



Volume 40, Number 2
Summer 2026

Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA Letter

Happy 250th anniversary to the United States of America!

The Great lakes shipping industry has played a prominent role in the history of our nation. Let us remember the mariners of the Inland Seas as we celebrate the semiquincentennial!

Pictured below is the tug **AMERICA**, captained by none other than ISMA Grand First Vice President **Capt. Paul LaMarre III**. The old girl got a special makeover to celebrate the big 250! The tug **AMERICA** has been around for over half of our country's history, a testimony to the resilience of our industry and the spirit of our country.

Let freedom ring!



Maritime Interaction Day

ISMA Lodge 6 Participates in Maritime Interaction Day – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On Thursday, May 21, members of ISMA Lodge 6 participated in Maritime Interaction Day – Milwaukee, an event organized by **We Work the Waterways**, a nonprofit education organization that introduces students and educators to maritime career opportunities.

The event brought together more than 200 Milwaukee-area high school sophomores to learn about careers in the maritime industry and interact directly with maritime professionals.

Students rotated between two locations throughout the day. At **Beulah Brinton Community Center**, they participated in interactive stations featuring navigation, line throwing, life aboard a ship, maritime career paths, and other maritime-related activities. At the **University of Wisconsin School of Freshwater Sciences**, students attended presentation and panel discussions with maritime professionals who shared information about their careers and the industry.

Five Lodge 6 members participated and interacted with students throughout the day. The program was well organized, and the students demonstrated strong engagement and sincere interest in maritime career pathways.



Capt. Greg Stamatelakys demonstrates chart navigation for students





Capt. Mike Bauman discusses maritime career paths

The event introduced young people to maritime career opportunities they may not have otherwise considered, while helping build the future maritime workforce. Lodge 6 was proud to support this effort and help inspire the next generation of maritime professionals.



Capt. Beth Fernandez describes life on a ship



Capt. Todd Brennan and Patrick McBriarty participate in a panel discussion with students

Maritime Interaction Day received media coverage from **CBS 58 Milwaukee**, which sent a camera crew to highlight the day's activities and the importance of maritime workforce development.

The We Work the Waterways Mission:

To connect the next generation with careers in maritime, shipping, and logistics while fostering a lasting appreciation for the industry, its people and its impact on the environment and the economy.

For more information about We Work the Waterways:

<https://weworkthewaterways.com/>

Final Bells

David A. Veasy	11289	Founding Member NE Michigan Lodge 19
Robert A Priefer	10702	Former Member Muskegon Lodge 21
Thomas R. McMullen	10266	Past Grand President, Past President Detroit Lodge 7
James Peter Buell	12676	Member Lodge Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge 15
Peter Clure	A-11771	Long-serving Member Twin Ports Lodge 12
Robert P. Noffze	11639	Long-time Member NE Michigan Lodge 19

From the Lodges

Port Huron Lodge No. 2

Port Huron Lodge 2 Summer Cruise

Lodge 2 is inviting all ISMA Lodges to participate in their summer cruise on September 12, 2026 in Port Huron, Michigan. **Full details are on the flyer at the end of this newsletter.**

Port Huron Lodge 2 raises funds at the annual Port Huron Marine Mart in June

Lodge 2 raised \$392 at the 2026 Port Huron Marine Mart held in downtown Port Huron at the American Legion Hall on June 13th. This was the 4rd successful year in a row that the Lodge manned a table and sold donated nautical artifacts and memorabilia. Lodge 2's 1st V-P Dave Michelson has led the effort each year. Other members who volunteered and attended were Capt. Roger Hewlett, Lodge 2 Secretary Capt. Victoria Conradson, Angela Ketelhut and Treasurer George Haynes. The Lodge wants to thank everyone who donated items and volunteered their time for a successful event. Also, we want to thank the crew at Lakes Pilots Association for donating office space for the collection of items.



Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

Port Washington, WI NOAA/GLOS Spotter Buoy Launch

On June 3, 2026, Lodge 6 member Capt. Mike Loescher, a volunteer crew and Caitlin Zant of the NOAA Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary deployed the spotter buoy from Loescher's vessel southeast of Port Washington, Wisconsin. The SPOT-30952C buoy which is managed by Michigan Technological University transmits wind, wave and water data real-time on the GLOS Seagull website.

There are currently about 30 spotter buoys around the Great Lakes serving data to the Seagull website. Spotter buoys are used by scientists, governments, ports, universities, contractors, vessel captains and the general public.



Caitlin Zant and a volunteer observe the buoy after deployment

Link to the weather buoy data:

[Seagull Buoy: SPOT-30952C](#)

More info on the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast NMS:

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wisconsin/>

Schooner UTOPIA Returns to Sturgeon Bay

Lodge 6 Ship Masters Jeff Rochon and Mike Morris donated the 1946 Sturgeon Bay Peterson-built schooner UTOPIA to Patriot Racing Project. Capt. Jack Gage is the Director of the project, and his goal is to provide maritime community and comradery for veterans of all eras.



More information about the project and UTOPIA:

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

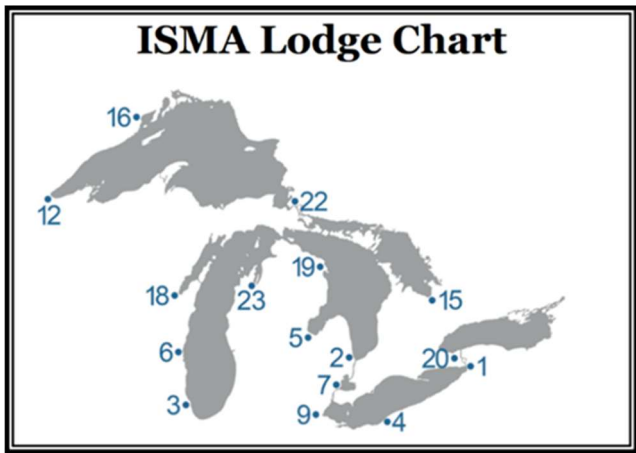
<https://www.utopia1946.com/>

Lodge No. 6 LinkedIn Page



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

<https://linkedin.com/company/ismalodge6>



Detroit Lodge No. 7

Memorial Day Weekend with Sea Cadets

On Memorial Day Weekend 2026 at North Channel Yacht Club on Harsens Island, MI Capt. Ray Oset played Taps with Capt. Luke Clybourn's Sea Cadets. Other ISMA members in attendance Randy Pagel and Bill Callahan.



Captain Ray Oset playing Taps with Captain Luke Clybourn's Sea Cadets at the North Channel Yacht Club

Toledo Lodge No. 9

137th Annual Grand Lodge Convention

SAVE THE DATE! Lodge 9 is hosting the ISMA Grand Lodge Convention in 2027. The 137th International Ship Masters' Association Grand Lodge Convention will be held January 28 – 31, 2027 in Toledo, Ohio. Toledo Lodge 9 will host the Convention the **Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel** – Those who attended the last convention in Toledo in 2018 for Captain Harry Dusseau will recall this venue as being excellent. The theme for the Saturday night party will be the TV Show M*A*S*H. Thanks to Capt. Seann O'Donoghue, Lodge 15, for his excellent suggestion. This is a perfect theme for the Toledo convention. If you remember, Jamie Farr, who played Cpl. Maxwell Q. Klinger --- He is in real life a Toledo native. He spoke frequently about Toledo in the show, along with his beloved Toledo Mud Hens and Tony Packo's. ISMA men dressing in dresses that night will not be questioned. Betty Zaleski, a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant & Toledo Lodge #9 Associate Member, will be available for proper application of make-up, where necessary or where it might make a difference. We will notify Toledo Police and the vice squad to leave us alone. We don't want any Section Eights! 😊

Pricing for the convention will be released soon on www.shipmaster.org

Freighter Cruise Raffle

In the meantime, Toledo Lodge 9 is selling Freighter Cruise Raffle Tickets for a trip on the M/V Honorable James L. Oberstar. The trip is good for the 2027 season. Guests must be at least 18 years old and adhere to all company policies and procedures. The winner must be flexible concerning ports of departure and return. The cost is \$10 per ticket or six for \$50.

To purchase tickets, mail a check made payable to ISMA Toledo Lodge 9, P.O. Box 5218, Toledo, OH 43611. For questions or concerns please email: ISMALodge9@gmail.com or call 419-345-5206.

There are three additional prizes. They include a round trip for two aboard the historic car ferry S.S. Badger; Pilot boat ride to touch a freighter. This is good for four people and was made possible by the Lake Pilots' Association. The final prize is a trip on the legendary mailboat J.W. Westcott.

Paul LaMarre III, ISMA Grand 1st Vice-President, in the News

Lodge #9 member and ISMA Vice President, Paul LaMarre III, was featured in Marine Link and in a Facebook post by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

Marine Link had an excellent story on Capt. LaMarre, his leadership, and upbringing in the maritime industry.



Greg Trauthwein, editor, who has covered the global maritime market for more than 25 years, wrote an excellent article on Capt. LaMarre and his family's background in the maritime industry.

He wrote, "for Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III, the maritime industry isn't a career choice as much as it is a family inheritance — and, in his words, "all I've known my entire life." In a recent interview with Maritime Reporter TV, Captain LaMarre gives unique insights on the operating efficiently, effectively and safely on the Great Lakes system — the United States' 'Fourth Sea' — and with passion, intellect and purpose advocates for a strong U.S. maritime industry."

Here is the link to the entire article.

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/lakes-lakes-lakes-captain-paul-c-lamarre-537074>

Meanwhile, on March 30th, the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority posted a story on Facebook about the Federal Nakagawa being the first ocean vessel of the season at the Port of Toledo. The vessel loaded grain at the ADM terminal. The post was accompanied by two photos of the ship being towed by a tug. It was noted that Captain Paul LaMarre was towing and that he took the photos.

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15

2026 Top Hat Award to Capt. Michael Rodaway

The MV Florence Spirit, operated by McKeil Marine, was the first vessel to arrive in the Port of Hamilton for the 2026 shipping season. The ship's master is Captain Michael Rodaway, 1st Vice President of ISMA Lodge 15, who hails from Wasaga Beach, Ontario.



Upon arrival, the vessel's Captain and crew were formally welcomed by HOPA Ports, with the presentation of the annual Top Hat, by Harbour Master Vicky Gruber, recognizing the ship's role in opening the season. "This will be my third Top Hat for Hamilton, as always it's a great honour for the crew, myself and the ship," said Capt. Rodaway. 2026 marks Captain Rodaway's 44th year at sea.



The Florence Spirit continues to be a familiar and important presence in Hamilton. The Port of Hamilton remains Canada's largest Great Lakes port by tonnage, handling a diverse mix of cargo that supports steel production, manufacturing, agri-food, and construction across Ontario and beyond.



"Being recognized at the Port of Hamilton's Top Hat Ceremony is especially meaningful to McKeil Marine as we mark 70 years as a Hamilton based company," said Scott F. Bravener, CEO of McKeil Marine Limited. "It reflects the professionalism of our crews and our long standing commitment to safe, reliable and efficient operations in one of Canada's most important industrial ports. The Hamilton area has been home to McKeil since the beginning, and we're proud to continue contributing to the strength and reliability of Great Lakes trade."

"The Seaway and its supporting infrastructure are critical to ArcelorMittal Dofasco's ability to ensure reliable, cost effective, and environmentally responsible transportation of the raw materials utilized in steelmaking," said Danielle Lewis, VP of Procurement at ArcelorMittal Dofasco.

Twin Sault Lodge No. 22

Voices at the VALLEY CAMP

On July 18 at 1830. The Valley Camp Museum ship became a forum for enthusiasts of the shipping industry to learn from several ship Captains about their careers. Stories of fires onboard, Icebreaking, and the general reasons a sailor's career is so rewarding, were all topics

covered by the Moderator Andrea Guerrero of DRE Designs. In fact, the entire evening was the brainchild of Andrea, who wished to earn money for the ISMA Scholarship fund.

The panel consisted of Captains T.J. Pryor-Algoma Central Marine, Joe Walters-USGS vessel KIYI, Paul LaMarre III-Port Director at Port of Monroe, Mark Mather (retired), Bob Thibodeau (retired), Sam Buchanan-JW Westcott and Joe Ruch (retired).

The highlight of the evening was not only the panel but the presentation to retired **Captain John P Wellington** a special **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Marine Historical Society of Detroit**.



Captain John Wellington received a Lifetime Achievement Award surrounded by back row left to right TJ Pryor, Mark Mather, Joe Walters, Joe Ruch, Front row Paul LaMarre III, John Wellington, Bob Thibodeau

Over 160 people attended the event which raised nearly \$10,000 on its first of what has potential to become an annual event on the historical ship.



Event Sponsors



Great food for the social hour was Provided by the Golf and Country Club.

The ship was based as a museum in Sault Ste Marie Michigan in 1968 thanks to effort spearheaded by Captain Wellington.

2026 ISMA Scholarship Award Winners

United States Cadet

Cadet **Ed Lefebre**

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Great Lakes Maritime Academy
Traverse City, Michigan
Member of Traverse City Lodge 23

Canadian Cadet

Cadet **Brooke Herrington**

ALGOMA CENTRAL CORP.
Georgian Centre for Marine Training
Owen Sound, Ontario
Member Georgian Bay Huronia Lodge 15

Hawsepip Scholarship

Seaman **Marc Sells**

HOLIDAY CHARTERS
Mantua, Ohio
Member Cleveland Lodge 4

How to Contribute to the ISMA Scholarship Fund

For any members, lodges, shipping companies, or other individuals/entities who would like to donate to the ISMA Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund, below are the addresses (depending on if mailing from U.S. or Canada) to send your check. A thank you note will be mailed upon receiving any donation, and the names of all donors and amounts will be listed in the following ISMA newsletter.

Please make the cheque/checks payable to:

"ISMA Scholarship Fund"

For Canadian Lodges/ mailing **from Canada**, please send to:

Capt. Thomas Foster
ISMA Grand Lodge Secretary Treasurer
508-26 Leroy Grant Dr.
Kingston ON K7K 6X3 CANADA

For U.S. Lodges/ mailing **from United States**, please send to:

Capt. Thomas Foster
ISMA Grand Lodge Secretary Treasurer
P.O. Box 298
Clayton, NY 13624

New Members for 2026

2nd Quarter

NAME	NO.	TYPE	LODGE
Bryson, Jacob	13533	AP	2
Bryson, Rebecca	13534	AP	2
Cramer, August Henry	13535	AP	2
Kratochvil, Amber	OC-13546	OC	3
Dixon, Lisa	13457	AP	3
Arce, Samuel	13548	AP	3
Herkemij, Yvonne	13549	AP	3
Kelly, Michael	13550	AP	3
Auvenshine, Heidi	A-13554	Assoc	3
Curtis, Jacob	A-13555	Assoc	3
Maltbie, Charles	A-13556	Assoc	3
Cruz, Juan	A-13558	Assoc	3
Hill, Deshawn	OC-13559	OC	3
Kellman, Olivia	OC-13560	OC	3
Paladino, Lorne	OC-13562	OC	3
Kennedy, Kelli	OC-13565	OC	3
Britt, Peter	A-13566	Assoc	3
Leslie, Daniel	13567	AP	3
Barlow, David	13529	AP	5
Gibas, Matthew	13530	AP	5
List, Terry	A-13531	Assoc	5
Kowalski, Michael	A-13532	Assoc	5
Seawright, Lloyd W.	A-13536	Assoc	6
Montenero, Mike	13544	AP	6
Lentsch, Daniel	13545	AP	6
Maltese, Vincent	13539	AR	9
Larson, Erik	13452	AP	12
Kocher, Andreas	13453	AP	12
Ranasinghe, Dhanuj	OC-13537	OC	15
Chabot, Jeffrey W.	13528	AP	19
Gandulla, Stephanie	13540	AP	19
Myers, Nick	13541	AP	19
Cole, Kory	13538	AP	23

Welcome one and all to the Voice of the Great Lakes!

Great Lakes & Maritime News

End the Jones Act Waiver, AMP Urges

The American Maritime Partnership (AMP) is calling for the immediate termination of the current Jones Act waiver, arguing that the waiver's original justification—



supporting military logistics during Operation Epic Fury—no longer exists following the June 17 peace agreement that ended the conflict. The waiver is currently scheduled to remain in effect through August 17.

AMP contends that the waiver has shifted domestic cargo opportunities away from U.S. mariners, shipowners, and shipyards and toward foreign-flag vessels. According to Maritime Administration (MARAD) data cited by AMP, foreign vessels moved approximately 25.5 million barrels of petroleum under the waiver, representing only about 1.4% of U.S. petroleum consumption during the first 90 days of the program.

The organization further argues that the waiver has failed to achieve its intended economic benefits. AMP notes that fuel price fluctuations during the waiver period were driven primarily by changes in global crude oil prices rather than domestic shipping capacity, and that the additional transportation provided under the waiver represented only a small fraction of national fuel demand.

AMP also raised concerns that approximately 26% of waiver voyages were conducted by vessels owned or subsidized by Chinese interests, including one voyage involving a COSCO-operated vessel. The group argues that extending the waiver undermines investment in U.S. maritime capabilities and creates uncertainty for American maritime businesses.

In its statement, AMP emphasized that the Jones Act supports American jobs, national security, and domestic transportation infrastructure, and urged policymakers to restore full Jones Act protections by ending the waiver immediately.

Coast Guard Delays Deployment of Some Great Lakes Lighted Buoys

The U.S. Coast Guard has announced delays in the deployment of certain seasonal lighted buoys across the Great Lakes due to unexpected maintenance requirements affecting its buoy fleet. To support maritime commerce, the Coast Guard is prioritizing aids to navigation in major commercial shipping routes and high-traffic waterways, while deployment of some remote offshore and larger approach buoys has been postponed.

The Coast Guard noted that the delays do not affect the smaller buoys commonly used by recreational boaters. Mariners are encouraged to consult the Local Notice to Mariners for the latest status of navigational aids and to maintain heightened situational awareness. Buoys not yet deployed will generally be listed as either***“Missing”*** (seasonal buoy not deployed) or***“Extinguished”*** (an unlighted buoy remains in place of the planned lighted buoy).

Captains and bridge teams operating on the Great Lakes should verify buoy status before transit and remain alert for changes to navigational aids in affected areas.

Coast Guard Moves Forward on New Light Icebreaking Cutters

The Coast Guard has officially kicked off procurement for its next generation of Homeland Security Cutter–Light (HSC-L) vessels — a long-awaited replacement for the 65-foot tugs that have been keeping smaller ports open since the 1960s. A formal Request for Proposals is now out, covering design, construction, testing, and delivery for up to seven cutters.



*Rendering of the Homeland Security Cutter L light icebreaker.
(Source: USCG)*

These new boats will combine light icebreaking with aids-to-navigation work, giving the service a single platform to keep harbors and rivers accessible year-round. Early requirements call for a 69-foot cutter capable of breaking 12 inches of level ice at 3 knots, staying underway for three days without resupply, and serving for 30 years.

Congress has already set aside \$816 million for domestic icebreaking recapitalization, and this program sits alongside the Coast Guard’s much larger Arctic expansion — including the recently awarded \$3.3 billion for six new Arctic Security Cutters.

For mariners who rely on winter access to smaller ports, this marks a significant modernization effort aimed at keeping commercial and recreational traffic moving when the ice sets in.

Light Stolen from Wisconsin Point Lighthouse

Written By James Heinz, Wisconsin Maritime Historical Society

The Superior Entry South Breakwater Light at Wisconsin Point in Lake Superior has been guiding mariners into the Duluth/Superior harbor since June 30, 1913. But on May

13, 2026, its vital mission was suddenly stopped for an unusual reason:

Someone stole the light.

The U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service reports that someone broke into the lighthouse, cut the power to the light, and then removed the Coast Guard owned beacon.



Photo courtesy of Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

The report further states:

“...the stolen beacon is crucial for guiding vessels safely, especially at night or in poor weather...it is a reckless act that immediately jeopardizes public safety. The removal of this navigational beacon creates a severe hazard that could lead to catastrophic vessel collisions or groundings.”

“The Coast Guard Investigative Service is asking anyone who saw suspicious people, vehicles, or vessels near the Superior Entry Lighthouse or Wisconsin Point around May 13, 2026, to contact investigators.” A \$1,000 reward is being offered. <https://www.uscg.mil/Units/Coast-Guard-Investigative-Service/>

Ontario Invests in Lake Superior Port Infrastructure

Ontario is investing **\$2.8 million** to expand marine infrastructure in **Thunder Bay and Marathon**, strengthening domestic trade routes.

At the **Port of Thunder Bay**, funding will expand storage and staging capacity at Keefer Terminal, improving the handling of oversized and bulk cargo such as grain, steel, and wind turbine components. The port remains a key inland hub, moving over **10 million tons annually**.

In **Marathon**, \$2 million will support development of a new marine terminal at the former pulp mill site. The project aims to facilitate exports of critical minerals and forestry products, with long-term ties to the nearby Ring of Fire resource region. The facility is expected to be operational by **late 2027**.

Overall, the investment is designed to boost cargo capacity, support northern industries, and reinforce Canada’s east–west supply chain resilience.

Great Lakes Office Finalizes Michigan Maritime Strategy

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has finalized a new 10-year Michigan Maritime Strategy, aimed at expanding the state’s maritime economy, creating jobs, modernizing infrastructure, and promoting environmental sustainability.

The strategy was developed through collaboration among multiple Michigan state agencies and organizations, including transportation, natural resources, economic development, and workforce development partners.

More than 200 stakeholders from government, industry, communities, and academia participated in a year-long planning process led by the University of Michigan.

Priorities include:

- Modernizing ports and transportation connections.
- Supporting marine manufacturing and innovation.
- Expanding workforce development.
- Accelerating clean energy adoption and vessel electrification.
- Strengthening environmental stewardship and Great Lakes protection.

The strategy aligns with Michigan’s broader climate and mobility plans and targets **carbon neutrality by 2050** through cleaner fuels and maritime technologies.

Michigan's maritime sector currently supports **17,000 jobs** and contributes **\$4.7 billion annually** to the state's economy, while water-based tourism supports **45,000 jobs** and generates nearly **\$12 billion annually**.

The state hopes to leverage its strategic location on the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway system and the Soo Locks to strengthen freight movement and regional economic growth.

View the Michigan Maritime Strategy here:

[Growing the Great Lakes maritime economy](#)

Annual Blessing of Twin Ports marks Shipping Season Start

By Emmaleah Allen, Fox 21 News

The Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers held its annual Blessing of the Port ceremony on May 14 at the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center in Canal Park.

The event marked the beginning of the busy Great Lakes shipping season, bringing together community members, maritime officials, and shipping representatives.

The ceremony included remarks on the opening weeks of the shipping season, followed by a traditional blessing for the crews and vessels traveling through the Twin Ports this year.

"It really highlights the reality of what this port is, that it's the ships coming in, but it also is a way in the prayers that we had, it's recognizing the multitude of people that are part of this whole shipping industry," said Rev. Douglas Paulson, executive director of the Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers.

Organizers say the annual tradition is meant to recognize the important role the Twin Ports play in Great Lakes shipping while welcoming this season's sailors and travelers.

Historic S.S. Badger Begins Lake Michigan Overnight Crossings

If you think the best part of a voyage happens after the sun goes down, the S.S. Badger just rolled out something worth knowing about. The historic 410-foot coal-fired car ferry — yes, the last one of its kind still operating in the U.S. — is now offering overnight sailings across Lake Michigan through September 7.

These crossings leave Ludington at 8:45 p.m., glide west under the stars, and put you in Manitowoc around 11:45 p.m. (remember, Wisconsin runs an hour behind). The return run departs at 1:30 a.m. and gets you back to Ludington just after sunrise. It's a different way to experience the lake: quiet decks and dark sky.

Daytime trips continue as usual through October 11, but the night schedule adds flexibility — and honestly, a bit of old-school romance — to a vessel already steeped in Great Lakes history. Onboard you'll still find the restaurants, lounges, movie theater, museum, and even the famous Badger bingo. Fares run \$89 one-way for adults during peak season, with reduced rates in spring and fall. Vehicles, RVs, motorcycles, and bikes can all make the crossing.



Figure 1 The S.S. Badger arriving from Pere Marquette Lake in Ludington. Photo: Bryan Levy via Blue Blaze PR

If you don't need to cross the lake but still want to step aboard, they're also offering shoreline cruises, dockside events, behind-the-scenes tours, and even Murder Mystery Nights. A National Historic Landmark since 2016, the Badger remains one of the most distinctive pieces of working maritime history on the Great Lakes.

Source: Reporting by **Justine Lofton**, *MLive*, June 19, 2026.

Full article: <https://www.mlive.com/life/2026/06/ss-badger-begins-lake-michigan-overnight-sailings-perfect-for-night-owls-and-stargazers.html>

US Coast Guard Now Accepting Credential Submissions via Download

As of January 26, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) National Maritime Center (NMC) began accepting Merchant Mariner Credential applications via download from their recently redesigned website. The USCG calls this function "ASAP" for "Application Submission & Additional Information Portal", describing it as "a faster, secure way to submit new application and upload requested documents in one place." The website is: https://www.dco.uscg.mil/national_maritime_center. Meanwhile, the USCG NMC continues to develop NAVITA, a web-based mariner credentialing portal, "which will allow merchant mariner applicants and others to apply for, track status of, and otherwise manage their merchant mariner credentials and medical certificates." NAVITA is Latin for 'mariner'

Ship Master Spotlight

Capt. Roger Hewlett (#11255)



Capt. Roger Hewlett — ISMA Lodge No. - Port Huron

A Lifetime of Maritime Leadership and Global Engineering Impact

Capt. Roger Hewlett's extraordinary 70-year career began in 1956 aboard the **SS North American** as a dishwasher, launching a lifetime connected to the world's waterways. He quickly advanced through roles as **coal passer, fireman, and Oiler** on steam-powered freighters, including the **R.E. Moody, Sparkman D. Foster**, and **Sweden**, mastering coal-fired boilers and reciprocating steam engines.

Roger expanded his horizons coast-to-coast and internationally, serving on a T-2 tanker to Alaska and a deep sea ore ship navigating the Orinoco River in Venezuela. In 1958 he joined the **Military Sea Transport Service (MSTS)**, sailing on C-2 freighters, P-2 troopships, to **NATO** bases and, most memorably, the CV-1 aircraft carriers **USNS Core and Breton**, supporting early Vietnam-era aircraft and helicopter sealifts.

Balancing duty and education, Roger studied chemistry and physics while sailing, and later earning both **BSME** and **MSME** degrees from **Wayne State University**. In 1965 he transitioned into engineering leadership with **GM-Detroit Diesel**, supporting major diesel engine programs across the U.S., Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and Africa, including yachts, crew boats, tugboats, oil rigs, and 500-ton mining trucks in Zambia, and a 4-year tug repowering test program for **Brusco Towing Co**, on the Columbia River.

In the 1970's his career later took him to residing in Atlanta and Brazil as an engineering district manager before becoming **Manager of Application Engineering** for **GM's** U.S. affiliate, **Isuzu Motors**. He simultaneously taught night school engineering lab courses at **Lawrence Technological University**.

After a period of post graduate studies at **Michigan Technological University**, Roger, returned to maritime service in 1989. Obtaining his 200 ton towing license he became Captain, Tankerman, and Crane Operator for the **National Park Service**, skipping the tug **J.E. Colombe**, servicing **Isle Royale**. He later joined the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** as mate and

acting captain of the **Survey Vessel James Bray**, retiring from federal service in 1998.

Retirement only shifted his course—Roger rejoined **Detroit Diesel-MTU** as a contractor working on military and marine diesel applications, while continuing tug and towboat assignments for **Gaelic and Kobasic Towing Companies**. He also served as reliever in the engine rooms of **American Steamship** vessels **M/V Buffalo** and **Sam Laud** over 2005-2007 period.

Now in 2026, Roger, with his 3rd Assistant Engineer's, unlimited HP license, remains active on short-term engineering and marine assignments, **for Isle Royale National Park Service** on the passenger/cargo vessel **NPS Ranger III**, continuing the remarkable legacy of a man who devoted most of his life to the water.



Grand President's Report

Maritime Day and Memorial Day in the Nation's Capital

On Maritime Day, I was privileged to participate at the national level by attending the annual program at the Department of Transportation (DOT) Headquarters in Washington, DC. This event is populated by top government and maritime industry officials.

I, along with five other past and current national officers of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) organization, received the Outstanding Achievement Mariner's Medal from the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD). These medals, which were presented by MARAD Administrator Stephen Carmel, signify AMMV's progress and accomplishments in its first decade of post-WWII generation leadership. It was quite an honor to stand beside these fellow AMMV officers and receive the medals followed by a standing ovation from the audience.

The ceremony featured some heavy hitters. Following opening formalities, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy offered remarks. For us on the Great Lakes, having Duffy in this role is a good thing. He is from Hayward, WI and is a former Congressman of Wisconsin's District #7, which borders Lake Superior from Saxon Harbor to Superior.

Additionally, two of the featured speakers represented the Great Lakes region, namely Greg Binion, CEO of Mainstay Maritime, and J.M. "Mike" McCoshen, Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. These speakers extolled the economic value of Great Lakes shipping and recalled the historic contributions of our regional industry.

The other speakers were Capt. Stephen M. Carmel, Administrator, MARAD; General Randall Reed, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command; and David Heindel, President, Seafarers International Union (SIU).

A couple days later our AMMV group attended the National Memorial Day program at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). This is a high-profile event, televised nationally, with this year's speakers including the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, and the Secretary of War. To provide some background, since 2023, AMMV has sent a contingent of veterans and members to attend both the National Memorial Day and National Veterans Day program at the ANC. This is a significant accomplishment as the U.S. Merchant Marine was not included prior to 2023, especially when considering this was the 158th evolution of this Memorial Day observance.

You may first ask what the National Memorial Day ceremony has to do with the U.S. Merchant Marine. In WWII, it is estimated that over 250,000 mariners served. Some sources list the casualties as high as 9,000, with an additional 11,200 wounded. Dozens more were captured and tortured as POW's and over 700 large vessels were sunk by enemy forces. The U.S. Merchant Marine was present at every Allied invasion in WWII. It was not until 1988 when these mariners were finally recognized as veterans. In fact, 138 of them are buried in Arlington.

You might next wonder what does it entail to be included in this program? For starters, the Merchant Marine is represented with a Color Guard unit in the opening Parade of Colors, in which dozens of veterans' groups participate. We have primarily utilized the SIU's Paul Hall Center apprentices for this task, but Maine Maritime and Kings Point have participated on other occasions. I have been in contact with Great Lakes Maritime Academy in hopes of having them provide the Colors during a future ANC Memorial Day or Veterans Day program. Secondly, we are involved in the wreath laying procession at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier which immediately follows the program. We lay a wreath on behalf of the entire U.S. Merchant Marine. This year's designated wreath layers included the descendants of mariner Shelton G. Meade, who was KIA when his ship was destroyed in the Bari, Italy air raid of December 1943. He was an Ordinary Seaman on the *SS John Harvey*, a U.S. vessel with a top-secret cargo of mustard gas. AMMV strives to honor the mariners who gave all, and to keep this vital maritime history alive.

As we approach the mid-point of the 2026 sailing season, I wish everyone safe sailing and a shipmaster's salute to all our hard-working members!

Capt. Chris Edyvean
2026 ISMA Grand President



AMMV Outstanding Achievement Medal recipients (from left) Christian Yuhas and Capt. Chris Edyvean, (from right) Capt. Darin Huggins and Capt. Dru DiMattia. In the center is WWII mariner and famous speaker Dave Yoho.



AMMV group in line to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Great Lakes Seaway Administrator J.M. "Mike" McCoshen



ISMA Grand President Capt. Chris Edyvean (L) with U.S. Maritime Administrator Capt. Stephen Carmel



DOT HQ in Washington, DC



Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy



A maritime apprentice from the SIU's Paul Hall Center carries the U.S. Merchant Marine flag during the Parade of Colors on Memorial Day. The Merchant Marine has only been included since 2023 at this event.



Top U.S. leaders at the National Memorial Day program, including the President and Vice President of the United States

Grand Lodge Financial Report

By Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer Capt. Tom Foster

It is my pleasure to report the Lodge is in solid financial territory. Our reserves currently continue to grow as the budget is under very tight scrutiny. To date 11 of the 13 American Lodges have paid in full, with one Lodge prepaying some of the 2027 assessment. The only category under the general revenue which is down is the new membership dollars. Many new members joined during the assessment period paying their full dues. I did grant one returning member a reprieve from his back dues as he paid more than the dues would be in sponsorships to his Lodge, and I felt the fund were better used there.

The Scholarship donations this year have exceeded our past performance. To date we have raised a solid 5 figure increase in donations. Several factors have contributed to the Increase.

Lodge 22 member Andrea Guerriero has contributed a great deal through her online auctions on Dre Design Marine Products. She also has a good line up of ISMA merchandise for sale so check out Dre Designs, it comes back to us in scholarship money. Lodge 12 had some funds from the convention they donated and of course so many of our delegates and some members at the convention gave a hefty amount.

As for our membership we will be over 670, once all of applications from Lodge 3 are processed. That will take a day or two as they go back to December, and they are doing an outstanding job recruiting.

Progress has also been made in organizing a new Canadian Lodge in the Kingston Ontario area. Between big boat, small boat, Pilots and Passenger mariners there is a large amount of talent in the area and a Lodge in that part of the Seaway and Great Lakes makes a lot of sense.

MOW Committee

By Chairman Matt Zaleski

ISMA saw some great regional and national exposure over the late Spring and early Summer --- Especially on National Maritime Day --- Some of which you already read about in this newsletter. I developed and distributed several news releases. They included helping Capt. Beth Fernandez at Lodge 6 and the Maritime Interaction Day with the group We Work the Waterways, and ISMA President, Capt. Chris Edyvean honored on National Maritime Day in Washington DC. In addition, our last newsletter was distributed to the media outlets where member lodges are located.

In an attempt to show ISMA's geographic size and reach, a new news release letterhead was developed that shows all member lodges with logos and the member lodge hyperlink. There is a paragraph with the ISMA background at the bottom of the letterhead.



There was also significant work done with the Toledo Lodge for the upcoming 137th Annual Convention. Among early interest is the United Autoworkers – Region 2B sponsoring a table to the banquet, United Steelworkers purchasing a program ad, and the Insulators Local 45 Union taking 100 freighter cruise raffle tickets to sell to its members. Dre Design has agreed to work with the Toledo Lodge to help sell freighter cruise raffle tickets.

ISMA Past Grand President Harry Dusseau, Toledo Lodge 9 president Rick Brown, my wife Betty (an Associate Member), and I will attend the upcoming American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) Annual Summer Conference, July 30 & 31, 2026 in Chicago. Our group will host a table and work the venue distributing information on sponsorships for the upcoming convention in Toledo and selling freighter cruise raffle tickets. The ISMA Grand Lodge will also have a table there to promote port involvement with our Association.

Additional accomplishments included arranging a business associate, Ed Blankenship, to provide free services to help Capt. Thomas Foster, ISMA Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer, to complete the ISMA 501(c)3 work.

The Fitzgerald legacy continues. A few months ago, I sat down with the CBS affiliate in Toledo, WTOL. The meeting was to secure a media sponsor for the Toledo convention, but it turned into something else. WTOL committed several months of coverage to the 50th Anniversary of the Fitzgerald Tragedy. WTOL General Manager, Brian Lorenzen, told me that the Fitzgerald stories posted on their website, and on affiliates on the Great Lakes and eastern seaboard, were among the top-five percent for web hits. Mr. Lorenzen said this revealed something that they didn't expect --- Their audience has an interest in maritime stories. As a result, their Chief Meteorologist, Chris Vickers, now offers regular posts about the maritime industry and following ships headed to Toledo. For ISMA, this is just the start of re-introducing the maritime industry to the media.

Finally, many lodges are hosting events this summer and early fall. Most of these events are aimed at fellow ISMA members and their respective guests. In other words, these events are not open to the public. With those types of events, I will not be sending out a news release or event announcement. If you are hosting an event and it is open to the public, please let me know. I will gladly put something together. Also, if possible, let's try to work with at least a four-to-six-week lead time before the event.

Change of Course Committee

By Chairman Capt. Luke Clyburn

The Change of Course (CoC) committee holds Zoom video calls and has 8 active members, and the Grand President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. There are the numerous Goals and Ideas that the committee has discussed and strongly recommends to the leadership.

Mission Statement

The Change of Course Committee is tasked with creating policies and strategies in accordance with the ISMA Constitution that moves the Grand Lodge forward.

CoC Committee Goals

- Addition of new members and retention of existing members
- To assist with furthering maritime awareness and maritime education on all age levels
- Become a more complete professional maritime organization recognized by other maritime concerns and agencies as well as the public as subject matter experts

CoC Ideas

- Use the brochure that Lodge 9 redesigned and sent out in PDF format
- The ISMA Newsletter needs to be published on a regular basis, and editions should be sent out to local, state and federal maritime agencies and Port Authorities
- Create and send out Position Papers that support other agencies.
- Promote networking and outreach amongst all Lodges
- Create a position for a sales and fund raising professional
- All committees should create a report for the newsletter
- Anyone paid by ISMA should create a report for the newsletter
- The Scholarship fund should be expanded to include maritime focused high schools and needed equipment, by the creation of a 501(c)(3) that would allow endowments as well as donations
- Create recognition for National Maritime Day (US Lodges) and Day of the Seafarer (Canada) on the local level to promote the industry, both past, present and future as well as the benefits of ISMA membership

Leadership

- The incoming Grand Lodge President needs to create a formal ONE-Year plan to follow for his term.
- Grand Lodge leadership needs to create a formal FIVE-Year plan to create consistency in leadership for the annual change of command. The FIVE-Year plan should be updated annually.

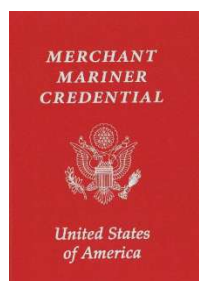


- The immediate past, present, and future Grand Lodge Presidents as well as the 1st and 2nd vice presidents should meet before the Grand Lodge caucus to plan the formal 5-YEAR plan. The 1 year and 5-YEAR plan should be introduced to the caucus delegates.

Credentialing Corner

Coast Guard to Roll Out Digital Credentialing Platform

The U.S. Coast Guard has launched a new digital system to modernize mariner credentialing, aiming to reduce a significant processing backlog and improve efficiency.



The new system, known as NAVITA—Latin for “sailor”—is scheduled for an **initial rollout in September 2026** and is being developed as part of the Coast Guard’s broader digital transformation initiative. The platform is designed to streamline applications, enhance tracking, and speed up approvals for merchant mariners. While the move marks a major step toward modernization, it comes as the agency continues working through delays that have impacted the maritime workforce and industry operations.

From the Editor

Lodge Secretaries please send Lodge news to me for the next issue. Please send news stories with photos with captions to:

newsletter@shipmaster.org

(mike@milwaukeeodge6.org is no longer being used)

The deadline for stories to be included in the next newsletter is OCTOBER 31, 2026.

Capt. Mike Loescher – Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

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.

As an organization, ISMA strives to:

- To be the respected voice of licensed professional mariners in matters related to navigation and safety on waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System. In this process, we work with, and provide input to, regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, industry associations and other working groups on matters affecting navigational safety.
- To provide opportunities for licensed merchant mariners to network, to offer their feedback, and to enhance their knowledge in a variety of ways.
- To maintain mutual respect, support, and encouragement among our members, and to promote the pursuit of personal and professional excellence.
- To encourage and assist those preparing for careers as merchant marine officers.

2026 Event Calendar

July 20	Lake Superior Day	
August 4	Coast Guard Day (US)	
August 8	Lake Michigan Day	
September 7	Canada Merchant Navy Day	
September 25	IMO World Maritime Day	
October 5	National Shipbuilding Day (US)	
November 11	US Veterans Day Canada Remembrance Day	
December 2-4	International Workboat Show	New Orleans, LA
January 28-31, 2027	137 th ISMA Grand Lodge Convention	Toledo, OH

Please verify these dates prior to making travel plans!



Connect with ISMA

ISMA Website



www.shipmaster.org

ISMA LinkedIn Page



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

Please follow ISMA on LinkedIn and “Like” and/or comment on our posts with your LinkedIn account. You may also invite your LinkedIn Connections to “Follow” ISMA. It will help greatly with public awareness of ISMA.

ISMA Facebook Page



www.facebook.com/InternationalShipMastersAssociation

Please follow ISMA on Facebook and “Like” and/or comment on our posts with your Facebook account. You may also invite your Facebook Friends to “Follow” ISMA. It will help greatly with public awareness of ISMA.

International Ship Masters' Association

2026 Grand Lodge Officers

★ Grand Lodge President ★

Captain Chris Edyvean

cjedyvean@hotmail.com

Grand Lodge First Vice President

Captain Paul LaMarre III

plamarre@portofmunroe.com

Grand Lodge Second Vice President

Captain Tom Blakely

tblakely@gmail.com

Grand Lodge Secretary Treasurer

Captain Tom Foster

thomas.foster63@yahoo.com

Navigation and Legislative Committee (NELC)

Chairman: Scott Skrzypczak

NELC@shipmaster.org

Canadian Co-chairman:

Captain Seann O'Donoghue

ismalodge15@gmail.com

Membership/Outreach/Website Committee (MOW)

Website: www.shipmaster.org

Chairman: Matt Zaleski

matt@hubbubmarketing.com

Change of Course Committee (CoC)

Chairman: Captain Luke Clybourn

lcllyburn@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Captain Mike Loescher

newsletter@shipmaster.org





**International Ship Masters'
Association - Toledo Lodge #9**



**137th Annual Grand Lodge
January 28 - 31, 2027
Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel**

OUR HISTORY



CELEBRATING

REMEMBERING



OUR HEROES

Honoring 140 Years of ISMA History



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST. _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

SELLER _____




**ISMA TOLEDO
LODGE #9**

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention
Toledo, OH
Jan. 28 - 31, 2027

FREIGHTER CRUISE RAFFLE

**Grand Prize: A Trip for 4 - 6 Adults Aboard
M/V Honorable James L. Oberstar**

Good for the 2027 season • Guests must be at least 18 years of age • Adhere to all company policies & procedures • Be flexible concerning ports of departure / return.

Drawing Date: Sat. Jan. 30, 2027 10 p.m. Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel
 Donation - \$10 ea. or 6 for \$50 • Winner need not be present to win. • Tickets cannot be redeemed for cash.
 To purchase tickets: Mail check made payable to ISMA Toledo Lodge 9 / P.O. Box 5218 / Toledo, OH 43611
 For questions or concerns, please email: ISMAToledo9@gmail.com or call: 419-345-5206

Second Prize
 Round trip for two
 aboard historic car ferry
 S.S. Badger

Third Prize
 Pilot boat ride to touch a freighter
 Good for four people
 Courtesy - Lake Pilots' Association

Fourth Prize
 A trip on the
 legendary mailboat
 J.W. Westcott

M/V Hon. James L. Oberstar



INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP



M/V Honorable James L. Oberstar - Toledo Built!

Steamer Charles M. Beeghly joined The Interlake Steamship Company fleet in 1967. When built in 1959 by American Ship Building Company at Toledo, Ohio, as Shenango II, she was one of the largest vessels (710 feet long) on the Great Lakes. In 1972, the Beeghly was lengthened by 96 feet at Fraser Shipyards, Inc., Superior, Wisconsin. She was converted to a self-unloader at Fraser Shipyards in 1981, and is capable of discharging cargo at a rate of 6000 tons per hour. Her steam turbine power plant was replaced with two Bergen B:32:40L diesels during the 2008-2009 winter layup period. She returned to service in June 2009. The Beeghly was named for a former president and chairman of the board of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. In 2010 the M/V Charles M. Beeghly was renamed the M/V Hon. James L. Oberstar honoring the former congressman of the same name from Minnesota who served the US House of Representatives for nearly a half century.



⚓ **Set Your Course for Fun!** ⚓

ISMA Port Huron Lodge 2

Summer Cruise

All ISMA Member Lodges, Family, & Guests welcome!!



All hands on deck! It's time to chart a course for relaxation, connection, and a little adventure on the water.

Climb Aboard the Huron Lady II

102 Huron Avenue

Port Huron, MI

Saturday, September 12

Boarding at 3:40 PM; Sailing at 4:00PM

2-hour scenic cruise

What Awaits You:

- Breathtaking views along the water
- Onboard cash bar & light fare
- Great company with fellow lodge members
- A laid-back summer evening on the river

Your Boarding Pass:

\$35 per person

Don't Miss the Boat! Whether you're a seasoned member, new to the lodge, or just love the water, this is your chance to navigate new friendships and enjoy smooth sailing together.

Reserve your spot using the QR code and join your crew today!

Any questions, contact Angela: ahoyenjoy1@gmail.com or 734-502-9246

Reservation preferred; deadline August 12

Plan to weigh anchor at Bootleggers after the cruise.

ISMA Huron Lady II Cruise

