



Volume 39, Number 2
Summer 2025

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMALetter

The 136th Annual Grand Lodge Convention Duluth, MN



The 2026 Grand Lodge Convention is being hosted by Twin Ports Lodge in Duluth, MN from Wednesday January 28 to Sunday February 1.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.grandlodgeconvention.com/>

The 2026 Grand Lodge Convention will be a full (Wednesday evening - Sunday morning) program, which will include ten meals as part of the convention package, plus pizza on Wednesday night. Lodge #12 is actively seeking/requesting early sponsorships and sponsorship pledges (including convention book advertising) to offset the cost of full registrations for our members.

Currently, Lodge #12 website's convention page has a PDF-fillable sponsorship form and convention book advertisement form which can be printed-off and mailed in with a check. In addition, the website can now take online credit card payments for convention book ads/pages. Although submittal of the actual ad/page is not required until later in the year, the 2026 Convention Committee urges our lodges and routine advertisers to commit and purchase book space early, which in turn will help Lodge #12 lower registration costs. Please visit <https://ismalodge12.com> for specific convention details, including the link to book rooms.

Convention registration may be open/available as early as late summer. For more information or if any questions, please contact **Captain Chris Edyvean** at: cjedyvean@hotmail.com (715) 862-2531.

More News from the 135th Annual Convention in Alpena

Lodge 19 Raffle Nets \$4500 for Scholarship Fund

Following a raffle by Northeastern Michigan Lodge 19. A check for \$4500 was given to the Grand Lodge Scholarship fund. The raffle included a trip on a Great Lake Freighter and other nautical journeys. It was the largest donation to the scholarship fund in several years. The Alpena 135th Convention turned out to be a great convention for donations as well. Personal donations in cash were over \$1800 toward the Scholarship Fund.

DRE Designs donates to the Scholarship Fund

Andrea Guerriero of Dre Designs donated a check for \$1800 to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund. Andrea has committed to sell ISMA merchandise online and will continue to donate to the Scholarship fund. Please contact Andrea to place an order for ISMA merchandise and support the Scholarship Fund.

www.dredesignsglmp.com

(705) 971-4076

andrea@dredesignsGLMP.com



Andrea Guerriero of DRE Designs presents a check to **Grand Secretary Tom Foster** (left) and **Grand President Pat Hart** (right) during the Convention 1920's Theme Party



Members Who Crossed The Bar 2025

Ronald Fordyce	A-11006	Secretary Treasurer Niagara Lodge 20
Donald John Hicks	12960	Marshall Georgian Bay- Huronina Lodge 15
Aladino Dini	11025	Past President Niagara Lodge 20
David Truitt	11302	Active Professional Lodge 3
Sue Palmer		Retired Secretary Mariners Church 30 years of service
James Gordon Sykes		Crew member of the SS Keewatin and Architect

From the Lodges

Buffalo Lodge No. 1

The ISMA was represented at the Small Passenger Vessel Industry Day held at the Western NY Maritime Charter School in Buffalo on March 26th. About 80 vessel owners and operators from companies operating in ports in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, NY Finger Lakes and Erie, PA attended the one-day event and were informed about various topics pertinent to passenger vessel operations, best practices and regulations. **Capt. George Haynes of Buffalo Lodge 1** and **Capt. Donald Lowry of Cleveland Lodge 4** attended on behalf of the ISMA.

Attendees learned about the latest on topics such as Marine Sanctuary wreck markers, NMC credential processing updates, Fire Safety on passenger vessels, Cybersecurity, Drug and Alcohol Programs, District 9 Investigations and issues specific to New York State vessel operators.

Mr. Eric Christensen, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Risk Management for the Passenger Vessel Association gave a very good presentation titled “Slips, Trips and Falls”, the most common cause of injuries on passenger vessels. Firefighting and passenger evacuation practices were also discussed.

The Coast Guard recommends that regional stakeholders form a Buffalo Harbor Safety Committee to promote dialogue and information sharing within the marine community.

Summer 2025



Chicago Lodge No. 3

Dec. 1, 2024 - 25th Annual Ceremony held at the Captain at the Helm statue – Navy Pier, Chicago

The ISMA Lodge #3 Merchant Marine Honor Guard leads the ceremony to commemorate mariners and vessels lost at sea and the delivery of 1000 Christmas trees to Chicago by the USCGC Mackinaw in the annual reenactment of Chicago's Christmas Ship, the three-masted schooner ROUSE SIMMONS.



Back row left to right: Gabe Argumedo, Tom Blakely, Larry Dostal, David Joyce, Bob Lund, George Lisner

Front row left to right: Bill Russell, Joe O'Connor, Dave Truitt, Sonny Lisowski



Cleveland Lodge No. 4

On May 27th the members of ISMA Cleveland Lodge 4 gathered for their final meeting of the season aboard THE HOLIDAY, cruising along the picturesque Cuyahoga River. **Capt. Bill Bratton** (Pennant #13206) and his crew warmly welcomed 22 lodge members for an evening of camaraderie and reflection on the past season's achievements.

As the Lodge bids farewell to the 2024/2025 season's term, members look forward to reconvening in the fall of 2025 with renewed enthusiasm for their ongoing mission. The serene cruise served as a fitting backdrop to close out

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another successful season, reinforcing the Lodge's spirit of fellowship and tradition.



Members and guests of Lodge 4 aboard THE HOLIDAY



Left to right: Richard Capiccioni, Russ Brohl, Al Tielke, Bill Rabatsky

Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

1st Annual Spring 2025 Kickoff Event

Milwaukee Lodge #6 held its first ever Kickoff Event at The Cooperage Milwaukee on April 2. The Event showcased the Professional Captains in the Milwaukee Lodge and over 80 people attended.



The Cooperage Milwaukee event space with posters of the Lodge Captains and their vessels



Ship Master **Capt. Todd Brennan** presenting on S/V DENIS SULLIVAN updates



The view from the balcony in the back of The Coop!

Lake Express, Michels Corp. and The Cooperage Milwaukee all sponsored the Event. Ship Masters **Capt. Todd Brennan** (S/V DENIS SULLIVAN), Max Morgan (R/V NEESKAY), **Capt. Jerry Guyer** (various salvage operations in Milwaukee) and **Chris Winters**

(Milwaukee maritime historian) gave presentations. A silent auction was offered as well as complimentary hors d'oeuvres.



Capt. Greg Stamatelakys (Lodge 6 Secretary-Treasurer) manned the welcome table and **John Lorenz** (former Captain of the S/V DENIS SULLIVAN) visited. John runs and integrated tug barge on the US upper east coast

NOAA Weather Buoy Launch

On June 5, **Capt. Mike Loescher** used his Mainship trawler to launch the NOAA/Michigan Tech SPOT-30952C buoy SE of Port Washington, WI on Lake Michigan. The buoy is now sending out important info on wind, waves, water/air temp. and air pressure. See the data on the GLOS Seagull buoy website:

<https://seagull.glos.org/>



Capt. Mike Loescher took this shot of the crew from Michigan Tech and UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences launching the NOAA buoy



The buoy was still there the next day!

Lodge 6 LinkedIn Page



Please follow **Lodge 6 on LinkedIn** and “Like” and/or comment on our posts with your LinkedIn account. It will help with public awareness of ISMA and Lodge 6.

Detroit Lodge No. 7

Annual Spring Barbeque

Lodge 7 held its **Annual Spring Barbeque** on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the J.W. Westcott Company. Representatives from USCG Sector Detroit were in attendance at the event. Commander Eddie Valdez, Chief of Sector Detroit's Prevention Department, was the guest speaker.

133rd Annual Dinner Dance

Lodge 7 Detroit Lodge No. 7 held its 133rd annual Dinner Dance on February 22, 2025 at Sindbad's Restaurant & Marina on Detroit's East Side. An annual event since 1894, the dinner dance is the longest running such event in Detroit's history.

The evening featured a silent auction, 50/50 Raffle, and music provided by DJ Steven Moore. During the evening, certificates of recognition were presented to **Capt. Neil Schultheiss** and **Deckhand JC Sharp** of the J.W. Westcott II, for rescuing a man from the Detroit River on September 24, 2024.

Sea Cadets and THE PRIDE OF MICHIGAN

As noted in the U.S. Naval Cadet Corps. 2024 Annual Report, **Past Grand President Capt. Luke Clyburn (USN Retired)** in an unprecedented feat for the Naval



Sea Cadets Corps, secured THE PRIDE OF MICHIGAN. Capt. Clyburn is the president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation, and the vessel is used for underwater projects of training and discovery as well as Great Lakes research.





Lower Detroit River Cruise

Wednesday, June 11 was an absolutely beautiful day for a cruise on the lower Detroit River on the SAMUEL D. BUCHANAN with Captain Samuel Buchanan himself at the helm. The company, 'Straits of Detroit' offers these cruises from the fishing pier at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in Trenton, MI. The company is actually owned and operated by two of his sons, Shane and Joe. Capt. Sam was just filling in for the morning.



Capt. Sam Buchanan at the helm of SAMUEL D. BUCHANAN



(Left to right) Capt. Sam Buchanan, along with Jennifer and Wayne Sapulski

Toledo Lodge No. 9

Lodge 9 member **Capt. David Hornyak**, who works at NASA as an engineer involved with the International Space Station, has been working with Science students at his alma mater, Waite High School in Toledo to develop a tool to collect cosmic dust from the exterior of the ISS. Dave, an AB and 200 ton Master, worked on excursion boats as a youth in the Toledo area, including converting the Willis B. Boyer into a museum ship, before working with NASA. He has been mentoring the Waite students weekly via video chat. When questions came up outside his expertise, he included other NASA engineers in the chat. The Waite students were selected by a NASA panel after competing with over 500 other schools across the US. After completing design work, they 3D printed their prototype. Several Waite students will travel to Houston to present their project along with 59 other high school teams. The NASA HUNCH program (High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware) provides real space projects to inspire students with the aim to introduce students to the research, test and development process while also giving them the opportunity to practice presentation, leadership and speaking skills. Working in space and at sea have many similarities, including the need to be prepared in a hazardous environment, the importance of teamwork, and the need to be self-sufficient with only the resources you have aboard.



Twin Ports Lodge No. 12

136th Annual Grand Lodge Convention

The Lodge is hosting the 136th Convention in Duluth, Minnesota. It will be a full convention running Wednesday January 28 - Sunday February 1, 2026. Registration information is here:

www.GrandLodgeConvention.com

Annual Congressional Maritime Sail-In

ISMA Grand First Vice President **Capt. Christopher Edyvean** participated in the 2025 Congressional Maritime Sail-In, along with approximately 120 representatives from various sectors of U.S. maritime. The Sail-In is organized by Jim Patti of the Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID). The event is designed to educate members of Congress about the needs and importance of U.S.-flagged shipping and the U.S. Merchant Marine.



(L to R): Pictured in the office of Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin are Capt. Christopher Edyvean (ISMA Grand First VP), James Weakley (President, Lake Carriers Association), Mary Sabuda, PhD (Maritime Policy Advisor, Great Lakes Commission), Lyndsey Barnes (Senior Policy Advisor for Senator Baldwin), Brendan P. O'Connor (Chief Operating Officer, Interlake Maritime Services), and Todd Brdak (Algonac Port Agent/VP, Seafarers International Union)

Key agenda items for the 2025 Sail-In, which took place on April 8, included the SHIPS for America Act, Support of the Jones Act, Food for Peace Program, support of the State Maritime Academies, Maritime Security Program, Tanker Security Program, funding for a new Icebreaker for the Great Lakes, and funding for renovations at the USMMA/Kings Point.

Georgian Bay - Huronia Lodge No. 15

ISMA Scholarship Fund-Raiser 2025

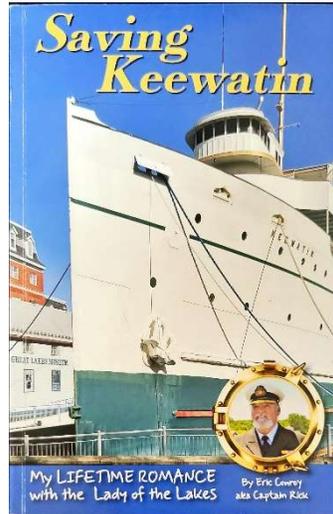
Capt. Eric Conroy has been a member of ISMA since 2012 and has offered to use a book he wrote as a fundraiser in support of ISMA's scholarship fund.

Eric returned the historic SS KEEWATIN back to Canada from Douglas, Michigan and the Kalamazoo River in where she lay since 1967 after her retirement. How this amazing journey was accomplished, who was involved and how the ship is now restored to a very high standard, is detailed in an all-encompassing book he recently released upon his retirement.

To get a copy, signed by the author, send \$20.00 to the address below. [Canada & US dollars accepted at par].

The cost of the book includes return postage (\$5.75), tax (\$3.00), and covers the print cost.

\$10.00 per book goes to the ISMA scholarship fund. Thank you for your support!

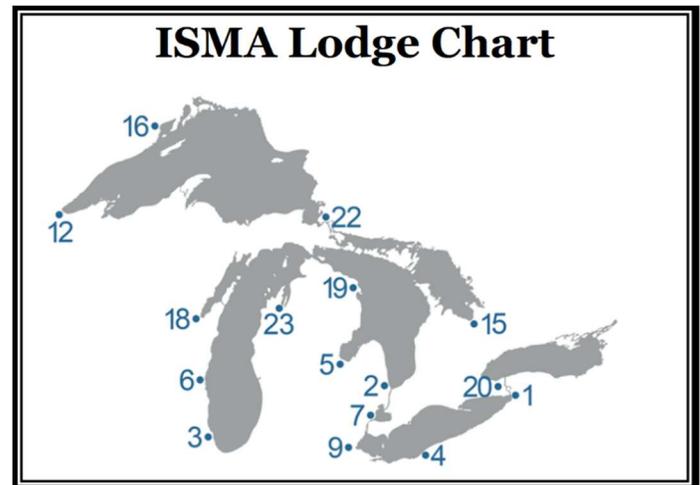


To obtain your copy of "Saving Keewatin"

Send \$20 for each copy, [cheque or cash], & your postal address to:

Capt. Seann O'Donoghue
ISMA Scholarship Fund
402581 Grey Rd. 17,
Georgian Bluffs, Ontario N0H 2T0

Your book will be posted immediately.



Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19

Capt. Pat Hart (serving as 1st Mate) was aboard the HERBERT C JACKSON when the US Coast Guard from Traverse City Air Station conducted hoisting training on Lake Michigan March 26, 2026. This exercise demonstrates the cooperation between the USCG and The Interlake Steamship Company for conducting these types of drills.



New Members for Q2 2025

Chicago Lodge 3

Active Professional:	John Anderson	13427
Active Professional:	Teak Barton	13428
Active Professional:	Marlene Bartes	13429
Active Professional:	Bo Czochara	13430
Active Professional:	Kevin Davis	13431
Active Professional:	Chris Ferraro	13432
Associate:	Gina Ferraro	A-13433
Cadet:	Douglas Green	OC-13434
Active Professional:	Marlon Harvey	13435
Active Professional:	Ian Hirt	13436
Associate:	Bill Hoover	A-13437
Active Professional:	Deborah Leja	13438
Active Professional:	Ken Leja	13439
Associate:	Esther Miller	13440
Active Professional:	Manuel Nino	13441
Cadet:	Emanuel Otero	13442
Cadet:	J.R. Ramos	13443
Cadet:	Martin Ratigan	13444
Active Professional:	Brian Rusnac	13445
Active Professional:	William Shehan	13446
Cadet:	Luis Vecchio	13447
Cadet:	Joanna Zyskowski	13448
Cadet:	Adiel Troche	13449

Bay City Lodge 5

Retired Professional:	Timothy P. Burtch	13419
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Milwaukee Lodge 6

Associate:	Klaus Mednis	A-13339
Active Professional:	P.J. Tamer	13392
Associate:	Michael Morris	A-13393
Active Professional:	Dan Gall	13398
Associate:	Linda Loescher	A-13452
Associate:	Kristen Brunner	A-13453

Detroit Lodge 7

Active Professional:	John J. Bushaw III	13425
Active Professional:	Thomas Cielinski	13426

Twin Ports Lodge 12

Active Professional:	Joseph Sondreal	13417
Associate:	Oliver Swimeley	A-13418

Georgian Bay-Hurononia Lodge 15

Cadet:	Aaron Archer	OC-13420
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Niagara District Lodge 20

Active Professional:	Robert Bursey	13421
Retired Professional:	Michael Robson	13422
Retired Professional:	Anil Soni	13423

Grand Traverse Lodge 23

Active Professional:	John Basel	13424
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**Welcome one and all to the
Voice of the Great Lakes!**



Great Lakes & Maritime News

Trump memo seeks to protect Great Lakes from invasive carp, backs barrier project

President Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum on May 2 directing his administration to "achieve maximum speed and efficiency" in moving to block invasive carp from reaching the Great Lakes, signaling support for a key project in Illinois to erect barriers to prevent the fish from infiltrating Lake Michigan.

Trump's memorandum directs the administration to "expeditiously implement the most effective mechanisms, barriers, and other measures to prevent the migration and expansion of invasive carp in the Great Lakes Basin and the surrounding region."

"My administration is committed to protecting the Great Lakes – the world's largest surface freshwater system, and a highly valued shipping avenue, resource for fishing and recreation, and source of high-quality drinking water – from the economic and ecological threat of invasive carp," Trump wrote in the memo to several cabinet secretaries.

"Curbing this threat requires immediate and effective deployment of resources, infrastructure, and expertise. The Federal Government is prepared to do its part, but the States where preventative measures can be taken must cooperate."

The memorandum published Friday evening explicitly expresses support for a \$1.15 billion project on the Illinois River at the Brandon Road Lock & Dam in Joliet, Illinois, that would install several methods to serve as a barrier to the carp and is ready to start construction.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, in response, said Trump's statement gave him enough reassurance to proceed with the project as previously planned before the governor's administration had put it on hold.

Great Lakes shipping companies spent \$150 million on maintenance

U.S. flagged lakers underwent maintenance in ports across the Great Lakes last winter. After nine and a half months of constant bulk cargo loading and unloading operations, the ships and crew receive a short respite. The state receiving the largest amount of work is Ohio with \$51.5 million, followed closely by Wisconsin at \$51 million, Pennsylvania at \$25 million, Minnesota and Michigan both totalled \$9 million, and another \$3 million went to yards in New York and Illinois.

Summer work on New Lock at the Soo

The New Lock chamber monolith construction is underway. Massive concrete pours are ongoing for the chamber walls. This work involves forming, rebar installation, and concrete placement. *Capt. John P. Wellington Pennant #10625*

The old Sabin Lock demolition continues to make way for the New Lock chamber. Controlled rock excavation and removal are being done within the construction footprint.



Rendering of New Lock after estimated completion in 2030 (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Excavation and construction of a large pump well to support water flow management has started. Installation of utility access and mechanical vaults for gate operations and control systems is planned.

Work on gate recesses, valves, and hydraulic system infrastructure is beginning. Foundations and embedded components are being installed for future hands-free mooring and ship arrestor systems.

Ship Master Spotlight

Past Grand President Capt. John P. Wellington, age 83 has attended 59 Grand Lodge Conventions and only missed nine of them during his service in the US Coast Guard. John is a leading figure in the Great Lakes maritime industry.

John organized ISMA Twin Sault Lodge No. 22 and played a major role in preserving the Museum Ship VALLEY CAMP and with the Great Lakes Maritime Museum. John founded Wellington Maritime, Inc. and is an expert on marine salvage and Great Lakes maritime matters.



Grand Lodge Financial Report

Greetings to all the Brothers and Sisters of the International Ship Masters Association. We are having a good year, finances are sound, and the membership has grown.

Many Lodges have paid for their 2025 dues assessment and one lodge is paying for 2026 already. The scholarship fund received its greatest support seen in several years as is more than halfway to the Goal of \$25,000 set out last year during discussions of moving the funds to a community foundation.

Present cash assets are \$28,746.28. There are still some bills to be paid and of course budgetary items are submitted right until December 31, our fiscal year end.

The Scholarship fund is currently \$16,924.67. A list of those that helped make this incredible number possible is published in this newsletter. An application has been made to bring the scholarship fund 501(c)(3) status, allowing us to perhaps better fundraise as charitable receipts can be offered.

Adding to the general fund is the growth of 41 new members. There are of course many more than that included but we have lost a few through attrition, leaving industry and unfortunately the passing of our shipmates.

Budgets, although increased this year, are staying well on par this year and we should be able to come in slightly under budget for the fiscal year.

It is also a pleasure to report our investment funds are returning handsome dividend in both Canada and the United States.

Fair winds and following seas to all this season which has started on the cooler side. Stay safe until we meet again soon.

Scholarship Report

The following have given to the Scholarship donations for 2025.

Dre Design-Great Lakes Marine Products

Lodge 2

Lodge 7

Chip Duggan - Lodge 4

Bob Schallip - Lodge 22

Seann O'Donoughue - Lodge 15

John Wellington - Lodge 22

Scott & Kat Reynolds - Lodge 7

Todd Taylor - Lodge 6
Ken Gerber & Family - Lodge 4
Lee Barnhill - Lodge 19
Lodge 22
Mike Loescher - Lodge 6
Pat Hart - Lodge 19
Cary Ketelhut - Lodge 2
Russel Brohl - Lodge 4
Chris McKenzie - Lodge 12
Harry Dusseau - Lodge 9
Rick Scott - Lodge 7
Lodge 19
Phil Knetchel - Lodge 9

Thank you to all those that contributed! For donations to the Scholarship, contact Captain Seann O'Donoughue at ismalodge15@gmail.com.

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMALetter distribution is via e-mail through local Lodge Secretaries.

Therefore, **please make sure your Lodge Secretary has your correct e-mail address to ensure delivery.**

Remember that ISMALetter is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, at any time.

From the Editor

Thank you for your feedback on my first issue of the ISMALetter. It would be helpful if more Lodge Secretaries could send Lodge news to me for the next issue. Please send news stories and photos with captions to mike@milwaukee lodge6.org. **The deadline for stories to be included in the next newsletter is August 31, 2025.**

Captain Mike Loescher – Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

Connect with ISMA

ISMA Website



www.shipmaster.org



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 5	Great Lakes Awareness Day	
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
July 20	Lake Superior Day	
August 8	Lake Michigan Day	
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=Twin Ports Lodge 12	Duluth, MN

International Ship Masters' Association

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Captain **Paul LaMarre III**
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Grand Lodge Secretary Treasurer

Captain **Tom Foster**
thomas.foster63@yahoo.com

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Scott Skrzypczak
NELC@shipmaster.org

Canadian Co-chairman:

Captain **Seann O'Donoghue**
ismalodge15@gmail.com

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Website: www.shipmaster.org

Interim Chairman: Captain **Tom Foster**
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**Send Information for Next ISMA Letter Issue
By MAY 31, 2025 to:**

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Captain **Mike Loescher**
mike@milwaukeeelodge6.org

ISMA LinkedIn Page



[linkedin.com/company/international-ship-masters-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-ship-masters-association)

ISMA Facebook Page



www.facebook.com/InternationalShipMastersAssociation



ISMA Position Paper for IOOS Funding



April 20, 2025

Dear ,

I am writing in response to the disturbing news reported on April 11th about the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget for NOAA and specifically for the Integrated Ocean Observing System

(IOOS) Regional Observations. This scenario would be devastating all around for NOAA, and the plans to defund IOOS, a program that brings efficiency and economic benefit to the Maritime community and the International Ship Masters Association. Further, I have heard that NOAA is being instructed to implement these funding cuts and any associated reorganization this year, immediately harming maritime and coastal safety.

As a long-time user of the data provided by the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), a Regional Association of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), I implore you to ensure that IOOS and its regional observations are retained as a program in NOAA with a specific budget line that is adequately funded to meet the demands for information that supports safe and efficient maritime commerce, weather and hurricane forecasting, flooding, harmful algal bloom monitoring, and other safety related concerns.

Our Members, Captains of Tugboats to Thousand Footers, glean an abundance of weather information, sea conditions, wave height and duration and so much more, which affects us in day-to-day navigation of our great water ways of the Great Lakes. Also affected will be all pleasure craft operators and beach managers who rely on the data for drinking water supplies, algae blooms and recreational boating and beach going.

IOOS is a program with strong bipartisan support, as evidenced by the recent introduction of its reauthorization bill in the House. It is essential that you oppose any president's budget request or administration action that implements such a disastrous budgetary and programmatic scenario for NOAA and for IOOS Regional Observations.



ISMA Grand Lodge Letter for Port Fees



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

Office of the Grand President



Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17 Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Honorable Representatives.

RE: Section 301, with respect to Port Fees and Levies

The International Ship Masters Association represents many Captains, Officers and Industries related to shipping and maritime business throughout the freshwater ports on the Great Lakes and affiliated rivers and bays. Founded in Buffalo in 1886, as a benevolent association, we have grown to be a voice for mariners, support scholarships for future maritime officers and proudly promote safety and economic issues affecting those who choose the maritime life.

It was brought to our attention that Section 301 was suggesting a blanket of fees and levies aimed at rebuilding the American Ship Building industry. These fees and levies suggest a chance to slow or inhibit Chinese dominance in the maritime industry. We applaud these efforts and hope they will bring prosperity not just in the United States but also help Canadian initiatives in the industry complimenting both nations. Our fear is that these levies could have exactly the opposite effect as they may hinder major trade on the Inter Continental waterways which produce so much economic benefit.

As stated by some of our related organizations through out the panel hearings March 24 and 25 of this year, the Great Lakes trade is most valuable to both countries. A policy that reduces the use of any of the Great Lakes Fleet would result in catastrophic changes to both economies but especially in the United States. Maritime co-operation has always led to major support of \$50.9 Billion in revenue. It means 360,000 jobs (Only 26,000 are in Canada). Taxes produced are \$9.8 Billion USD. And wages are \$23 billion USD. Facts are held in the Martin Associates independent study of the Great Lakes Maritime industry and we believe were presented by the Chamber of Marine Commerce during the hearings.

As most are aware the Canadian Ship Building industry has undergone a major change toward a stable base for domestic production. These efforts have taken decades, and almost, one could say generational amounts of time and restructure and infrastructure renewal and replacement. We feel the same amount of time would be required to do the same in the United States, and accept it is an outstanding goal. Likely a necessary goal.

<< continued on next page >>

The issue is the current US fleet is not capable of moving all the cargo currently in US Lakes Ports without the assistance of the Canadian Vessels. The proposed levies in the blanket form would be prohibitive to the use of the Canadian ships as they would likely, if not exempted be subject to these levies.

This has prompted ISMA to join with our related partners and ask for an exemption of these port fees and levies to vessels under Canadian Flag that travel less than 4000 Kilometers with cargo on the inland waters of these two nations.



Further we suggest coastal ports receive certain exemptions from the fees to support continued economic growth for both countries.

In conclusion we point out the environmental assets of shipping in bulk cargo. Each ship removes a multitude of rail cars and transport trucks from their infrastructure saving tons of emissions to an already heavily challenged environment. Every ship and every cargo have a variety of economic and environmental wins for both of our nations.

We feel a continued trade within the Great Lakes is a major win for everyone from the consumer to the National Tax base.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully,

Captain Patrick Hart
Grand President
International Ship Masters Association
236 John St., PO Box 298
Clayton, NY 13624



2026 (136TH) ISMA GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

**Convention Program Book
Ad/Space Order Form**



Advertising Rates

(all pages will be full color)

- Full Page (7.5" x 10.0") @ \$550 (must be vertical)
- Half Page (5.0" x 7.5") @ \$300 (must be horizontal)
- 1/4 Page (3.5" in x 5.0") @ \$200 (must be vertical)
- Business Card (2.0" x 3.5") @ \$100 (must be horizontal)
- Add \$50 if you need ad created from scratch

Submittals must be camera ready ♦ No bleeds ♦ PDF format preferred ♦ only digital copies, please

Email artwork to: cjedyvean@hotmail.com; Deadline for submittals is 12/31/2025

Contact: _____

Company/organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____



Check payable & mail to:

**ISMA Lodge # 12
P.O. Box 122
Superior, WI 54880**

Call (715) 862-2531 w/ questions

