



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

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ISMA LETTER

Grand Lodge Convention

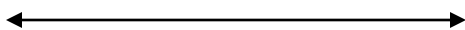
Our next Grand Lodge Convention, hosted by Chicago Lodge #3, is fast approaching. We will meet at Embassy Suites Chicago Lakefront, where the Grand Lodge will be called to order on Thursday morning, February 4, 2016. Grand Lodge Delegates will caucus the evening of February 3. ISMA members should receive information soon.. Visit the convention website at www.chicagoshipmasters.com/grand-lodge-convention.html for links to registration and hotel reservations. Register early, as convention fees increase after January 15, 2016.



Great Lakes Senator of the Year

Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) named Senator **Sherrod Brown** (D-OH) 2015 Great Lakes Legislator of the Year. The annual award is presented by GLMTF to a legislator who has helped advance shipping on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. "Sherrod Brown's keen understanding of Lakes shipping has been invaluable to our industry," said **John D. Baker**, president of GLMTF.

GLMTF is the largest labor/management coalition representing workers and industries dependent on shipping on America's Fourth Sea Coast. ISMA is a member of GLMTF.



**ISMA Membership Applications
Available Online at**

www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMA Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries.

Make sure your local lodge secretary has your correct e-mail address.

ISMA Letter is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time. (Arrangements can be made for members without e-mail or internet access to receive a printed copy.)

Thank you.

FROM THE LODGES

Buffalo Lodge No. 1:

Lodge #1 is currently meeting on the third Thursday of each month. On October 15, 2015, members viewed a slideshow, "Installation of the New Buffalo Lighthouse Lens," presented by **Mike Vogel** and **Gene Witkowski** of the Buffalo Lighthouse Association. The November 19 program by Niagara County historian **Catherine Emerson** was "Michael Huskey, the Forgotten Sailor." December 17 is the Lodge Christmas party.

Chicago Lodge No. 3:

Lodge #3 celebrated the holidays at their meeting on December 9, 2015, held at the Total Marine Safety classroom in Chicago.

Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

At Lodge #4's annual meeting on October 22, 2015, the following officers were elected/appointed for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2016:

President:	Russell D. Brohl
1 st Vice President:	George R. "Skip" Skuggen
2 nd Vice President:	Susan Lieblein
Secretary-Treasurer:	Christine Rohn-Tielke
Chaplain:	Rev. Alfred Hart
Marshal:	Steven P. Nevin
Warden:	William "Buck" McSweeney
Sentinel:	James Banjoff

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7's first winter meeting was December 8, 2015, at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. Following lunch, **Joel Stone** presented a program about Great Lakes passenger vessels based on his book, *Floating Palaces of the Great Lakes*.

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From the Lodges, continued

Lodge #7 member **Arlene Earl**, “The Flower Lady,” who has been in hospice care (see ISMALetter, Sept-Oct 2015, page 2), thanks the many ISMA members who have sent her cards and good wishes over the last few months. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

On Sunday, November 8, 2015, during the Great Lakes Memorial Service, Lodge #7 presented a new plaque to Mariners’ Church of Detroit. It describes the Lewis Ludington Award and lists all recipients of the award since its inception in 1994. The plaque was conceived by member **Dale Mason**, who did much of the fundraising, and **Ron LaPlante** and **Laddie Hudson** worked on the design.



Mike Nall, Fr. Bill Fleming and lodge President Ron LaPlante with the new Ludington Award plaque.

Georgian Bay-Huronian Lodge #15:

Art by Lodge #15 member **Charles Meanwell** was on display at Georgian College’s Georgian Campus Gallery from November 12 – December 13, 2015. His paintings uniquely portray the Southern Ontario landscape.

Lodge #15 members attended the open house on November 6, 2015, at the new Georgian College Marine Emergency Duties (MED) Training and Research Centre.

Remember to get your tickets for Lodge #15’s “2016 Great Arctic Cruise Raffle.” For more information, see www.freightertrip.com or <https://sites.google.com/site/ismageorgianbayhuronialodge15>.

Boat Trip Raffles

Visit www.freightertrip.com for the latest news about ISMA raffles.



NEW MEMBERS

Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional:	Jennifer Kramer	#12935
	N. Salvatore Randazzo	#12931
	Martha Schneider	#12933
	Dennis Stein	#12932
	Cynthia Sopata	#12934
Associate:	James Caldwell	#A-12929
	Robert Moore	#A-12930



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

FINAL BELLS

Port Huron Lodge #2 honorary member **Dennis Hale** (#A-12848), sole survivor of the *Daniel J. Morrell* sinking in 1966, and author of the book *Sole Survivor*, passed away at the age of 75 on September 2, 2015, following a battle with cancer. A public memorial service was held on October 25 at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, OH.

Chicago Lodge #3 member **Richard S. Casler** (#12610) passed away on September 10, 2015. He was a captain with Chicago’s First Lady and the former Chief of Police with the Schaumburg, IL, Police Department. He is survived by his wife **Mary**. Services were held in Oak Park, IL, on September 16.

Former Green Bay Lodge #18 member **Gary W. Schmidt** (#11892) passed away on October 2, 2015, at the age of 69. He had been captain of *Dorothy Ann-Pathfinder*. He recently wrote the book *Real, Honest Sailing with a Great Lakes Captain*. Services were held in Green Bay, WI, on October 10.

Former Cleveland Lodge #4 member **Richard A. Feldtz** (#A-11555) passed away on November 16, 2015. He was the retired fleet superintendent at Oglebay Norton Company.

Funding for New Soo Lock Study

In mid-November 2015, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of Management and Budget agreed to move \$1.35 million into a cost-benefit study which could potentially lead to construction of another Poe-sized lock at the Soo.

An earlier economic analysis questioned the need for a second Poe-sized lock, which was authorized by Congress to be built some 30 years ago, but was never adequately funded.

Even if the cost-benefit study gets underway soon, however, it is expected to take several years to complete and, assuming it shows a new lock should be built, Congress would still have to fund it, probably over a period of a decade or more.

Annual Great Lakes Memorial Service

The annual Great Lakes Memorial Service at Mariners' Church of Detroit took place on Sunday, November 8, 2015, with numerous ISMA members participating. Serving in the Honor Guard (*photo below*) during the bell ringing were Detroit Lodge #7 members **Ron Ingram** (PGP), **Sam Tundo**, **Tom McMullen** (PGP), **Ron LaPlante**, **Mike Nall**, **Ray Oset**, **Rick Scott**, **Lynne Kogel**, and **Dale Mason**; Port Huron Lodge #7 member **Rogert Hewlett**; and Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member Adm. **Gerald Achenbach**. The new Ludington Award Plaque (*see page 2*), financed by donations from Lodge #7 members, was presented to Mariners' Church upon conclusion of the memorial service.



Lost Mariners Remembrance

The Lost Mariners Remembrance took place at Dossin Great Lakes Museum on November 10, 2015. Several Detroit Lodge #7 members participated in the event: President **Ron LaPlante**, **Luke Clyburn**, Chaplain **Russ Kohler**, **Kathy McGraw**, **Malcolm McAdam**, **Neil Schultheiss**, and **Joel Hepola**. Bay City Lodge #5 member **Bob McGreevey** was the keynote speaker.

Women on the Water Conference

Cal Maritime, Vallejo, CA, in partnership with the US Maritime Administration, will host the eighth Women on the Water Conference March 17-19, 2016. The conference will provide an open forum for discussion, and is an opportunity to network, build relationships, share experiences, and learn about the maritime industry. For further information, visit the Cal Maritime website at www.csum.edu/empoweringwomen.

To apply for the
ISMA SCHOLARSHIP
go to

www.shipmaster.org

And follow the blue Scholarship links

Industry Newsbriefs –

- *Reminder:* As of October 1, 2015, the US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center has implemented new CG-719 series forms (B, C, K, K/E, P, and S) replacing those displaying a June 30, 2012, expiration date. Outdated CG-719 forms will not be accepted after April 1, 2016. For the K and K/E forms, those signed by a physician after December 31, 2015, *must be on the new version of the form*. Also, the Coast Guard will not stock the CG-719 series of forms in paper format. They may be obtained electronically in PDF format on the National Maritime Center website.
- In November, Transport Canada released Ship Safety Bulletin 09/2015 to explain steps that ship owners, masters, officers and seafarers must take before January 2017 to comply with new requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended by the 2010 Manila Conference (STCW Manila 2010). The most significant change is what will be accepted as Proof of Competency. A testimonial of participation in emergency drills onboard an STCW vessel will no longer be proof of the required level of competency. Seafarers must now complete an approved refresher training course at a Recognized Institution ashore every five years. This bulletin applies to Canadian seafarers and to holders of a Canadian STCW Certificate of Competency or endorsement that expires before December 31, 2016, who:
 - Work on vessels making Unlimited voyages or Near Coastal, Class 1 (outside of the Great Lakes) voyages, and who must hold qualification documents that comply with STCW Manila 2010 by January 1, 2017.
 - Work on vessels making Near Coastal, Class 1 (on the Great Lakes), Near Coastal, Class 2, or Sheltered Waters voyages who choose to comply with the STCW Manila 2010, although not required.
 - Read the full bulletin at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2015-09-eng.htm#pdf>.
- On November 9, 2015, the US Coast Guard extended the comment period for the Great Lakes pilotage rates for an additional 30 days. The notice of proposed rulemaking proposed changes to the methodology by which the Coast Guard reviews and adjusts rates for Great Lakes pilotage, and also proposed rates for the 2016 shipping season. Comments and related material were due prior to December 9.
- On December 3, 2015, Congressman **Rick Nolan** (D-MN), introduced H.R. 4130 that would ban all imports of steel and steel products into the US for five years. **Nolan** said the bill is needed to save domestic steelmakers and raise demand for domestic iron ore, now in its worst slump since the 1980s. He also urged the President to use his authority under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 to impose tariffs on foreign steel that would make it unprofitable for foreign nations to send steel to the United States.
- The US Coast Guard's Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee has recommended various changes to Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 04-08, "Medical and Physical Evaluation Guidelines for Merchant Mariner Credentials." You can view the recommendations at www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations/NVIC/NVIC_4_08_with_enclosures.pdf.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- The US Coast Guard is seeking applicants for membership on the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee, which provides advice and recommendations on matters related to medical certification determinations for issuance of licenses, certificates of registry and merchant mariners' documents; medical standards and guidelines for the physical qualifications of operators of commercial vessels; medical examiner education; and medical research. Applicants selected will begin their terms on August 8, 2016. Completed applications must reach the Coast Guard on or before January 25, 2016. View the *Federal Register* announcement at www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/24/2015-29836/merchant-mariner-medical-advisory-committee-vacancies#addresses.
- The US Coast Guard published a final rule amending ballast water management reporting and record keeping requirements. Vessels with ballast tanks, operating exclusively on voyages between ports or places within a single captain of the port zone, must submit an annual report of their ballast water management practices. The rule also simplifies and streamlines the ballast water report form. It will allow most vessels to submit ballast water reports after arrival at a port or destination, instead of requiring submission of such reports prior to arrival. This final rule is effective February 22, 2016. View the final rule at www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/24/2015-29848/ballast-water-management-reporting-and-recordkeeping.
- An 875-square mile area of Lake Michigan, extending from Port Washington to Two Rivers, has been identified as a possible marine sanctuary. The area contains a collection of 39 known shipwrecks, 15 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. NOAA is seeking comment on the proposal; written comments must be received by January 15, 2016. Public meetings were held in Manitowoc, Port Washington, and Sheboygan in November 2015. For more information, see <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/press/2015/areas-identified-as-possible-national-marine-sanctuaries.html>.
- On October 5, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the government to rewrite its rules regulating discharge of ballast water by ships, in a victory for environmental groups which said the rules were too lenient and threatened the nation's waterways. The court's opinion said the EPA should have considered onshore facilities to treat ballast water rather than focus on controls aboard ships. Should the EPA impose a new discharge standard, all the effort going on now to develop technology and then get it type-approved by the US Coast Guard may not actually meet the standard.
- The US EPA will be hosting the 2016 Areas of Concern (AOC) Annual Meeting on March 2-3, 2016, at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, MI.
- The Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers has ramped up its fight against aquatic invasive species. For more information, see www.cglslgp.org.
- On November 5, 2015, the Duluth Seaway Port Authority named **Jason Paulson** as its new facilities manager.

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



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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