



Volume 39, Number 1
Spring 2025

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA Letter

2025 ISMA 135th Grand Lodge Convention- Alpena, Michigan

Lodge 19 Northeastern Michigan hosted the 135th Convention of the International Ship Masters Association. Pat Hart has been elected as Grand President.



The 2025 Grand Lodge Officers. Standing Left to Right are Grand Warden Mike Loescher, Grand Marshal Beth Fernandez, Grand Chaplain Mary Ann Schallip, Grand Sentinel Scott Reynolds. Seated Left to Right are Grand Secretary Treasurer Thomas Foster, Grand President Pat Hart, Grand 1st Vice President Chris Edyvean, Grand 2nd Vice President Paul LaMarre III (Harry Dusseau sitting in).



The Honorable Past Grand Presidents in attendance. There were others who were not in the photo. Left to Right are Brothers Joe Rich, Lee Barnhill, George Haynes, Joe Walters, Mark Mather, Seann O'Donoughue, Luther Clyburn, Todd Taylor, Ed Morris, Harry Dusseau.

Seated Left to Right. Bob Schallip, Russel Brohl, Bob Lund, John Wellington (John attended his 59th Convention the most as a delegate).

Grand Secretary Treasurer Thomas Foster presented the report on the Shepler Ferry WYANDOTTE rescue and the Westcott several rescues over the past year.



2025 Grand Lodge Scholarship Awards

The ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Awards were presented on January 31st, 2025 at the Grand Ball in Alpena, MI.



From left to right are Mark Mather President Lodge 23, Traverse City Cadet Jeffrey Jaeger, Owen Sound Cadet Erin Carey, Seann O'Donoghue, President Lodge 15.

Note: Deadline for 2026 Scholarship Applications is November 1, 2025

Members Who Crossed The Bar 2025

Ronald Fordyce A-11006 Secretary Treasurer
Niagara Lodge 20

Donald John Hicks 12960 Marshall
Georgian Bay-
Huron Lodge 15

From the Lodges

Port Huron Lodge No. 2 Port Huron Lodge #2 Holds its 131st Annual Dinner Dance

A good time was had by all on March 1st when Lodge #2 hosted its 131st Annual Dinner Dance at the DoubleTree Hilton in Port Huron. 37 guests from four different lodges attended with Chicago Lodge #3, Detroit Lodge #7 and Twin Ports Lodge #12 represented. Four Past Grand Presidents were amongst the group. Capt. Joe Walters (2015 Lodge 12), Capt. Bob Lund (2016 Lodge 3), Capt. Joe Ruch (2020 & 2021 Lodge 2) and Capt. George Haynes (2003 Lodge 2). DJ Music was played by PH2 member Joe Haynes who kept everyone on the dance floor. A 50/50 raffle was held and the winner was

won by Mr. Jack Kriete of Harbor Beach, MI. The event went well into the evening as people gathered in the hospitality room with good conversation and singing led by Capt. Bob of Chicago.



Past Grand Presidents Capt's George Haynes 2003, Bob Lund 2016, Joe Walters 2015, Joe Ruch 2020 & 2021



Color Guard performed by the Navy Sea Cadets of the F.C. Sherman Division of Port Huron.



Port Huron Lodge D/D committee Judy & Ed Pitrago, Capt. Roger Hewlett and Jonene Eliasson checking in Capt. Bob Lund of Chicago #3



Capt. Aaron & Amanda Menough and Capt. Trevor & Tori Schick of Port Huron Lodge #2

Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

Milwaukee Lodge #6 is holding its **1st Annual Spring 2025 Kickoff Event** at The Cooperage Milwaukee on April 2. The Event will showcase the Professional Captains in the Milwaukee Lodge and the maritime community of Milwaukee is invited to attend. Lake Express, Michels Corp. and The Cooperage Milwaukee are the main sponsors for the Event.

Detroit Lodge No. 7

In February 2025, Detroit Lodge No. 7 Board of Governors approved monetary donations to Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Noble Odyssey Foundation, ISMA Scholarship Fund, and the Lost Mariners' Remembrance ceremony held every November on Belle Isle.

Twin Ports Lodge No. 12

The Lodge #12 website has been updated to include general information about the 2026 Grand Lodge Convention including a room booking link, fillable PDF sponsorship form, fillable PDF convention booklet advertisement form, and other general information. Here is the link: <https://ismalodge12.com/139-2/>

Georgian Bay-Huron No. 15

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH;

On Feb. 8, 2025, over 70 Navigation and Engineering cadets from Georgian College were taken on a tour of the Port Weller Shipyard, the "CCGS TERRY FOX" and the "CSL ASSINIBOINE". The tour was organized and sponsored by ISMA Lodges 15 & 20, The Company of Master Mariners of Canada, The Marine Club, the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering, Hildebrand Marine, Canada Steamship Lines, and Ontario Heddle Shipyards. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who come out from all parts of the marine sector to give the tours to the cadets.



M/V FLORENCE SPIRIT:



The M/V FLORENCE SPIRIT, captained by Lodge 15 Vice President, Mike Rodaway, inbound Toledo on May 14, 2024, to load export wheat for Port Cartier, Quebec.

BURSARY AWARD WINNER;

On Monday 05 Feb. 2024, Captain Tom Aulinger, Secretary-Treasurer of Lodge 15, presented the **2024 Lodge 15 Bursary Award** to the Manitoulin Island Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps #348. The bursary, worth \$1000.00, was presented along with some surplus lifesaving equipment from the Georgian College MED Training School. The very active corps of Navy League and Sea Cadets has over 30 youth participants.



Left to right: C/O Lt. Sylvan Boucher, Capt. Tom Aulinger, and Denis Blake, 'Cadet Chair for the Manitoulin Navy League'

North East Michigan Lodge No. 19

A big THANK YOU to the International Ship Masters' Association (ISMA) for their generous donation, which will help support transportation for education and outreach programming at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary!

The sanctuary offers year-round educational opportunities for students, including the award-winning 3rd Grade Get Into Your Sanctuary program, Summer in the Sanctuary programs, and seasonal events like The Christmas Tree Ship, Shark Days, and much more.

To learn more about the Friends of Thunder Bay and how you can support youth getting into their sanctuary through education efforts at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, visit www.ThunderBayFriends.org.



Grand President Captain Pat Hart of ISMA is pictured here with Daniel Moffatt, Stewardship and Education Specialist at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, as he presents a check to the Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Twin Sault Lodge No. 22

Captain Michele Schallip, Twin Sault Lodge 22, has been assigned as Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard's Seventeenth District in Juneau, AK, beginning summer 2025. She currently serves as Commanding Officer on the USCGC Healy (WAGB 20). She is the daughter of Bob and Mary Schallip, also of Twin Sault Lodge 22. She will have completed six afloat tours including Deck Watch Officer on USCGC Boutwell, a 387-ft high endurance cutter; plankowning Commanding Officer on USCGC Cobia, an 87-ft patrol boat in Mobile, AL; Executive Officer on USCGC Maple, a 225-ft sea going buoy tender in Sitka, AK; Commanding Officer on USCGC Spar, a 225-ft sea going buoy tender in Kodiak, AK; Executive Officer on USCGC Healy and most recently as Commanding Officer on USCGC Healy. During her command of Healy, the 420' polar icebreaker circumnavigated the globe, conducted a transit of the East Siberian and Laptev Seas to Norway, and supported the National Science Foundation, Coast Guard Research and Development Center, and Office of Naval Research. In 2024, Healy and crew members from NOAA Ship

Fairweather discovered a previously unknown volcano-like feature north of the Alaskan Arctic Coast. Staff tours include Operations Officer, VTS San Francisco, CA; Chief of the Executive Staff for the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship (CG-5) in Washington, D.C.; Chief of Waterways Management Branch for the Thirteenth Coast Guard District in Seattle, WA.; Special Assistant to the Vice Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard and Special Assistant to the Commandant in Washington, D.C.



A native of Neebish Island, MI, Captain Schallip is a 1997 graduate of Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, VA. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University; a Master of Public Administration from Grand Valley State University; a Master of Arts, with Distinction, in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U. S. Naval War College. Captain Schallip is a National Master 1600 GRT Near Coastal and has held a commercial license since 1996. In addition to ISMA, she is a member of GLCA and is a member of The Nautical Institute (MNI). She began her sea-going career as a deckhand aboard the Neebish Islander II and captained for American and Canadian Lock Tours in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, and Star Line Mackinac Island Ferries in St. Ignace, MI, before joining the Coast Guard.

Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23

On Friday, August 23, 2024 Grand Traverse Lodge 23 co-sponsored a Great Lakes Maritime Academy cadet welcome luncheon for the incoming class of future mariners with the Great Lakes Maritime Academy Alumni Association. Lodge 23 donated \$175 toward the food costs, and Lodge Secretary Mark Mather attended the event on behalf of other Lodge officers who were unable to attend. Mather was able to visit with each table of cadets during the luncheon and introduced them to ISMA and the benefits of membership to the organization. Lt Robert Watrous, a Lodge 23 member employed by the college and Navy, was in attendance as well. The new class consists of 60 cadets, many from the gulf coast. Unfortunately, it seemed that the majority of cadets hope to sail salt water after graduation.

New Members for Q1 2025

Port Huron Lodge 2

Active Professional: **Danny Gallagher** 9 Jan 25

Cleveland Lodge 4

Active Professional: **Mike Bobincheck** 20 Nov 24

Associate: **Marilyn Rudnick** 20 Nov 24

Active Professional: **Kenneth Gerber** 20 Nov 24

Active Professional: **Andrew Ferguson** 20 Nov 24

Milwaukee Lodge 6

Active Professional: **Andrew Sadock** 13 Feb 25

Twin Ports Lodge 12

Associate: **June Klees** 1 Jan 25

Georgian-Bay Huronia Lodge 15

Officer Cadet: **Sarah Judson** 20 Jan 25

Officer Cadet: **Benjamin Jones** 4 Feb 25

Officer Cadet: **Robin Tan** 4 Feb 25

Officer Cadet: **Quinn Gordon** 10 Feb 25

Associate: **Zach McLean** 13 Feb 25

Twin Sault Lodge 22

Active Professional: **Lonnie Calloway** 15 Jan 25

Active Professional: **Keith Schmidt** 15 Jan 25

Active Professional: **Norris Seaward** 15 Jan 25

Active Professional: **Ted Johnson** 15 Jan 25

Active Professional: **David Wellington** 31 Jan 25

Active Professional: **Anthony Kruike** 31 Jan 25

Great Lakes & Maritime News

Great Lakes Mapping Act

Nationally, tens of millions of dollars are being allocated for ocean-related initiatives, but the Great Lakes remain a low priority and as a result, are underfunded and undervalued.

Seeking to change that, the Great Lakes Mapping Act was introduced to the United States Congress in early 2024. This legislation would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct high-resolution mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes. The bill would authorize \$200M in appropriations and would require the agency to complete the mapping project by 2030.

Although testimony was given, by Great Lakes Observing System's CEO Jennifer Boehme, at a congressional hearing held by the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, and a lot of momentum was gained around the initiative over the course of the year, no action was taken on the proposed legislation in 2024.

This year, the Great Lakes Mapping Act, will be reintroduced by Congresswoman Lisa McClain.

Please consider adding your name to this letter of support to help us advocate for advancing knowledge of the lakefloors of the world's largest freshwater ecosystem (recommended only 1 name per organization and should be the leadership of that organization if possible).

By investing in the foundational mapping, exploration, discovery, and preservation of the Great Lakes, we look forward to a future where economic benefits are realized by a region-wide campaign, employing hundreds of people, to survey the lake floor in high density and to modern standards by the year 2030.

SS Badger headed to Sturgeon Bay, WI

The ferry will voyage to Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay for repairs. The SS Badger will be put into dry dock and have a propeller shaft bearing repaired. The ship is tentatively scheduled to leave Ludington April 29 for the 12-hour journey. The Badger's route will travel around the northern tip of the Door peninsula instead of going through the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal.

"This trip is being made under our own power instead of under tow because we are so close to our sailing season, we will already have a crew getting the boat ready to sail," Badger chief engineer Andrew VerVelde said in a news release. "It takes two to three weeks of 'fit out' prior to the season, which involves getting her engines and machinery ready. Since the crew is going to be aboard anyway, we might as well steam her over. It has been done before, but not recently."

Meanwhile, one of the slips at Ludington, Michigan dock is being repaired; the slip was built in 1930 and still contained railroad tracks. The ship is the last remaining railroad ferry on the Great Lakes and is still powered by steam.

The season will begin May 16 when it departs Ludington, Michigan for Manitowoc.



The S.S. Badger undergoes maintenance work at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay Dec. 21, 2021, in the view from SKYFOX. (WLUK image)

SS United States, slated to become reef, arrives in Alabama

SS United States arrived in Mobile on Monday after an 1,800-mile tow from its berth in Philadelphia. The iconic national symbol and last surviving American ocean liner will now undergo preparations for deployment as the world's largest artificial reef off Florida's Gulf Coast near Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

In the spirit of its record-breaking history, "America's flagship" concluded its journey from Philadelphia to Mobile faster than anticipated. The tow marked the first time in 28 years that the ship had been at sea.

The ship will be the first artificial reef to be paired with a unique shoreside museum and visitors center. SS United States Conservancy President Susan Gibbs offered the following statement on the historic 401st voyage of the world's fastest ocean liner:

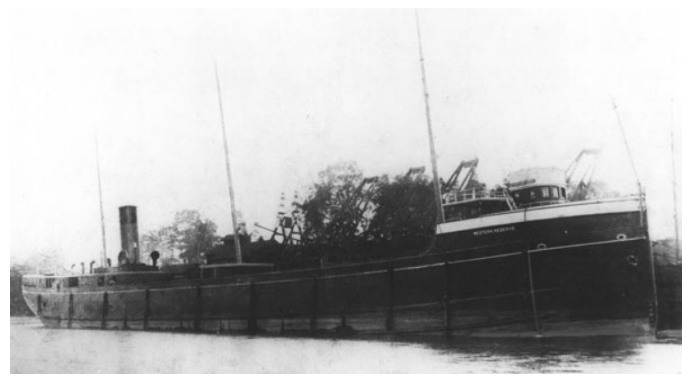


"Now, as she prepares for her next chapter, the SS United States Conservancy, together with Florida's Okaloosa County, will advance the design and development of a dynamic and immersive museum and visitor's center that will celebrate the ship's place in American history. The conservancy will also be telling her storied history in a documentary film currently in production.

"On behalf of supporters of the SS United States from across the nation and around the globe, we thank Capt. Mike Vinik and his crew of the oceangoing tugboat Vinik No. 6 for their expert care during the tow of the 'First Lady of the Seas' over the course of her historic journey. The SS United States will never stop teaching us about American pride, purpose, and possibility."

SS WESTERN RESERVE Found in Lake Superior

The SS WESTERN RESERVE was a groundbreaking steel steamer and one of the first all-steel vessels on the Great Lakes. Built in 1890 at Cleveland Shipbuilding Co., it was designed by Captain Peter G. Minch to revolutionize bulk cargo shipping. Known as the "inland greyhound" for its speed (12 knots), it was considered one of the safest ships of its time. She was 300 ft. 7 in. with a 41 ft. 2 in. beam and was 2,392.05 GRT. Power was supplied by a Cleveland Shipbuilding Co. 3-cylinder triple expansion steam engine.



Tragically, on August 30, 1892, the ship sank during a storm on Lake Superior. It broke apart and sank within minutes, claiming the lives of 27 people, including Captain Minch and his family. Only one person, wheelsman Harry Stewart, survived the disaster

Grand Lodge Financial Report

It is a pleasure to present the March Financial Statement. We have in the General revenue Account for the Lodge \$18,045.84. In the Scholarship Account there is \$16,318.67, due to a generous donation from Lodge 19 North Eastern Michigan because of the raffle that was conducted for the scholarship.

Expenses have been rather lite so far. The Host Lodge payment has been made a touch early to Lodge 12 for the next convention as requested. Newsletter expenses were a bit above the budget, that will be offset by some funds from the Website Budget as Membership and Outreach will be limited this year. It is hoped the various individuals will do some Outreach around there own Lodges to ensure a continued presence and to show we are still a major voice for the Marine industry. Officers Travel has been paid and on budget. All the Scholarship Payouts have been cashed.

We are just starting our dues renewal stage with all the Lodges given the Calculator to determine the amount to send to the Grand Lodge. Two Lodges have already paid in full for the current year.

I anticipate the web fees to be less this year as we have prepaid for the convention site through next year.

Our membership in the start of the year has increased. There are still roster changes to be made once the Lodge give their Membership reports. As always, I ask all members to ensure their Address information is up to date with the Lodge because there are communications sent out. This past communications mailing resulted in many lodge members not receiving information on the convention. Some the fault of the post office. Mostly because of addresses not up to date. Please let your Secretaries know of changes.

Have a great season each and everyone.

Captain Thomas Foster
Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer

www.shipmaster.org



SCAN ME



From the Editor

It's an honor for me to take the helm and compile the ISMA newsletter. I want to thank all the Lodge Secretaries who sent me updates from the Lodges. Also, special thanks to **Tom Foster** for his assistance. And of course, an enormous amount of gratitude to **Christine Rohn-Tielke** Editor of the ISMALetter for 28 years!

The newsletter has a new format and will evolve over time. Please send your newsletter comments and story suggestions to mike@milwaukeekeelodge6.org. **The deadline for stories to be included in the next newsletter is May 31, 2025.**

Captain Mike Loescher – Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

2025 Event Calendar

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| January 30-February 2 | ISMA 135 th Annual Grand Lodge Convention | Alpena, MI |
| February 9 | 32nd Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound, Ontario | Owen Sound, ON |
| | 133rd Annual Dinner Dance of Detroit Lodge No. 7 | Detroit, MI |
| February 26-27 | Chicago Maritime Industry Day | Alsip, IL |
| March 9 | 61 st Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church of Detroit | Detroit, MI |
| March 22 | World Water Day | |
| March 23 | World Meteorological Day | |
| March 25 | Soo Locks Open | Ste St. Marie, MI |
| May 18 | IMO International Day for Women in Maritime | |
| May 22 | National Maritime Day - US | |
| June 8 | World Oceans Day | |
| June 15 | Global Wind Day | |
| June 25 | The Day of the Seafarer | |
| June 27 | Soo Locks Engineer's Day | Ste, St. Marie, MI |
| June 28 | Thunder Bay Blessing of the Fleet | Thunder Bay, ON |
| September 3 | Canada Merchant Navy Day | |
| September 25 | IMO World Maritime Day | |
| November 11 | US Veterans Day Canada Remembrance Day | |
| December 3-5 | International Workboat Show | New Orleans, LA |
| January 28-February 1 2026 | ISMA 136 th Annual Grand Lodge Convention | Duluth, MN |

International Ship Masters' Association

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Grand Lodge Second Vice President

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Grand Lodge Secretary Treasurer

Captain **Tom Foster**

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Captain **Seann O'Donoughue**

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Send Information for Next ISMALetter Issue

By MAY 31, 2025 to:

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