



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

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2020 CONVENTION UPDATE

Port Huron Lodge No. 2, host lodge of the 2020 Grand Lodge Convention, has posted information on the event at <https://www.isma2020-130.org/>. You can find general information, as well as registration, hotel, and convention book advertising details. The convention committee also plans a hard copy mailing.



The Convention will be held January 30 - February 1, 2020, at the Blue Water Convention Center/ DoubleTree Hotel in Port Huron, Michigan. Delegate caucus will be on Wednesday, January 29, and

a farewell breakfast will be available on Sunday, February 2. The Port Huron DoubleTree Hotel is offering rooms at \$109 per night, plus taxes and fees; this price is available until December 29, 2019. Click on the lodging tab for details, then reserve online or call the hotel at 810-984-8000; use group code ISM. Early registration for the full convention is \$250 per person, available until December 20, 2019. After that date, full registration is \$300 per person until the January 17, 2020, registration deadline.

The Grand Lodge Installation ceremony and Grand Ball will be on Friday, January 31, where the keynote speaker (to be announced) will be followed by music from the nine-piece Bluewater Kings band. Saturday evening will be an Oktoberfest party. Spouses and guests will be able to choose from activities and tours in the Bluewater Region.

For 2020, the Convention program book will be full-size, full-color. Printed copies will be furnished to convention attendees and supporting organizations. Digital editions will be sent to all ISMA members, every cadet attending GLMA and Georgian College, and over 200 businesses. Ads in the book can also be placed through the web address listed above.

See you in Port Huron in 2020!

ISMA SCHOLARSHIPS

For information on the annual scholarships offered by the ISMA Grand Lodge and how to apply, visit

<http://www.shipmaster.org/scholarship.html>

Final Bells

Amelia (Amy) Gustafson Seeley (#A-11325), member of Chicago Lodge #3, passed away on August 17, 2019, from complications of a stroke she suffered on August 4. A staunch supporter of ISMA, she had served in the past as Grand Sentinel, as well as Lodge #3 Secretary. She worked for NOAA's NWS for nearly 30 years. She was the agency's first female Port Meteorological Officer, and as such was well known by Great Lakes mariners. Often a featured speaker at ISMA Grand Lodge conventions, she had recently become the Observing Program Leader, managing weather observers in Illinois and Indiana. A member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, **Amy** handled weather education for the US Power Squadron. There is a good possibility that the "Amy Gustafson Seeley Memorial Scholarship" in Meteorology will be established at **Amy's** alma mater, Northern Illinois University. **Amy** is survived by her fiancé **Richard Jenkins**.



You can find a detailed obituary article in the *Chicago Sun-Times* at <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/9/20/20875373/amy-seeley-meteorologist-national-weather-service-romeoville-obituary-queen-of-the-lakes>.

FROM THE LODGES

Chicago Lodge No. 3:

Chicago Lodge #3's annual barbeque was held on September 11, 2019, at Crowley's Marine Yard.

Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

Lodge #4's annual meeting and election will take place on October 3.

PGPs from Lodge #4 recently visited our Grand 1st VP aboard MV *Hon. James L. Oberstar*. ISMA Past Grand President **Al Tielke**, ISMA Letter Editor **Christine Rohn-Tielke**, Past Grand President **Russ Brohl** and wife **Lisa**, **Bob Dorn** and wife **Debbie**, all from Cleveland Lodge #4, made a trip in September aboard the *Oberstar*, where Grand 1st Vice President **Joe Ruch**, Port Huron Lodge #2 member, is captain.



FY 2020 Funding for New Soo Lock

On September 17, 2019, the US Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$75.3 million in Fiscal Year 2020 funding for the new lock at the Soo. This matches the amount approved by the US House of Representatives earlier this year and also matches the amount the Trump administration requested for FY 2020.

Lake Carriers' Association President **Jim Weakley** said, "This is a major victory for supporters of the Soo Locks. \$75.3 million is the largest single appropriation of construction money ever for this project. This funding will substantially advance the new lock as an addition to the \$32.4 million approved by the Army Corps of Engineers last year (FY '19) and the \$52 million contribution from the State of Michigan." Though the \$75.3 million is critical, it still falls below the \$89 million for FY '20 that the Corps deems "efficient funding." This higher amount would optimize a design and construction schedule that could see the new lock built in seven years rather than ten and could save \$30 million in overall project costs.

Construction of a new lock was first authorized in 1986, and again in 2007, but leaders in Washington then were unable to get funding for the construction.

--Information from Lake Carriers' Association



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

60th Anniversary of the Seaway



2019 marks 60 years since the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to vessel traffic. When it opened in 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway was one of the greatest engineering feats of its time. In fact, it has been proclaimed as one of the ten most outstanding engineering

achievements of the past 100 years. Operation of the Seaway by the US and Canadian entities on both sides of the border continues to be a model of binational collaboration, beginning even before the System officially opened on June 26, 1959. The Seaway was opened by **Queen Elizabeth II** and President **Dwight D. Eisenhower**.

Since its inception, nearly 3 billion tons of cargo, valued at over \$450 billion, have been transported via the Seaway. Maritime commerce on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System supports more than 237,000 U.S. and Canadian jobs and generates \$35 billion in economic activity annually. The 2018 shipping season was the best in over a decade, with total tonnage surpassing five-, ten- and 15-year averages.

60th anniversary celebrations have been held throughout the summer in both Canada and the US. The *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder* has run a series of articles on the Seaway at 60, highlighting history of the waterway as well as events marking its anniversary and continuing importance. Read them at <https://www.standard-freeholder.com/category/seaway-at-60>.

Dignitaries and members of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation gathered in Cornwall, ON, on September 4, 2019, for the unveiling of four paintings to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Seaway's opening. The series of paintings are by Quebec City-based artist **Yvon Lemieux**, who was commissioned to create them for the anniversary after a chance meeting with the Seaway's CEO, **Terence Bowles**. The four paintings depict scenes from across the entire length of the Seaway: the St. Lambert lock, the Victoria Bridge, a nature scene from between Cornwall and Beauharnois, and the Welland Canal locks.

On September 24, 2019, the US Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation hosted a 60th anniversary celebration at the Eisenhower Lock in Massena, NY. US Transportation Secretary **Elaine L. Chao** was joined at the ceremony by Transport Canada Director General of Marine Policy **Marc-Yves Bertin**, Congresswoman **Elise Stefanik** (R-NY), US Seaway Deputy Administrator **Craig Middlebrook**, Canadian Seaway President and CEO **Terence Bowles**, and US and Canadian government and transportation officials. In her remarks, **Chao** highlighted innovation that has taken place over the years in the Seaway.

At the event, Secretary **Chao** and Congresswoman **Stefanik** announced \$6 million in funding for the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to construct a new Visitors' Center at the U.S. Eisenhower Lock. This new center will welcome tens of thousands of people from around the world who come to watch ships transit the lock each year, and serve as a cornerstone for tourism in the North Country region of New York.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- Lake Carriers' Association reports that shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes totaled 6 million tons in August 2019, year-to-date decrease of 5.9 percent compared to a year ago. That total, however, was above August's 5-year average tonnage. The year-to-date iron ore trade through August stands at 32.8 million tons, a decrease of less than 1 percent from the previous year.
- Lake Carriers' Association also reported that shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled over 4.3 million tons in August 2019, an increase of 7.3 percent from 2018. Limestone cargoes were above the August 5-year average by 13.7 percent. Through August, the year-to-date Lakes limestone trade stands at 19.4 million tons, an increase of 12.4 percent from a year ago.
- The Chamber of Marine Commerce reported that "August [2019] proved to be a strong month for Great Lakes-Seaway shipping, led by grain exports, iron ore, road salt, and construction materials." Despite the busy August, St. Lawrence Seaway cargo tonnage for the season through August 31 totaled 20.9 million tonnes, down 3.5 percent from 2018. "For the most part, Canadian grain volumes have been in line with 2018, and we expect that trend will continue in the fall as the new harvests come to market while iron ore exports should remain strong," said **Terence Bowles**, president and CEO of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation.
- You can listen to NPR station WDET's story on the history of Detroit's Mariners' Church and its current renovation at this link: <https://wdet.org/posts/2019/09/09/88582-historic-detroit-churchs-bell-tower-famous-after-shipwreck-under-renovation/>.
- The Great Lakes Maritime Institute's annual dinner takes place on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. See <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Great%20Lakes%20maritime%20Flyer%202019.pdf>.
- The August 24, 2019, *Detroit News* article, "\$75M for Soo Locks nears finish line," indicated that Senator **Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), who, along with other legislators, has long pushed for funding for a new lock at the Soo, expects the fiscal year 2020 US government spending plan to include Soo Locks funding. Congress members **John Moolenaar** (R-MI) and **Marcy Kaptur** (D-OH) boarded MV *Mesabi Miner* while it was in the Poe Lock on August 22. They toured the Soo with Lt. Gen. **Todd Semonite**, commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Read the article at <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2019/08/25/75-m-soo-locks-nears-finish-line/2099517001/>.
- A September 18, 2019, *Grand Haven Tribune* report indicates that water levels could continue at record highs in 2020. **Keith Kompoltowicz**, chief of watershed hydrology at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, said that based on current conditions, the water levels on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron will begin 2020 higher than they did in 2019. And if we see a major amount of snowfall followed by another wet spring, then levels would tend to rise quickly again, he said. Read the article at https://www.grandhaventribune.com/news/local/lake-michigan-predicted-to-start-high-in/article_18c838be-18f7-53ba-b70e-eed017eb3162.html.
- An August 29, 2019, *Duluth News Tribune* article explained that Congressmen **Pete Stauber** (R-MN) and **Jack Bergman** (R-MI) were scheduled to board MV *Roger Blough* in Duluth and travel through the Soo Locks. **Stauber**, member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the trip would help him learn more about areas in which the Soo Locks could be improved.
- The US Coast Guard has announced the availability of the Merchant Mariner Medical Manual (COMDTINST M16721.48) as of September 4, 2019. The manual should assist medical practitioners, the maritime industry, individual mariners, and USCG personnel in evaluating an applicant's physical and medical status to meet the requirements of the Merchant Mariner Medical Certificate. For more information and links, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/09/10/updated-merchant-mariner-medical-manual-published/> or <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2019/Merchant%20Mariner%20Medical%20Manual%20COMDTINST%20M16721.48.pdf>.
- The USCG announced in the *Federal Register* the availability of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-16 Change 2, "Use of Electronic Charts and Publications in Lieu of Paper Charts, Maps and Publications," together with a Deregulatory Savings Analysis. This NVIC provides that U.S. vessels may access navigation publications electronically, through underway connectivity, to meet domestic carriage and Safety of Life at Sea certification requirements. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Comments may be submitted by docket number USCG-2019-0346 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before November 4, 2019. See the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/20/2019-20430/notice-of-availability-of-navigation-and-vessel-inspection-circular-01-16-change-2-use-of-electronic>.
- As of September 20, 2019, the US Coast Guard has updated its Subchapter M FAQ page to reflect current policy and guidance for implementation of 46 CFR Subchapter M. For more info, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/09/25/updated-subchapter-m-faqs-now-available/> or <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Traveling-Inspector-Staff-CG-5P-TI/Towing-Vessel-National-Center-of-Expertise/SubMFAQs/>.
- The US Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee and its working groups met on September 10-11, 2019, at Texas A&M Maritime Academy, Galveston, TX, to discuss matters relating to medical certification.
- Winners have been announced in the 2019 student art contest in which students in grades K-12 throughout the Americas were invited to create posters based on the theme "All Aboard! There's a Place for You in the Maritime Community." See the winning art at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/09/26/all-aboard-theres-a-place-for-you-in-the-maritime-community-student-art-program-contest-winners/>.
- Beaver Island Lighthouse (Beaver Head Light Station), the third oldest lighthouse on the Great Lakes, has new owners. The 46-foot cylindrical tower was built in 1858; a yellow brick keeper's dwelling was added in 1866; and a fog signal building was added in 1915. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1962, when it was replaced by a radio beacon.

Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Charlevoix Public Schools acquired the site from the US Coast Guard in 1975, and founded an alternative school there in 1978. Now Charlevoix County and Networks Northwest have entered into a partnership to buy the historic property. The new owners will work with the Beaver Island Historical Society and island residents to determine future uses of the 171-acre site.

- The City of Marquette, MI, has a new park – Lighthouse Park. In 2002, the Marquette Maritime Museum obtained a long-term historic structures lease with the US Coast Guard for the lighthouse. Bike and pedestrian access have been improved, and more parking is available. The Marquette Maritime Museum and Lighthouse are open through late October.
- The Port of Duluth-Superior is on pace this year to exceed its 2018 overall tonnage totals as well as its 5-year average. A 5 percent increase in overseas wheat exports is partially responsible. Shipments of iron ore and wind turbine components were also at near-record pace. “Cargo movement in the Port of Duluth-Superior remained brisk through August [2019],” said **Jayson Hron** of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. “Iron ore led the way, finishing the month more than 15 percent ahead of the 5-year average and within 2 percent of last season’s pace, which was a 23-season high. We also welcomed several shipments of wind energy cargo in August, continuing a near-record pace for that particular cargo.” See the *Duluth News Tribune* article at <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/business/transportation/4668684-Duluth-Superior-port-on-pace-for-banner-year>.
- Several recent articles in the *Monroe News* tell the story of the Port of Monroe’s struggles. Find them at <https://www.monroenews.com/news/20190825/troubled-waters-federal-policies-constricting-port-of-monroe>.

November 11, 2019 -
Remembrance Day (Canada)
ISMA Lays CMVNA Wreath at
Owen Sound Cenotaph
Veterans Day (United States)

November 13-15, 2019 -
CMAC Meetings, Ottawa, ON

November 26, 2019 -
William Hamilton Merritt Day (1829)
Welland Canal celebrations

December 6, 2019 -
Grunt Club 180th Annual Dinner, Montreal

December 31, 2019 -
St. Lawrence Seaway closes for season

January 30 - February 1, 2020 -
130th Annual ISMA Grand Lodge Convention
DoubleTree Hilton, Port Huron, MI



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



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

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