



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 31, Number 1
January-February 2017

2017 Grand Lodge Convenes in Alpena

The 127th Annual Grand Lodge convention, hosted by North-east Michigan Lodge #19, will be held February 2-5, 2017, at the Ramada Inn (formerly Sanctuary Inn), 1000 US 23 North, in Alpena, MI. A full report will be included in the next issue of *ISMALetter*.

From the Lodges

Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

Lodge #2 welcomed two guest speakers to their January 2016 meetings. On January 5, **Sam Buchanan**, Lodge #7 member and General Manager at J. W. Westcott Co., Detroit, spoke about Passenger Vessel Operations and Regulations. Then on January 12, **Dave Sheldon**, Director of Marketing and Sales for Lower Lakes Transportation Co., presented Cargo, Ships and Trade Patterns of Lower Lakes Transportation Co.

Lodge #2 will hold their Annual Dinner Dance on March 4, 2017, at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel located in view of the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron. Hotel reservations must be made by February 11. For more information, contact Lodge #2 Secretary **Victoria Conradson** at captainvictoria@comcast.net.

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7's 126th Annual Dinner Dance will be held on February 27, 2017, at Aloft Hotel at the David Whitney Building, 1 Park Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-237-1700, www.aloftdetroit.com. Tickets are \$55 per person or \$100 per couple, and reservations must be made by February 17. Contact **Scott Reynolds** at 248-892-1019, or see the Lodge #7 website at www.detroitlodge7.org.

Lodge #7 held their annual election of officers on January 7, 2017, with the following results:

President: **Kenneth W. Suddick**
1st Vice President: **John C. Mantyk**
2nd Vice President: **Neil C. Schultheiss**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Raymond E. Oset**
Board of Governors: **Ron Ingram, Scott E. Reynolds,**
Paul M Jagenow
Alternate Governor: **Scott R. Skrzypczak**

Appointed officers include:

Co-Chaplains: **Rev. Paul A. Innes**
Rev. Dr. Lynne A Kogel
Marshal: **Dennis E. Poneroy**
Warden: **Scott R. Skrzypczak**
Sentinel: **Michael W. Nall**
Lodge Surgeons: **Dr. Thomas W. Baumgarten**
Dr. Larry W. Stephenson

Lodge #7's January 21 meeting included presentations from member **Tom McMullen** on 1000-footer freighter trips, and member **Luke Clyburn** on 40 years on Cadet Ships. On February 21, a luncheon meeting will be held at Island Cove Marina, Harrison Township, with a presentation by **David Wright**, Chief of Operations, US ACE, updating the latest information on the Soo Locks.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

Lodge #15 has launched a new web page. This new version of the site has been made compatible with portable devices such as pads, pods, and phones, so bookmark it and make your life easy. Find it at <https://sites.google.com/view/isma-lodge-15>.

Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23:

On January 26, 2017, Lodge #23 met for dinner and a presentation by a representative from the US Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, covering their new helicopters.

**Seaway Ties Record for
Longest Navigation Season**

In 2016, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened for the season on March 21, and closed on December 31. The 286-day long navigation season tied the record first established in 2008 and matched again in 2013. The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation recorded a total of 35 million tonnes of cargo through the locks in 2016; this was down more than 3 percent from 2015. The Seaway system recorded 3773 vessel transits during 2016, down just slightly from 3781 in 2015. Cargos showing increases in 2016 were grain, liquid bulk and general cargo.



Scholarship Donations

The ISMA Scholarship Fund is growing, thanks to generous member (and local lodge) donations. In December 2016, a donation was made by Green Bay Lodge #18 member **Dave Blomberg** in honor and remembrance of Past Grand President and Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member Capt. **Dean Hobbs**.

Also in December, Twin Sault Lodge #22 member **Curtis Kikert** made a generous scholarship donation to honor Past Grand President Capt. **Ray Sheldon**, Master of MV *Joseph L. Block* (Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member); Past Grand President Capt. **George Haynes**, Lakes Pilots Association, District 2 (Buffalo Lodge #1 and Port Huron Lodge #2 member); and Capt. **Greg Sipper**, Master of MV *Stewart J. Cort* (Twin Ports Lodge #12 member).

Scholarship winners will be introduced at the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention, and listed in the next *ISMA Letter*.

NEW MEMBERS

Port Huron Lodge #2:

Cadet: **Callan J. Linehan** #C-13002

Detroit Lodge #7:

Associate: **David W. Rumohr** #A-13001



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

Members in the News

Detroit Lodge #7 member Capt. **Sam Buchanan** of J. W. Westcott Co. in Detroit is well known for his hobby of building scale models of Great Lakes ships, past and present. You can read and view more at www.freep.com/news/columnists/jimschaefer/2016/12/17/sam-buchanan-captain-mail-boat/95537910/.

The *Toledo Blade*'s December 11, 2016, article "Toledo ship's savior revives Monroe port" highlighted Toledo Lodge #9 member **Paul C. Lamarre III** and his labors as the Port of Monroe's first full-time director since the late 1970s. Under his direction, Monroe has experienced growing port traffic in several different commodities. In addition, **Paul** has been active with the National Museum of the Great Lakes at Toledo, specifically in the renovation of the museum ship *Col. James M. Schoonmaker*. Read more at <http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2016/12/11/Toledo-ship-s-savior-revives-Monroe-port.html>.

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

FINAL BELLS

Detroit Lodge #7 member **Arlene Earl** (#A-11795), affectionately known in the Great Lakes maritime community as "The Flower Lady," passed away on December 20, 2016, at the age of 78. As owner of the family business Chris Engel's Greenhouse in southwest Detroit, she prepared countless flower arrangements for Great Lakes vessels and delivered them via the *J. W. Westcott II* mailboat. She was preceded in death by her husband **Richard**, and survived by children **Christopher, Richard,** and **Deborah Kapanowski**, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Services were held on December 28 at St. Paul's Protestant Church, Harsens Island, MI. In celebration of **Arlene's** life, contributions may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1264 Meldrum St., Detroit, MI 48207.



Clarence G. "Gil" Porter (#10027), member of Twin Ports Lodge #12, passed away on December 17, 2016, at the age of 93. His career included the US Coast Guard where he was master of the Cutter *Woodrush* and commander of Port of San Francisco. After 24 years of Coast Guard service, he returned to Duluth to begin his second career as a Great Lakes pilot. That winter, he and his friend **Jack Saunders** founded the Lake Carriers' Association's Navigation School. When he retired as a pilot in 1977, **Gil** launched his third career, starting Duluth Magnetic Compass Service which he operated until 2012. He was an active member of many organizations within the Duluth-Superior maritime community. **Gil** was preceded in death by his wife **Helen** and a son **Gilbert "Skip."** He is survived by children **Ken, Cindie Fadden,** and **Lani Paszak**, ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

MMC Credential Processing Delays

On December 23, 2016, the US Coast Guard National Maritime Center issued a bulletin updating credential processing delays, reprinted in part here:

The National Maritime Center (NMC) continues to experience a greater-than-average volume of applications for Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC). This bulletin outlines actions to be taken for US mariners holding national and STCW endorsements.

National Endorsements: *The USCG is exercising its authority . . . and is granting an extension of national endorsements for any mariner whose MMC expires on or after December 1, 2016. This extension . . . will be valid until September 30, 2017. . . . All mariners sailing exclusively under the authority of their national endorsement on inland or coastwise voyages are advised to carry a copy of this letter [found at https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/2016_national_extension_authorization_letter.pdf] with*

MMC Processing Delays, cont.

their expired credentials and produce it upon request of USCG personnel or other officials. Expiration dates of new MMCs will be 5 years from the date of expiration of the previous MMC, in accordance with current policy. The extension of validity of expired credentials provides the opportunity for a mariner to work under the authority of that credential during this period, so there is no loss of MMC validity associated with this decision.

STCW Endorsements: The NMC is focusing on evaluating applications with STCW endorsements. In accordance with Regulation I/2 of STCW, we are unable to extend the validity of these endorsements. As a result applications containing MMCs with STCW endorsements will be processed as quickly as possible. . .

Mariner Medical Certificates: Mariners must continue to maintain a valid mariner medical certificate.

Nothing stated in this bulletin is intended to relieve mariners from their responsibility to submit timely applications. . . .

For more information, visit the NMC website, <https://www.uscg.mil/nmc>.

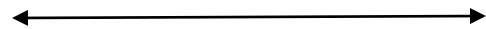


Industry Newsbriefs –

- At its January 26, 2017, meeting, the St. Louis County (MN) Board appointed two new commissioners to the Duluth Seaway Port Authority Board – **Patrick Boyle** and **Pete Stauber**. **Ray Klosowski**, was reappointed by the Duluth City Council in October 2016 to a third, six-year term on the Duluth Seaway Port Authority Board.
- On January 25, 2017, the St. Lawrence Seaway issued a customer advisory, announcing a toll rate increase of 2.0 percent for the 2017 navigation season. The new tariff is available on the Seaway website at http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/seaway_handbook/seaway-handbook-en/web_schedule_tolls.pdf.
- The US Coast Guard Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) met via teleconference on January 18, 2017, covering topics such as implementation of Subchapter M, and progress reports from other subcommittees. On January 24, the USCG announced that it is seeking applications for membership on the TSAC. Completed applications must reach the Coast Guard by March 9. For more details, see the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/23/2017-01324/towing-safety-advisory-committee-vacancies>.
- Reminder – The 2017 Light List is now available on the US Coast Guard’s Navigation Center website at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightlists>.
- On January 20, 2017, the US Coast Guard announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – Marine Casualty Reporting Property Damage Thresholds. Initial regulations setting dollar threshold amounts for reporting a marine casualty,

and for reporting a “serious marine incident,” were instituted in the 1980s and have not been updated. Because monetary thresholds have not kept pace with inflation, relatively minor casualties must be reported. Additionally, the regs require mandatory drug and alcohol testing following an SMI; consequently, testing is being conducted for casualties less significant than those intended in the original regulations. Updating this regulation will reduce the burden on vessel owners/operators and will also reduce the amount of USCG resources expended in investigations. Comments on this proposed rulemaking must be submitted by March 24, 2017. For additional details, see the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/23/2017-01323/marine-casualty-reporting-property-damage-thresholds>.

- On January 19, 2017, the US Coast Guard Navigation Center announced that “Best Practices for Improving the Operation and Development of GPS Equipment Used by Critical Infrastructure,” is available for download at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/gps/Best%20Practices%20for%20Improving%20the%20Operation%20and%20Development%20of%20GPS%20Equipment.pdf>. The document recommends installation and operation strategies to improve the resilience of equipment receiving.
- On January 18, 2017, the US Coast Guard National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) posted a notice stating that eNOAD submitters should immediately discontinue use of rich-text (RTF) and HTML formats for eNOAD submissions via email. All eNOAD submissions sent to the NVMC parser (enoad@nvmc.uscg.gov) must arrive in plain-text email format. See the notice at [http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/nvmc/\(S\(512vjw532w5xdauxgzwt2w\)\)/News.aspx?newsId=7559b4bb-0872-4a00-8d33-f6859d8a8387](http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/nvmc/(S(512vjw532w5xdauxgzwt2w))/News.aspx?newsId=7559b4bb-0872-4a00-8d33-f6859d8a8387). Questions or concerns? Contact NVMC at 1-800-708-9823 or 1-304-264-2502 for assistance.
- A *Detroit News* story on January 14, 2017, examined the \$1.7 billion economic boost that could result from building the new lock at the Soo. Read the article at <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/01/13/treasury-soo-locks-project-provide-boost/96557872/>.
- On December 20, 2016, a new US Coast Guard CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-16 Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (ROUPV) Endorsements was posted online at https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc4/MMCpolicy/CG-MMC_pol01-16.pdf. The new policy revises guidance for obtaining an ROUPV endorsement.



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



- 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
- February 27, 2017 -**
Detroit Lodge #7 Annual Dinner Dance
Aloft Hotel, Detroit, MI
- March 4, 2017 -**
Port Huron Lodge #2 Annual Dinner Dance
Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Port Huron, MI
- March 9, 2017 -**
Chicago Maritime Industry Day
www.chicagoshipmasters.com/marine-industry-day.html
- May 7, 2017 -**
Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, WWII Remembrance
at Cenotaph, Owen Sound, ON
- May 22, 2017 -**
National Maritime Day - United States
- June 14-16, 2017 -**
Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec
- June 27, 2017 -**
Hamilton Marine Day, Hamilton, ON
- August 12, 2017 -**
St. Lawrence Day
- September 3, 2017 -**
Annual Canada Merchant Navy Day

Boat Trip Raffles

Visit 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.

International Ship Masters' Association

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

Reminder: 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/>.



Scan the QR code at left. It will take you to the ISMA website.

