



Volume 34, Number 4  
July-August 2020

## Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association

# ISMA LETTER

### Convention Cancellation Reminder

This is a reminder that the 2021 Grand Lodge Convention, originally scheduled for February 4-6, 2021, in Cleveland, has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns (*see ISMA Letter, May-June 2020, "From the Grand President" column, page 1*). Though the Grand Lodge will convene in 2021 as required by our Constitution, the nature and location of that meeting is yet to be decided. The 2022 Convention, therefore, will be in Cleveland, hosted by Lodge #4.

The 2022 Grand Lodge Convention  
will be held in  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Details to come.



### NEW MEMBERS

#### Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional:	Brian Gentile	#13170
Associate:	Rev. Kempton D. Baldrige	#A-13169
	William J. Coates	#A-13167
	Kenny Jordan	#A-13168

### ISMA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

This is a reminder to all members that Ship Masters' scholarships are available! **Deadline for application for the 2020 Scholarships is November 1, 2020.** If you know someone who may qualify, please encourage them to apply! The Scholarship Awards have been increased to \$1500.00 each.

Access the HAWSEPIPE SCHOLARSHIP at  
<http://www.shipmaster.org/hawsepipe-scholarship.html>

Access the CADET SCHOLARSHIPS at  
<http://www.shipmaster.org/cadet-scholarship.html>

Seann O'Donoughue (Canada) and  
Russell Brohl (USA)  
Scholarship Chairmen

### FROM THE LODGES

#### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

On June 19, 2020, several members of Detroit Lodge #7 recently participated in a Sea Cadet training program. Capt. **Luke Clyburn**, Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Master of the training vessel *Pride of Michigan*, invited fellow lodge members to assist in the training session at the vessel's Clinton River berth. (**Luke** is president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation, which operates *Pride of Michigan*.) **Ray Oset**, Lodge #7 Secretary-Treasurer, conducted a class on marine navigation. PGP Capt. **Tom McMullen** spoke to the cadets about



his 40-year career on the Great Lakes, during which he sailed aboard vessels of the Ford Motor Company and Interlake Steamship Company fleets. He retired as master of MV *Stewart J. Cort*. **Paul Jagenow**, past

Above, top: PGP Tom McMullen addresses the Sea Cadets. Above: Paul Jagenow, Luke Clyburn, Tom McMullen, Ray Oset.

--text and photos by Paul Jagenow



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## From the Lodges, continued

Lodge #7 Secretary-Treasurer, spoke about his career in the marine supply business at J. W. Westcott Co, including operation of the Detroit mail boat. The cadets showed a great deal of interest in what a career on the Great Lakes entails – from work conditions, potential wages, deck licenses vs. engine room licenses, working up the hawsepipe vs. attending a maritime academy, and so on.

### Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23:

Grand Traverse Lodge #23 President and PGP **Mark Mather** attended the ceremony re-designating Traverse City as one of only 28 Coast Guard Cities in the United States. Speakers included US Senator **Gary Peters**, Mayor **Jim Caruthers**, and Air Station Traverse City Commander **Chuck Webb**. Traverse City became an official Coast Guard City in 2010, and each city so designated must reapply for that status every five years. Incidentally, Air Station Traverse City will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Traverse City on November 15.



## Industry Newsbriefs –

- For the fifth time in seven years, the Port of Monroe (MI) has received the Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award (for 2019), given by the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. This award is given to US ports in the Seaway system which increase their international tonnage compared with the previous year. During the 2019 shipping season, Monroe saw some of the port's most diverse cargo ever. Currently, in 2020, wind energy components are a big part of Monroe's business.
- On June 24, 2020, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. (SLSDC) announced that **Gary Croot** will assume the position of Associate Administrator of the SLSDC Massena, NY, operations/facilities on July 5. He replaces **Thomas Lavigne**, who is retiring after 40 years of service.
- On June 25, 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Day of the Seafarer. Supported by other maritime groups, the IMO called for all countries to recognize seafarers as key workers and to facilitate crew changes.
- On June 30, 2020, Transport Canada issued Ship Safety Bulletin #18/2020 to provide guidance regarding the mobility of asymptomatic marine sector workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full document at <https://>

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## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

[www2.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2020-18-eng.htm](http://www2.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2020-18-eng.htm).

- The 2019-2020 St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. Annual Corporate Summary has been posted to the SLSMC website at [https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/slsmc\\_ar2020\\_en.pdf](https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/slsmc_ar2020_en.pdf).
- On July 8, 2020, **Tracy R. Zea** was named President and CEO of the Waterways Council, Inc.
- As part of the Canadian Coast Guard improvement of the E-NAV system in Canada, Digital Sailing Directions are now available at no cost on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website at the following: <http://charts.gc.ca/publications/sailingdirections-instructionsnautiques-eng.asp>.
- In June, the US Army Corps of Engineers released an updated Powerpoint presentation on the new Soo Lock. The previous presentation, from April, can be found here: <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Portals/69/docs/New%20Soo%20Lock/New%20Lock%20at%20the%20Soo%20Quarterly%20Update%2016%20April%202020.pdf>.
- Over 60 years ago, in 1959, *The Long Ships Passing* was produced. This classic Great Lakes shipping video can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/C80jtA2nUyA>, courtesy of the Detroit Historical Society.
- Through June 2020, total shipping tonnage through the Port of Duluth-Superior was down 29 percent from a year ago. However, June numbers were 6 percent higher than in May. Grain shipments are 22 percent above the five-season average, but iron ore was down by 10 percent.
- Canadian ports and the St. Lawrence Seaway reported improving cargo shipments in June 2020, fueled by grain exports, agricultural inputs, and a recovery in construction materials.
- On June 30, 2020, the US Coast Guard switched off the last Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) signals after more than 25 years.
- In a July 14, 2020, press release, Lake Carriers' Association expressed appreciation for the US House Appropriations Committee approval of \$123 million for construction of the new Soo Lock. This would be the largest single year amount received so far in a fiscal year for one of the largest infrastructure projects ever in the Great Lakes region. LCA "applauds the House Committee for the approval of the 'Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.'" Read the release at <http://www.lcaships.com/2020/07/15/lake-carriers-appreciation-for-house-appropriations-supporting-the-great-lakes/>.
- On July 17, 2020, the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- On July 15, 2020, the US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved HR 7575, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. It passed the US House on July 29.

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## Industry Newsbriebs, continued

- It was noted in July that the most famous nautical smile on the Halifax waterfront is looking for a new home, as *Theodore Tugboat* (right) went up for sale. Its price was listed at \$495,000. As of July 21, there were reportedly four interested parties.
- The US National Park Service is planning to repair/replace the north and south concrete seawalls at Perry's Victory International Peace Memorial Park on South Bass Island in Lake Erie.
- On July 29, 2020, the US Coast Guard Waterways Policies and Activities Division released Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 17-20 to highlight the impacts of on-water mass gatherings to the public and maritime transportation system. These gatherings are primarily a boating safety issue. As these types of marine events grow in popularity, the USCG will work with its port partners to ensure safety of the marine transportation system. These actions will take into account health and safety factors including but not limited to local COVID-19 and social distance guidelines as well as current unrest. For more information, see <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/07/29/on-water-mass-gatherings-recreational-sporting-or-cause-related-events/>.
- The US Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing is seeking applications for membership positions representing credentialed ratings in the National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (N-MERPAC). N-MERPAC replaces the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). On May 15, 2020, the USCG published a request for applications for membership in N-MERPAC. Due to a lack of applications for positions representing credentialed ratings, the USCG is resoliciting applications effective July 31. More details are in the *Federal Register* notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/31/2020-16652/national-merchant-marine-personnel-advisory-committee-vacancy>.
- An August 1, 2020, article in the *Duluth News Tribune*, "Jones Act draws critics, defenders," included input from **Jim Weakley**, President of Lake Carriers' Association. The article, however, did not include the important national security aspect of the Jones Act. The Jones Act celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Read the article at <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/business/transportation/6598733-Jones-Act-draws-critics-defenders>.
- On August 6, 2020, the US Coast Guard announced that it is seeking input from mariners who hold Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) endorsements to validate information gathered as part of a Job Task Analysis. The USCG will use the results in consultation with industry to evaluate and update examination content for QMED endorsements. Mariners holding QMED endorsements will receive an email containing a link to the survey. For more information, see <https://>



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## Industry Newsbriebs, continued

- [mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/08/07/coast-guard-seeking-input-from-qualified-members-of-engine-department-qmed/](https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/08/07/coast-guard-seeking-input-from-qualified-members-of-engine-department-qmed/).
- In recent weeks, longshore workers at the Port of Montreal carried out a series of strike mandates and, on August 10, 2020, called an indefinite strike. This jeopardizes the economic sector of logistics and freight transport, which in Greater Montreal alone, accounts for over 70,000 direct jobs, 50,000 indirect jobs, and 6000 businesses. On August 17, the Quebec and Ontario governments asked Ottawa to intervene, which it declined to do. On August 21, the smaller of two striking unions reached a tentative deal to end their strike. The Port of Halifax has seen a jump in cargo due to the Montreal strike.
- The August 2020 edition of *LEVELnews*, covering Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water levels, is now available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/quantity/great-lakes-levels-related-data/levelnews-great-lakes-st-lawrence/august-2020.html>.

## From the Editor...

I'm sure you've noticed that recent issues of *ISMA Letter* have 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. Thank you, and stay safe!



## Final Bells

Capt. **Lawrence Surridge** passed away in Owen Sound, Ontario, on June 22, 2020, at the age of 85. **Lawrence** sailed the Great Lakes for over 40 years, first in the Carryore and then the Algoma fleets. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Irene**, and many family members. Though not an ISMA member, **Lawrence** was well-known in the Owen Sound community.

**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](http://www.shipmaster.org), for viewing at any time.

(Note: All events subject to future  
COVID-19 Restrictions)



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

December 31, 2020 - Seasonal Closing of Welland Canal and  
Mo-Lo Section of the Seaway



## CAPTAINS' STORIES WANTED

Waypoint Press and Marine Publishing is looking for your stories. Every captain collects a vast library of stories over the course of their careers. We want to collect these for posterity – using them in a book, and possibly a television documentary. This project will cover tales from both the Canadian and US sides of the Lakes. They can be funny, heartbreaking, or terrifying. Everything is meat for this project. If you have a story (or stories) you would like to share, please contact Waypoint Press at [way.point@brucekempphotography.net](mailto:way.point@brucekempphotography.net) and we'll take the next steps together. Waypoint can also be reached at 613-285-7311. Marine author **Bruce Kemp** is a member of ISMA Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15.

--Seann O'Donoghue, Lodge #15



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



HAVE **YOU** SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?



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

## International Ship Masters' Association

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