



Volume 35, Number 6
November-December 2021

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMALLETTER

2022 Grand Lodge Convention



The 2022 Convention runs from Thursday morning, January 27, through Saturday evening, January 29, 2022. (The delegate caucus will be Wednesday evening, January 26, and there will be a farewell breakfast on Sunday, January 30.) Accommodations for the convention are at the DoubleTree by Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 1111 Lakeside Ave E.

The earlybird full registration rate of \$300 per person is only good until December 15; after that date registration for the full convention is \$350 per person.

A convention mailing went out to ISMA members, but you can also find all the information online, including a link to hotel reservations (\$109/night, plus taxes) at www.ismacleveland2022.com.



FROM THE NELC

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
Passed, Signed into Law

By Scott Skrzypczak, NELC Chairman

In mid-November 2021, President **Biden** signed into law the \$1.7 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The new law invests funds over a period of five years into roads, bridges, expanded broadband internet capacity, electric vehicle charging networks, and a multitude of marine infrastructure projects.

While the law does not explicitly contain funding for the new lock in Sault Ste Marie, it does increase funding to USACE's workplan budget. This, in turn, frees up funding within USACE that could be put towards that project. Port infrastructure grants are also increased under this law, from \$280 million per year to \$600 million per year.

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Finally, the law establishes the "Made-In-America Office" within the White House to source as much material as possible for these projects from U.S. suppliers. This translates into the possibility for more iron ore transportation to make the steel required, more limestone for roads, etc. Among other tasks, the office is to encourage the use of Jones Act vessels as much as is practicable. President Biden has, so far, been the most pro-Jones Act executive in living memory, having mentioned it by name in his first week in office. These funding victories are not the result of any one legislator but rather the result of the entire Great Lakes caucus working together for the region.

Next up is the Build Back Better Bill (Reconciliation Bill), which has passed the House and is in the Senate. This current bill contains the funding for a new heavy icebreaker for the Great Lakes, as well as further increased funding for port infrastructure grants (up to \$800 million per year).

The Next AIS

By Scott Skrzypczak, NELC Chairman

Recently I was able to attend the annual Navtech Conference, held in Tampa in early December. The conference serves as a briefing of new marine technologies being developed as well as advances in existing technologies. Vessel owners and operators, government organizations, and pilots are usually in attendance to learn and discuss issues in marine technology.

This year, a robust discussion regarding VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) was held. In short, VDES is the next iteration of the Automated Identification System (AIS) which incorporates satellites to relay VHF messages globally. As many of you know, AIS currently works by vessels communicating directly with one another through VHF radio signals in a "line of sight" communication range. This system is extremely vulnerable to hacking and "spoofing" (where a false location of a real vessel is broadcast to surrounding users).

In addition to location services, AIS also carries messages such as navigation warnings or pilot

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From the NELC, continued

boarding times, similar to cellphone text messages. VDES has the potential to reroute these messages from AIS to a new system, thereby relieving the burden the AIS transponder is carrying. Other items the new system can handle would include Electronic Aids to Navigation (ATONs) and transmit-only AIS units. This is a critical improvement over the current system because VDES would have methods developed in the technology to essentially encrypt the data being transmitted, thereby preventing the possibility of spoofing locations of ATONs or vessels receiving false messages.

Cyber security is the new high priority across the maritime world, as the bridge is increasingly digitized. The GNSS system, which includes GPS, is still very vulnerable to entities with bad intent, and VDES is only one step in the direction of building a bulwark against cyber-attacks. Members can find more information at <https://www.iala-aism.org/technical/connectivity/vdes-vhf-data-exchange-system/>.

FROM THE LODGES

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

In October 2021, Lodge #7 member **Michael Droogleever** was promoted to US Marine Corps major. An article in the *St. Clair Shores Sentinel* detailed that he has twice served in Afghanistan and performed duties at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. He serves on the St. Clair Shores Waterfront Environmental Committee.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

Capt. **Phil Visser** retired on October 29, 2021, after 30 years of teaching Marine Navigation at Georgian College-Owen Sound campus, and 13 years with ULS – sailing the Great Lakes, East Coast, and the Caribbean.

Thunder Bay Lodge No. 16:

Captain **Sarah Lewis** will be taking over the duties of Secretary-Treasurer of ISMA. Thunder Bay Lodge #16. **Sarah** is a graduate of Georgian College and recent ISMA Scholarship recipient. After 16 years on the Lakes, she has qualified for her Master's Certification and is the Captain of the Tug *Point Valour* in the Port of Thunder Bay.

After 35 years at the helm of Lodge #16, **Gene Onchulenko** has retired as Secretary-Treasurer, but will remain as an Associate Member. Congratulations on a job well-done!

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

Final Bells

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member Capt. **Laurie Hatfield** (#10598) passed away on October 22, 2021. He sailed the Great Lakes, East Coast, and Canadian Arctic with Shell Tankers, Soconav Tankers, and Upper Lakes Shipping. He worked as a marine superintendent with Shell, and a professor at Georgian College, teaching various courses, including Tanker Safety. **Laurie** was the Divisional Secretary for the Canadian Company of Master Mariners for many years, a supporter of the Missions to Seamen, and a lifelong supporter of the Brigantines *Playfair* and *Pathfinder*. Funeral details will be announced at a later date.

Twin Ports Lodge #12 member and past lodge president **Thomas H. "Tom" Mackay** (#10932) passed away unexpectedly on November 4, 2021, at the age of 77. A Duluth native, **Tom** grew up on Park Point. He served in the US Navy from 1962-1966. After military service, he held several positions in Duluth prior to becoming a captain for the Vista Fleet from 1974 to 2006. **Tom** is survived by his wife **Elizabeth** and many other relatives. At his request, no services were held.



Detroit Lodge #7 member **Gary H. Domanski** (#12322) passed away on November 4, 2021, at the age of 78. In addition to being a member of Lodge #7, he was an educator, mentor, business owner, past commodore of North Star Sail club, and past chairman of Oxford Twp. Parks and Recreation. **Gary** is survived by his wife of 55 years **Lana**. A funeral service was held on November 7 in Sterling Heights, MI.

Detroit Lodge #7 member and past Lodge President **John S. "Jack" Frost** (#10977) passed away on November 15, 2021, at the age of 69, following a short illness. **Jack** served in the US Air Force in NC, FL, Turkey, and ND. In 1976, **Jack** returned to Detroit, where he had grown up, and took a position with the US Army Corps of Engineers. His sailing career started as a deckhand on the tug *Forney*, deckhand and deck machine operator on the derrick *Huron*, followed by a position as oiler on the derrick *Haines*. In 1989 he became captain of the survey vessel *North Central*. A Master Diver, **Jack** was often at the Soo Locks in the winter where his skills were put to work inspecting the lock gates. He worked seven disasters with the Corps, and performed duties in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003 and 2004. He retired as Senior Cost Estimator in 2013. After retiring from the Corps, he was hired by FEMA to work as a cost estimator during several national disasters. **Jack** maintained his 200-ton license by working aboard the US Naval Sea Cadet training vessel *Grayfox*; he also skippered the Diamond Jack River Cruises vessel *Diamond Belle*. Over the years, he held several positions with Detroit Lodge #7, and in 2012, he was honored with the Lewis Ludington Award. **Jack** is survived by his wife **Anita**, as well as his mother, sisters, and brothers. A funeral service was held on November 21, in Allen Park, MI.



Lost Mariners Remembrance

by Paul Jagenow

The Lost Mariners Remembrance was held at Detroit's Dossin Museum on November 10, 2021. Several Detroit Lodge No. 7 members were active participants. The evening began with a Lantern Vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor in the recently renovated plaza adjacent to the museum. A musical program presented by Great Lakes balladeer **Lee Murdock** followed in the museum. Then came the wreath-laying ceremony. Lodge 7 members **Luke Clyburn** (Grand Lodge 2nd VP), **Mike Nall**, and **Chris Stevens** served in the Honor Guard, with captains **Clyburn** and **Stevens** handing flowers in honor of departed mariners to the Coast Guard Response Boat 45632. The vessel carried the flowers, provided by Lodge No. 7, to midstream where they were placed in the waters of the Detroit River. Lodge No. 7 Secretary-Treasurer **Ray Oset**, served as bugler, playing *Taps* and *Last Post* salutes. Lodge No.7 member **Bill Griffiore** piloted the mailboat *J. W. Westcott II* in the honor flotilla. Member **Kathleen McGraw** served as Necrologist, reading names of all the vessels lost in storms of 1871. Keynote speaker **Joel Stone** presented the program "1871 – A Typically Terrible Year," with images and stories of vessels and crews lost during that fateful year.



Bugler Ray Oset and Honor Guard participants Luke Clyburn, Mike Nall, and Chris Stevens.



Above: Honor Guard. Below: Bell Ringers.



Members in the News

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's resident historian and Detroit Lodge No. 7 member, **Wayne Sapulski**, was interviewed by **Helen Brohl** of the American Shoreline Podcast Network for a segment titled, "The Silent Watchkeepers – Lighthouses of the Great Lakes/North Coast Chronicles." The segment, which aired on November 26, 2021, can be found at <https://www.coastalnewstoday.com/podcasts/the-silent-watchkeepers-lighthouses-of-the-great-lakes-north-coast-chronicles>. **Helen** is the sister of PGP and Cleveland Lodge #4 member Capt. **Russ Brohl**.

Annual Great Lakes Memorial Service Mariners' Church of Detroit

by Paul Jagenow

The annual Great Lakes Memorial Service was held at Mariners' Church in Detroit on Sunday, November 14, 2021. ISMA members in attendance included: **Roger Hewlett** and Grand President **Joe Ruch** of Port Huron Lodge No. 2; **Ray Oset**, **Patrick Beard**, **Scott Reynolds**, Grand 2nd VP **Luke Clyburn**, Grand Secy-Treas **Brian Eickel**, **Chris Stevens**, **Mike Nall**, **Ken Suddick**, and **Paul Jagenow** of Detroit Lodge No. 7; and **RADM Jerry Achenbach** of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23. Captains **Hewlett**, **Oset**, **Beard**, **Reynolds**, **Clyburn**, **Eickel**, **Stevens**, **Nall**, and **Suddick** served as official bell ringers and in the honor guard on the altar. The *Octorara* bell was rung nine times for mariners lost on waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. A final toll for military personnel was rung by LTC **Scott Katalenich**, Detroit District Commander, USACE. Lodge No. 7 members in official capacities at Mariners' Church included Rector **Jeffrey Hubbard**, Deacon **Frank Bateman**, Acolyte **Joe Mastripolito**, and Sexton **Kathy McGraw**.

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GLMTF Names Sen. Gary Peters 2021 Legislator of the Year

On November 18, 2021, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) named US Senator **Gary Peters** (D-MI) 2021 Legislator of the Year. The award recognizes the tremendous amount of work that **Peters** has performed toward protecting and advancing the Great Lakes Navigation System. He continues to be instrumental in efficiently funding the construction of a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He understands the economic benefits of Great Lakes shipping and the need to make our ports competitive and reliable. To that end, he co-sponsored the "Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act," which would make ice-breaking a higher priority for the US Coast Guard, and ensured that \$350 million was included in the pending House Reconciliation Bill for another heavy Great Lakes icebreaker. **Peters** was a strong advocate for the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, and late in 2020, he secured a bipartisan provision that was signed into law as part of the year-

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2021 Legislator of the Year, continued

end funding bill to provide the first increase in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GRLI) funding since the program was established. In June 2021, **Peters** introduced the “CADETS Act” in June 2021. The bill would expand the age eligibility for the Student Incentive Payment (SIP), which provides financial assistance to cadets who attend one of the six State Maritime Academies – including Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, MI. In return for a commitment to serve in the US Navy Reserve upon graduation, cadets could receive up to \$32,000 in incentive payments over four years to help offset the cost of tuition, uniforms, books, and living costs.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- The MacArthur Lock will be closed to marine traffic on December 15, 2021, and remain closed until April 30, 2022, to perform critical maintenance. The Poe Lock will remain open until 2359 January 15, 2022, or until commercial traffic ceases, whichever occurs first.
- In the third year of a five-year pilot program, the Welland Canal will once again remain open until noon, January 7, 2022. The Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the Seaway closes at noon, December 31, 2021. Of course, those dates could change due to unanticipated conditions.
- The US Coast Guard plans to cover the Twin Ports for ice-breaking activity by rotating cutters capable of breaking ice into Duluth-Superior in the weeks prior to season’s end January 15, 2022, and again before the Soo Locks reopen on March 25.
- On December 3, 2021, several state senators announced two bills intended to boost Michigan’s maritime industry and ensure it remains competitive with other states. MI Senate bills 744 and 746 would create a grant assistance program for port infrastructure projects and require each port to develop a 5-year environmental impact plan. The MI House has a similar bill (HB 5291) under consideration.
- In place of the annual Marine Club Luncheon in Toronto, the Chamber of Marine Commerce is hosting a virtual Marine Club Luncheon Speaking Series in 2022. The series is scheduled for January 20, 27, February 3, and 10. For more information, see <https://www.meetview.com/cmc20012022/>.
- The Canadian Coast Guard has purchased a light icebreaker for Great Lakes operation. The vessel is currently in Turkmenistan. Once its conversion is complete, the boat will be employed in icebreaking duties and tending navigational buoys in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and Atlantic regions.
- “Great Lakes Simulator,” a video game in which players simulate operating lake freighters around the Great Lakes, was set to launch on December 15, 2021. More information can be found at https://store.steampowered.com/app/1398280/Great_Lakes_Simulator/.
- On December 7, 2021, MV *St. Clair*, which was gutted by fire on February 16, 2019, left Toledo under tow, headed for scrapping at Port Colborne.

GLMTF 2021 Annual Report

On December 9, 2021, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) released their 2021 Annual Report. Find it at <https://glmtf.org/annual-reports/>. The report include significant accomplishments over the past few years. ISMA is a GLMTF member.



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

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