



Volume 33, Number 6  
November-December 2019

## Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association

# ISMA LETTER

## 2020 CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE

The 2020 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, hosted by Port Huron Lodge No. 2, will be held January 30 - February 1, 2020, at the Blue Water Convention Center/DoubleTree Hotel in Port Huron. Lodge #2 has posted all the information, details, and registration forms for the event at <https://www.isma2020-130.org/>.



Don't delay; plan NOW to attend the convention! Early registration deadline is December 20, 2019. The DoubleTree is offering a discounted hotel rate of \$109 per night prior to December 29. Ad submissions for the convention program book are due by January 6, 2020.

See YOU there!!

From the NELC —

## Addressing the Icebreaking Gap

by Scott Skrzypczak, NELC Chair

Last winter saw another season of continuous shipping with Algoma and even a foreign-flagged ship never ceasing operations for the winter. During this time, vessel delays while waiting for an icebreaking asset were common. Lake Carriers' Association even commissioned an economic study to determine the extent of economic activity lost due to these delays. They found that over \$1 billion was lost and 5421 jobs were impacted by inadequate icebreaking during the 2018-2019 season.

Despite this, the US Coast Guard claimed a 95% success rate of providing icebreaking last year. How can this be possible? The Coast Guard uses performance measures that do not reflect operational reality. Under the current measures, a delay is only counted as a delay if there are two or more ships stuck in the ice and then only if they are delayed in excess of 24 hours. So, if one ship is stuck in the ice for days, the waterway is not considered closed and the Coast Guard does not capture that data as a delay. In other words, they are still successful at keeping the waterway open. Additionally, the Coast Guard only keeps data on "Tier 1" waterways, meaning the connecting rivers of the Detroit, St. Clair, and St Marys Rivers along

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with the Straits of Mackinac and Pelee Passage. A ship stuck in Toledo? That delay is not captured, and the Coast Guard is still successfully providing icebreaking.

Another factor to consider is the dilution of data caused by the Coast Guard aggregating all Great Lakes delays in with data from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US districts. These other areas experience very little ice compared to our region and thus have a very high success rate. So, not only is data incompletely captured on the lakes, what is captured is inaccurately offset by coastal US data. Along the same lines as this dilution of data, cargo that is not moved but would have been had vessels not been delayed (opportunity cost) is not counted.

Finally, most icebreaking is provided through a joint effort of US and Canadian assets on the Great Lakes, but even that can be slightly misleading. The US Coast Guard maintains nine "ice capable" assets on the lakes, which operate in a tiered waterway structure to prioritize where the assets are needed. Canada, on the other hand, maintains only two assets and does not operate on a tiered structure at all. Canadian assets can be summoned anywhere when provided with a notice, and they are "successful" when they provide that service within 8 hours, either with their asset or a US one. This means that the *Samuel Risley*, arguably the best icebreaker currently on the lakes, can be pulled from duty on the Tier 1 St Clair River to the Tier 3 port of Goderich to help one single vessel while leaving three vessels without adequate assistance in Detroit. This situation is not hypothetical, but actually happened during the past winter and still is deemed a "success" by both Coast Guards.

How do we, as mariners and shipowners, work to correct this? LCA has been very good and putting pressure on the Coast Guard and making stakeholders, including Capitol Hill, aware of the flawed metrics being used. Also, starting this year, LCA will be asking ships to provide more thorough delay reports through their companies in order to compile better data and get a more complete picture of where the Coast Guard is failing to provide adequate service. **ISMA asks its sailing members to take this task very seriously and aid in this endeavor, because only with this data can meaningful changes be made to the current service levels.**

### ISMA Website:

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



## Final Bells

Capt. **Gordon Rose**, member of Niagara District Lodge #20, passed away on September 29, 2019, at the age of 85. Following a career with Quebec & Ontario Transportation, he joined the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority, retiring in 1995. Services were held in St. Catharines, Ontario, on October 3.

**William "Bill" Anthony** (#A-13005), member of Port Huron Lodge #2, passed away on October 16, 2019. Preceded in death by his wife, he is survived by three sons and nine grandchildren. **Bill** owned T&B Dock and Marine and its affiliate Anthony Contracting. A funeral service was held on November 2 at St. James Anglican Church in Wallaceburg, Ontario.

**Donald L. Fires** (#A-11060), member of Detroit Lodge #7 for 28 years, passed away on October 29, 2019, at the age of 91. For 35 years, he co-owned Thomas Hardware Company, specializing in marine hardware. **Don** is survived by his wife **Catherine**, two children and two grandchildren.


Capt. **James E. Ray** (#10189), a 42-year member of Detroit Lodge #7, passed away on November 14, 2019, at the age of 93. He is shown in September 2012 aboard *J. W. Westcott II*.



HAVE *YOU* SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

# WIN


A TRIP ON THE **Great Lakes**



**GRAND  
PRIZE**

**2ND  
PRIZE**

**3RD  
PRIZE**



**INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION**  
Port Huron Lodge No. 2

**Raffle**

**\$10.00  
PER TICKET**

See [www.freightertrip2020-ismalodge2.com](http://www.freightertrip2020-ismalodge2.com) for more details and information. Drawing will be held Jan. 31, 2020 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Port Huron, MI at 10:00 PM. State of MI Raffle Lic. No. R50390

## FROM THE LODGES

### Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

At Lodge #4's Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected and appointed to serve a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2020:

President:	<b>William J. Rabatsky</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	<b>Susan Lieblein</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	<b>William "Buck" McSweeney</b>
Secretary-Treasurer:	<b>Christine Rohn-Tielke</b>
Chaplain:	<b>Francine Pate</b>
Marshal:	<b>Charles "Chip" Duggan</b>
Warden:	<b>Kevin Bem Sr.</b>
Sentinel:	<b>Kevin Bem Jr.</b>



On December 5, 2019, Lodge #4 hosted an evening dinner meeting with guest speaker **Mark W. Barker**, President of The Interlake Steamship Company. **Mark** gave an illustrated presentation covering recent fleet updating and the river-class vessel currently under construction at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, WI. The 639-foot x 78-foot x 45-foot, 28,000 DWT, River Class self-unloader with a forward unloading boom is expected to enter service in mid-2022. It is the first ship for US Great Lakes commercial service built on the Lakes since 1983.



Grand 2nd VP **Bill Rabatsky** and Interlake Steamship President **Mark Barker**.

### Detroit Lodge No. 7:



Attendees at the event.

—photo by **Alex Boge**

At an October 2019 event sponsored by the Navy League, Lodge #7 members Capt. **Scott Reynolds** of the fireboat *Curtis Randolph*, and Capt. **Sam Buchanan** of the mailboat *J. W. Westcott II*, received certificates of recognition presented by Port Huron Lodge #2 member Capt. **Jim Semrau**. Lodge #7 secretary-treasurer **Ray Oset** was also there to talk about Detroit Lodge #7 and provide information to prospective members.

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**Jim Semrau**  
with **Scott Reynolds**  
and his  
first mate.



**Jim Semrau**  
with **Sam Buchanan**.

—photos by  
**Alex Boge**

**Wayne Sapulski**, Lodge #7 member since 1991, was one of three 2019 recipients of the Richard L. Moehl Award for Outstanding Volunteerism by the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA), a non-profit lighthouse preservation group headquartered in Mackinaw City, MI. **Wayne** currently serves as GLLKA's lighthouse historian and manages the group's Facebook page. He has authored many articles on Great Lakes lighthouse history for GLLKA's quarterly publication, *The Beacon*. He also guides and narrates lighthouse viewing excursion cruises.

Lodge #7's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at Great Lakes Yacht Club. Guest speakers LCDR **Nick Seniuk**, Commanding Officer of USCG cutter *Bristol Bay*, and LCDR **Lindsey Seniuk** (Nick's wife) will discuss Sector Detroit's Search & Rescue Center.

### Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23:

Lodge #23 Cadet members **Heidi Kristin Wager** and **Athena Thomas** were able to attend Great Lakes Maritime Academy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held on December 7, 2019. Shown here at the event are Hon. Rear Adm **Mark H. Buzby**, USN, Retired Maritime Administrator for MARAD, and **Heidi Wager**.



### Annual Great Lakes Memorial Service

The annual Great Lakes Memorial Service was held at Mariners' Church of Detroit on November 10, 2019. ISMA members from several lodges were in attendance: Port Huron Lodge #2 members **Roger Hewlett** and Grand 1<sup>st</sup> VP **Joe Ruch**; Detroit Lodge #7 members **Ray Oset**, **John Mantyk**, PGP **Tom McMullen**, **Jack Callahan**, **Rick Scott**, Grand Secy-Treas **Brian Eickel**, **Chris Stevens**, PGP **Ron Ingram**, **Mike Nall**, **Lynne Kogel**, **Ron LaPlante**, **Ken Suddick**, **Paul Jagenow**, and **Michael Droogleever**; and Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member **RADM Jerry Achenbach**. Captains **Hewlett**, **Scott**, **Eickel**, **Stevens**, **Ingram**, **Kogel**, **Nall**, **Suddick**, and **Droogleever** served as bell ringers and members of the honor

guard at the altar. The *Octorara* bell was rung nine times for mariners lost on the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, plus a final toll for military personnel rung by LTC **Gregory Turner**, Detroit District Commander USACE. Lodge #7 member Fr. **Jeffrey M. Hubbard**, Rector of Mariners' Church, officiated and was assisted by Lodge #7 member Deacon **Frank Bateman**. Lodge #7 member **Kathy McGraw** was also present in her capacity as Mariners' Church Sexton.

--by **Paul Jagenow**, Detroit Lodge #7



Above: Honor  
Guard of Bell Ring-  
ers at Mariners'  
Church altar rail.  
Right: PGP **Tom  
McMullen**, Grand  
1st VP **Joe Ruch**,  
PGP **Ron Ingram**.



### Lost Mariners Remembrance

The Lost Mariners Remembrance program was held at Dossin Museum on Belle Isle on the evening of November 10, 2019. The program included a lantern vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor; a musical program, "Ballads of Great Lakes Mariners," by **Lee Murdock**; a memorial wreath laying ceremony on the Detroit River; and a lost vessel tribute presentation, "Lake Erie Seiche of 1844," by **Joel Stone**, member of Detroit Lodge #7.

Detroit Lodge No. 7 provided a memorial wreath, and several other lodge members participated in the ceremony: **Luke Clyburn** and **Neil Schultheiss** (Lodge #7 president) served in the Honor Guard. **Neil** also provided the video feed for the event. **Ron LaPlante** and **Mike Nall** participated in the wreath laying and tossed flowers on the Detroit River in honor of departed mariners. **Malcolm McAdam** was flotilla coordinator. **Ray Oset** (Lodge #7 secretary-treasurer) served as one of the buglers. Fr. **Robert Schikora** recited the "Prayer for All Lost Mariners." **Bill Griffiore** piloted the mailboat *J. W. Westcott* and **Scott Reynolds** piloted the fireboat *Curtis Randolph*, vessels in the flotilla. **Kathleen McGraw** served as Necrologist. The November 11 *Detroit News* ran an article, "Ceremony Marks Mariners Lost on Great Lakes," which included a photo of **Ron LaPlante** tossing a rose onto the waters of the Detroit River.

--by **Paul Jagenow**, Detroit Lodge #7

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## Industry Newsbriefs –

- On October 17, 2019, the US Coast Guard Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing published changes to five Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVICs) concerning qualification for certain MMC STCW endorsements. The affected NVICs are 04-14, 08-14, 09-14, 12-14, and 14-14. You can read the notice at [https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2019/nvic\\_changes\\_101719.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2019/nvic_changes_101719.pdf) and find the revised NVICs at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/NVIC/Year/2010/#2014>.
- On October 30, 2019, the USCG announced that, in accordance with the Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960, it is proposing new base pilotage rates for the 2020 shipping season. Comments were due by November 29. Read more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/10/30/great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2020-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology/>. The *Federal Register* notice is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/10/30/2019-23510/great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2020-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology>.
- On November 6, 2019, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) announced that an anonymous donor of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation has committed \$10 million toward a new research vessel for the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences. The new vessel will be named *Maggi Sue*. It will replace the current vessel *Neeskay*, which is more than 65 years old. Read the news release at <https://uwm.edu/news/10-million-donation-puts-uwm-on-path-to-new-research-vessel/>.
- On November 15, 2019, the US Coast Guard announced that it is finalizing the policy harmonizing personal flotation device (PFD) standards between the United States and Canada by accepting a new standard for approval of PFDs. As a result, PFD manufacturers can meet a single North American standard instead of separate standards for the US and Canada. Read more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/11/15/lifejacket-approval-harmonization-notice-of-availability/>. The *Federal Register* notice is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/11/15/2019-24836/lifejacket-approval-harmonization>.
- On November 28, 2019, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a *Federal Register* notice announcing that it is undertaking a five-year program to end all raster and paper nautical chart production. Comments are due by February 1, 2020. Read the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-15/pdf/2019-24807.pdf>.
- On December 4, 2019, the USCG Office of Port & Facility Compliance reminded owners/operators to list the National Response Center's 24-hour hotline, 800-424-8802, in their facility/vessel security plans for reporting maritime security and cybersecurity incidents to the Coast Guard. Read the reminder at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/12/04/reporting-security-incidents-to-national-response-center/>.

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



Scan the QR code at left. It will take you to the ISMA website.

## International Ship Masters' Association

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## ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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