



Volume 29, Number 1
January-February 2015

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

CONVENTION TIME

It's time for the 125th ISMA Grand Lodge Convention at Duluth, hosted by Twin Ports Lodge #12. With a convention theme of "Deep Blue is the New Green," the Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee (NELC) meeting and Grand Lodge Delegate Caucus are the evening of February 5, with the Grand Lodge convening at 0830 on Friday, February 6. Installation of officers and Grand Ball are Friday evening at the Harbor Side Ballroom, Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Saturday evening's party theme is "Greaser 50s/Hippie 60s Dance with Rock-A-Billy Revue."

Stay tuned for a convention report!

Scholarship Winners Announced

Chairman of the ISMA Scholarship Committee and PGP **Seann O'Donoghue** has announced the committee's selection of 2015 Scholarship Award winners.

Hawsepip Award – Rhys Weed, Toronto, ON. Rhys is employed by Lower Lakes Towing (Canada) as wheelsman, and is working toward completing his Watch Keeping Mate's Certificate.

Canadian (Great Lakes International Marine Training and Research Centre) **Cadet Award – Kaitlin Whittall**. Kaitlin is a 3rd year Navigation cadet at Owen Sound, ON.

US (Great Lakes Maritime Academy) **Cadet Award – Melissa Gooch**. Melissa is a 4th year Engineering Cadet at Traverse City, MI.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

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

Chicago Lodge #3:

Lodge #3's annual meeting and installation of officers was held on January 10, 2015.

In conjunction with the US Coast Guard MSU Chicago, Lodge #3 is sponsoring Maritime Industry Day on March 12, 2015, at the Double Tree Hotel, Alsip, IL. (More on page 3.)

Detroit Lodge #7:

The following officers were elected and appointed for 2015 at Lodge #7's annual meeting on January 3:

- President: **Ronald C. LaPlante**
- 1st Vice President: **Thomas L. Jannausch**
- 2nd Vice President: **Scott E. Reynolds**
- Secretary-Treasurer: **Paul M. Jagenow**
- Board of Governors (3-year term): **Patrick A. Beard, Thomas R. McMullen, Richard S. Scott**
- Alternate Governor: **Arthur B. Brooks III**
- Co-Chaplains: **Rev. Paul A. Innes, Fr. Russell E. Kohler**
- Marshal: **Dennis E. Pomeroy**
- Warden: **John C. Mantyk**
- Sentinel: **Michael W. Nall**
- Lodge Surgeons: **Dr. Thomas W. Baumgarten, Dr. Larry W. Stephenson**

Lodge #7's Annual Dinner Dance will be February 28.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Coming on February 15, 2015, is the Annual Mariners' Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet at St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound at 10 am.

Lodge #15's annual meeting and election of officers will be held on February 15.



ISMA Scholarship Fund

Twin Sault Lodge #22 member **Curtis Kikkert** recently made a donation to the ISMA Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your generosity and interest in development of future mariners!

Scholarships will be awarded at the Grand Lodge Convention in February.

FINAL BELLS

Past Grand President (2009) and long-time Niagara District Lodge #20 member Capt. **Jeremiah “Jerry” Bissette** (#10387) passed away in St. Catharines, ON, on January 5, 2015, in his 84th year. **Jerry** sailed the Great Lakes for 44 years. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Patricia**, four children and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son. Services were held in Thorold, ON, on January 8.

Chicago Lodge #3 member **Gerritt “Gary” Hooyenga** (#11782) passed away on May 4, 2014.

Northeast Michigan Lodge #19 member **Elizabeth “Betty” Zimmer** (#A-12222) passed away during 2014.

Scholarship Winner



Tim Westmorland, member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15, is a 3rd year Navigation cadet at Georgian College Great Lakes International Marine Training and Research Centre. He is the 2014 recipient of the G. O. Bough Scholarship, presented by the Canadian Company of Master Mariners.

When the photo above was taken, **Tim** (left) was aboard the *CWB Marquis*, on a 60-day trans-Pacific delivery voyage from Nantong, China, to Montreal, Canada, via the Panama Canal. At right in the photo is PGP **Seann O'Donoghue**, Master of the ship.

NEW MEMBERS

Cleveland Lodge #4:

Associate: **Meredith Williams** #A-12883

Detroit Lodge #7:

Active Professional: **Ryan L. Gazdecki** #12886

Twin Ports Lodge #12:

Associate: **John Sorensen** #A-12887

Green Bay Lodge #18:

Associate: **Joseph T. Olig** #A-12884

*Correction: **Kenneth H. Thompson**'s membership number was listed incorrectly in the November-December 2014 ISMA Letter. His correct number is 12885.*

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Detroit Lodge #7 member Fr. **Russ Kohler** was interviewed for a December 11, 2014, *Detroit News* article about Most Holy Trinity Church and its programs to help needy children.

US Jones Act Threatened

From the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, January 15, 2015, (www.glmf.org/category/press-releases/)—

Lakes Rise to Defend US Build Requirement of Jones Act.

An effort to remove the US build requirement from the Jones Act is being soundly rejected by Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, the largest labor/management coalition ever assembled to promote shipping on America's Fourth Sea Coast. [Note: ISMA is a GLMTF member.] The Task Force sees no benefit to allowing foreign-built vessels to carry cargo between US ports, but warns that nearly 60,000 jobs in the Great Lakes states will be sacrificed for no good reason if the amendment to the Keystone Pipeline Bill (S.1) offered by Sen. **John McCain** (R-AZ) is accepted.

“There is no reason to even consider this amendment,” said **John D. Baker**, President of GLMTF. “Vessels built in Great Lakes shipyards are so efficient, that year in, year out, they save their customers billions of dollars in freight costs compared to land-based transportation modes...”

Jim Weakley, 3rd Vice President of GLMTF and Lake Carriers' Association President, warned that eliminating the build requirement would open doors to dismantling the US crews and US ownership requirements of the law. “It would be just a matter of time before someone proposed completely gutting our maritime cabotage laws. Do we really want to take the risk that terrorists could be among crewmembers on foreign-flag vessels moving cargo on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland or the Saginaw River in Michigan? Foreign ownership would mean the companies that operate these vessels would be flying the latest flag of convenience and be largely unregulated. America's strict safety and operational requirements would not apply.”

continued next column...

...Passage of the McCain amendment would also send shockwaves through the US Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Loss of commercial work would swell the cost of building the vessels that defend America's interests worldwide. The Navy League of the United States was among the first organizations to reject the amendment.

The Task Force has urged Great Lakes Senators to vote NO when the amendment is offered. "The Lakes Jones Act fleet moved more than 90 million tons of cargo in 2014 and did it safely and efficiently," said **Baker**. "Domestic waterborne commerce has been well served by Great Lakes shipyards. There is nothing to be gained by removing the build requirement from the Jones Act."

Chicago Industry Day

ISMA Chicago Lodge #3, in conjunction with US Coast Guard MSU Chicago, will sponsor the annual Chicago Maritime Industry Day on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at the Double Tree Hotel, Alsip, IL. The event brings together several Federal, state, and municipal agencies involved with the waters in and around Chicago. The agencies will discuss matters pertaining to the local marine community, and be available to answer questions. For more information, go to www.chicagoshipmasters.com/industry/info.htm.

Industry Newsbriefs –

Congress Reaffirms Jones Act Support. In December 2014, US Congress enacted the strongest statement of support for the Jones Act and the US domestic maritime industry since the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. The measure was included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 3979), which noted that the national security benefits of the domestic maritime industry and the Jones Act are "unquestioned." The bill states that the Jones Act and the American domestic maritime industry are vital to "the national security and economic vitality of the United States and the efficient operation of the US transportation system." The legislation was approved by the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. The Congressional statement of support for the Jones Act as part of the National Defense Authorization Act specifically states: "The national security benefits of the domestic maritime industry are unquestioned as the Department of Defense depends on US domestic trades' fleet of container ships, roll-on/roll-off ships, and product tankers to carry military cargoes..." A report from the Lexington Institute says, "Without the Jones Act, the Department of Homeland Security would be confronted by the difficult and very costly task of monitoring, regulating, and overseeing all foreign-controlled, foreign-crewed vessels in internal US waters." Read more, including the text of the bill's statement of support for the American domestic maritime industry at www.americanmaritimepartnership.com by clicking on the Press Releases tab under the News Room bar on the left side of the home page. *Note:* Other releases address the recent attempt to undermine the Jones Act (see "US Jones Act Threatened," on page 2).

continued next column...

Seaway Hits Post-Recession Tonnage High. The St. Lawrence Seaway concluded the 2014 navigation season with 40 million tonnes of cargo, which represents a full recovery from the 2009 global financial crisis and its aftermath. The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announced on January 12, 2015, that the Seaway closed for the season on January 1, 2015, when the outbound *Sten Bergen* transited the St. Lambert Lock. The last vessel to exit the Welland Canal was *Algoma Navigator* on December 31, 2014. The 2014 Seaway navigation season numbered 280 days. The rebound to 40 million tonnes in 2014 represented a 7 percent increase over 2013. A boom in 2014 grain shipments, over 12 million tonnes, was the highest volume since the turn of the century 14 years ago. Iron and steel products, and shipments of road salt also showed strong volumes. Read more at www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/press-releases/pr20150112.html.

Seaway Traffic Results. Through the end of December 2014, Seaway vessel transits numbered 3909, up by 9 from 2013. Grain volume was up by 44.17 percent from 2013; dry bulk was up by 11.78 percent; general cargo was up by 94.02 percent. However, 2014 iron ore tonnage decreased by 32.5 percent from 2013; coal was down by 5.65 percent; and liquid bulk was down by 6.04 percent.

USCG 2015 Electronic Light List. Electronic editions of the Light Lists are available on the US Coast Guard's Navigation Center's website at www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightLists. Full updates to the electronic editions of these volumes are available at www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightListWeeklyUpdates. A summary of Light List corrections to the Light List Books can be found at www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightListCorrections.

LCA Calls for Second Heavy Icebreaker. On January 6, 2015, Lake Carrier's Association called for construction of a second heavy icebreaker to partner with USCGC *Mackinaw* to keep Great Lakes shipping lanes open in the harshest of conditions. The LCA's press release states, "The seemingly glacial ice that brought shipping on the Great Lakes to a virtual standstill last winter cost the economy more than \$700 million and nearly 4000 jobs and prompted LCA to call for construction of a second heavy icebreaker..."

"I want to stress that LCA and our members' customers deeply appreciate the efforts of the US and Canadian Coast Guards this past ice season," said **James H. I. Weakley**, president of LCA. Read the full release at www.lcaships.com/2015/01/06/lakes-deep-freeze-cost-economy-705-million-and-3800-jobs/.

Duluth's Last Laker of 2014 Season. On January 20, 2015, *John G. Munson* arrived at Duluth for layup at Fraser Shipyards, thus closing the 2014 season at Duluth-Superior.

IJC Regional Director. Patricia A. "Trish" Morris, a US Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, has been named director of the International Joint Commission's (IJC) Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) in Windsor, ON. An attorney, she spent nearly 20 years working for the US Army Corps

continued on page 4...

Industry Newsbriefs, cont.

of Engineers and Army headquarters, helping the Army navigate legal and policy matters related to the US Clean Water Act, Great Lakes invasive species eradication, as well as projects in the Everglades and Gulf of Mexico. She has extensive experience in international and environmental law related to watersheds and water resources. **Morris** will serve the 4-year term designated for a US director of the binational GLRO under a rotating Canada/US leadership agreement. **Matthew Child** of Essex, ON, will serve as deputy director of the GLRO. He joined the IJC in 2013, having previously served as director of watershed restoration for 14 years at the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

Council of Great Lakes Governors. In January 2015, the Council of Great Lakes Governors welcomed Governor **Bruce Rauner** of Illinois and Governor **Tom Wolf** of Pennsylvania to its Board of Directors.

Coming Events

- February 10-11, 2015: Great Lakes Waterways Conference, Marriott Downtown at Key Center, Cleveland, OH.
- February 15, 2015 – Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet, St. George’s Anglican Church, Owen Sound, ON, 10:00 am.
- February 21, 2015 – Pirates Ball, annual fundraiser for Toronto Brigantine, Steam Whistle Brewery, Toronto, ON.
- March 8, 2014 - Annual Blessing of the Fleet, Mariners’ Church, Detroit, 11:00 am.
- March 12, 2015 - Chicago Lodge #3 Maritime Industry Day, Double Tree Hotel, Alsip, IL.
- April 26-28, 2015 – Great Lakes Economic Forum, sponsored by the Council of the Great Lakes Region, Chicago. For more information, see <http://councilgreatlakesregion.org/great-lakes-economic-forum/>
- May 3, 2015 - Battle of the Atlantic Sunday. WWII remembrance at the Owen Sound Cenotaph.
- May 22, 2015 - National Maritime Day (USA)
- September 3, 2015 - Canada Merchant Navy Day
- November 11, 2015 - Remembrance Day, ISMA lays CMNVA wreath at Owen Sound Cenotaph.
- November 26, 2015 - William Hamilton Merritt Day, Welland Canal.

Boat Trip Raffles

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

ISMA Membership Applications

Available Online at

www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm

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

International Ship Masters' Association

<p>Grand Lodge President Captain Robert Schallip 17592 Simonsen Road Neebish Island Barbeau, MI 49710-0405 (906) 635-0941 E-mail: rgschallip@sault.com</p>	<p>Grand First Vice President Captain Joseph Walters 710 Hillside Dr. Washburn, WI 54891 (715) 492-8676 E-mail: jwaltersisma12@gmail.com</p>
<p>Grand Second Vice President Captain Robert Lund 13436 S. Avenue M Chicago, IL 60633 (773) 677-5086 E-mail: boblund1958@comcast.net</p>	<p>Grand Secretary-Treasurer Captain Albert M. Tielke 39039 Bridle Ct. Avon, OH 44011 (440) 934-6960 Cell (216) 533-1157 E-mail: ismasecretary@aol.com</p>

Navigation, Engineering, and Legislative Committee
Chairman....Captain **John Sarns**
1846 Dorothea Rd.
Berkley, MI 48072
(248) 761-8464
E-mail: jsarns@aol.com
Canadian Co-Chairmen...

<p>Captain Dino Dini 4 Jill Court St. Catharines, ON L2S 1A6 (905) 687-8458 Cell (905) 327-7421 E-mail: dino.dini@sympatico.ca</p>	<p>Captain Seann O'Donoghue 527 5th Avenue E Owen Sound, ON N4K 2R4 (519) 371-2723 Email: capt.s.odonoghue@gmail.com</p>
---	---

Membership/Fundraising Committee
Chairman....**Rebecca Hancock**
2740 Beitner Road
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 883-6828
E-mail: boardman.river.lover@gmail.com

ISMALetter is published bi-monthly by the ISMA
Editor....**Christine R. Rohn-Tielke**
39039 Bridle Court
Avon, OH 44011
(440) 934-6960 Cell (440) 452-6960
Email: chilston@aol.com

Website: www.shipmaster.org
Chairman...**Frank Frisk** Email: mvfrisk2@yahoo.com

