

Constitution

And

By-Laws Of The
Grand Lodge And The

By-Laws

Governing

Member Lodges

Including The

Rules of Order

Revised 2/18/2011

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CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The Association shall be known as the International Ship Masters' Association.

SEAL

Sec. 2. The seal of the Grand Lodge shall be a circle within a ring. The outer edge of the ring shall be a series of dots, and on this ring there shall appear the words "Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association." Within the circle shall be a lake steam vessel. Above the steamer there shall appear the word "organized," and below the steamer shall appear the words "Jan. 8, 1891" and "Buffalo. N.Y." All instruments issued under the authority of the Grand Lodge shall be authenticated by this seal. The seal shall remain in the custody of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

PURPOSE

Sec. 3. The purpose of the Association shall be, to unite all shipmasters and licensed merchant marine officers of good moral character; to elevate the character of its members; and to utilize their professional experience to promote safety on the Great Lakes and any navigable waters.

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 4. The Membership of the Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association shall consist of the elected and appointed officers, one delegate from each Member Lodge and Past Grand Presidents.

Sec. 5. The Grand Lodge President, Grand First Vice President, Grand Second Vice President, each delegate, and each alternate delegate shall be an Active member in good standing with a Member Lodge. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer and the Appointed Grand Officers shall be either an Active or Associate member in good standing with a Member Lodge. Membership and office in the Grand Lodge shall cease with loss of membership in a Member Lodge.

VOTING RIGHTS

Sec. 6. An elected delegate or alternate delegate from each Member Lodge in good standing shall have, in any proceeding of the Grand Lodge, one vote on all questions including the election of each officer. There are no proxy votes.

Sec. 7. No officer of the Grand Lodge or Past Grand President shall be entitled to a vote, unless he or she is an elected delegate of a Member Lodge; however, in the case of a tie vote, the current Grand President shall cast the deciding vote.

VOTING

Sec. 8. All voting, including the election of the Grand Lodge Officers, shall be by

a roll call vote. In all voting, a simple majority of votes cast yea or nay shall govern, unless otherwise provided herein. Voting by show of hands is permitted with the consent of a majority of the delegates.

QUORUM

Sec. 9. Elected delegates or their alternates representing three-fifths of the Member Lodges in good standing shall, with an elected Grand Lodge officer, constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

OFFICERS

Sec. 10. The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be as follows:

Grand President,
Grand First Vice-President,
Grand Second Vice-President,
Grand Secretary-Treasurer,
Grand Chaplain,
Grand Marshal,
Grand Warden,
Grand Sentinel.

Sec. 11. The Grand President, Grand First Vice-President, Grand Second Vice-President and Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected annually and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are installed.

Sec. 12. All other officers shall be appointed by the incoming Grand President. The appointed officers shall hold retrospective offices until their successors are installed.

Sec. 13. Should a vacancy occur in any of the Grand Lodge Offices, the Grand President shall appoint a qualified member to fill the vacancy until the next regular election and installation. If there is a vacancy in the office of Grand Secretary-Treasurer, the Grand President shall become the custodian of all the books, monies, papers and documents, of such office until the vacancy is filled by his appointee who shall thereafter take control of the books, monies, papers and documents. Vacancies in office shall be filled as soon after they occur as is practicable.

MEETINGS

Sec. 14. The Grand Lodge shall convene each year between January 15 and April 1, at such time and place as may be determined by a vote of the Grand Lodge at its previous session and shall convene daily until all of its business is transacted. Three of the elected officers, acting as a committee, may change the place of meeting in case of emergency.

Sec. 15. In an emergency, a special meeting of the Grand Lodge may be called by the Grand President or the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, at such time and place as they may determine. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall notify by mail, at least ten days prior to the meeting date, all Member lodges and Grand Lodge officers of the date and place of any emergency meeting.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

Sec. 16. The election of officers in order of rank shall be under "New Business" with installation following thereafter.

POWERS

Sec. 17. The Grand Lodge shall be supreme in all matters pertaining to its own organization and work therein. It shall prepare, have sovereignty over and furnish to all Member lodges a uniform ritual governing the activities of the Association. It shall have the power to elect its own officers, to organize Member Lodges and grant them charters and revoke charters as hereinafter specified. It may make and amend its Constitution and By-Laws and the By-Laws Governing Member Lodges.

It has original and exclusive jurisdiction over all Member Lodges now existing or which may hereafter be organized. It possesses the exclusive right and power of reviewing and deciding all appeals from Member Lodges and redressing grievances arising in the Association.

It shall have the power to regulate the means of its own support and to levy assessments on the Member Lodges as in its judgment it shall determine. It shall have the power to determine the amount of compensation for its office that are entitled to receive compensation.

It shall have the power to issue edicts, discipline Member Lodges in all cases where deemed necessary, and to perform all other acts subject to the provisions of its Constitution and By-Laws.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

GRAND PRESIDENT

Sec. 18. The Grand President shall preside at all meetings of the Grand Lodge and enforce, at all times, the laws thereof. During the interval between the meetings, he shall exercise all the executive powers of the Grand Lodge. He shall not disburse funds in excess of the amounts appropriated by the Grand Lodge. His decisions shall be in full force until approved or disapproved by the Grand Lodge.

He has the power to require the attendance of and information from Grand Officers and committees respecting their office and duties. He has the power to convene any Member Lodge of the Association, and in person or by deputy to preside over the meeting. He may inspect their proceedings, and require their

conformity to the established rules of the Association. The Grand President shall have the power to appoint committees not otherwise provided for herein.

The Grand President, with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer or by appointed deputy, has the power to organize a Member Lodge according to the Constitution and By-laws and the By-Laws Governing Member Lodges. He has the power to command every Grand Officer and may call on any of them for advice and assistance on business related to the Association. He shall see that the bond of office is furnished within fifteen days after the Grand Lodge meeting, and he shall be the custodian.

He shall have power to discipline Member lodges, and to evocate their charters for refusing to obey the Constitution and By-Laws and the By-Laws Governing Member Lodges of the Association.

He shall have authority to visit Member Lodges, when he deems such a visit advisable for the good of the Association and, in case of emergency, appoint a deputy with full power to act in his stead when he is unable to give attention to this duty. The expense thereby incurred shall be paid by the Grand Lodge, unless the visit is on the invitation of the Member Lodge. He shall institute the annual password and communicate the same to Member lodges. the Grand. He shall pass upon the By-Laws of Member Lodges and see that they conform with the laws of the Association. He, with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, shall constitute a standing committee in case of emergency, of which the Grand President shall be chairman.

He shall present a written report at each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. This report shall contain a summary of all his official acts and decisions during his term of office; the general condition of the Grand Lodge and of the Association and a report on any and all acts by members of this Association that are worthy of mention or commendation. He may recommend any legislation he deems to be for the good of the Association. He shall permit no one but members of the Grand Lodge to have the privilege of the floor at closed sessions of the Grand Lodge except by unanimous consent of the delegates.

The Grand President or the Grand Lodge shall have the authority to employ an expert accountant or accounting firm to examine the books, records and accounts of the Grand Lodge, any officer or any committee.

GRAND FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Sec. 19. It shall be the duties of the Grand First Vice-president to assist the Grand President at the Grand Lodge meetings and in his absence to preside. In case of the death or disability of the Grand President, he shall assume all the duties and have the Power of that office, and preside at the next meeting of the Grand edge.

GRAND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Sec. 20. It shall be the duty of the Grand Second Vice-President to assist the

Grand President, Grand First Vice-President, and in the event of the death, absence, or disability of the first two Grand Officers, he shall preside at the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

GRAND SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sec. 21. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer to be present and to keep a full and true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Grand Lodge, and supervise the publication thereof under the instructions given by the Grand Lodge. He shall collect all monies due the Grand Lodge, and keep an accurate record of all funds.

He shall receive and transmit all the correspondence of the Grand Lodge as directed by the Grand President and have charge of the seal of Grand Lodge and affix same to all official documents emanating from his office.

He shall have printed a necessary number of copies of the Grand Lodge proceedings as soon after the Grand Lodge meeting as is possible; and forward one copy to each of the Member Lodges, one to each Grand Lodge officer and one to each Past Grand President.

He shall furnish Member Lodges with the necessary forms so they may make proper returns to the Grand Lodge and furnish such instructions as the laws and regulations of this Association requires.

He shall sign, all orders and checks for the payment of proper claims.

When requested by the Grand President, he shall provide the Grand President with the books and documents relating to his office. If required by the Grand Lodge or Grand President, he shall bring with him such books and documents to any committee which may be appointed to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge.

He shall make a report, on the first of each month, to the Grand President, showing the amount of funds in his charge at the end of the previous month, the amount of funds received during the month, the amount of funds paid at out during the month, and the balance of funds at the end of the month.

He shall submit a written report at each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. This report shall contain a detailed statement of all receipts and disbursements during the previous fiscal year, a statement regarding the existing condition of funds and the finances of the Grand Lodge, the name of each Member Lodge and the number of its members, the number initiated, died, suspended or expelled in each, the name of each member having died, the date of their decease, and the financial condition of the Association in general.

He shall make any written supplemental report that may be necessary to explain his official acts during the time that has elapsed since the closing of his books

and the opening of the Grand Lodge meeting; and submit a detailed report, with all correspondence pertaining thereto, of any claims that were not adjusted.

He shall have on hand a sample set of records for Member Lodges. He shall send a copy of each to the Secretary of each Member Lodge.

He shall provide an agenda for Grand Lodge meetings, clearly showing those items which the Grand Lodge must approve and vote on to maintain compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

GRAND CHAPLAIN, MARSHAL, WARDEN AND SENTINEL

Sec. 22. The duties of the Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Warden and Grand Sentinel shall be as provided for by the ritual of the Association.

GENERAL FUND

Sec. 23. The General Fund shall be all monies paid into the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise specified. This fund shall pay the operating expenses of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

DEPOSIT OF FUNDS

Sec. 24. All funds of the Grand Lodge shall be deposited in a financial institution to be designated by the Grand Lodge, or a committee comprised of the Grand President and Grand Secretary-Treasurer. All accounts shall be in the name of the "Grand Lodge, International Ship Masters' Association."

ACTIVE MEMBER

Sec. 25. An Active member shall be a member who holds, or has held, a Merchant marine officer's license recognized by the government of either the United States or Canada.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Sec. 26. An Associate member shall be a member interested in the marine industry.

ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBER

Sec. 27. An Active Retired member shall be an Active member who holds or has held a merchant officer's marine license and is officially retired and not working full time in the maritime industry.

HONORARY MEMBER

Sec, 28. An Honorary member is a person recognized for his contribution and achievement in the marine industry. The Grand Lodge is allowed to elect Honorary members to the Member Lodges without any payment to the Grand Lodge for initiation or annual dues.

CADET MEMBER

Sec. 29. A Cadet member shall be a member who is enrolled in any maritime

academy. A Cadet member shall have no voting rights in the Grand Lodge, nor shall the Cadet member be able to hold any elected office in the Grand Lodge.

BY-LAWS AND GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Sec. 1. The Grand President, upon ascertaining that a quorum is present for any meeting, shall see that Grand Lodge Officers are in their proper stations, fill vacancies (pro tempore) and open the Grand Lodge in grand form.

Sec. 2. The Grand President, after opening the Grand Lodge, shall appoint special committees from members of the Grand Lodge. These special committees are to be made up of three members of the Grand Lodge, with one named as chairman. Said committees are to serve during the current meeting only, and shall be as follows:

Committee on Jurisprudence; Committee on Credentials; and Committee on Budget. The Grand President shall appoint other special committees as he deems necessary.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Sec. 3. The business of the Grand Lodge shall be disposed of as follows:

1. Open in due form.
2. Appoint special committees.
3. Report of Credential Committee.
4. Call the roll, officers and delegates.
5. Read minutes, previous minutes if desired.
6. Grand President's address and report.
7. Grand Secretary-Treasurer's address and report, and list of deceased members, with respectful moment of silence.
8. Report of standing committees.
9. Report of special committees.
10. Communications and bills.
11. Unfinished business.
12. New business.
13. Election and installation of officers.
14. Good of the Order.
15. Close of the Grand Lodge in grand form.

Sec. 3(a). Copies of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer's report may be provided to all officers and delegates and may replace his oral report. All questions on the report may be presented under the Good of the Order.

DUTIES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Sec. 4. Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall act as advisory counsel to the Grand President and the Grand Lodge on all matters relating to the Constitution. Laws and Rules of Order, and also questions of law and practice. The committee shall make a report on each and every question so

submitted, setting forth the grounds for its conclusions and recommendations. Each question so reported shall be separately acted upon by the Grand Lodge, whose decision shall be final unless otherwise provided herein.

In like manner, all decisions of the Grand President shall be considered and reported for approval or disapproval by the Grand Lodge, whose action alone shall give the same binding force.

All proposed amendments to the Constitution, Laws and Rules of Order, all resolutions relative to the betterment of conditions of the Grand Lodge and all proposals relative to the betterment of conditions of our profession shall be submitted and reported for final action.

It shall be proper for this committee in reporting alterations. proposed amendments, resolutions or proposals, to recommend changes in the wording that will better serve the purpose intended therein; however, every alteration or amendment shall be voted on by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge may, by motion, retain the services and continue any power of this committee until the convening of the next regular Grand Lodge meeting.

Sec. 4(a). The Committee on Credentials. The Committee on Credentials shall collect delegates' credentials, examine same, and with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, ascertain whether each delegate and his Member Lodge are in good standing. This Committee shall make its report under the 3rd Order of Business. The report shall list any question with regard to the right of any member to sit as a member of the Grand Lodge, a Grand Lodge Officer, a Delegate or as a Past Grand President. Any question on credentials shall be immediately acted upon by a vote of accredited delegates.

Sec. 4(b). Committee on Budget. The Committee on Budget shall estimate and recommend to the Grand Lodge a budget for the ensuing year, by using Sec. 17 of the By-laws and any other assistance as may be necessary to give an accurate estimate of the budget. The committee report shall contain recommendations for limiting or expanding expenses or compensation, and recommendations for any funds that maybe required for the Good of Order. The recommended annual assessment shall be approved by separate vote of the Grand Lodge subsequent to a vote on the recommended budget.

NAVIGATION, ENGINEERING AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Sec.5. The Grand President shall name and appoint a Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee each year at the opening of the Good of the Order. The committee shall operate as a standing committee for the entire year.

The committee shall consist of Active members. The committee shall have one member named as chairman and two named as vice-chairmen. Rejection of any appointee to this committee may be made by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at the Grand Lodge meeting. The committee shall have the full authority of

powers enumerated in the constitution and in addition shall have the following duties and powers:

- (1) To take effective and prompt action on matters that pertain to the marine profession, and the betterment of our profession and safety of all mariners.
- (2) To take any action as directed by the Grand Lodge.
- (3) To notify promptly the Grand President and all members of the Committee of any proposed actions to be taken and of the results.
- (4) To render bills upon the Grand Secretary-Treasurer for itemized expenses of the committee.
- (5) To issue and make an annual report to the Grand Lodge.
- (6) To give the Budget Committee an estimate of its expenses for the following year.
- (7) Should any member of the committee not be a member of Grand Lodge, he may, nevertheless, be called upon by the Grand Lodge to give the committee report or to be questioned by the Grand Lodge on committee affairs.

GRAND LODGE EXPENSE

Sec. 6. The elected Grand Lodge Officers who are in actual attendance at the meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be reimbursed hotel and travel expenses not to exceed \$800.00. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed from the location of the Member Lodge to which the officer belongs. Hotel expenses shall be paid for the time the Grand Lodge is in session. Hotel and travel expenses of the chairman of any standing committee shall be paid in the same manner but shall be included as a committee expense. Elected Grand Lodge Officers shall present their bills as soon as possible to the Budget Committee. Expense payments shall be paid at the close of the Grand Lodge meeting, unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the delegates. These expenses shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

QUORUM CALL

Sec. 7. The Grand President shall determine at each session of the annual meeting that a quorum is present. Should a quorum not be present, the Grand President shall cease business of the Lodge and put out a call for the missing members. Any delegate may request a quorum count during a closed session of the Grand Lodge.

TRAVELING EXPENSES

Sec. 8. Grand Lodge Officers traveling on official Lodge business shall present their expenses to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer for action at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

COMPENSATION OF GRAND SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sec. 9. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall be paid compensation for his services. The compensation shall be determined annually by a vote of the Grand Lodge. Any additional expense of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer for assistance in the keeping or transcribing of the minutes shall be considered to be an expense of the Grand Lodge unless otherwise voted by the delegates.

CLOSE OF BOOKS

Sec. 10. The books of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall be closed at the end of the calendar year and he shall prepare a complete financial report. Sufficient copies of all reports shall be presented to all members of the Grand Lodge at its opening. An audit may be made by a committee selected by the Grand President.

The Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare a simple financial report to be sent to each Member Lodge within the first week of each year. This report shall include a list of general funds, assets, income and expenses.

TURNING OVER BOOKS, MONEY, ETC.

Sec. 11. All officers in possession of monies, books, records or other property of the Grand Lodge shall deliver the property to their successors in office at the close of their term of office or whenever so ordered by the Grand Lodge or Grand President.

RESOLUTIONS

Sec. 12. All resolutions emanating from the Member Lodges relative to the betterment of conditions of the Grand Lodge shall be submitted, with only one issue submitted per page, electronically and shall be submitted in writing on lodge letterhead paper signed by the lodge president, secretary or Grand Lodge delegate, with the lodge seal affixed thereto, to the Grand Lodge secretary-Treasurer, at least (3) three weeks in advance of the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. They shall also be submitted electronically (no signature or seal required) or mailed to each member lodge secretary at least (3) three weeks in advance of the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge may also submit proposed resolutions in writing and electronically as specified above. All electronic submissions shall require electronic acknowledgement of receipt. The Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer shall cause the proposed resolutions to be posted on the ISMA website as soon as is practicable. All resolutions shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. After the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the Grand Lodge may act on the resolutions.

PROPOSALS

Sec. 13. All proposals emanating from the Member Lodges relative to the betterment of conditions of our profession shall be in writing on lodge letterhead paper only, and one issue shall be submitted per page. Proposals shall be signed by the Lodge president, Secretary, or Grand Lodge delegate with the lodge seal affixed thereto. All proposals shall be submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence. After the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the Grand Lodge may act on such Proposals. If time before the next Grand Lodge meeting permits, member lodges are encouraged to, either electronically or by mail, send copies of proposed Proposals to each member lodge Secretary. If practicable, the Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer shall cause the proposed Proposal to be posted on the ISMA website.

MOTIONS

Sec. 14. All motions shall be accurately recorded by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. If at all possible, extensive motions should be presented in writing by the mover.

AMENDMENTS

Sec. 15. The Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations, and By-Laws Governing Member Lodges may be amended by additions or deletions in the following manner only. All amendments emanating from a Member Lodge relative to the Constitution and the By-laws shall be submitted electronically, and shall be submitted in writing on lodge letterhead paper, signed by the lodge president, secretary or Grand Lodge delegate, with lodge seal affixed thereto, to the Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer at least (3) weeks in advance of the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. They shall also be submitted electronically or by mail to each member lodge secretary at least (3) three weeks in advance of the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge may also submit proposed amendments in writing and electronically as specified above. All electronic summations shall require electronic acknowledgement of receipt. The Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer shall cause the proposed Amendments to be posted on the Grand Lodge website as soon as practicable. All such amendments shall be referred to the committee on Jurisprudence which shall report on each amendment. A two-thirds majority of votes cast yea or nay (of the member lodges in good standing and present at the meeting) shall be required for the passage and adoption of the amendment. An abstention does not count as a vote and does not count in the two-thirds majority. Such passage shall have immediate effect and the amendment shall become part of the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations or By-Laws Governing Member lodges. All Action regarding passage of such amendments shall be reported in the Grand Secretary-Treasurer minutes. The Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer shall cause the amended Constitution to be posted on the ISMA web site within sixty (60) days of the close of the annual meeting.

- (a) All electronically submitted documents relating to sections 12, 13 or 15 shall be submitted in an unalterable format such as a PDF file or other such secure document format.
- (b) It shall then be incumbent upon the submitting lodge to ensure that all lodges have received the submitted documents prior to the three week deadline whether submitted electronically or by mail.

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

Sec. 16. Any Active member in good standing in any Member Lodge may hold office in the Grand Lodge, except that of Grand President. To be eligible for the office of Grand President, a candidate must be a member of the Grand Lodge, an Active member in good standing in a Member Lodge of the Association, fully conversant with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association and familiar with

the ritual of the Association. Failure on any of the above points shall constitute disqualification.

Each officer of the Grand Lodge, delegate from each Member Lodge and each Past Grand President in attendance at the annual meeting shall present a current dues card, or other proof of his current membership in the Association, to the Grand Marshal. A dues card for the year immediately preceding the annual meeting shall be valid proof of current membership. The Grand Marshal shall report to the Grand President that the foregoing individuals have demonstrated satisfactory proof of membership.

Sec 16(a). Any Associate member may hold any appointed office in the Grand Lodge

AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEES

Sec. 17. Every committee of the Grand Lodge shall have the authority to call for any Books, papers, expertise of members or others, and other items it may deem necessary to fulfill their duties. Reasonable expenses in connection with the completion of the committee's duties shall be reimbursed by the Grand Lodge as part of normal expense.

BADGES

Sec. 18. The badges of the officers of this Association shall be of the general design and size hereinafter provided for. and must be worn at all meetings, entertainments and assemblages of the Grand Lodge. The badges of the officers of the Grand Lodge must be of gold, or gold plated metal, and shall be worn over the left breast in plain view, and be of the following design: Two bars joined by blue silk ribbon one and three-quarters inches wide. There shall be a length of two inches between the upper and lower bars. Upon the upper bar shall be engraved or stamped "Ship Masters' Association" and upon the lower bar shall be engraved or stamped the words "Grand Lodge." From the upper bar shall be suspended by suitable fastenings, the insignia for each respective office, and from the lower bar a circular disk with the representation of a lake steamer raised thereon.

MEMBERSHIP PIN

Sec. 19. The membership pin shall be made of gold, circular and approximately one-half inch in diameter, in the form of a ship's wheel with the lettering "International Ship Masters' Association" on the outer edge of the wheel in gold letters with a white background. In the center of the wheel, there shall be a pennant (of the type described in Sec. 20) of royal blue color, with the number of the respective member's Lodge placed in the center of the pennant in gold color. Any member in good standing in the Association shall be entitled to wear this pin on all occasions.

MEMBERSHIP PENNANT

Sec. 20. This Association shall have a pennant made of blue bunting which may be displayed by members on their vessels, over their homes, or at appropriate

lodge functions. The pennant shall be six feet in length, three and one half feet at its widest point tapering to a width of one and one-half feet at the outer end. The end shall have an eighteen-inch swallow tail. This pennant may be a different size; however, it must have the same proportions. The membership number of the member is to be set upon the pennant, in figures of white, of a clearly visible size. Associate members shall have the letter "A" preceding their number. A white star may be affixed in the upper left corner if the member has held the office of President in any Member Lodge.

GRAND PRESIDENT'S FLAG

Sec. 21. The Grand Lodge will furnish each Grand President a flag made of blue bunting, nine and three-quarters feet in length and five and one-quarter feet in width, or of like proportions, with the words "Grand President I.S.M.A." in white letters of appropriate size thereon. The Grand President is entitled to fly this flag on any vessel of which he is in command or in accordance with Sec. 20. A Past Grand President may have the initials P.G.P. and his number placed at the bottom of his flag and a white star in the upper left corner if the Past Grand President has held the office of President in any Member Lodge.

SUPREME LAW

Sec. 22. The Constitution and By-Laws, all laws enacted by the Grand Lodge not in conflict thereto, and the ritual, with the instructions therein contained, shall be the supreme law of the Association.

RETROACTIVE LAW

Sec. 23. Neither the Grand Lodge nor any Member Lodge shall pass any retroactive law, nor any law in conflict with this Constitution or the Laws of the United States, Canada or any State or Province in which a Member Lodge is located, nor pass any law which will interfere with the religious or political beliefs of members of this Association.

In the event that any section or sections of this Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations, or By-Laws Governing Member Lodges are determined to be in violation of any other laws and be declared invalid, the remaining sections shall continue in effect.

ARREST OF CHARTER

Sec. 24. The charter of a Member Lodge may be arrested or suspended by the Grand Lodge or Grand President at any time, with proper cause being shown. This suspension, when made by the Grand President, shall not extend beyond the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, where a full report shall be made by the Grand President and action taken thereon.

INSTALLING OFFICERS

Sec. 25. The master installing officer of the Grand Lodge shall be the Grand President or a Past Grand President.

(a) The Grand President-elect shall have the authority to appoint the installing officers.

(b)The other installing officers shall consist of three (3) members of the Grand Lodge, acting in the several capacities of:
Grand Marshal,Grand Secretary-Treasurer, and Grand Chaplain, and shall be designated as such in the ceremonies of installation.

PETITION FOR NEW LODGE

Sec. 26. Every petition for dispensation to organize a new Lodge shall give the proposed name thereof and the name of the person selected for President.

The following shall apply to any station for dispensation:

(a) Petitions to organize new lodges shall contain not less than ten names. If any of the petitions are members of the Association the petition shall state the name, number and location of the respective Member Lodge or Lodges to which any such petitioners belong.

(b) Each person, other than members of the association, joining in a petition for the organization of a new Lodge shall be required to pay to the proper person, for such proposed Lodge, the regular initiation fee provided for elsewhere in these laws.

(c) Upon the receipt of a petition in proper form for the formation of a new Lodge, the Grand Secretary-Treasurer will issue authorization, attested by the Grand President, to the petitioners empowering them to meet, select their officers and obtain a proper place to hold their meetings. Upon being informed that such has been done, and all legal requirements have been fulfilled, the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, with the Grand President, or the latter's appointed deputy, will attend the city or town where the Lodge shall be located.

If they are satisfied that the new petitioners comply with all requirements, they will organize the Lodge, issue the charter (the charter must be signed by the Grand President and the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, with the seal of the Grand Lodge affixed), and install the officers. They will give the new Lodge all necessary instruction.

(d) When members join in a petition for a new Lodge, and the latter is organized and granted a charter, the Grand Secretary-Treasurer will make such changes in his books as is necessary, and notify the Member Lodges to which said members belonged that they shall remove the names of said members from their roll.

(e) The authorization shall be copied at length upon the records of the new Lodge, and the charter, when issued, shall be copied in like manner.

(f) Each petitioner, other than members of the Association. shall take the obligation and be given the charge and lectures contained in the ritual, and sign the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

(g) Each petitioner, other than members, must meet with all the laws, rules and regulations of the order before becoming members of the Association.

(h) The name of each Lodge here after instituted shall be that of which is voted by its membership.

(i) No Member Lodge shall be established with less than ten members at the time of organizing the same.

(j) All new Lodges shall pay into the Grand Lodge General Fund the sum of five (\$5.00) dollars for each person signing the charter before the latter shall be granted. This could be waived by the Grand President and Grand Secretary-Treasurer if they see fit.

(k) The Grand President (or his appointed deputy), with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, shall institute all Member Lodges hereafter formed.

ANNUAL ROSTER

Sec. 27. A roster of members will be published from time to time by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. A majority of the delegates present at any annual Convention may call for publication of such roster, or a current 'List of Corrections.' Said publication, if issued, is to be distributed to all Member Lodges in sufficient numbers for all members of each Lodge.

EXPENDITURE OF MONEY

Sec. 28. All motions involving expenditure of money must be considered by the Committee on Budget. Should any such motion be passed subsequent to adoption of the budget for the ensuing year, the Committee on Budget shall incorporate such motion into a revised budget which shall be voted upon by the Grand Lodge. Reconsideration of any adopted levies must be made if any expenditure is authorized after said levy was adopted.

Sec. 28 (a). In case of dissolution of any Member Lodge, all monies, assets, and properties shall be distributed to an appropriate charitable organization as determined by the provisions of Sec. 28 of the By-Laws Governing Member Lodges and by the Member Lodge's elected Board of Directors.

PAYMENT OF GRAND LODGE ASSESSMENT BY MEMBER LODGES

Sec. 29. The Grand Lodge shall determine at its annual meeting, subsequent to the adoption of the budget for the ensuing year, the amount of any annual assessment upon the Member Lodges. This assessment shall be based on the number of Active, Associate, Active Retired and Cadet members in each Member Lodge. The Grand Lodge shall consider any assessment for each of the above-mentioned categories. The annual assessment for each category shall be adopted by a majority vote of the delegates present at the Grand Lodge meeting.

It shall be the obligation of each Member Lodge to annually determine from its membership roster the number of Active, Associate, Active Retired and Cadet members as of December 31, of the previous year. Each Member Lodge shall by April 30 inform the Grand Secretary-Treasurer of the numerical breakdown of the membership of the Member Lodge and forward to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer

50% of its annual Grand Lodge assessment as voted at the previous Grand Lodge meeting. The remainder of the annual Grand Lodge assessment shall be paid by December 15 of the same year.

BOND OF GRAND SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sec. 30. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer, within fifteen (15) days after taking office, shall obtain a guaranty bond issued by a surety company in such amount that equals the total of Grand Lodge funds on hand at the Close of Books on December 31, and the amount of the current year's budget. The premium for the bond is to be paid by the Grand Lodge. A copy of the bond promptly shall be delivered to the Grand President.

REPEALS AND ADOPTIONS

Sec. 31. All Constitutions, By-Laws and General Regulations, By-Laws Governing Member Lodges and adopted amendments which have heretofore been in force, are hereby repealed; and the enclosed proposed new Constitution and By-Laws presented at the 1984 annual convention are hereby adopted in their stead, as the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations, and By-Laws Governing Member Lodges of the International Ship Masters' Association. This repeal shall not affect the validity of any prior proceedings.

PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER LODGES

Sec. 32. If the Grand Lodge has agreed to pay financial support to any Member Lodge for the annual meeting, it shall be paid no later than November 1, in the year preceding the annual meeting for which the support is to be paid.

HISTORIC RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Sec. 33. All minutes, programs committee papers, Grand Lodge Officers' papers, papers of the Grand Lodge, past and future shall be assembled and deposited with the Institute for Great Lakes Research. It shall be the responsibility of the committee appointed by the Grand President to gather these papers and the responsibility of various committee chairmen to annually present these papers to the committee chairman appointed by the Grand President for delivery to the Institute for Great Lakes Research. No papers concerning the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge or any Member Lodge shall be included.

BY-LAWS GOVERNING MEMBER LODGES MEMBER LODGE COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Sec. 1. Every Member Lodge shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Marshal, Warden, Sentinel, and as many members as it may find convenient, provided, that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may to combined into one office of Secretary-Treasurer by a majority of that Member Lodge so voting.

Sec. 2. No Member Lodge can be created unless authorized by a dispensation from the Grand President and the Grand Secretary-Treasurer and by a charter from the Grand Lodge.

DUTIES OF A LODGE

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of each Member Lodge:

- (a) To hold regular meetings during the closed navigation season (or winter months), and to annually (every year) or biennially (every two years) elect and install officers.
- (b) To hold its meetings in safe and suitable rooms.
- (c) To keep a full and proper record of its transactions.
- (d) To make a full report thereof, annually, to the Grand Lodge.
- (e) To punctually pay its assessment to the Grand Lodge.
- (f) To have By-Laws which shall conform to the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. These By-Laws may be altered or amended in a manner therein provided at an announced meeting following the one at which the change was proposed in writing.
- (g) To have a suitable seal and file an impression thereof with the Grand Lodge. Said seal shall have the name, number and location of the Member Lodge and any insignia as are thought proper engraved thereon. No document from any Member Lodge shall be received or deemed authentic without such seal being affixed thereto. This seal shall be readily available.
- (h) Every Member Lodge shall have all official communications with the Grand President or Grand Secretary-Treasurer read in the Lodge at the next regular meeting following their receipt.
- (i) Every Member Lodge shall submit a lodge roster showing the name, address and category of all lodge members. The Member Lodge shall submit this lodge roster by April 30 when "Payment of Grand Lodge Assessment by Member Lodges" is due. This roster shall be verified and updated by January 15 of the following year as part of the Member Lodge's "Grand Lodge Report"

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 4. Every applicant for Active membership in this Association shall hold or have held a merchant marine officer's license recognized by the government of the United States or Canada. The applicant shall be of good character and of sound mind and must conform to all the membership requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws pertaining to members. He shall agree to be bound by all the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

All members in good standing under the former constitution and By-Laws at the time of adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws shall remain members of the Association as long as they retain their good standing under the new Constitution and By-Laws. All valid certificates shall remain enforce, except that any portion of any certificate pertaining to the former "Benevolent Fund" or the benefits of such plan will be null and void.

- (a) Every applicant for membership in this Association not qualifying as an Active member, but who is interested in the marine industry, is of good character, and who conforms to all the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws for "Associate members," shall be classified upon election by a Member Lodge as an Associate member.
- (b) An Active Retired member shall be a member who holds or has held a merchant marine officer's license and is officially retired and not working fulltime in the maritime industry. He shall have all the privileges of an Active member.
- (c) A Cadet member shall be a member who is enrolled in any maritime academy.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 5. Every applicant for membership in a Member Lodge shall sign an application for such membership. Applicants for Active membership shall provide proof of the necessary license. Applicants for Associate membership shall provide proof of their interest in the marine industry. Applicants for cadet membership shall provide proof of attendance at any maritime academy. The initial monetary fee shall be the amount of five (\$5.00) dollars payable to the Grand Lodge for initial registration expenses. Should the applicant for membership be rejected, all monies advanced shall be refunded by the Grand Lodge.

Application for membership shall be provided to all Member Lodges in ample number, and shall be of such form as prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

A minimum of two (2) recommendations from members in good standing shall be required by the Member Lodge. No application shall be accepted from an applicant who has been rejected by any Member Lodge within the past six (6) months.

ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 6. Each application for membership shall be referred to a committee of three (3) Active members of the Member Lodge, who shall diligently investigate the eligibility, character and standing of the petitioner. Said committee promptly shall give the Member Lodge a report on the petitioner's qualification. The President of the Member Lodge may give the committee additional time to form their report, if necessary; however, in any event, the application shall be acted upon by the Member Lodge within one (1) month.

INITIATION OF CANDIDATE

Sec. 7. Elected candidates shall be initiated at a regular or special meeting, as soon after election as is practicable for both candidate and Member Lodge.

- (a) During the sailing season only, an elected candidate may be initiated by any two Active members, acting under permission of the Member Lodge or the Grand President. Upon payment of the customary fee to the Member Lodge Secretary, the candidate will become a member.

MISREPRESENTATION

Sec. 8. If a petitioner makes a false statement, misrepresentation or conceals any material fact to join this Association, or after said petitioner is a member, fails to comply with the provision of the Constitution or By-Laws, he shall forfeit his membership in this Association. The Member Lodge may initiate action for such misrepresentation, false statement, concealment or failure to comply with the rule, with final action to be taken by the Grand Lodge.

QUORUM

Sec. 9. At all meetings of a Member Lodge a quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of at least ten (10) percent of the Member Lodge's Active membership. said number to include at least one current or past elected Member Lodge officer, provided however, that the ten (10) percent computation shall not allow less than four (4) members nor require more than nine (9) members to constitute a quorum.

LODGE OFFICERS

Sec. 10. The President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) of a Member Lodge shall be elected, with the Chaplain, Marshal, Warden and Sentinel to be appointed by the President-elect prior to time of installation. All officers shall be members in good standing of the Member Lodge. One delegate and one alternate to the Grand Lodge shall be elected annually prior to the Grand Lodge annual meeting. Delegate and alternate shall be Active members in good standing. Electing of officers and delegates shall be by vote unless only one name appears in nomination. Nominations from the membership are in order, but nominating speeches are prohibited. Vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining elected officers of the Member Lodge.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 11. The master installing officer of a Member Lodge shall be either a present or Past Grand President, or a present or Past President of the Member Lodge. He shall act as Grand President during the installation.

(a) The other installing officers shall consist of three (3) members, acting in the capacities of Grand Marshal, Grand Secretary-Treasurer and Grand Chaplain and shall be designated as such in the installation ceremonies.

(b) The President-elect has the power to appoint the installing officers.

(c) Each officer shall swear to an obligation to perform faithfully and honestly all duties pertaining to his office or that he may be called upon to do by the Association.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF MEMBER LODGES PRESIDENT

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of his Member Lodge to see that the officers are proficient in their work, and perform their respective duties. He shall enforce the strict observance of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Association and the By-Laws of his Member Lodge. He shall appoint all committees. He shall inspect and announce the result of all

balloting or other votes. He shall have no vote except in the election of officers. In the case of a tie vote, he shall cast the deciding vote. He shall sign all orders of the Treasurer with the Secretary (or Secretary-Treasurer if such position exists) for all sums of money as voted and shall have general control of the business of the Member Lodge. He shall see that the annual reports to the Grand Lodge are made and forwarded at the proper time. He shall preserve order and decide all questions arising therefrom. He shall have charge of the officers' bonds if required by the Member Lodge.

FIRST AND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Sec. 13. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to preside in the absence of the President, or when called upon to do so by the President, and perform all the duties of their offices as provided in the ritual. They shall inspect and report on all ballots of candidates.

SECRETARY

Sec. 14. The Secretary shall call the roll of officers at every meeting. He shall keep in a book provided for that purpose a record of the proceedings of the Member Lodge. He shall maintain a record of the name and residence of each member, showing when he was admitted, resigned, suspended, expelled., or died, and shall have charge of all books, documents and papers belonging to the Member Lodge.

He shall keep his books and records according to instructions from the Grand Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. He shall notify the Grand Secretary-Treasurer of deaths, suspensions or expulsion of members belonging to his Member Lodge, and the initiation projection of any candidates. He shall notify candidates of their election to office and previous to that order of business he shall present written proof the state of the Member Lodge and its activities for the past year. Immediately after the installation of officers he shall send a list of the newly installed officers and the name of the Grand Lodge delegate and alternate to the Grand President and Grand Secretary-Treasurer. He shall have charge of the Member Lodge seal and affix same to all official documents. He shall make a report in writing to the President of the names of all delinquent members who are in arrears for dues and shall notify said members. He shall receive all monies due the Member Lodge and keep a record thereof, paying the same immediately to the Treasurer, taking a receipt therefrom. He shall make a report whenever called upon by a majority vote of the Member Lodge, or when called upon to do so by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. He shall (with the President) sign all orders of the Treasurer for all sums of money as may have been voted upon.

TREASURER

Sec. 15. The Treasurer shall receive all monies from the Secretary, giving his receipt therefor. He shall keep a record of all monies and not make any payments without a written order from the President, countersigned by the Secretary, and the consent of the Member Lodge. He shall make a written report of the receipts and expenditures of the Member Lodge funds that have passed through his hands during the fiscal year, showing the balance on hand at the end

of the year. Said report must be accompanied by the bank's statement in which the funds are deposited. The statement shall include the balance on hand on the last day of the fiscal year. These reports are to be presented at the annual meeting and read previous to the election of officers.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sec. 16. In the event that a Member Lodge shall combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, the new office of Secretary-Treasurer will assume the duties of the two former offices. The number of signatures required will be determined by vote of the Member Lodge.

MARSHAL

Sec. 17. The Marshal shall report to the President the names of all candidates for admission, shall examine the members present on the password, and report to the proper officer the names of all persons without it. He shall perform the duties specified in the ritual and obey all commands of the President. He shall prepare and have charge of the ballot during the election of candidates.

CHAPLAIN

Sec. 18. The Chaplain shall perform those duties applicable to the office and as specified in the ritual.

WARDEN

Sec. 19. The Warden shall attend the door, report to the President all alarms thereon (when such report does not interrupt any business of the Lodge). He shall insure that no one is admitted without the password and assist the Marshal in taking the password.

SENTINEL

Sec. 20. The Sentinel shall attend the outer door and report all brothers and visitors to the Warden.

OFFICERS' BONDS

Sec. 21. Each Member Lodge shall determine annually the necessity and the amount of any bonds required of the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer, or Secretary-Treasurer if applicable. Each bond for said officer or officers shall be given prior to the officer or officers installation. Each bond, if required, shall be approved by the President, and the premium for the bond will be paid by the Member Lodge.

DUES

Sec. 22. Annual dues for each member shall be determined under the By-Laws of each Member Lodge according to the categories established in the Constitution and must be paid annually.

Any member failing to pay his dues to the Member Lodge of which he is member for a period of four (4) months after the dues are due and payable shall be suspended from this Association without notice.

In the event of a member being suspended for nonpayment of dues, said member may, upon application to the Member Lodge, be reinstated upon prompt payment of all dues owed at the time of his suspension. All members so suspended who do not make prompt payment shall be admitted to membership only as new members.

A Member Lodge may remit the dues of any member who is sick or in distress, under such conditions as the Member Lodge determines by a vote. New members shall pay full annual dues in advance for the calendar year, or fraction thereof, from the date of their initiation.

DIRECTORS

Sec. 23. The elected officers of a Member Lodge shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall manage the affairs of the Member Lodge. They shall hold meetings when they deem necessary. They shall not permit any act in violation of the Constitution and By-laws.

DELIVERY OF BOOKS

Sec. 24. The Treasurer and Secretary, or Secretary-Treasurer if applicable, shall deliver all books, monies, papers and other property belonging to the Member Lodge to his successor or successors in office following his installation.

FISCAL YEAR

Sec. 25. The fiscal year of all Member Lodges shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December each year.

MEMBER LODGE ASSESSMENT

Sec. 26. When an assessment is made by the Grand Lodge, Member Lodges must pay the assessment to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer as provided by these laws. Any Member Lodge that does not pay its assessment when due shall not be entitled to speak or vote at any Grand Lodge meeting unless permitted by a vote of a majority of the Grand Lodge.

GRAND LODGE REPORTS

Sec. 27. Each Member Lodge shall send to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, no later than January 15th of each year, a report of the proceedings of the Member Lodge for the previous year. This report shall include the names of its officers, delegate and alternate to the Grand Lodge (when elected), the number initiated, affiliated, withdrawn, suspended, expelled or died during the year, and the names and addresses of members. Failure to send this report will result in the Member Lodge forfeiting its rights and vote in the Grand Lodge. The committee on Credentials shall examine extenuating circumstances that may prevent a lodge from filing its annual report by January 15, and present its report for consideration of the Grand Lodge.

PROPERTY

Sec. 28. No Member Lodge shall at any time dispose of its assets or any part thereof except by a vote of two-thirds of the members thereof present at an

announced meeting of the Member Lodge. All members must be given reasonable written notice of the time when the issue will be presented to the Member Lodge.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Sec.29. Previous to the annual meeting of the Member Lodge, the President shall appoint an Audit Committee of three members. This committee shall examine the books, vouchers, bank books and statements and reports of the Secretary and Treasurer and report in writing thereon, with a statement in detail of their findings, with such recommendations as they see fit to make. This report shall be read at the annual meeting previous to the election of officers and made a permanent record of the Grand Lodge.

TRANSFER

Sec. 30. Any member in good standing wishing to transfer from one Member Lodge to another Member Lodge may do so by requesting a transfer.

BY-LAWS

Sec. 31. Member Lodges shall have the power and authority to make and establish By-Laws for the control and government of their Member Lodge. The By-Laws shall in no manner conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge or its By-Laws Governing Member Lodges. The By-Laws of each Member Lodge shall be reviewed by the Grand President and receive his written approval before they become effective.

ADMISSION DURING WORK

Sec. 32. No member shall be admitted to or excused from a Member Lodge room during the opening ceremonies; reading of the minutes; while a vote is being taken upon any application for membership; or during initiation or closing ceremonies.

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEMBER LODGES

Sec. 33. The business of a Member Lodge shall be disposed of as follows:

1. Calling to order.
2. Marshal and Warden examine on password and report.
3. Call roll of officers.
4. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
5. Propositions for membership.
6. Balloting for candidates.
7. Reception and initiation of new members.
8. Reports of standing committees.
9. Reports of special committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. Communications and bills.
12. Report on sick members.
13. New business.
14. Good of the Order.
15. Secretary's financial report) or

16. Treasurer's financial report) combined
17. Close in form.

The above order of business may be changed at the discretion of the President or of the Member Lodge.

PRESENCE OF HOLY BIBLE

Sec. 34. A Member Lodge cannot be lawfully opened without the presence of the Holy Bible open upon the altar.

RULES OF ORDER TO BE OBSERVED IN THE GRAND LODGE AND THE MEMBER LODGES

Sec. 35.

1. At the sound of the gavel, there shall be a general silence and any member or delegate disobeying shall be subject to reprimand.
2. Members or delegates voting shall raise their right hand, unless the vote is taken by roll call.
3. The presiding officer shall enforce order and decorum, and decide all questions of order without debates subjected to an appeal by two members or two delegates of the Grand Lodge. During the appeal no person shall speak but the presiding officer and the two members or delegates appealing.
4. When a member or delegate intends to speak on any question, he shall rise in his place and respectfully address his remarks to the President, confine himself to the question and avoid personalities.
5. No question shall be stated unless regularly moved and seconded, nor be open for discussion until stated by the presiding officer.
6. Every member or delegate shall have the privilege of speaking three times on any question under consideration, but not more often unless by majority consent of the members or delegates. No member or delegate shall speak more than once until every member or delegate wishing to speak shall have had the opportunity to do so.
7. When a question has been indefinitely postponed, its subject matter shall not be presented again, in any form, earlier than the next meeting.
8. After any question, except one of indefinite postponement has been decided, any member or delegate who voted on the prevailing side of the question may move for reconsideration; however, this motion must be made on the same day in Member Lodges, and at the same meeting of the Grand Lodge. A second motion for reconsideration on the same question shall not be in order at anytime.
9. No subject laid upon the table shall be taken up again at the same meeting.
10. Any mover shall be at liberty to accept an amendment thereto, but if any amendment be offered and not accepted, yet duly seconded, the members shall pass upon it before voting upon the original motion.
11. No intoxicating beverages of any kind shall be allowed in the Grand Lodge or any Member Lodge while in session.
12. No member or delegate shall retire from the Grand Lodge or the Member Lodges during the session without obtaining permission from the presiding officer.
13. All parliamentary practice in conducting the business of the Grand Lodge and the Member Lodges, not herein specifically provided for, shall follow the rules and be governed by "Roberts Manual and Rules of Order."

14. When the term "member" is used in subsections 1 - 14 above, it shall apply to the conduct of business in any Member Lodge and when the term "delegate" is used in the same subsection, it shall apply to the conduct of business at any Grand Lodge meeting. Nothing in subsections 1 - 14 above shall empower any member to speak at any Grand Lodge meeting unless otherwise provided in the Constitution.

Our Mission

To be the respected voice of licensed professional mariners in matters related to navigation and safety on waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System.

In this process, we work with, and provide input to, regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, industry associations and other working groups on matters affecting navigational safety.

To provide opportunities for licensed merchant mariners to network, to offer their feedback, and enhance their knowledge in a variety of ways.

To maintain mutual respect, support, and encouragement among our members, and promote the pursuit of personal and professional excellence.

To encourage and assist those preparing for careers as merchant officers.

Brief History of the International ShipMasters' Association

The I.S.M.A. traces its origin to the city of Buffalo, New York where in the winter of 1886, the death of a local captain resulted in the formation of the Excelsior Marine Benevolent Association.

This association was set up to establish an endowment fund to assist financially the survivors of mariners who had passed on.

In hope of expanding membership, mariners of other ports were contacted concerning the benefits of belonging to the Association. Soon other branches or lodges of the organization began to form around the Great Lakes.

The first convention of the association was convened in Buffalo, New York on January 8, 1891 where the Grand Lodge was officially organized with a constitution, By-Laws and Ritual. During the third convention in Port Huron Michigan, with nine lodges in attendance the name of the organization was changed to "ShipMasters' Association".

With the passage of time lodges proliferated (and in some cases merged), and with the addition of many Canadian members the organization became truly international in scope. In 1916 at the Grand Lodge Convention held in Toronto, Ontario, the name "International ShipMasters' Association of the Great Lakes" was officially adopted. While the Association no longer has a benevolent fund, the continuing purpose of the I.S.M.A. is clearly stated in the constitution:

Section 3. The purpose of the Association shall be to unite all shipmasters and licensed merchant marine officers of good moral character; to elevate the character of its members; and to utilize their professional experience to promote safety on the Great Lakes and any navigable waters.

Hence, the Association itself is neither a bargaining agent nor a labor union, but rather a professional association that cooperates with vessel owners and management to achieve optimum efficiency in vessel operations, and collaborate with the Coast Guard, Weather Bureau and other Government agencies in both the United States and Canada for maximum safety on the Great Lakes.

Since its very beginning, the I.S.M.A. has enjoyed the most cordial and fruitful relationship with shipping management, and the recommendations of the Grand Lodge Navigation Committee have been of considerable assistance to the Coast Guard in its efforts to most effectively utilize all aids to navigation.

The I.S.M.A. has been of great benefit to its members by the dissemination of helpful professional information and by its dedication to the welfare of the shipping industry and its personnel. It continues to solicit new members and new lodges around the Great Lakes. A fraternal closeness between the various lodges and its members has been an important element in the success and continued growth of the Association.
(Writing by the late Captain Herbert C. Dosey)