



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 34, Number 1
January-February 2020

2020 CONVENTION

ISMA Grand Lodge delegates and members gathered in Port Huron for the 130th Annual Convention. Those who attended experienced productive meetings, interesting speakers and programs, and renewal of friendships.

Grand Lodge business meetings opened at 0800 on Thursday, January 30, 2020. Following the opening ritual, Grand President **Mark Mather** presented his report. "I feel so very privileged to have served you and this great organization during the past year," he said. **Mark** and his wife **Laura** were able to attend Blessing of the Fleet observances in both Owen Sound, ONT, and Detroit, MI, as well as the Industry Day conference hosted by Chicago Lodge #3.

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** reported that there are 662 ISMA members as of December 31, 2019. This is a decrease of 16 from 2018. Thirteen members passed away, and 29 were dropped or suspended; however, there were 32 new or reinstated members.

The report of **Scott Skzrypczak**, Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee (NELC) Chairman, covered topics including the Jones Act, the pending new lock at the Soo, ice-breaking operations, aids to navigation, electronic charts and navigation, and modernization efforts of chartered Lake Carriers' Association (LCA) courses on the Great Lakes. This effort was spearheaded by Cleveland Lodge #4 member Capt. **Tim Dayton**. **Scott** noted that lake shipping must remain involved in decisions involving the Lakes and connecting waterways. Canadian NELC Co-Chairman **Seann O'Donoghue** sent his report on involvement at the annual Marine Advisory Committee meeting at Georgian College, attendance at the Great Lakes Waterways Conference, and at the LCA Captains Meeting. The Canadian NELC was also involved with the Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) in updating the LCA/CSA recommended courses on the Great Lakes. In addition, NELC was concerned with several Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) projects and aids to navigation.

PGP **Russell Brohl**, member of the Scholarship Committee, read Chairman **Seann O'Donoghue's** Scholarship Award report. There were seven applicants for the three 2020 awards of \$1500 each. The following recipients were announced: Georgian Marine Training Centre Cadet Award – **Yevgeny Belgradov**, 3rd Year Navigation Cadet; Great Lakes Maritime Academy Cadet Award – **Heidi Wager**, 3rd Year Navigation Cadet; and Hawse Pipe Award – **Thomas Blakely**, Chicago Lodge #3, who upgraded his license. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are always welcome, especially since the fund is now nearly depleted.

Actions brought before the Grand Lodge and approved included: a proposal to investigate the formation of an ISMA Foundation, a non-profit organization, designed for solicitation of tax deductible donations to be used primarily for mariner

scholarships; a proposal and a constitutional amendment to ensure that all ISMA documents including our Constitution and By-Laws are consistent in using the four-word organizational name – International Ship Masters' Association.

Newly elected Grand Lodge officers for 2020 are:

Grand President: **Joseph C. Ruch**
Grand 1st Vice President: **William J. Rabatsky**
Grand 2nd Vice President: **Luther "Luke" Clyburn**
Grand Secretary-Treasurer: **Brian L. Eickel**

Appointed 2020 officers are:

Grand Chaplain: **Mary Ann Schallip**
Grand Marshal: **Patrick Hart**
Grand Warden: **Jerry A. Knox**
Grand Sentinel: **Rudy E. Sloup**



Convention attendees were also treated to a variety of guest speakers, including **Ken Gerasimos**, General Manager, Key Lakes/Great Lakes Fleet; **Jim Weakley**, President, LCA; a panel discussion on autonomous shipping technology; a panel presentation on the Enbridge Line 5 Anchor Strike Mitigation Plan; speakers covering the Soo Locks update, icebreaking, Detroit-Windsor Bridge construction, NOAA National Weather Service, and aids to navigation; and a dinner presentation on shipping in the late 1800s and the founding of ISMA which included historical music. Keynote speaker at Friday's Grand Ball was **Mark Barker**, President of The Interlake Steamship Company. Optional tours of USCGC *Hollyhock* and Sarnia Traffic Center were available. An Oktoberfest celebration rounded out the weekend.

Thanks to Port Huron Lodge No. 2, PGP **George Haynes**, and the entire convention committee!!



NEW MEMBERS

Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional: **Chris Conner** #13149
Dan Culen #13151
 Associate: **Lisa Dixon** #A-13140

Cleveland Lodge #4:

Active Professional: **Peter Hotchkiss** #13139
Aaron Hunt #13142
 Associate: **Stephan J. Nimrod** #A-13157

Bay City Lodge #5:

Active Professional: **Jerry Leo Ways** #13147

Milwaukee Lodge #6:

Active Professional: **Scott Cassavant** #13144
James Peter Hummert #13143

Detroit Lodge #7:

Active Professional: **Michael Droogleever** #13145
Anne Weber Knight #13138
Dustin Walker #13150
Roy F. Werth #13141
 Associate: **Douglas P. Dossin** #A-13158
Guy Marowski #A-13146

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Cadet: **Devon King Brown** #C-13148

Grand Traverse Lodge #23:

Cadet: **Natalie Gilley** #C-13153
Jacob Henley #C-13154
Christine LaCombe #C-13155
Tess Lepley #C-13156
Kyle Seeger #C-13152



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

Final Bells

Port Huron Lodge #2 member **Douglas R. Abbott** passed away on February 8, 2020, at the age of 81. In addition to being a member of Lodge #2, **Doug** was secretary-treasurer of the Great Lakes Nautical Society, a volunteer at the Great Lakes Maritime Center, and an accomplished boat modeler. He is survived by his wife **Robin**, three children, and four grandchildren. Services were held on February 12.

The 2021 Grand Lodge Convention
will be held in
Cleveland, Ohio
February 4-6, 2021.



FROM THE LODGES

Chicago Lodge No. 3:

Chicago Maritime Industry Day will be held on February 27, 2020, at the DoubleTree Hilton in Alsip, IL. Lodge #3 organizes this annual event in conjunction with US Coast Guard MSU Chicago to bring together Federal, state, and municipal agencies that have jurisdiction over the waters in an around Chicago. The event allows the marine community to meet with members of these agencies, as well as hear presentations from the agencies. For more information, see <http://www.chicagoshipmasters.com/registration.html>.

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge #7's 129th Annual Dinner Dance is coming up on February 22, 2020, from 6-11 pm at the Greektown Casino-Hotel in Detroit. For more information, call 214-245-3565, or see <http://www.detroitlodge7.org/2020%20Dinner%20Dance.pdf>.

The following officers, elected on January 4, will serve Lodge #7 for 2020:

President: **Scott R. Skrzypczak**
 1st Vice President: **Michael W. Nall**
 2nd Vice President: **Brian L. Eickel**
 Secretary-Treasurer: **Raymond E. Oset**

Appointed officers for 2020 are:

Chaplain: **Dr. Reverend Lynne A. Kogel**
 Marshal: **Dennis E. Pomeroy**
 Warden: **Laddie L. Hudson**
 Sentinel: **Scott E. Reynolds**
 Lodge Surgeon: **Dr. Larry W. Stephenson**

Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

The 28th Annual Mariners' Service was held on February 9, 2020, at St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound. In addition to local Lodge #15 members and guests, out-of-town attendees included Grand President **Joe** and **Tracey Ruch** from Port Huron, **Scott** and **Kat Reynolds** and **Scott Skrzypczak** and **Kristen** from Detroit, **Amanda Slade** from BC, **Peter Klaassen** from Prince Edward County, **Rick Stout** from Port Severn, **Evan Dubblestyn** from Niagara Falls, **Jim Gallant** from Cambridge, **Winfield Long** from St. Catharines. Also in attendance were **Gerry Locking**, **Percy Warrilow**, Deputy Mayor **Brian O'Leary**, MPP **Bill Walker**, and MP Col. **Alex Ruff**.



2019 Lodge #15 scholarship winners include: Best Deck Logbook – **Brian Barty**; 1st Year Navigation Cadet – **Matt Merrifield**; 2nd Year Navigation Cadet – **Thomas Monsma**; 3rd Year Navigation Cadet – **Dakota Birkenheier**; Naval Officers Association Award – **Yvgeny Belgradov**.

Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23:

Lodge #23 held its annual dinner meeting on January 20, 2020.

Scholarship Awards

Two of the three 2020 scholarship winners received their awards at the Grand Lodge Convention. Great Lakes Maritime Academy Cadet Award winner **Heidi Wager** and Hawsepape Award winner **Thomas Blakely** were in attendance. Georgian College Cadet Award winner **Yevgeny Belgradov** was unable to attend.



2020 ISMA Scholarship recipients Tom Blakely and Heidi Wager, with PGP Russ Brohl (center), member of the Scholarship Committee.
—photo by Emily Goudy

The ISMA Scholarship Fund depends upon donations to furnish the award money. 2019 donors included Northeast Michigan Lodge #19, **Dave Blomberg**, Port Huron Lodge #2, and Cleveland Lodge #4.

When the need for Scholarship Fund replenishment was pointed out at the 2020 Convention, the following donors stepped up: Detroit Fireboat **Curtis Randolph**, Chicago Lodge #3, Detroit Lodge #7, Grand Traverse Lodge #23, Blue Water Offshore Racing Association, Grand President **Joe Ruch**, Grand Secy-Treas **Brian Eickel**, **Roger Hewlett**, PGPs **Bob Schallip**, **John Wellington**, **Lee Barnhill**, **Bob Lund**, **Joe Walters**, **Harry Dusseau**, **Mark Mather**, **Russ Brohl**. Cleveland Lodge #4 also indicated they would be making a donation.

The Scholarship Committee is extremely grateful to convention vendors who also contributed to the Scholarship Fund.

Photographer/artist **Andrea Guerriero** generously donated all profit from her sales of ship photographic artwork - \$1100 - to the Fund.

\$15 from the sale of each SS *Keewatin Steel & Steam* Memorabilia Album sold will go to the Fund. (More information in next column.)

Past Grand Presidents at Convention

Eleven Past Grand Presidents attended the 2020 Convention. Shown here are (front row) Captains **Bob Schallip**, **John Wellington**, **Bob Lund**, **Russ Brohl**, **George Haynes**, (back row) **Al Tielke**, **Joe Walters**, **Harry Dusseau**, **Lee Barnhill**, and **Mark Mather**.

Attending, but not pictured was **Jim Leaney**.

—photo by Emily Goudy, Photographs by Emily



Grand President's Awards

Three lifesaving incidents were reported to the Grand President's Award Committee, and as a result, three awards were presented at the 2020 Convention at Port Huron.

- To Capt. **Jonathon Barnes** and the crew of the *Michipicoten* for the rescue of a man stranded in Lake Superior while trying to ride a jet ski from Grand Portage to Isle Royale on July 14, 2019.
- To Capt. **Samuel D. Buchanan** and crew of the *J.W. Westcott* for the rescue of a woman from the frigid waters of the Detroit River at Belle Isle in July 2019.



2019 Grand President **Mark Mather** presents Grand President's Award for lifesaving to **Sam Buchanan** of the *J.W. Westcott II*.

—photo by Emily Goudy

- To Capt. **Mike North** and crew of the Mackinac Island ferry *Joliet* for the rescue of a girl who had drifted about a quarter mile off shore on an innertube.

Book Supports ISMA Scholarships

SS Keewatin: Steel & Steam was released in October 2019. The hardcover book is available in two formats: Deluxe Memorabilia Album and the Special Edition. The text is a result of meticulous research from the 1907 laying of the keel in Govan, Scotland, to delivery to Canada, to period shipping on the Lakes, and finally the recovery of the ship which brought her from Douglas, MI, back home to her original berth in Port McNicol, ONT, in 2012, where the *Keewatin* now serves as a museum. \$15 from the sale of each book will be donated to the ISMA Scholarship Fund. Visit <https://sskeewatin.com/book/>. To order, go to <http://www.keewatinbook.com/isma/> and use the promo code ISMA .



Left: Group photo of ISMA members at the 2020 Convention Grand Ball on Friday, January 31, 2020.

—photo by Emily Goudy,
Photographs by Emily



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



Left: Incoming Grand President Joe Ruch with PGP Lee Barnhill.
Above: Joe & Tracey Ruch.
Below: Convention Chairman PGP George Haynes thanks keynote speaker Mark Barker. Below left: Ice sculpture.

—photos by Emily Goudy



Industry Newsbriefs –

- The US Coast Guard has set the calendar year 2020 minimum random drug testing rate at 50 percent of covered crew members. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/12/27/random-drug-testing-rate-for-covered-crewmembers-for-2020/>.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announced that January 2020 water levels were higher on all the lakes than they were in January 2019. The record high water levels are expected to continue into the spring and summer. See <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/Article/2076677/record-high-water-levels-to-continue-in-2020/>.
- On January 14, 2020, the USCG announced in the *Federal Register* that it is seeking applications for membership on the National Towing Safety Advisory Committee. See <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/01/14/request-for-membership-applications-national-towing-safety-advisory-committee/>.

2020 Grand Lodge Officers photo, shown on page 1: (front) Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel**, Grand President **Joseph Ruch**, 1st Vice President **William Rabatsky**, 2nd Vice President **Luther Clyburn**, (back) Warden **Jerry Knox**, Marshal **Patrick Hart**, Chaplain **Mary Ann Schallip**, Sentinel **Rudy Sloup**.

International Ship Masters' Association

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