



## Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 31, Number 6  
November-December 2017

# ISMA LETTER

## 2018 ISMA Convention

Toledo Lodge #9 is the host lodge for the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention in Toledo, OH, February 1-4, to be held at the Renaissance Hotel. The convention theme is "Facing Challenges-Moving the World."

The Delegate Caucus as well as NELC and other committee meetings will be Thursday, February 1, 2018, at the National Museum of the Great Lakes. In addition to touring the museum, the *Col. James M. Schoonmaker* museum ship will be open, and a reception will be catered by Tony Packo's Restaurant. The Grand Lodge will convene on Friday morning. Friday's lunch will feature keynote speaker RAdm **Joanna Nunan**, commander of the Ninth District US Coast Guard. Friday evening is the Grand Lodge Installation ceremony and Grand Ball. Final business conducted on Saturday morning will be followed by "Hawaiian Shirt & Resort Night."

You should receive a Convention invitation letter from Lodge #9 as well as registration information. You can also access this info on the ISMA website, [www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org).

The ISMA convention room rate at the Renaissance is \$127.00 per night (plus tax), double occupancy. There is a link to online reservations on the ISMA website's convention section. Or you can call 419-244-2444 and mention the Ship Masters Convention.

## LODGE 9 RAFFLE

In connection with the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention, Toledo Lodge #9 is conducting a raffle to benefit Lodge #9 and the Toledo Maritime Academy. Prizes are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: A trip for 4-6 adults aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$1000 cash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Round trip passage for 2 aboard the carferry *Badger*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: A pilot boat ride for up to 4 people, courtesy of Lake Pilots Association

Only 1000 tickets will be sold; price is \$10 each. Winners will be drawn at the convention on Saturday, February 3. For more information, visit [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com) or Lodge #9 Secretary-Treasurer **Jim Byrne** at [jbyrne1172@aol.com](mailto:jbyrne1172@aol.com).

ISMA Membership Applications  
Available Online at  
[www.shipmaster.org/learn-more.html](http://www.shipmaster.org/learn-more.html)

## From the NELC

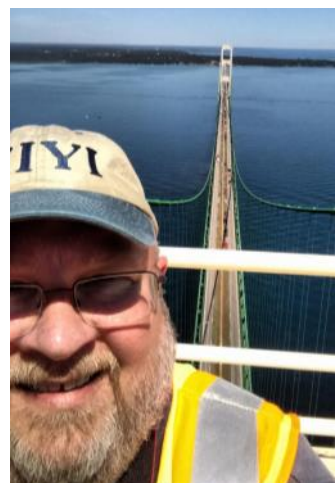
### Canadian ATONs in Detroit-St. Clair River System

On November 24, 2017, NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak** received the following email from the Canadian Coast Guard: "The Canadian Coast Guard Marine Aids Program is currently conducting a level of service review on the Canadian Aids to Navigation located on the Detroit River and St. Clair River Systems. An important part of the review process is to receive comments from the users that transit the systems. The comments will be taken into consideration and used in the review to design and upgrade the current system for mariners. Please take this opportunity to share this email with pilots, captains, and other commercial users that transit these systems. Your comments or any concerns would be greatly appreciated and will be part of the report used to complete the review. The review recommendations will be completed and submitted by the end of March 2018. ...Contact me by phone, email or letter by December 22, 2017..." **Jeff Whitteker**, Canadian Coast Guard, Government of Canada, 401 King St. W., Prescott, Ontario K0E 1T0, [Jeff.whitteker@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Jeff.whitteker@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), (613) 925-2865, ext. 116.

**Scott requests that any ISMA member choosing to respond directly also copy your feedback to him as NELC Chairman: [NELC@shipmaster.org](mailto:NELC@shipmaster.org), Scott Skrzypczak, 2109 Davis Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192.**

## PGP Sets Record

On July 25, 2017, ISMA Past Grand President and Twin Ports Lodge #12 member **Joseph Walters**, master of the research vessel *Kiyi*, the first PGP to climb to the top of the Mackinac Bridge. He is shown here at the summit of the South Tower; the weather was clear with visibility of over 30 nautical miles.



## From the Lodges

### Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

At Lodge #4's Annual Meeting on October 19, 2017, the following officers were elected for a two-year term beginning in 2018:

President: **George R. "Skip" Skuggen**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Susan L. Lieblein**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **William "Buck" McSweeney**  
Secretary-Treasurer: **Christine R. Rohn-Tielke**

The following officers were appointed for the two-year term:

Marshal: **Charles "Chip" Duggan**  
Warden: **William Rabatsky**  
Sentinel: **James Banjoff**  
Chaplain: **Rev. Alfred Hart**

### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7's 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance will be Saturday, February 17, 2018, at the ConCorde Inn, Clinton Township, MI. Tickets are \$50 per person for a buffet dinner and door prizes. There will be a cash bar. All ISMA members are welcome. Contact **Ken Suddick** at [ksuddick23@gmail.com](mailto:ksuddick23@gmail.com) or 586-530-5016. Rooms are available at the ConCorde Inn for \$89.99 plus tax (mention ISMA Detroit Lodge No. 7).

Lodge #7's Annual Meeting and election of officers will be Saturday, January 6, 2018, at noon at J.W. Westcott Co. Then Saturday, January 20, the 6 PM potluck dinner meeting will include spouses/guests at First United Methodist Church in Hazel Park.

### Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

The 2017 Lodge 15 scholarship winners are **Yesly Bonte**, MNT, and **Joe Larochelle**, MET.

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, Lodge #15 will have their annual Saturday church set-up event and Sea Shanty practice at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound, in preparation for Sunday's (February 11) Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet. The service at St. George's begins at 10 AM.

Lodge #15 members **Percy Warrilow**, **James Lowe**, **Gord McNeill**, and **Ron O'Donoughue** were present for placing of the Canada Merchant Navy Veterans wreath at the November 11, 2017, Remembrance Day ceremonies in Owen Sound.

Lodge #15 member **Eric Conroy** received the Canada Senate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award for 40 years as a volunteer and his repatriation of SS *Keewatin* to Port McNicol.

Members **Amanda Gibson**, **Valerie Carter**, and **Ashley Traeger** attended the 2017 Women on the Water Conference held at Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, MI, October 26-30, 2017.

### Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19:

2017 Grand President and Lodge #19 member **Lee Barnhill** has been working on vessels involved in the underwater inspection of the Trans-Straits (Mackinac) pipelines this year.

## Boat Trip Raffles

Visit [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com) for the latest news about ISMA boat trip raffles.



## FINAL BELLS

**Thomas W. Baumgarten**, MD (#A-10589), member of Detroit Lodge #7, passed away on November 22, 2017, at the age of 93. Dr. Baumgarten had been a member of Lodge #7 for nearly 33 years. He is survived by his wife **Catherine**, son **Thomas Jr.**, and two grandchildren. **Tom** and **Cathy** are shown here in a 2007 photo.

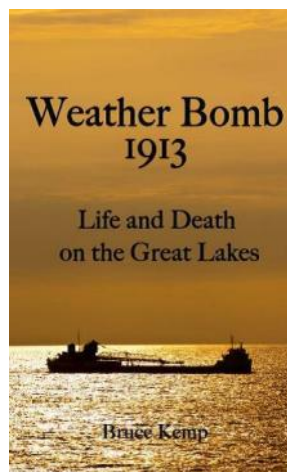


Cleveland Lodge #4 member **George E. Smith** (#A-10949) passed away on December 3, 2017, at the age of 76, following a battle with cancer. George served more than 22 years in the US Air Force, from which he retired in 1982. He then began a 20-year second career with the National Weather Service in Cleveland, retiring in 2002. He joined Lodge #4 in 1984. George is survived by his wife **Carol**, sons **Doug** and **Scott**, and four grandchildren. Services were held on December 6.

## Members in the News

Capt. **Gregg Colp**, member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15, and master of Hamilton's new tug *Ocean Simard*, was featured on the CHCH Hamilton Morning Show on November 6, 2017. The piece covered 16 minutes and promoted the port of Hamilton and the Canadian maritime industry. View it at [www.chch.com/on-the-water-2/](http://www.chch.com/on-the-water-2/).

## New Great Lakes Books



Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp** has authored *Weather Bomb 1913: Life and Death on the Great Lakes*, published in November 2017 by Waypoint Marine Publishing. The well-researched book has been in the works for many years. On December 4, **Bruce** gave a presentation to Lodge #15. The book is distributed by The Nautical Mind Bookstore, [www.nauticalmind.com](http://www.nauticalmind.com).

Former Lake Carriers' Association President **George J. Ryan** has written *Lake Carriers' Association History 1880-2015*, published by Xlibris. The book tells the story of the LCA and its contributions to Great Lakes shipping, the region, and the national economy from the time of its founding in 1880. The book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

### 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.

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- On November 13, 2017, the US Coast Guard issued a safety alert regarding a recall of Kidde fire extinguishers. Nearly 40 million extinguishers involving 134 models have been recalled. The recall involves two styles of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers: plastic handle and plastic push-button extinguishers. Units with metal handles/valve assemblies are not included in the recall, nor are Kidde Professional or Badger branded units. The USCG strongly recommends that all persons owning fire extinguishers read the recall information on the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers-with-plastic-handles-due-to-failure-to-discharge-and#.Wfr3FggcNkQ>. You can read the Coast Guard's safety alert at <http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/INV/Alerts/1217.pdf>.
- On November 27, 2017, the US Coast Guard posted a Maritime Commons article, "Illegal passenger vessel operations – A risk to safety, credentialed mariners, and legitimate operators," by Lt. Cdr. **Baxter Smoak**, of the Office of Investigations & Casualty Analysis. Illegal operations and the potential dangers they present have existed since the inception of passenger vessel regulations. In recent years, however, the introduction of certain smart phone apps to the hospitality and transportation industries has exacerbated the issue by making it easier for property owners to enter into agreements to temporarily lease, charter, or rent their homes or vehicles to interested parties for compensation. As expected, emerging business ventures are now dedicated to boat rentals and water taxis using similar business plans and smart phone apps. In this post, the Coast Guard discusses some of the risks associated with illegal passenger operations and what the boating public and legitimate operators can do to protect themselves. Read the entire piece at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/11/27/11272017-illegal-passenger-vessel-operations-a-risk-to-safety-credentialed-mariners-and-legitimate-operators/>.
- The Port of Thunder Bay has re-branded itself as "The Superior Way West." The port has also adopted a new logo featuring a maple leaf, which officials hope will create more interest in shipping through Thunder Bay, sometimes an afterthought in provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan. The port's CEO **Tim Heney** said that while traveling in western Canada or Europe, he's often asked where Thunder Bay is located and what capabilities it has. Some have even asked if the port is still in existence. That was an indication the port needed a boost, despite topping nine million tonnes in cargo the past several years. With the new tagline and logo, he sees the probability of raising awareness and increasing the amount and diversity of cargo moved through Thunder Bay.
- On November 3, 2017, Judge **Contreras** of the US District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the US Coast Guard was justified in increasing 2016 pilotage rates for service on the Great Lakes.
- Prompted by recent incidents in which smaller vessels have failed to follow boating laws, particularly those concerning reckless operation in no wake zones, US Coast Guard officials issued a warning on November 1, 2017, reminding operators of possible consequences. Operating a vessel negligently can cost up to \$6,559 for a recreational vessel, or up to \$32,796 for any other type of vessel.
- The Door County Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay, WI, hosted a special Veterans Day exhibit from November 4-18, 2017. Included was the unveiling of the museum's newest WW2-era subchaser model.
- A Mariners Memorial Service was held at Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, MI, on November 10, 2017. The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual service was sponsored by the Student Propeller Club, Port 150, of GLMA.
- The US Coast Guard and the Lake Carriers' Association signed a memorandum of agreement on October 31, 2017, for maritime rescue training. The agreement relates to maritime industry rescue training between CG Air Station Traverse City, CG Air Station Detroit, and LCA enrolled vessels. For more information, see <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1c14cb0> or <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/11/06/1162017-coast-guard-lake-carriers-association-sign-training-agreement/>.
- Seaway traffic results through October 2017 showed an increase of 9.87% in tonnage volume over 2016, from 26,158,000 tonnes to 28,741,000 tonnes. Vessel transits were up by 6.8%, from 2,958 in 2016 to 3,159 this year.
- The USCG's Towing Safety Advisory Committee and Subcommittees met in New Orleans, LA, December 5-6, 2017.
- As of October 25, 2017, the Great Lakes National Program Office of US EPA announced that 2017 Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Annual Reports for all 5 Great Lakes have been published. For more information, visit <https://binational.net>.
- A USCG National Maritime Center bulletin on October 20, 2017, provided guidance for merchant mariners using the new Homeport 2.0, which launched on October 17. Users can search Merchant Mariner application status by Reference number (Mariner number) and Application ID. Users are also able to perform Merchant Mariner Credential verifications using several different identifiers. For details, see <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/10/23/10232017-natl-maritime-center-provides-guidance-for-merchant-mariners-using-new-homeport-2-0/> or [http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2017/homeport\\_2.0\\_release.pdf](http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2017/homeport_2.0_release.pdf).
- Senator **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI) was named Great Lakes Legislator of the Year by the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF). The award was presented in a ceremony at Bay Shipbuilding Company, Sturgeon Bay, WI, on August 22, 2017. ISMA is a member of GLMTF.

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### Lost Mariners Remembrance

The Lost Mariners Remembrance program was held at Dossin Museum on the evening of November 10, 2017. Several members of Detroit Lodge No. 7 were active participants in the ceremony: Lodge 7 President **Kenneth Suddick** and **Luke Clyburn** served in the Honor Guard. **Malcolm McAdam** was Flotilla Coordinator. **Joel Hepola** piloted the *J.W. Westcott II*, one of the vessels in the flotilla. Fr. **Robert Schikora** participated as a member of the clergy. **Kathleen McGraw** served as Necrologist. **Neil Schultheiss** provided the internet video feed of the event. The program included a Lantern Vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor, maritime ballads sung by **Lee Murdock**, a memorial wreath ceremony on the Detroit River, and a presentation, "The Tragedy of the *Admiral* and *Cleveco*," given by Kevin McGee.

—by **Paul Jagenow**, Lodge No. 7





**January 18, 2018 -**

Chamber of Marine Commerce  
Annual Luncheon, Toronto

**January 19, 2018 -**

78th Annual Marine Club Dinner, Toronto

**February 1-4, 2018 -**

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, Toledo, OH

**February 11, 2018 -**

Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great  
Lakes Fleet, 10 AM, St. George's Anglican  
Church, Owen Sound

**February 17, 2018 -**

Detroit Lodge #7 127th Annual Dinner Dance,  
ConCorde Inn, Clinton Township, MI

**March 11, 2018 -**

Annual Blessing of the Fleet, 11 AM  
Mariners' Church, Detroit

**April 22, 2018 -**

Navy League Sunday, 11 AM  
Mariners' Church, Detroit

**May 6, 2018 -**

Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, WW II Remembrance  
at Owen Sound Cenotaph

**May 22, 2018 -**

National Maritime Day (US)

**June 25, 2018 -**

International Day of the Seafarer

## Great Lakes Memorial Service

Several ISMA lodges were represented at the annual Great Lakes Memorial Service held at Detroit's Mariners' Church on November 12, 2017. **Roger Hewlett** and **Jim Semerad** of Port Huron Lodge #2; **Lynne Kogel**, **Jay E. Downen**, **Jay M. Downen**, **Ken Suddick**, **Rick Scott**, **Mike Nall**, **Brian Eickel**, **Chris Stevens**, **Ray Oset**, **Art Brooks**, **Ron Ingram**, **Jack Callahan**, **Art Herala**, and **John Mantyk** of Detroit Lodge #7; and **RAAdm Jerry Achenbach** of Grand Traverse Lodge #23 participated in the service as official bell ringers and as members of the honor guard on the altar. The *Octorara* bell was rung nine times for mariners lost on the various waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, plus a final toll for military personnel. Personnel from the US Coast Guard, USCG Auxiliary, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Sea Cadets also participated. Fr. **Tony Faint** of Mariners' Church officiated, and Lodge #7 member **Kathy McGraw** was present in her capacity as sexton of Mariners' Church.



—photo and text by Paul Jagenow, Detroit Lodge #7

## Pilot Boat Model Kit

Now available are paper model kits of the pilot boat *Huron Spirit*. The kits are \$25 each, available from Lakes Pilots Association. All proceeds will be donated to the Community Foundation of St. Clair County – Maritime Fund. See photo and ordering info at <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Huron%20Spirit%20Model%20Flyer.pdf>.



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

## International Ship Masters' Association

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