



Volume 27, Number 2  
March-April 2013

Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

# ISMALLETTER

## GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the ISMA Grand Lodge began on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at the Park Place Inn, Traverse City, MI. All local lodges, with the exception of Thunder Bay Lodge #16 and Muskegon Lodge #21, were represented. There were nine Past Grand Presidents in attendance.

Grand President **Seann O'Donoghue** gave his report, saying, "2012 was fairly successful for the Grand Lodge, and a lot of steps were taken to make improvements to the infrastructure." He noted that the ISMA website has been updated and expanded, and in the media overall, there were a number of stories published relative to the Canadian and US maritime industries. He also summarized local lodge statistics and activities.

**Seann** and **Andrea** were able to attend several functions during the year. To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Storm of 1913, ISMA will have a presence at an upcoming observance in Goderich in the fall.

"[During]my term as Grand President, I have had the pleasure of working with a group of good people," **Seann** concluded.

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **George "Skip" Skuggen** reported on the Grand Lodge's financial status as well as the status of its membership. As of December 31, 2012, there were 706 ISMA members, an increase of 22 over a year earlier. During 2012, we gained 87 new members, lost 11 to death, suspended 68, and reinstated 33.

NELC Chairman **Phil Knetchel** reported on committee activities since the 2012 convention. In addition to writing a number of letters, **Phil** attended several meetings, including the Lake Carriers' Association Captains Committee and the Great Lakes Waterways Conference. Other NELC members attended various meetings around the Lakes. In conclusion, **Phil** noted, "Finally, a major accomplishment for ISMA: We successfully spearheaded the move to eliminate the speed limit in the lower Detroit River. More work to be done: We will continue our efforts to change the Fleming Channel No Passing Rule."

Other committee reports were presented. The Scholarship

Committee announced the three winners of \$1000 each. "Please remember that donations for the Scholarship Fund are accepted any time of year," said **Seann O'Donoghue**, Scholarship Committee chairman.

Two Grand President's Awards were given: 1) to **Robert Lund** and the crew of the *Carla Selvick*, and 2) **Tyler Davidson** (mate), *MV Algoma Spirit*.

The Grand Lodge supports S.218 in the US Senate, and H.R. 335, the companion bill in the US House, requiring that funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund actually be used for harbor maintenance. ISMA also opposes the proposed closure of Canada's Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio.

After discussion, it was determined that *ISMALetter* will transition to a totally electronic publication beginning with the May-June 2013 issue. A notice will be sent with the January-February and March-April mailings. The newsletter is always posted promptly on the ISMA website. It will continue to be emailed to local lodge secretaries for forwarding to their members. If anyone does not have internet access and cannot receive *ISMALetter*, let your local secretary know so that other arrangements can be made. We want everyone to continue to receive this membership benefit.

Host lodge Grand Traverse #23 arranged for a variety of speakers during the meetings and at meals.

**CAPT Joseph McGuinness**, USCG Sector Soo

**Tom Kelly**, Inland Seas Education Association

**Hans VanSumeren**, Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, NMU

**Tom Gilbert**, Touchstone Professional Services

**Admiral Gerry Achenbach**, Great Lakes Maritime Academy

**William Strauss**, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank

**David Wright**, US Army Corps of Engineers

**Andrew Sullivan**, National Weather Service, Gaylord, MI, Forecast Office

**James Weakley**, Lake Carriers' Association

**CAPT Andy Sugimoto**, Ninth District, USCG

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### **Important Announcement — ISMA NEWSLETTER CHANGE**

Beginning with the next issue of *ISMALetter* (May-June 2013), distribution will be via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. You will receive your newsletter as an e-mail attachment from your local lodge secretary. **Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

*ISMALetter* is always available on our website, [www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org), for viewing at any time.

(If you do not have an email address or internet access, please let your local lodge secretary know so that other arrangements can be made for you to receive a printed copy.) *Thank you.*



## Grand Lodge Convention, continued

**Chuck Kakuska**, Sea-K's Licensing Service  
**Ross Richardson**, Shipwreck hunter and author  
**Steve Harold**, Maritime Heritage Alliance  
**Bruce Lynn**, Great Lakes Shipwreck Society  
**Cathy Allchin**, Fox Island Lighthouse Association

Past Grand President **George Haynes** was recognized for his work with Buffalo Lodge #1 over the past year. Past Grand President **Ray Sheldon** is interested in organizing a local lodge in the UP – Escanaba or Marquette. Anyone interested may contact him at [isma11097@yahoo.com](mailto:isma11097@yahoo.com).

The following Grand Lodge officers were elected and/or appointed, and installed during the ceremony on Friday, February 8.

Grand President:	<b>Rebecca Hancock</b>
Grand 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	<b>Robert Schallip</b>
Grand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	<b>Joseph Walters</b>
Grand Secretary-Treasurer:	<b>George R. Skuggen</b>
Grand Chaplain:	<b>Mark Stevenson</b>
Grand Marshal:	<b>Robert Lund</b>
Grand Warden:	<b>Christine Rohn-Tielke</b>
Grand Sentinel:	<b>Amy Seeley</b>

The next Grand Lodge Convention will be held at the Kewadin Casino at Sault Ste. Marie, MI, February 6, 7, and 8, 2014, hosted by Twin Sault Lodge #22.

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## Scholarship Thank You

I just want to drop a quick line and say “thanks” for the scholarship. I am certain there were other applicants just as qualified for the Shipmasters scholarship. I really do appreciate being considered for one of these scholarships and ultimately being awarded it. Thanks to you and any other committee members who made the decision to award the 2013 scholarship to me. Trust me when I tell you, this will be used on school and related school expenses.

I hope you had a nice tour of the academy. We really do have a great environment to learn from. It gets even better though, as our instructors all have a great deal of sailing experience. While I am sure we make mistakes as cadets, we are learning from some very class ‘A’ type individuals. All of our instructors have time sailing, and most sailed for a time as a captain. I like to tell them, “You’ve forgotten more about sailing than I will ever know.” The staff is great and we have a wonderful learning platform as well.

Thanks again for the scholarship, I am humbled by receiving it and I will do my best to continue pushing toward my sailing career goal.

Thanks Again,  
**Jason Surface**  
Cadet, Great Lakes Maritime Academy

## FROM THE LODGES

### Port Huron Lodge #2:

Lodge #2's annual dinner dance was held at the St. Clair Inn on March 2, 2013.

Lodge #2 member and ISMA Past Grand President Capt. **Jim Leaney** opened the 2013 Seaway season aboard the new *Baie St. Paul* when the ship transited the St. Lambert Lock on March 22.

### Chicago Lodge #3:

Lodge #3 hosted the annual ISMA Chicago Maritime Industry Day on March 7, 2013. Speakers included representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard, National Weather Service, and other organizations.

### Detroit Lodge #7:

**John Jamian**, Executive Director of the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, was the speaker at the Lodge #7 meeting on March 9, 2013. Speaker at Lodge #7's dinner meeting on March 20 was lodge member **Scott Reynolds**, who discussed his experiences as a crew member aboard the carferry *Badger*. The remaining meetings on the Lodge #7 winter schedule include a barbeque at J.W. Westcott Co. on March 30, and a luncheon meeting on April 9, at Mariners' Church, with **David Wright**, US Army Corps of Engineers, speaking about Great Lakes dredging issues.

### Twin Ports Lodge #12:

Lodge #12 is holding a raffle for a voyage for four aboard an Interlake Steamship vessel. Drawing will be held on July 24, 2013. Tickets are \$10 each or 3/\$25, available from ISMA Twin Ports Lodge #12, PO Box 122, Superior, WI 54880. For complete information, visit [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com).

### Georgian Bay-Huronina Lodge #15:

Lodge #15 welcomed five new cadet members from Georgian College during February 2013.



New cadet members of Lodge #15 (L to R): Jason Berry, Matthew Schmidt, Ayla Kokbas, Travis Cascagnette, Tim Westmorland.



HAVE *YOU* SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

## Scholarship Thank You

Hello ISMA!

I am a twenty-two-year-old, single man currently attending the Maine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland. I am enrolled in Astro 2, and all is going well. I still have Advanced Firefighting, SEN 1 and Marine Advanced First Aid left to complete before I can begin my preparation for my oral examination. Last year, I completed my GSK, cargo, chart work, nav safety, meteorology, communications, stability, GOC and ECDIS.

I have been sailing for five years, and consider it not only a career, but a passion as well. Immediately after graduation, I enrolled in Holland College in PEI and completed my MED course. A week later, I began working as an OS on board the tug and barge *Jane Ann IV/Sarah Spencer*. Since then, I have worked on a variety of different vessels: bulk carrier (MV *Algoway*), MV *Astron* (RO-RO container ship on the coast of Labrador), MV *Polar Prince* (an ice breaker), and my most recent job as an AB on board the MV *Frontenac*. Also, I'm looking forward to shipping out with the SIU again this spring. Growing up on the southwest coast of Newfoundland, I have listened to stories from sailors who spent their time on the Great Lakes. I am happy I can be a part of this as well.

As the Hawsepipe Award winner of 2013, I would like to send out a special thank you to everyone who contributed to this award, and those lending a helpful hand to young sailors like myself trying to climb the ranks in this industry. Also, I would like to send a thank you to Captain **Dino Dini** for the opportunity to apply for this Scholarship. All the best!



Sincerely,  
**Troy Hardy**  
Hawsepipe Scholarship Recipient

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## FINAL BELLS

Niagara District Lodge #20 active retired member **Robert A. Stevenson** (#10559) passed away on February 27, 2013.

Cleveland Lodge #4 associate member **William D. Carle III** (#A-10731) passed away on March 12, 2013, at the age of 83. An admiralty attorney with Ray, Robinson, Carle & Davies, PLL, he worked summers during his college years aboard the *Emory L. Ford*, and was industrial relations manager for Pittsburgh Steamship Division (US Steel) prior to obtaining his law degree. He is survived by his wife **Marie**. Services were held on March 16.

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**Photos and video from the 2013 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention have been posted to the ISMA website.**

*Note that member log-in is necessary to view these items.*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Buffalo Lodge #1:

Active Professional:	<b>Dennis R. Daniels</b>	#12786
Associate:	<b>Gene Wirkowski</b>	#A-12791
Cadet:	<b>Zachery R. Harris</b>	#C-12785
	<b>Ryan D. Smith</b>	#C-12784

### Port Huron Lodge #2:

Active Professional:	<b>John Robb</b>	#12781
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### Detroit Lodge #7:

Active Professional:	<b>Dominic J. Gorno III</b>	#12788
Associate:	<b>Bruce D. Lolmaugh</b>	#A-12782
	<b>Garrett R. Myers</b>	#A-12783

### Twin Ports Lodge #12:

Active Professional:	<b>Peter Leadstrom</b>	#12780
Associate:	<b>Gerry Lawson</b>	#A-12795

### Green Bay Lodge #18:

Active Professional:	<b>Patrick Browing</b>	#12793
	<b>Todd T. Taylor</b>	#12794
Associate:	<b>Caitlin Clyne</b>	#A-12792

### Niagara District Lodge #20:

Active Professional:	<b>Christopher Leonard</b>	#12789
Associate:	<b>Benoit Nolet</b>	#A-12790

### Twin Sault Lodge #22:

Associate:	<b>Curt Kikkert</b>	#A-12787
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## Members in the News

The February 28, 2013, *Sault Star* (Sault Ste. Marie, ONT) ran an article, "Thunder Bay Coast Guard radio station's closure raises concerns." Quoted and pictured in the article was Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15 member and PGP Capt. **Seann O'Donoghue** aboard the *Algoma Spirit*. The article can be viewed at [www.saultstar.com/2013/02/28/thunder-bay-coast-guard-radio-stations-closure-raises-concerns](http://www.saultstar.com/2013/02/28/thunder-bay-coast-guard-radio-stations-closure-raises-concerns).

Three ISMA members were mentioned in the Owen Sound *Sun Times*, February 21, 2013, article, "Big Ship's Captain worked his way to the top." The story covered arrival of the *CSL Niagara*, largest vessel to winter at Owen Sound. Mentioned in the article were Lodge #15 members, **Gordon MacNeill**, **Seann O'Donoghue**, and **Ray Schrempf**.

On February 14, 2013, newly-elected ISMA Grand President **Rebecca Hancock** was interviewed by Paul Miller on WPHM Radio 1380 AM, Port Huron. You can download the interview at [www.wphm.net/topic/feature\\_archive.php?featureGroupId=71399&startWeek=6](http://www.wphm.net/topic/feature_archive.php?featureGroupId=71399&startWeek=6).

Buffalo Lodge #1 President Capt. **Dave Miller** was featured in the article, "Welcome Home, Captain Daddy," in the October-December 2012 *Great Lakes Seaway Review/Great Laker*. Several photos were included in the story about **Dave** writing a book for his children.

## ISMA Members at Mariners' Church Blessing of the Fleet

Sunday, March 10, 2013, was the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Fleet at Mariners' Church of Detroit. Many ISMA members participated in the service. In the honor guard were Detroit Lodge #7 members **Jack Callahan, Tom McMullen, Mel Reicher, Art Brooks, Pat Beard, Sam Tundo, Dale Mason, Rick Scott, Sam Buchanan, Kevin Connolly, Bill Griffore, and Kathy McGraw**; Port Huron Lodge #2 members **Brian Eickel, Roger Hewlett, Jerry Knox, and Bill Barnhardt**; Grand Traverse Lodge #23 members **Gerald Achenbach** and ISMA Grand President **Rebecca Hancock**. ISMA members **Paul C. LaMarre, Jr., Leonard Bartlett, and Kevin Connolly** received Capt. Lewis Ludington Awards.

### Newsbriefs—

- Senate Bill 0266 and House Bill 4489 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature. Both bills would bring Michigan's ballast water regulations in line with laws of neighboring states and provinces.
- You can obtain the digital monthly magazine, *Marine Matters*, at [www.marinematters.ca](http://www.marinematters.ca).
- From the Seaway: The 2013 *Seaway Handbook* (now a digital publication only) can be downloaded at [www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/commercial/seaway-handbook/index.html](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/commercial/seaway-handbook/index.html). On March 14, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation announced that tolls for the 2013 navigation season will be increased by 3 percent. Also, the 2012 Seaway Traffic Report is available as a pdf. Learn more at [www.greatlakes-seaway.com](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com).
- The US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center released a beta test version of their new website on March 7, 2013. The site will be available for review through April 15. Feedback on the content, layout, and ease of use of the new site is encouraged. View the beta test version at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/testnmc/>.

### Winter Class at MITAGS

Completing the 2013 four-week License Advancement Program at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), Baltimore, MC, were **James Shultz** and **Jeffrey Porinchok** of Grand River Navigation, and **Steven Pfiester** of Key Lakes. **James** and **Jeff** earned their original license credential for Inland/Great Lakes Mate AGT, and **Steven** successfully upgraded to Inland/Great Lakes Master AGT. Twin Ports Lodge #12 member **Christopher J. Edyvean** is the program instructor.



### ISMA Membership Applications Available Online

Please note that applications for membership in ISMA are now available online at

[www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm](http://www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm)

## Boat Trip Raffles

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

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

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