

SHIPMASTERS SUPPORT SANCTUARY

For the fourth year in a row, the local chapter of the International Ship Masters' Association voted unanimously to contribute to the Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Lodge 19 members designated the sum of \$500 specifically intended to support transportation of school groups to the sanctuary's popular Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena. Member "Max" Lund and his wife Carol added to the fund with a very generous personal contribution as well. Sanctuary staffer Meaghan Black reported to the members that more than a thousand school children had visited the Maritime Heritage Center during the last two years as a result of the designated travel fund. She indicated that many school districts simply did not have the funds to provide bus transportation for extra-curricular activities, although they may be entirely relevant to classroom lessons in science, art, history or social studies. The ISMA funds have proven doubly helpful since many of the student groups visit both the sanctuary and the nearby Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan.

Lodge 19 President Capt. Lee Barnhill reports that the International Ship Masters' Association was organized in the 19th Century as a benevolent society to assist widows and families of lost sailors on the Great Lakes, a tradition that dates to the 1840s. Today it has 17 chapters in the U.S. and Canada, bringing together more than seven hundred commercial ship officers and sailors, marine engineers, charter captains, divers and small boat operators. The Association's goals are to promote safety on the Great Lakes, to build fellowship among seamen, and to support educational opportunities for future mariners.

The attached image shows ISMA members presenting their annual contribution to the sanctuary's Friends group at the Maritime Heritage Center on Tuesday. Left to right are members Ted Rayha, Bob Noffze, Pat Labadie, Carol Lund, Max Lund, Capt. Lee Barnhill, Sanctuary Superintendent Jeff Gray, and Friends coordinator Meaghan Black. Photo by Capt. Walter Watkins.

