



Volume 34, Number 6  
November-December 2020

## Grand Lodge International Ship Masters' Association

# ISMA LETTER

### 2021 Grand Lodge Meeting

Although there will not be a full Grand Lodge Convention this winter, the ISMA Grand Lodge will meet, as required by our Constitution. This meeting will take place virtually, via a Zoom call, in early February 2021.

The 2022 Grand Lodge Convention will be hosted by Cleveland Lodge #4, likely at the end of January 2022, with the specific dates to be determined. Hope to see you there!



### 2021 GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

There were a total of eleven applicants for the 2021 Grand Lodge scholarship awards, a number significantly higher than in previous years. Four applicants were Canadian cadets, four were US cadets, and three were hawsepipe applicants. Congratulations to the 2021 Grand Lodge scholarship award winners:

**Thomas Monsma**, Georgian College,  
member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15  
**Trevor Schick**, Great Lakes Maritime Academy,  
member of Twin Sault Lodge #22  
**Sarah Lewis**, Hawsepipe candidate,  
member of Thunder Bay Lodge #16

Due to the current pandemic and the postponement of a full Grand Lodge Convention in 2021, there will not be personal award presentations. Each scholarship recipient will be informed by email of their award, and will have their scholarship award certificate and cheque mailed to them, along with a congratulatory letter and a free ISMA membership for 2021.

*-from Capt. Seann O'Donoghue, PGP,  
Scholarship Chairman*

### FROM THE LODGES

Due to COVID restrictions, local lodges have cancelled in-person meetings until it is once again safe to meet. Some lodges are meeting virtually online including Lodge #3, Lodge #4, Lodge #7.

#### Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

The Board of Directors (Elected Officers) recently convened and voted to postpone all regular meetings and social gatherings for the 2020-2021 winter season until it is safe to meet again. All elected and appointed officers will keep their positions. The lodge will send a monthly email to members to keep everyone connected.

#### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7 member **John Polacsek** was interviewed during episode 5 of "Enslaved: The Lost History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade," a 6-episode television series covering 400 years of human trafficking from Africa to the New World. **John** discussed several shipwrecks on the Great Lakes that are associated with the Underground Railroad. View the program at <https://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/enslaved/freedom-ships-and-the-little-known-history-of-resistance-1.5786441>.

#### Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp** has written another book, this time about a trip aboard the *Canadian Leader*. Get more information about *The Whales of Lake Erie* at <https://www.blurb.com/ebooks/743594-the-whales-of-lake-erie>.

#### Thunder Bay Lodge No. 16:

Captain **Gerry Dawson**, President of Thunder Bay Lodge No. 16, and President of Thunder Bay Tug Services Limited, participated in a unique operation in the Port of Thunder Bay. Two autonomous vessels were deployed to record soundings in order to determine water depth. The autonomous vessels were controlled by pilots in Belfast, Ireland. **Gerry** and his crew assisted a technician by escorting the vessels out past the breakwall. They were then controlled by the pilots in Belfast. Each unit will scan a one-kilometer swath at a depth of 182 metres. The units have been crated up and sent to Nova Scotia. They will return in the spring of 2021 to resume the project, which is in charge of the Canadian Hydrographic Service.



## Final Bells

Capt. **Earl McKnight**, member of Niagara District Lodge #20, passed away on November 12, 2020. **Earl** was a captain for Canada Steamship Lines for 30 years; following that, he became a pilot with Great Lakes Pilotage Authority, a position he held for more than 20 years. He is survived by his wife **Sandy**, two daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Services were held in St. Catharines, Ontario, on November 17.

**William "Bill" Coppola**, former member of Detroit Lodge #7 (#10222) and Lodge #7 President in 1988, passed away on October 18, 2020, at the age of 78. Following a career aboard Ford Motor Company ships, he became a pilot with Lakes Pilots Association for nearly 20 years.

## Annual Lost Mariners Remembrance Ceremony

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lost Mariners Remembrance Ceremony was held virtually from the Dossin Great Lakes Museum in Detroit on November 10, 2010. If you missed it live, you can watch it at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=793870538131500&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=793870538131500&ref=watch_permalink).

## Grand President Addresses GLMA

On November 10, 2020, Grand President Capt. **Joe Ruch** addressed the Great Lakes Maritime Academy student body during the GLMA Mariner's Memorial observance. You can view the video at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesMaritimeAcademy/videos/395732858246478>.



## 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!



## Great Lakes Memorial Service at Mariners' Church

The Annual Great Lakes Memorial Service at Mariners' Church of Detroit was held on November 8, 2020. Due to the pandemic, the service was limited in nature. Detroit Lodge #7 members in attendance included **Mike Nall**, **Chris Stevens**, Father **Jeff Hubbard**, Deacon **Frank Bateman**, and **Ray Oset**.



Lodge #7 Secretary-  
Treasurer **Ray Oset** rings bell at Mariners' Church Great Lakes Memorial Service.

--photo courtesy  
Lodge #7



## Christmas Tree Ship National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo

During this year's pandemic, museums have faced many challenges, including closures, loss of revenue and restricted attendance. The National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo has responded by expanding their virtual programming. On December 5, 2020, the Christmas Tree Ship (tugboat courtesy of Geo. Gradel Co.) and Santa Claus arrived at the museum on the Maumee River waterfront. The event was streamed live. You can watch it at <https://www.facebook.com/388447847962496/videos/3392369947525254>.

Also, on December 16, at 1900 EST, NMGL will present an online talk, "Transforming Interlake for the Future," by Interlake Steamship Company President **Mark Barker**. He will discuss the ongoing construction of Interlake's newest vessel, the first new US Great Lakes bulk carrier built in over 35 years. You can find information at [www.nmgl.org/events](http://www.nmgl.org/events).

## Industry Newsbriefs –

- On December 10, 2020, the Duluth Seaway Port Authority announced that it had finalized its acquisition of the Duluth Lake Port dock on Rice's Point. The 7.5-acre dock property and 3.5-acre slip date back to the 1880s when Duluth Imperial Mill built the site's initial flour mill and grain elevators. The facility was last used for grain in 2015. Future use of the property is still in the planning phase.
- On December 9, 2020, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. announced completion of the acquisition of the operations of ArcelorMittal USA LLC, thus forming the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America.
- A multimodal hub in Thorold is the first step in Niagara Ports' Welland Canal strategy. The Thorold Multimodal Hub is on the site of a former paper manufacturing facility on the east side of the canal. The project is a partnership between Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority and Biovold Canada Inc.
- On December 7, 2020, the United States Great Lakes Shipping Association in Cleveland announced that, effective January 1, 2021, USCG Rear Admiral (retired) **John E. Crowley, Jr.**, will become Executive Director of USGLSA. He succeeds Cleveland Lodge #4 member **Stuart H. Theis**, who is retiring after 14 years at the helm of the trade association.
- Progress on the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), H.R. 6395, S. 4049, was made in both the US House and Senate during the first week of December 2020. Within this legislation is the Coast Guard Authorization Act which includes authorization of \$160 million for a new Great Lakes icebreaker. The NDAA also included the Maritime Administration reauthorization bill.
- Also progressing during the first week of December was the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA), H.R. 7575, S. 1811. The legislation includes Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund distribution, as well as text of H.R. 4470/ S. 4870 which would rename the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" to better reflect the regional focus of the agency. The WRDA also includes authorizations for US Army Corps of Engineers projects, including modification of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, IL, to control the migration of Asian carp from the inland rivers to the Great Lakes.
- Seaway Notice 21-2020, "Closing of the 2020 Navigation Season," notes that the clearance date, as defined in Seaway Practices and Procedures, is December 20. For the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section, operational surcharges will be waived on December 21, 22, 23 and 24. Any transit after December 24, if permitted, is subject to prior written agreement. For the Welland Canal, any transit after December 26, if permitted, is subject to prior written agreement. The Soo Locks are scheduled to close on January 15, 2021. See the notice at [https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/notice20201117\\_en.pdf](https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/notice20201117_en.pdf).

## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway shipping reported improvements in October 2020. Through October, Canadian grain shipments were up by 21 percent from the same time last year. US grain shipments had increased by 10.7 percent.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation reported that through October 2020, total cargo volume was down by 7.88 percent from 2019. Vessel transits numbered 2905, down 11.51 percent, or 378 transits, from 2019.
- In October 2020, Transport Canada issued Bulletin No. 21/2020, "Revised Temporary Measures Regarding Marine Personnel Certificates, Discharge Books, Marine Medical Certificates & Marine Counter Services." Any certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, examiner certificate or training certificate expiring between October 2019 and March 2021 is granted an extension until March 31, 2021. View the document at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/revised-temporary-measures-regarding-marine-personnel-certificates-discharge-books-marine-medical-certificates-marine-counter-services-oral-examinations-can-now-be-administered-virtually>.
- On October 27, 2020, the US Coast Guard announced in the *Federal Register* that it is proposing new base Great Lakes pilotage rates for the 2021 shipping season as well as revisions to calculation methodology. The USCG estimates that this proposed rule would result in a four percent net increase in pilotage costs compared to the 2020 season. See more at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/10/27/great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2021-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology/>. The *Federal Register* notice is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/10/30/2019-23510/great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2020-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology>.
- On December 10, 2020, the *Toledo Blade* reported that effective this month -- for the first time in 35 years -- silt, clay, and other sediment dredged from the Toledo Harbor shipping channel won't be dumped into the open waters of western Lake Erie's North Maumee Bay. See <https://www.toledoblade.com/local/environment/2020/12/10/2020-marks-end-to-dredge-dumps-in-western-lake-erie/stories/20201209114>. (Note that a subscription may be required to view the article.)
- Thunder Bay Lodge # 16 Secretary-Treasurer **Gene Onchulenko** reports that Thunder Bay has had a busy year with grain shipments. "With the salty season just about over, we will have cleared 177 salties by December 20."



### 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.

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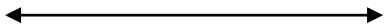


HAVE **YOU** SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?



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

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



### ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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