



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 Convention, scheduled February 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2021 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 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 4 and Detroit Lodge 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