



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 32, Number 2  
March-April 2018

# ISMA LETTER

## 2018 ISMA Convention Summary

The ISMA Grand Lodge convened in Toledo, OH, on February 2, 2018, to conduct business and hear from maritime industry representatives. Niagara District Lodge #20 and Muskegon Lodge #21 were not represented during the weekend.

Outgoing Grand President **Lee W. Barnhill** reported on his activities during the just-ended year. He was able to attend the annual dinner dances of Detroit Lodge #7 and Port Huron Lodge #2 as well as the annual Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church in Detroit. Once the season started, work took him throughout the Lakes, including time around Chicago and in the Straits of Mackinac where he was able to greet many members via radio.

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian L. Eickel** reported that on December 31, 2017, there were 678 ISMA members, the same number as the previous year. During 2017, 10 members passed away, 37 were dropped or suspended, but 47 new or reinstated members joined.

Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee Chair **Scott Skrzypczak** presented a report of the NELC's activities and goals. "Our goal this year was to expand ISMA's involvement in the regional maritime industry... For the first time in recent memory, ISMA was represented on Capitol Hill during the annual Congressional Sail-In... The NELC has also engaged in dialogue on other fronts such as ballast water management, Subchapter M regulations, and proposed construction of another lock at Sault Ste. Marie, MI." Following NELC's action on the 2017 Grand Lodge proposal to ensure the River Rouge entry buoy #2 is lit all year, the US Coast Guard placed a lighted ice buoy on that location at the beginning of December. The NELC attended several meetings throughout the year, and is also working with LCA and NOAA to review existing charted LCA routes and add new traffic routes. In conclusion, **Scott** said, "2017 proved to be a starting point in building ISMA into a more recognized organization...by providing the mariners' standpoint... Through continued efforts of the NELC on both the US and Canadian sides of the border, we hope to build more friendships and be involved in more discussions as we continue to ensure the Great Lakes are economically vital, environmentally safe, and enjoyable to all."

Scholarship Committee Chair **Rebecca Hancock** presented her report and announced the 2018 scholarship winners: Cadet **Marguerite Masullo** of Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Cadet **Valerie Carter** of Georgian College, and hawsepiper **Richard Gephart**.

A Constitutional Amendment submitted by Twin Ports Lodge #12 regarding language defining "license" in view of the Merchant Mariner Credential now issued by the USCG was approved.

A Constitutional Amendment and a By-Laws and General Regulations amendment submitted by Detroit Lodge #7 pertaining to an official logo and permission for a member to include that logo on his/her personal pennant were both approved.

A Constitutional Amendment submitted by Grand Traverse Lodge #23 regarding standing committees was withdrawn and may be resubmitted in another form at next year's convention.

A proposal submitted by Port Huron Lodge #2 relative to open lake weather buoys on the Lakes was approved. This proposal directs the NELC to request from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Environment Canada that AIS transmitters be installed on large open-lake weather buoys on the Great Lakes.



*Newly elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers; Front row, L to R: Grand Secretary-Treasurer Brian Eickel, Grand 1st VP Mark Mather, Grand President Harry Dusseau, 2nd Grand VP Joe Ruch; Back row, L to R: Grand Marshal George Lisner, Grand Warden Caitlin Clyne, Grand Chaplain Mary Ann Schallip, Grand Sentinel Jim Byrne.*

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## 2018 Convention Summary, *continued*

The Grand Lodge election of officers produced the following results:

Grand President: **Harold Dusseau**  
Grand First Vice President: **Mark Mather**  
Grand Second Vice President: **Joseph C. Ruch**  
Grand Secretary-Treasurer: **Brian L. Eickel**

The following officers were appointed:

Grand Chaplain: **Mary Ann Schallip**  
Grand Marshal: **George Lisner**  
Grand Warden: **Caitlin Clyne**  
Grand Sentinel: **James Byrne**

Installation of officers took place Friday evening, February 2, 2018.

Incoming Grand President **Harold Dusseau** appointed the following committees (first person listed is Chair):

NELC – **Scott Skrzypczak**, **Seann O'Donoghue** (Canadian Vice Chair), **Lee Barnhill** (Vice Chair), **George Haynes**, **Ray Schrempf**, **Larry Dostal**, **Harold Dusseau**, **Mark Mather**, **John Sarns**, **Campbell Dailey**, **John Brookham**, **Gary Adcock**, **Joe Ruch**.

Newsletter Editor: **Christine Rohn-Tielke**

Membership/Outreach/Website Committee: **Richard Gray** (Co-Chair), **Tom Blakely** (Co-Chair), **Ray Oset**, **Caitlin Clyne**, **Brian L. Eickel**, **Dan Towner**, **Seann O'Donoghue**.

Historian: **Paul Jagenow**, **John Sarns**.

Investment Committee: **Brian L. Eickel**, **Russell Brohl**, **Harold Dusseau**.

Canadian Investments: **Seann O'Donoghue**, **Andrea O'Donoghue**, **Julianne Hull**.

Grand President's Award Committee: **Al Tielke**, **John Wellington**, **Paul Jagenow**.

Keynote speaker at the Grand Ball was former US Representative and Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation **Betty Sutton**. Other industry representatives speaking at the convention included Lake Carriers' Association President **James H.I. Weakley**, National Museum of the Great Lakes Executive Director **Christopher Gillerist**, Great Lakes Fleet General Manager **Ken Gerasimos**, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority President and CEO **Paul Toth**, **Chuck Kakuska** of Sea-K's Licensing, US Coast Guard Capt. **Amy M. Beach**, National Weather Service's **Amy Seeley**, and **Eric Anderson** of NOAA.

The 2019 Grand Lodge Convention will be hosted by Grand Traverse Lodge #23 in Traverse City, MI, beginning February 7, 2019.



**Past Grand Presidents in Attendance at Toledo Convention:**

Front row: **Seann O'Donoghue**, **Mike Cap'ser**, current Grand President **Harry Dusseau**, **John Wellington**, **Robert Schallip**; Back row: **Robert Lund**, **George Haynes**, **Lee Barnhill**, **Ray Sheldon**, **Russell Brohl**.

## From the NELC

### *Congressional Sail-In*

This year, the Congressional Sail-In was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. PGP **Lee Barnhill** and NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak** had planned on attending but due to a winter storm in the DC area, they were unable to fly out of Detroit. NELC recovered almost all of the costs for this unfortunate circumstance, so almost no membership money was lost. NELC plans to keep attending this event into the future.

### *ConRail Bridge, Rouge River*

During the LCA Captain's Committee meetings in Cleveland, attendees were briefed on a proposal to automate the Con-Rail Bridge in the Rouge River. The USCG, as an unbiased broker, has to entertain the proposal and so the bridge will be undergoing a trial period from May to October 2018. During this trial period, there will be a human on the bridge but control of opening and closing will be in New Jersey. The human in the operations center in New Jersey can have no other job than to monitor this bridge, which will have 6 cameras with microphones along the river between Jefferson Ave and Fort Street and monitor VHF channel 12 and Sarnia Traffic. In a perfect world, this isn't so bad, but we all know this is not a perfect world. The NELC needs every captain that is willing to write a letter as to why this is a horrible idea, and we can submit them to the USCG Bridges office. If the trial is successful and the human is removed from the bridge, the only way to get them back is through a *catastrophic accident involving a vessel and the bridge!* Meaning, if we don't speak up there will be an accident before we can fix it. If this is successful here, you can bet it will spread to everywhere; Bay City is already looking at the technology for all of its drawbridges.

### *Detroit-Windsor Gordie Howe Bridge*

On March 8, 2018, the USCG and Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) held a stakeholders meeting in Detroit regarding the proposed construction of the Gordie Howe Bridge. At the time of this writing, the contractor selection process is ongoing and a selection should be made in May then released to the public in June. This meeting was the first of many as the process continues, and our NELC has been engaged in keeping an open line of communication with both the Port of Windsor, Port of Detroit, and USCG Sector Detroit on all matters concerning the waterway. The bridge will cross the river just above Zug Island on the US side and just above the power plant on the Canadian side, the piers will all be outside of the river, and the bridge has a proposed air draft of 156 feet (47.56m) in the center tapering to 127 feet (38.7m) at the banks. More information can be found at <https://www.wdbridge.com/>.

Detroit Lodge 7 will be hosting a meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the JW Westcott Co. with guest speakers from USCG Sector Detroit and the harbor master from the Port of Windsor. They will be discussing the new bridge as well as other goings on in both port areas. All ISMA members are invited to attend.

**Scott Skrzypczak**  
NELC Chairman

### *Reminder—*

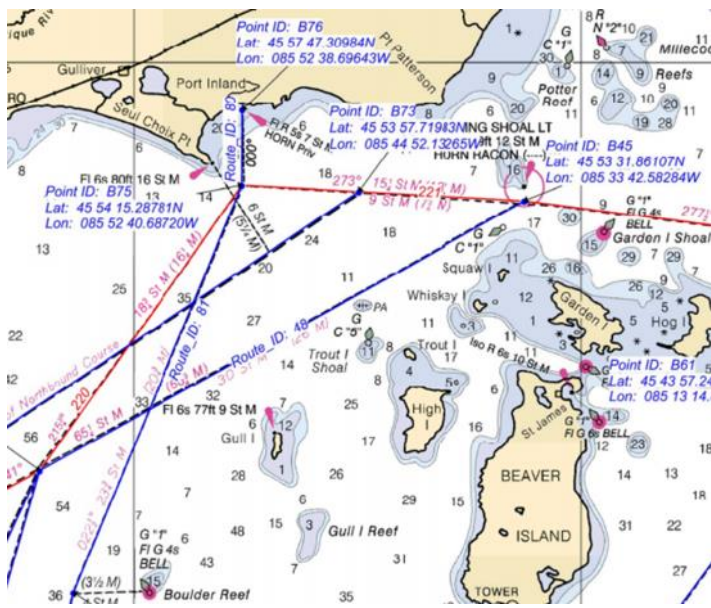
*Keep your email address up to date with your local lodge Secretary. It's the best way to receive your ISMA Letter (and other notices) promptly. Local secretaries distribute ISMA Letter via email.*



## NELC LCA TRACK UPDATE PROJECT

ISMA had a seat at the Lake Carriers' Association meeting this winter with NOAA. With the introduction of Digitized Analogue charts, and then Digital Vectorized charts, the LCA Tracks have never been digitized properly. This can be readily seen on ECDIS charts, when scrolling through Lake charts of various scales and locales. The LCA track Waypoints are to be officially located and will be accurate to 5 decimal points [because that is the accuracy we are working in today]. A working Captains group with **Ray Sheldon** in charge, **Ken Gerassimos** from the LCA, **John Greenway** from the CMC in Canada, and **Scott Skrzypczak** and **Seann O'Donoghue** from the NELC has been formed. The project was partially completed in 2017, and scheduled to be completed in 2018 with members set to meet this season to go over the Waypoints.

Once the waypoint verification has been completed, the LCA will submit the completed waypoints to NOAA and the CMC will submit them to the Canadian Hydrographic service. The NELC will keep ISMA apprised of 2018 developments.



## Grand President's Awards

At the 2018 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention in Toledo, outgoing Grand President Capt. **Lee Barnhill** presented Grand President's Awards to Capt. **Ryan Gazdecki** (left) and **Joseph Buchanan** (right) of J.W. Westcott Company for their lifesaving efforts in helping save a pregnant woman and a Detroit police officer from the icy waters of the Detroit River in April 2017.

*Congratulations on a job well done!*



## Scholarship Winners Say Thanks

Dear ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee,

*I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the ISMA Scholarship Award. Thank you for your generosity.*

*As I complete my education at Great Lakes Maritime Academy, I am immensely thankful for receiving your thoughtful award. This scholarship will positively impact my dream of being a mate.*

*Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.*

Sincerely,  
**Marguerite Masullo**

Dear ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee:

*I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Hawsepape Scholarship Award possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. Since applying for the scholarship, I have had the opportunity to sail as third mate on MV Manitowoc.*

*I continue to look forward to advancing in my career field on the Great Lakes. Your scholarship will help me earn credentials, which requires special training and coursework. I am so appreciative to the committee for acknowledging my hard work and perseverance thus far in my career.*

*Thanks again for your generosity and support. It is truly an honor to be chosen as the 2018 Hawsepape Scholarship Award winner.*

Sincerely,  
**Richard Gephart**  
Lower Lakes Towing

Dear ISMA Scholarship Committee,

*As the recipient of the 2018 ISMA Cadet Scholarship Award, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous support that ISMA has provided me through this scholarship. I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future education.*

*Without a doubt, this scholarship will play a key role in achieving my educational dreams. Because of your generosity, the financial burden placed on me will be reduced. That means I can spend more time on my studies, and less time worrying about my finances.*

*Being able to achieve my dreams of a career in Marine Navigation is so fulfilling to me both personally and professionally. I appreciate the role you are playing in helping me. I promise to work hard to maintain the confidence and trust you have shown in me.*

*Thank you. Your generosity truly makes a difference.*

**Valerie Carter**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Navigation Cadet  
Georgian College

## From the Lodges

### Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

Lodge #2 was well-represented at the ISMA Convention in Toledo. Port Huron is making plans to host the 2020 Convention with Capt. **Joe Ruch** becoming Grand President.



*Lodge #2 group on Saturday evening at Toledo Convention.  
—photo courtesy George Haynes*

Port Huron Lodge #2 celebrated its 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance on March 3, 2018, at the DoubleTree Hilton on the St. Clair River. The 79 attendees included six Past Grand Presidents and Grand Lodge officers, with a total of seven lodges represented. A pleasant evening was had by all.



*Lodge #2 Dinner Dance. More photos available on Lodge #2 page, ISMA web-site.*

*—photos courtesy George Haynes*

### Chicago Lodge No. 3:

The next Lodge #3 meeting will be held at the Chicago Maritime Museum on April 11, 2018. On the agenda is a recap of Industry Day and planning for the upcoming Blessing of the Fleet.

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### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

The 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance of Detroit Lodge No. 7 was held on February 17, 2018, at the ConCorde Inn in Clinton Township, MI. In attendance were ISMA Grand President **Harry Dusseau** and Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel**. Music and entertainment was provided by DJ **Terry Stevenson**.



*PGP Tom McMullen, PGP George Haynes, Grand President Harry Dusseau, Lodge President John Mantyk, Grand Secy-Treas. Brian Eickel, Lodge Secy-Treas. Ray Oset, and dance chairman Ken Suddick pose in front of lodge pennant.*

*—photo courtesy Paul Jagenow*

Several Lodge #7 members (**Ray and Sandy Oset, Kathy McGraw, Brian and Carolyn Eickel, Tom McMullen, Paul Jagenow, Rick and Irene Scott, Jay Downen, and Bill Griffore** coordinated by **John Polacsek**) volunteered to help staff the Detroit Historical Society and Dossin Museum Booth at the Detroit Boat Show, February 17-25. This volunteer effort has been a long-standing tradition of Lodge #7. The lodge was able to hold its February 22 meeting at the Dossin Museum. Senior museum curator and Lodge #7 member **Joel Stone** updated members on current and upcoming exhibits at the Main Historical Museum and the Dossin Museum. Lodge #7 presented curator **Stone** with the lodge's annual contribution in support of the Dossin Museum.



*Museum curator Joel Stone addresses the lodge members.*

*—photo courtesy Paul Jagenow*

Two Lodge #7 members volunteered in response to a request for Shipmasters to assist with Merchant Mariner **Robert Belger's** funeral service. **Tom McMullen** and **Scott Reynolds** read part of the service.

Lodge #7's Annual Lodge Barbeque will be held at noon on April 7, 2018, at J.W. Westcott Co. Guest speaker at 1 pm is LCDR **Matthew Dooris** of US Coast Guard Sector Detroit, presenting an update on current issues as well as the new Gordie Howe Bridge spanning the river from Detroit to Windsor.

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## Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

On March 19, 2018, Lodge #15 began a new meeting series, "Marine Talks." Held at Georgian College in Owen Sound, the talks will cover a variety of subjects, such as preparing for Transport Canada exams, advice on planning a marine career, issues that affect our industry – unmanned ships, regulatory changes, and various other maritime presentations. Guest speaker at the first meeting was Capt. **Amanda Slade**, who spoke about her diverse marine career from tall ships to seismic vessels, cruise ships to freighters, and from college professor to Marine Casualty Investigator and blogger. A Georgian College graduate, she has travelled the world. Watch for information on future meetings in the series.

## Blessing of the Fleet and Ludington Awards

by Paul Jagenow

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet was held on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at Mariners' Church in Detroit. Numerous ISMA members participated in the service: Grand President **Harry Dusseau** (Toledo Lodge No. 9), PGP **Bob Lund** (Chicago Lodge No. 3), PGP **Tom McMullen** (Detroit Lodge No. 7), PGP **Joe Walters** (Twin Ports Lodge No. 12), PGP **Robert Schallip** (Twin Sault Lodge No. 22), **James Semerad** and **Roger Hewlett** (Port Huron Lodge No. 2), **Ray Oset**, **Mike Nall**, **Art Brooks**, **Rick Scott**, **John Mantyk**, **Scott Reynolds**, **Patrick Beard**, **Lynne Kogel**, and **Kathy McGraw** (Detroit Lodge No. 7), and Grand Chaplain **Mary Ann Schallip** (Twin Sault Lodge No. 22). Several other ISMA lodge members were in the congregation including **Dominic Gorno** and **Paul Jagenow** (Lodge No. 7), **Curt Kikkert** (Lodge No. 22), and Adm. **Jerry Achenbach** (Lodge No. 23). **John Mantyk**, President of Detroit Lodge No. 7, rang the *Octorara* bell as the names of departed mariners during the past year were read by necrologist **Kathy McGraw**. LTC **Dennis Sugrue**, Detroit District Commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers, rang the bell for military personnel who have given their lives in service to the nation. **Harry Dusseau**, **Rick Scott**, **Lynne Kogel**, and **Mike Nall** presented the wreaths representing the dangers of Storm, Reef, Fire and Collision. **Art Brooks**, **Patrick Beard** and **Ray Oset** served as pennant/flag receivers. The service was conducted by Fr. **Tony Faint** of Mariners' Church.

Three nominees were named as recipients of the annual Lewis Ludington Award: PGP **Robert Lund** of Chicago Lodge No. 3, **Mary Ann Schallip** of Twin Sault Lodge No. 22 and PGP **Joe Walters** of Twin Ports Lodge No. 12. **Scott Reynolds** served as reader during the Ludington Award presentations.



2018 Lewis Ludington Award recipients: Joe Walters, Mary Ann Schallip, and Bob Lund. At right is Dana Ludington, great-grandson of Capt. Lewis Ludington, representing the Ludington Family.

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- The US Coast Guard announced in the *Federal Register* on March 28, 2018, that it is seeking applications until April 27, 2018, for membership on the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee. Two positions will become vacant Sept. 30, 2018. Completed applications should reach the Coast Guard on or before April 27, 2018. Read more at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/28/3-28-2018-great-lakes-pilotage-advisory-committee-vacancies>. View the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/03/28/2018-06194/great-lakes-pilotage-advisory-committee-vacancies>.
- On March 29, 2018, the USCG announced that applications will be considered for five Towing Safety Advisory Committee positions that will be vacant Sept. 30, 2018. Applications must be received by April 10. For more information, see <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/29/3-29-2018-reminder-application-period-for-towing-safety-advisory-committee-membership-open-until-april-10/>.
- The 2018 *Seaway Handbook* is available at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/commercial/seaway-handbook/index.html>.
- Georgian College, Owen Sound, Ontario, has an opening for a full time Marine Engineering instructor beginning in August 2018. For details, see <https://www.georgiancollege.ca/about-georgian/career-opportunities/tab/employment-opportunities>. Deadline for application is April 5.
- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's February 19, 2018, *Making Waves* newsletter can be accessed at [http://myemail.constantcontact.com/GLSLCI-Newsletter--Making-Waves.html?\\_soid=1120225568610&aid=e\\_YjYbhH8aU](http://myemail.constantcontact.com/GLSLCI-Newsletter--Making-Waves.html?_soid=1120225568610&aid=e_YjYbhH8aU).
- On March 20, 2018, the US Coast Guard issued Marine Safety Alert 03-18 recommending that vessel operators inspect their immersion suits for a potential unsafe condition caused by failure of the glue used to attach the main zipper to the body of the suit. View the document at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/INV/Alerts/0318.pdf>.
- On March 6, 2018, the US Coast Guard issued Policy Letter 01-18 providing guidelines for those mariners who wish to harmonize the expiration dates of their original or renewed Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) and Medical Certificate. See <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/MMC/CG-MMC-2%20Policies/CG-MMC%2001-18%20Harmonization.pdf?ver=2018-03-02-071916-180>.
- On March 6, 2018, the US Coast Guard issued a News Release stating that it and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have teamed up to incorporate the amalgamated International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (72 COREGS) and the Inland Navigation Rules into NOAA's US Coast Pilot publications. See <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1dffc4c>.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Traffic Report and statistics for 2017 can be found at <http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/seaway/facts/traffic/index.html>. Past years' reports are also available. The Canadian Whale Institute requested that mariners who sail on the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence and the East Coast of Canada complete an on-line confidential survey. The survey is available online at [www.cwisurvey.ca](http://www.cwisurvey.ca).
- The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee meets via teleconference on April 11, 2018.



- April 22, 2018** -  
Navy League Sunday, 11 AM  
Mariners' Church, Detroit, MI
- May 6, 2018** -  
Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, WW II Remembrance  
at Owen Sound Cenotaph
- May 22, 2018** -  
National Maritime Day (US)
- June 13-15, 2018** -  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Annual Meeting and Conference, Ajax, ONT
- June 25, 2018** -  
International Day of the Seafarer
- June 27, 2018** -  
Hamilton Marine Day, Hamilton, ONT
- July 9, 2018** -  
Sea Sunday, The Mission to Seafarers: Canada
- August 20, 2018** -  
St. Lawrence Day
- August 17-18, 2018** -  
Georgian Bay Tugfest, Midland, ONT
- September 3, 2018** -  
Annual Canada Merchant Navy Day
- September 28, 2018** -  
World Maritime Day
- November 11, 2018** -  
Remembrance Day (CA)  
ISMA Lays CMNVA Wreath at Owen Sound  
Cenotaph  
Veterans Day (US)
- November 26, 2018** -  
William Hamilton Merritt Day, Welland Canal
- December 7, 2018** -  
Grunt Club 180th Annual Dinner, Montreal, QC

## NEW MEMBERS

(through 12-31-2017)

- Buffalo Lodge #1:**  
Associate: **Michael B. Hibbard** #A-13044
- Port Huron Lodge #2:**  
Associate: **Louise Beutell** #A-13053
- Detroit Lodge #7:**  
Active Professional: **Randy B. Pagel** #13048  
**Julie Cortis Redfield** #13047  
**Tyman Totte** #13045
- Toledo Lodge #9:**  
Active Professional: **Robert L. Stausmire** #13046
- Grand Traverse Lodge #23:**  
Associate: **Thomas Maynard** #A-13051  
Cadet: **Brian Smith** #C-13049  
**Athena Thomas** #C-13052

## In the News

On February 6, 2018, the *Detroit Free Press* ran an article, "Mail boat captain, partner honored for heroic Detroit River rescue of pregnant woman, cop." Included was a photo of Capt. **Ryan Gazdecki** and **Joseph Buchanan** receiving the Grand President's Award from Capt. **Lee Barnhill**. Read the article at <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2018/02/06/mail-boat-captain-detroit-river-rescue/312754002/>.

A *Toledo Blade* article published on February 14, 2018, talked about the 2018 ISMA Convention in Toledo. Read it at <http://www.toledoblade.com/BarbaraHendel/2018/02/14/Lending-a-hand-in-the-community.html>.

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



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

## International Ship Masters' Association

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