



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 30, Number 6  
November-December 2016

# ISMA LETTER

## 2017 Grand Lodge Convenes in Alpena

Make your plans!!

The 127th Annual Grand Lodge convention, hosted by Northeast Michigan Lodge #19, will be held February 2-5, 2017, at the Ramada Inn (formerly Sanctuary Inn), 1000 US 23 North, in Alpena, MI (989-356-2151).

We have secured a special Ship Masters' Convention room rate of \$99.00 plus tax for 2 people. This rate—which will be available until January 2, 2017, or until the group block is sold out—is for rooms along the poolside atrium. Make your hotel reservation now!

Registration for the full convention package is available for \$250.00 per person until January 15. After that, the cost increases to \$280.00 per person. (For those not able to attend the full convention, individual meals are available.)

Our Saturday night event theme is “Wild West,” so sharpen your cowboy shoes and get ready for a fun night.

For more information and to register, visit the Lodge #19 website, [www.ismanortheastmichiganlodge19.com](http://www.ismanortheastmichiganlodge19.com). Lodge #19 is also offering two freighter trip raffles, and information on the raffles is on the website. If you have questions, contact Grand 1st Vice President **Lee Barnhill** at [captslim@hotmail.com](mailto:captslim@hotmail.com), or Convention Chair **Pat Hart** at [captpat@charter.net](mailto:captpat@charter.net).

*See you in Alpena!*

## From the NELC Chairman

As 2016 draws to a close, I want to take the opportunity to update the membership on the progress made on multiple issues throughout the year. Our biggest focus this year, and the subject of two proposals at the Grand Lodge convention, were the light characteristics of Detroit Light D33 and the status of AIS ATONs on the Great Lakes System. Almost immediately after the Grand Lodge, I contacted the Canadian Coast Guard's navigation aid representative and outline our concerns about D33 and proposed a simple and cost effective way to remedy the situation. The CCG was very open to the feedback and ordered a new lantern to be placed on the light, adding a red sector to the previously dark sector of the light and the characteristic remained unchanged. I'm pleased to report that the light is now lit from all sides and in a way that will prevent confusion in the channel buoyage scheme.

The issue of AIS ATONs in the system is one of establishing an open communication channel with the US Coast Guard and helping to shape the waterways as these new aids are imple-

mented. As of this writing, no new AIS aids have been added to the system, but with winter approaching, there is the opportunity to experiment with virtual aids in place of physical aids. Virtual aids, as you recall are an AIS contact to coincide with the aids location but no real aid is on that station. Locations for these, on a trial basis, are proposed for the traffic buoys in the St Marys River, Duluth Harbor, Porte De Morts passage, and the Mackinac Bridge. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is important to keep an open mind towards new technologies as they are tools to the mariner, but not replacements for looking out the window. As NELC Chairman, I have and will oppose any removal of critical aids to navigation and will work with the USCG to ensure nothing is removed without a consideration of consequences first. As I previously mentioned, this will continue to be an ongoing issue and I depend on you, the mariners, to provide me with any issues and feedback to report to the USCG.

Another victory that has been some time in the making is that the USCG announced earlier this fall that they will be stationing three MH-60T Jayhawk helicopters in Traverse City, MI, beginning in April 2017. These airframes will be replacing the four MH-65 Dolphin helicopters currently on that air station. This means that Traverse City will be exclusively Jayhawks and Detroit will remain exclusively Dolphins. The Jayhawks bring with them increased flight range and cabin capacity for SAR operations ranging all the way up to Thunder Bay, ONT. As many of you recall, this was a proposal at the 2014 Grand Lodge and was also taken up by other industry groups such as Lake Carriers' Association.

Now that I have covered success stories from this past year, it's time to look ahead at issues we will need to address in 2017. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual Great Lakes Maritime Task Force meeting held in Toledo. Issues that were discussed included the proposed Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), the funding for a second Poe-sized Lock at the Soo, funding for a second heavy ice breaker for the Great Lakes, and federal funding levels for the six state-run maritime academies.

The VIDA has been proposed through the GLMTF and its members to create a national standard for ballast water to supersede the current patchwork of each state having their own regulatory standards, thus making it easier for operators and crews to comply. Amongst many provisions is one to exempt Great Lakes vessels that only operate in the system out to Anticosti Island from ballast water treatment. It is important, however, to note that



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## From the NELC Chairman, continued

those said vessels would still have to comply with the provisions laid out in the Vessel General Permit (VGP). Congress is overall in support of this act and its provisions; it's just a matter of how to get it passed.

Next up is funding to complete the second Poe-sized lock and getting a second heavy ice breaker on the Great Lakes. I'm lumping these two together because they both involve budget appropriations. The current climate in Washington is that of uncertainty, but it is worthy of note that President-elect Trump's victory came through the Rust Belt and he says he is a proponent of infrastructure spending and American shipyard jobs. Those two promises make this the opportunity to get money for both projects, and the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as the USCG are already pushing ahead with a strategy for both.

Finally, I will briefly mention the funding levels of the state maritime academies through the Maritime Administration. While the six state academies contribute roughly 70% of seagoing US officers, they are funded well below their authorized levels, creating a bigger burden on the students as well as a shortfall in asset funding. Currently, the largest expenditure that is being sought is money to design and build a new class of training vessel that can also be used by MARAD in times of emergency, such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Sandy as well as the earthquake in Haiti. The new vessel being proposed is called a National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMMV), and I encourage everyone to Google it and have a look at the renderings available.

I hope this has satisfied much of your curiosity and possibly brought questions to mind. As always, I welcome any member to contact me (preferably via email) with any and all questions you may have. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you at the Grand Lodge in Alpena where I can go into more depth on any of this.

Fraternally,  
**Scott Skrzypczak**, NELC Chairman

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## NEW MEMBERS

### Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional:	<b>Alex Zoiopoulos</b>	#12995
	<b>Gentre Vartan</b>	#12997
Associate:	<b>Richard L. Rundle</b>	#A-12996

### Grand Traverse Lodge #23:

Active Professional:	<b>Edward E. English II</b>	#12998
	<b>Leonard Mohr</b>	#12999
	<b>John Timothy Olson</b>	#13000



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

**ISMA Membership Applications**  
Available Online at  
[www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm](http://www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm)

## FINAL BELLS

Twin Sault Lodge #22 member **Ed Perry** (#11685) passed away on August 8, 2016.

Past Grand President (1998) and member of Twin Sault Lodge #22 **John A. (Jack) Cork** (#10811) passed away on October 8, 2016, at Sault Ste. Marie, MI, at the age of 81. **Jack** served in the US Coast Guard from 1953 to 1961. Most recently he was a captain with Soo Locks Boat Tours for 50 years. In addition to membership in ISMA, he was a founding member and past president of the Great Lakes Captains Association. He is survived by four children, eleven grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Services were held on October 14.



Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member **Robert (Bob) Jones** (#11454) passed away on October 17, 2016, at the age of 80. Chief Engineer **Bob** sailed the great Lakes for 49 years. Survivors include his wife **Marie**, a daughter, and a grandchild. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Long-time Port Huron Lodge #2 member **Michael T. (Mike) Patterson** (#10659) passed away from cancer on December 9, 2016, at Sault Ste. Marie, MI, where he lived and worked as captain for Great Lakes Towing Co. In addition to a long career with Great Lakes Towing in both Detroit and the Soo, **Mike** was a Vietnam veteran. He is survived by his wife **Angie**. As of this writing, funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Former member and 1976 president of Detroit Lodge #7, **Arthur B. McWood, Jr.** (#A-1454) passed away on November 22, 2016, at the age of 87.

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## Members in the News

A *Detroit Free Press* article published on September 25, 2016, included comments by **Ken Gerasimos** of Twin Ports Lodge #12 (previously Detroit Lodge #7) and **Frank Frisk** of Port Huron Lodge #2. "Life on 'floating islands': A way of life for generations, shipping is a \$3.8B industry in Michigan," can be found at [www.detroitlodge7.org/Detroit-Free-Press-20160925-PE011.pdf](http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Detroit-Free-Press-20160925-PE011.pdf).

The October 2016 issue of *American Maritime Officer* included a photo Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President **Harold Dusseau** aboard *Philip R. Clarke* in September.

A photo of Detroit Lodge #7 member **Paul Jagenow** and wife **Sarah** as guests for a trip aboard MV *Hon. James L. Oberstar* appeared in the Sunday Travel Pages of the *Detroit Free Press* on November 20, 2016. Also mentioned was the *Oberstar's* captain **Joe Ruch**, member of Port Huron Lodge #2.

Chicago Lodge #3 member and NWS meteorologist **Amy Seeley** was quoted in November 23, 2016, news about Thanksgiving travel. Read the article at <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2016/11/23/thanksgiving-travel-expected-heaviest-since-2007/>.

## From the Lodges

### Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19:

Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Lodge #19 member Capt. **Lee Barnhill** welcomed the USS *Detroit* (right) in Detroit, MI, for the commissioning ceremony on October 22, 2016. **Lee** towed two barges to Detroit and secured them to the River Walk in front of the Ren Cen for the USS *Detroit* to lay against. While in Detroit, **Lee** got together with Detroit Lodge #7 president Capt. **Scott Reynolds**, captain

of the Detroit fireboat *Curtis Randolph*. **Scott** brought lunch to the tug *Nancy Anne* (left), and received a tour of the tug; the following day, he gave a tour of the fireboat at its dock. **Lee** also visited the J. W. Westcott office. The weather was great for the official USS *Detroit* commissioning ceremony. Many government officials were on hand to speak including the governor of Michigan, both US Senators from Michigan, the mayors of Detroit and Windsor, and other US Navy officials.



### Huron Spirit, New Pilot Boat

The new pilot boat *Huron Spirit* was delivered from the Gladding-Hearn Shipyard at Somerset, MA, to Port Huron, MI, in November 2016. Port Huron Lodge #2 members **George Haynes** and **Steve Habermehl** were aboard for the 11-day delivery trip. See photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskNErW2v>.

Blessing of the *Huron Spirit* took place on December 4 at the Lakes Pilots Association dock in Port Huron.



## Available for ISMA Members

Detroit Lodge #7 secretary **Ray Oset** has secured a new local vendor for ISMA pennants – Embroidery and Much More in St. Clair Shores, MI. For details, see <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/ISMAflagAvailableforMembers.pdf>.

Detroit Lodge #7 has also made arrangements with Office Depot & Office Max for a discount program available to individual ISMA members as well as local lodges. The program offers discounts on products and services, including print services. For more information, see <http://www.isma.officedepot.help/>.

Thanks, Lodge #7!

## Canadian Maritime Law Association Scholarship

The Canadian Maritime Law Association (CMLA) has established a literary prize, the William Tetley Award. The 2017 award will take the form of a monetary prize of between C\$500.00 and \$1000.00 to be awarded to Canadian authors of high-quality articles, papers or publications on any topic of an educational nature pertinent to the marine industry. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2016. For specific information, visit the CMLA website at <http://www.cmla.org/tetleyaward.php>.

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- **New SLSMC director.** The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. announced November 3, 2016, that **Bronko Jazvac** has been appointed to the SLSMC Board of Directors as the representative for the steel and iron ore industries. He works for ArcelorMittal Dofasco in Hamilton.
- **Chamber of Marine Commerce.** Effective December 1, 2016, new president of the Chamber of Marine Commerce is **Bruce R. Burrows**. He brings almost 35 years of government relations, business development and consensus-building expertise to the position. Effective January 3, 2017, **Robert Turner** becomes Vice President, Operations, of the CMC. He has experience both aboard ships and in federal government regulatory development and policy-making. CMC completed a merger with the Canadian Shipowners Association in September.
- **Towing Safety Advisory Committee.** The TSAC held its fall meeting in Washington, DC, on October 26-27, 2016. Discussion centered on implementation of the Subchapter M regulations.
- **EPA Grants for GLRI Projects.** On November 9, 2016,

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## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

the US EPA issued a request for applications soliciting proposals for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants to fund new projects to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Up to \$16 million will be available. Applications are due January 13, 2017.

- **Area Maritime Security Committee Vacancies.** On December 5, 2016, the US Coast Guard issued a notice soliciting for membership on the Area Maritime Security Committee, Eastern Great Lakes, and its four regional subcommittees. The AMSC assists the Captain of the Port, Buffalo, in developing, reviewing and updating the Area Maritime Security Plan for their area of responsibility. Requests for membership must be submitted by January 4, 2017. For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/05/2016-29107/area-maritime-security-advisory-committee-amsc-eastern-great-lakes-and-regional-sub-committee>.
- **St. Lawrence Water Strategy.** On December 8, 2016, a new water control strategy, Plan 2014, was signed by the Canadian and US governments as a result of extensive and collaborative consultations by the International Joint commission. It will allow for more natural variation in water levels in the upper portion of the St. Lawrence River. For more information, see <http://www.ijc.org/en/Plan2014/Summary>.

### February 2-5, 2017 -

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention  
Ramada 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

### February 14-15, 2017 -

Great Lakes Waterways Conference,  
Cleveland, OH



## From the Grand Secretary-Treasurer

Traveling between a summer and a winter home makes it difficult to complete Grand Secretary-Treasurer's duties in a timely manner. Therefore, I am asking whether anyone is interested in taking the Grand Secretary-Treasurer position in 2017 following the upcoming Convention. A thorough description of the job requirements is in the ISMA Constitution. If you are interested, please contact me so that we can discuss it. Of course, I will help with transition and transfer of files and records during summer 2017. If no one comes forward, I will consider continuing as Grand Secretary-Treasurer for one more year, but will not accept nomination at the 2018 Convention.



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

## Boat Trip Raffles

Visit [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com) for the latest news about ISMA boat trip raffles.



## 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.

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