



Volume 34, Number 3
May-June 2020

Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

From the Grand President

April 25, 2020

To the Grand Lodge,
Member Lodges and membership
of the International Ship Masters' Association

From the Grand President,

I write today to inform all members of the International Ship Masters' Association that the annual Grand Lodge Convention, scheduled February 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2021, in Cleveland, has been cancelled.

I have been in contact with the elected Officers of the Grand Lodge, First Grand Vice President **Bill Rabatsky**, Second Grand Vice President **Luke Clyburn** and Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel**. I have consulted eight Past Grand Presidents and have reached out to others who have yet to respond. I, and we, have concluded, in the best interest of the safety and well being of the membership, that holding a Convention in February of 2021 is neither safe nor practical, given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the projected timeline for a vaccine or social remedy.

As written in the Grand Lodge Constitution, the Association is not required to have a Convention. We *are* required to convene the Grand Lodge yearly between January 15th and April 1st. We will convene sometime on the previously announced dates; however, the nature and location of the meeting will be decided at a later time.

In communication with Cleveland Lodge No. 4 and Detroit Lodge No. 7, we have concluded that Cleveland shall host a Convention in 2022, and Detroit shall host a Convention in 2023. I am grateful to all involved for their effort and understanding in coming to this resolution. We know that this event brings joy and camaraderie to many and will be sorely missed. Please join us in making the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention, in Cleveland, a great success and a warm reunion.

We will endeavor to keep the membership informed of any new developments.

Please be safe. Keep your chin up and your socks dry.



Excelsior!
Joe Ruch



FROM THE LODGES

Milwaukee Lodge No. 6:

Lodge #6 Secretary-Treasurer **Greg Stamatelakys** participated in the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) Remembrance at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc on May 8, 2020. On V-E Day, May 8, 1945, the Allies of World War II formally accepted Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. **Greg**, who is a US Navy veteran and a member of the WI Maritime Museum, tolled the bell on USS *Cobia* to honor the occasion. You can view the event at <https://www.facebook.com/WIMaritimeMuseum/videos/1603981966420854/>.



NEW MEMBERS

Milwaukee Lodge #6:

Active Professional: **Craig Cornelius** #13164

Detroit Lodge #7:

Active Professional: **William E. Hazel III** #13166
Active Retired: **Jerry R. Smith** #13165

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Cadet: **Gabriel Olajiwola** #C-13163



HAVE *YOU* SIGNED UP A
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

ISMA Membership Applications
Available Online at

www.shipmaster.org/learn-more.html



Industry Newsbriefs –

- The 2020 annual public meeting of the members of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation will be held remotely on June 25, 2020, at 11 am. To attend the virtual meeting, complete and submit the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VNGJX2N>. Instructions for connecting to the meeting will be emailed to you before June 25.
- As a follow-up to an April webinar on Great Lakes Climate and Water Levels, NOAA will provide an update multi-partner public webinar on June 22, 2020, at 1:30 pm EDT. Information to be discussed includes: Conditions contributing to the high water levels; Climate outlook; Impacts from high lake levels; Watches and warnings that may occur due to high lake levels; The outlook for the lake levels themselves. Panelists will include **Doug Kluck**, NOAA Central Region Climate Services Director; **Jeff Andreson**, Michigan State Climatologist; **John Allis**, US Army Corps of Engineers; **Brandon Krumweide**, NOAA NOS Office for Coastal Management; **Gary Garnet**, NOAA NWS. You can sign up for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7783082580408145934>.
- On June 11, 2020, the US Coast Guard National Maritime Center announced it is seeking input from mariners who hold Merchant Mariner Credential endorsements as Able Seaman (AB) and Lifeboatman (LB) to validate information gathered as part of a Job Task Analysis (JTA). Since 2016, the Coast Guard has been working on several initiatives to improve the quality of the content of credentialing examinations. One initiative is to validate the real-world occupational tasks carried out by mariners in today's merchant fleet by conducting JTAs. The first JTA is for AB and LB endorsements. The Coast Guard has worked with members of industry with AB/LB experience to identify the tasks that ABs and LBs are responsible for while signed on a vessel. You can be a part of this effort by validating the AB and LB tasks and providing insight into your job. Mariners who hold endorsements as AB and/or LB will receive an e-mail from JobTaskAnalysis@uscg.mil containing a link to the survey and the dates the survey is open. Your link to the survey will have a unique identifier to record your responses. It is not linked to you personally and the information you provide will remain anonymous. Your participation is encouraged for the benefit of the maritime community and safety of the Marine Transportation System.
- On June 11, 2020, the US Coast Guard Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing published CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-20, providing guidance on affidavits required with an application for a duplicate merchant mariner credential (MMC) and mariner medical certificate. This policy may be accessed by selecting "Policy & Regulations" on the National Maritime Center's website at www.uscg.mil/NMC.
- On June 11, 2020, NOAA announced that its Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) 2021 Federal Funding Opportunity is now open. Deadline for applications is August 21, 2020. The B-WET program is funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Suc-

Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- cessful projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences. See the full notice and apply at www.Grants.gov by searching for NOAA-NOS-ONMS-2021-2006522. At 2 pm Eastern, June 24, 2020, there will be an informational webinar on this funding opportunity. You may register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/37534435963488267>.
- Green Marine hosted a Virtual Greentech Environmental Conference on June 11, 2020. Topics included: The Road to Zero Carbon Shipping, **Lee Kindberg**, Maersk; Ammonia as an Alternative Fuel, **Anthony Teo**, DNV-GL; Integration of Energy Saving Products in Commercial Vessel Designs, **Mark Keneford**, Wartsila. See www.green-marine.org. There will be more upcoming sessions.
- On June 11, 2020, the *American Journal of Transportation* (AJOT) published "St. Lawrence Seaway active with international shipments, moving global supply chain." American ports in the Seaway system recorded increases in project cargo during the first two months of the shipping season. However, season-to-date (April 1 - May 31) tonnage sat at 7.7 million metric tons, down 10.2 percent compared to a year ago. Read the article at <https://ajot.com/news/st-lawrence-seaway-active-with-international-shipments-moving-global-supply-chain>. A similar article, "Seaway ports see cargo volumes set for rebound," ran in *Marine Log* the same day. Read it at <https://www.marinelog.com/news/seaway-ports-see-cargo-volumes-set-for-rebound/>.
- The US Coast Guard has amended the requirements regulating personnel permitted to serve as person in charge (PIC) of fuel oil transfers on an inspected vessel by adding the option of using a letter of designation (LOD) in lieu of a MMC with a Tankerman-PIC endorsement. The rule can be viewed in the *Federal Register*, docket number USCG-2018-0493 at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2018-0493-0016>.
- On June 9, 2020, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. announced that it will resume construction of its new hot-briquetted plant in Toledo, OH, which was halted on March 20 due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The company is also accelerating the restart of its Tilden mining operation.
- On June 4, 2020, the US Coast Guard published MSIB 08-20 (Change 2) to update guidance concerning mariner credentials, medical certificates and course approvals, and the action being taken by the USCG due to the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19). For more information, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/06/04/msib-novel-coronavirus-mariner-credentials-update-change-2/>.
- The Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy published Change 5 on May 27, 2020, to MSIB: Novel Coronavirus – Update. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/05/29/msib-novel-coronavirus-update-change-5/>.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- On May 26, 2020, the US Coast Guard's Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing published CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-20, "Guidance on Waiver of Merchant Mariner Credential Application Fees for Active Duty Members of the Uniformed Services." For full information, see <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/MMC/CG-MMC-2%20Policies/CG-MMC-Policy-Letter-02-20.pdf?ver=2020-05-26-095353-327>.
- NOAA accepted comments through May 24, 2020, on its proposal to change Small Craft Advisory to Small Craft Warning. For this and other proposed changes to the Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) system, see <https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>.
- On May 18, 2020, the US Coast Guard Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing announced it is seeking applications for all membership positions in the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (N-MERPAC). N-MERPAC was established by the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 and will replace the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). MERPAC committee member appointments will not be valid for N-MERPAC. MERPAC members and those interested in N-MERPAC membership will need to submit an application as detailed in the *Federal Register* notice. Applications must reach the USCG before July 14, 2020. See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/15/2020-10382/national-merchant-marine-personnel-advisory-committee-initial-solicitation-for-members>.
- In early May, phase one of construction of the new lock at the Soo began with deepening the upstream approach to the locks. Many news outlets reported the news. Here is one example: <https://www.mlive.com/news/2020/05/new-922m-lock-under-construction-at-the-soo.html>.
- Grain traffic surged through the Port of Thunder Bay (Ontario) during April to meet pandemic-related overseas demand for Canadian wheat. Read more at <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/thunder-bay/overseas-pandemic-buying-results-in-grain-rush-through-thunder-bay-port-2325235>.
- On May 2, 2020, ships across Canada sounded their horns at 1200 local time to recognize the 1.2 million seafarers around the world who are keeping countries supplied with food, fuel and important supplies such as medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On May 1, 2020, the US Coast Guard National Maritime Center launched a centralized electronic delivery process via email for renewal examinations. This provides mariners the ability to request, complete, and submit renewal examinations by email and will help maintain flow of mariner credentials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paper mailings are still available upon request. See https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020_email_renewal_examinations_042220.pdf.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- In late April 2020, a shipwreck fragment was discovered on a Lake Michigan beach near Ludington State Park. The remains are consistent with schooners built between the 1850s and 1880s. The 32' x 8' fragment consists of 15 ribs with planking on both sides.

ISMA SCHOLARSHIPS

For information on the annual scholarships offered by the ISMA Grand Lodge and how to apply, visit

<http://www.shipmaster.org/scholarship.html>

From the Editor...

I'm sure you've noticed that this issue of *ISMA Letter* has space for more news and photos. COVID-19 has resulted in cancellation of lodge meetings and events, and we miss these opportunities to gather together. To those members who continue to work to facilitate commerce, we thank you. When you notice something that may be newsworthy or see a photo opportunity that may interest your fellow members, please send it along for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

**ISMA Website:**

Contact your local lodge president or secretary if you don't know the log-in for the members-only portion of the ISMA website. Note that the password is case-sensitive.

ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMA Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. Therefore, **Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

Remember that *ISMA Letter* is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time.

(Note: Events subject to future
COVID-19 Restrictions)

June 25, 2020 - Day of the Seafarer

June 27, 2020 - Thunder Bay
Blessing of the Fleet

July 1, 2020 - Canada Day

July 4, 2020 - Independence Day (US)

July 9, 2020 - Sea Sunday
The Mission to Seafarers: Canada

August 8-9, 2020 - Sidelaunch Days Waterfront Festival
Collingwood, Ontario

August 10, 2020 - St. Lawrence Day

August 11, 2020 - St. Clair Day

August 17-18, 2020 - Georgian Bay Tugfest
Midland, Ontario

September 3, 2020 - Annual Canada Merchant Navy Day

September 28, 2020 - World Maritime Day

November 11, 2020 - Veterans Day (US)
Remembrance Day (Canada)
ISMA lays CMNVA Wreath at Cenotaph,
Owen Sound, Ontario

November 26, 2020 - William Hamilton Merritt Day
Welland Canal

December 4, 2020 - 180th Annual Grunt Club Dinner, Montreal



Scan the QR
code at left. It
will take you to
the ISMA web-
site.

International Ship Masters' Association

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SHIP MASTERS' SALUTE:
3 Long, 1 Short

