time to turn over the reins of our newsletter to a new editor. Therefore, I intend that the November-December 2022 *ISMA Letter* will be my last issue as your editor. If **YOU** have an interest in keeping our membership informed, enjoy writing, and have an interest in serving as editor, please let me know. I am happy to answer your questions and will certainly assist in transitioning.

--Christine Rohn-Tielke

WW II Merchant Marine Awards

On May 18, 2022, Lodge #12 member **Christopher Edyvean** attended the official ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the US Merchant Marine of WWII. The event was held at the Statuary Hall at the US Capitol with Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** officiating. Ceremonial remarks were made by House Minority Leader **Kevin McCarthy**, Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell**, Vice Admiral **Scott Buschman** (USCG Deputy Commandant for Operations), Rear Admiral **Michael Wettlaufer** (Commander, Military Sealift Command), **Lucinda Lessley** (MARAD Deputy Administrator), Rep. **John Garamendi**, and Rep. **Joe Courtney**. Colors were presented/retired by the US Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point) Honor Guard. The Merchant Marine song "Heave Ho" was performed by a U.S. Navy vocal quartet. Ten WWII Merchant Mariners were in attendance. WWII MM veteran **Dave Yoho**, who went on to become a well-known motivational speaker & businessman, had the final remarks before Speaker **Pelosi** presented the medal. You may view the ceremony via this link: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?520390-1/congressional-gold-medal-ceremony-world-war-ii-merchant-mariners>.



Story and photos
by Chris Edyvean

Industry Newsbriefs –

- A public (remote) annual meeting of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation will be held on June 27, 2022. For more info, see <https://greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/notice-of-the-2022-annual-meeting-of-members-of-the-st-lawrence-seaway-management-corporation-2/>.
- The Chamber of Marine Commerce released their "2021 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System Tonnage Activity" report. Overall, cargo shipments increased by 7% over 2020. See <https://www.marinedelivers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2021-Tonnage-Report-FINAL.pdf>.
- The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) vessel *Thomas Jefferson* is on a mapping mission in Lake Erie.
- After a 2-year pause, Canal Days Maritime Heritage Festival returns to Port Colborne July 29 – August 1, 2022.
- The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston, ON, participated in a community action dive and shoreline clean-up June 18 & 19, 2022.
- On June 12, 2022, the 72nd Annual Blessing of the Fleet was held at Ashtabula, OH.
- On June 9, 2022, Hamilton celebrated the STV *Pathfinder*'s return to sail training with a re-commissioning ceremony.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- Great Lakes passenger cruising has returned this season, and the cruise industry on the Lakes appears to be thriving.
- From July 19-21, 2022, the US National Maritime Center (NMC) is hosting a Merchant Mariner Examination Working Group meeting. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/05/26/merchant-mariner-examination-workinggroup-update/>.
- Robotic buoys, using technology to record whale sounds in near real time can give scientists, mariners, and the public an idea of the location of North Atlantic right whales. Read more at <https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/Robotic-buoys-developed-to-keep-Atlantic-right-17205153.php>.
- Marblehead (OH) Lighthouse is celebrating 200 years as a navigational aid and a tourist attraction as well. It is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the Great Lakes.
- May 18, 2022, marked the inaugural International Day for Women in Maritime.
- The Association of Canadian Port Authorities (ACPA) holds its 2022 Annual Conference in Toronto, June 20-23.
- On May 9, 2022, the US Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced that up to \$684.3 million is now available for Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grants – the highest level of funding ever available for the program.
- On May 16, 2022, the US DOT announced that Rear Admiral **Ann Phillips**, USN, Ret., was confirmed by the US Senate on May 10, and later sworn in as the 20th Administrator of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). She is the first woman to lead MARAD as administrator.
- On May 1, 2022, US MARAD announced a more than 50% increase in funding for the 2022 grants to be awarded for America's Marine Highway Program.
- On May 1, 2022, the Ontario government announced funding of \$8.7 million at Hamilton's Heddle Shipyards for investments in equipment and training.
- In April 2022, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority was awarded a \$9 million grant--from American Rescue Plan Act funding provided to the Ohio EPA--to expand and improve its dredging disposal site for silt from the Maumee River.
- Effective March 15, 2022, the US Coast Guard may not charge vessel inspection user fees for towing vessels using the Towing Safety Management System (TSMS) option for documenting compliance with Title 46 CFR, Subchapter M. This was directed by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (FY22 Omnibus), signed into law on March 15.
- In late April 2022, the US Army Corps of Engineers confirmed its lease of the new tugboat *Don Paul*, through Cleveland's Great Lakes Towing, for five years. The tug will primarily be used on Lake Erie between Buffalo and Toledo.
- On April 19, 2022, the US Coast Guard published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-21 Change 5 "COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System". See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/04/19/msib-covid-19-safety-requirements-in-the-maritime-transportation-system-change-5/>.
- On March 30, 2022, the US Coast Guard announced establishment of new base pilotage rates for the 2022 shipping season. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/03/30/final-rule-great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2022-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology/>.
- On March 28, 2022, the US Coast Guard announced that it is seeking public input regarding modification of chart and navigational equipment carriage requirements. The USCG must receive comments by June 27, 2022. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2022/03/28/notice-of-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-chart-and-navigational-equipment-carriage-requirements/>.

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, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time.



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

