



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 30, Number 5
September-October 2016

From the Membership and Outreach Committee

At the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago this past February, there was much discussion about where ISMA is going as an organization. As in years past, there was discussion of attracting new members, how to offer value for membership, ways to connect with and keep younger members through interaction with social media and other online communication methods, and how to sustain our health and well being as a fraternity. I found myself compelled to be involved in this process on the ground level and volunteered myself to chair the new committee—Membership and Outreach. **Richard Gray** immediately stood up as my right hand and co-chair in this venture, and it has already been a wild ride.

During the rest of the winter and spring, Richard, myself and any other available committee members met in person, through Facebook video conference and via phone to begin defining a direction for our committee. We have much in store for members in the upcoming months, and wanted to get a few things off the ground as soon as possible so that there is real data to be presented and analyzed at the Grand Lodge in Alpena. Toward that goal, a survey has been created to allow members to provide some items of demographic information as well as comment on their overall satisfaction with ISMA and suggest what we can improve upon in the future. Please go to the link below to complete your survey:

SurveyMonkey.com/r/ISMA2016

As a thank-you, each respondent will get a coupon code to use at our newly-created ISMA store where (nearly) all your heart's desires can be branded with the ISMA logo. Keep in mind that we would like to have as many surveys completed as possible by January 1, 2017, so that the committee can crunch all this data together and bring you, the members, some insight that will help to guide us along the path. Thank you very much—and happy clicking and typing!!!

Yours in humble service,
Rebecca Hancock (PGP), Chair
Richard Gray (Co-Chair)
The Grand Lodge Membership
and Outreach Committee

Remember to take the survey:
SurveyMonkey.com/r/ISMA2016

2017 Convention in Alpena



Mark your calendars now to attend the 2017 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention at the Sanctuary Inn of Alpena, MI, February 2-5, 2017, hosted by Northeast Michigan Lodge #19. Detailed information will be coming soon.

From the Lodges

Note: During the Great Lakes navigation season, many local lodges curtail activities since most of their members are away at work.

Chicago Lodge #3:

Lodge #3's next meeting is October 11, 2016, at 7:30 pm, hosted by Chicago's First Lady Cruises. Member **Bob Agra** will provide one of the boats in the fleet for the meeting.

Cleveland Lodge #4:

On September 22, 2016, 18 Lodge #4 members and guests met for a trip to Put-in-Bay, South Bass Island, OH. Following lunch, the group toured the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center before heading back to the mainland aboard a Miller Boat Line ferry.

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From the Lodges, continued



Lodge #4 members arrive at Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center.

Detroit Lodge #7:

Lodge #7 member and author of *Floating Palaces of the Great Lakes*, **Joel Stone**, will be the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, held at Dossin Museum. More information is available at www.gymi.org.

Georgian Bay-Huronia Lodge #15:

On October 22, 2016, the Canadian museum ship SS *Keewatin* will be warped several hundred feet astern of where she currently rests at Port McNicol by shifting her mooring lines into position. This will allow the dock where she lies to be restored and renewed as part of a Canada 150 project. If any ISMA members are interested in participating as volunteers assisting in moving the ship, please email Lodge #15 President **Seann O'Donoughue** at capt.s.odonoughue@gmail.com for further information.

The Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes fleet will take place at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound, ON, on February 12, 2017.

The Owen Sound Marine Waterfront Heritage Center will host a dinner and presentation on February 16, 2017. The keynote speaker will talk about construction and delivery of a Canadian ship from China to the Great Lakes. For more information, contact Lodge #15 President **Seann O'Donoughue** at capt.s.odonoughue@gmail.com.

Northeast Michigan Lodge #19:

Lodge #19 members are busy getting ready for the upcoming ISMA Grand Lodge Convention at the Sanctuary Inn, Alpena, MI, February 2-5, 2017. *Join us then!*

Members in the News

"Tight bridges, summer boaters keep Lakes pilots vigilant," appearing in the October-November 2016 issue of *Professional Mariner* magazine, featured Port Huron Lodge #2 members **George Haynes** (PGP), **Danny Gallagher**, and **Ralph Kinsley**, and Cleveland Lodge #4 member **Sean Liljegren**. Read the article at <http://www.professionalmariner.com/October-November-2016/Tight-bridges-summer-boaters-keep-Lakes-pilots-vigilant/>.

On September 24, 2016, Detroit Lodge #7 members **Joel Stone** and **John Polacek** were mentioned in a *Detroit News* article about a missing Fresnel lens from the old Belle Isle Lighthouse. Read the article at <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/09/11/lost-fog-feds-navigate-lighthouse-mystery/90248646/>.

An August 24, 2016, *Windsor Star* article about Great Lakes pilots featured Niagara District #20 member **Brett Walker**. Read the article at <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/climbing-the-ladder-to-be-a-great-lakes-boat-pilot>.

On August 20, 2016, a *New York Times* article about J. W. Westcott Company mentioned Detroit Lodge #7 members **Jim Hogan**, **Bill Redding**, **Sam Buchanan**, and Niagara District Lodge #20 member **Fred Hoffe**. Read "A Mail Boat Stays Afloat" at http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/21/business/a-mail-boat-stays-afloat.html?_r=0.



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

**ISMA Membership Applications
Available Online at
www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm**

To apply for the

ISMA SCHOLARSHIP
go to

www.shipmaster.org

And follow the blue Scholarship links

Boat Trip Raffles

Visit www.freightertrip.com for the latest news about ISMA boat trip raffles.



Industry Newsbriefs –

- On September 28, 2016, Canada and the United States released the first *Progress Report of the Parties*, documenting actions taken since the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement took effect in February 2013. See it at https://binational.net/2016/09/28/prp-rep/?utm_source=epa-gl-list&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=prp.
- Also, on September 22, 2016, the governments of Canada and the US finalized the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan. It is available to view at <https://binational.net>.
- The September 2016 issue of *Maritime Logistics Professional* magazine is available online at <http://digitalmagazines.marinelink.com/nwm/MaritimeProfessional/201609/>.
- The US Coast Guard's Towing Safety Advisory Committee will meet in Washington, DC, on October 27, 2016. Subcommittees meet on October 26.
- The US Coast Guard's National Maritime Security Advisory committee will meet on October 18-19, 2016, in Leesburg, VA, and the meeting is open to the public. For more information and a tentative agenda, see the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/29/2016-23515/national-maritime-security-advisory-committee>.
- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently released a safety study of the US Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Services program. Find it at http://www.ntsb.gov/news/events/Pages/2016_vts_BMG.aspx.
- On September 12, 2016, the US Coast Guard issued a safety alert reminding mariners of the importance of performing periodic maintenance on inflatable life jackets.
- At the end of August, the NTSB released its annual summary of marine accidents (2015) and the lessons learned from them. View it at <http://www.ntsb.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/SPC1601.pdf>.
- A memorial project is underway on the east side of Owen Sound Harbour. Approximately 25 years ago, the City of

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Owen Sound installed a tribute to the SS *Manitoba* using three raked masts. A new Canada 150 Memorial will be added to the existing monument adding extensive detailed lighting to the existing structure, as well as additional recognition to those who sailed and made a living on the Great Lakes. The Maritime Memorial of the Upper Great Lakes will be unveiled in summer 2017.

- The Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise (TVNCOE) will continue to update their website with information to help the industry more fully understand the new Subchapter M regulations for commercial towing vessels. A list of frequently asked questions has been posted and will continue to be updated. View the FAQ at <https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/TVNCOE/SubMFAQS.asp>.
- On August 25, 2016, the US Coast Guard announced it is seeking applications for membership on the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee. The committee provides advice and makes recommendations on national maritime security matters. Completed applications must reach the Coast Guard by October 24, 2016. View the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/08/25/2016-20384/national-maritime-security-advisory-committee-vacancies>.
- The US Water Resources Development Act of 2016 had been stalled by disagreements about spending money collected via harbor maintenance taxes which finance the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF). Eventually, the harbor maintenance tax provision was removed from the House version of the bill, and the WRDA passed the House on September 28, 2016. Differences between the House version of the bill and a Senate version passed earlier in September must be reconciled. Conference committee action is not expected until after the November elections.

CMC and CSA Merge

On September 29, 2016, the Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) and the Canadian Shipowners Association (CSA) announced a merger agreement that will create a strong, united voice for commercial shipping in Canada and the United States. Under the agreement, the Chamber of Marine Commerce will assume the assets, liabilities, and staff of the CSA. Based in Ottawa, the merged entity will continue to be called the Chamber of Marine Commerce. **Wayne Smith**, chairman of CMC, said, "Both associations recognize that we have many shared goals and issues and that combining our resources will make us a much stronger advocate for the future growth of our industry."

The Chamber represents a broad spectrum of marine shipping stakeholders. The merger will help ensure that the Great Lakes-Seaway System remains a cost-effective, competitive way to transport goods both within North America and to overseas destinations.

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



November 10, 2016 -

Annual Lost Mariners Remembrance Program
Dossin Museum, Detroit, 6:00 pm
Program "Black Friday Storm of Lake Erie"

November 11, 2016 -

Remembrance Day (Canada)
Veterans Day (United States)
ISMA Lodge #15 lays CMNVA wreath at
Owen Sound Cenotaph

November 13, 2016 -

50th Anniversary of loss of *Daniel J. Morrell*
Program at Dossin Museum, Detroit

November 26, 2016 -

William Hamilton Merritt Day
Welland Canal celebrations

February 2-5, 2017 -

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention
Sanctuary Inn, Alpena, MI

February 12, 2017 -

Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the
Great Lakes Fleet
St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound,
1000-1200



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

Lodge #2 Raffle: Grand Prize in Port Huron Lodge #2's current raffle is a trip for four aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel during the 2017 sailing season. There will be 2nd and 3rd prizes, also. Tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will be on March 4, 2017. See www.freightertrip.com/porthuron2017.html.

ISMA Website:



If you don't know how to log into the members-only section of the ISMA website, contact your local lodge president or secretary. Note that the username and password are case-sensitive.

International Ship Masters' Association

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