



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 33, Number 2
March-April 2019

2019 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention

“Plotting a Course for the Next Generation,” the 129th Annual ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, was held in Traverse City, MI, hosted by Grand Traverse Lodge #23. Grand President **Harold Dusseau** convened the Grand Lodge on Friday morning, February 8, 2019. Newly re-opened Milwaukee Lodge #6 was in attendance. Only Thunder Bay Lodge #16 and Muskegon Lodge #21 were not represented.

Grand President **Dusseau** presented his report. “...As I prepare to pass the torch to Captain **Mark Mather**, I can’t help but think of our outstanding year which saw ISMA welcome over 20 new members. I had the opportunity to visit with several lodges. But the biggest news was the development surrounding the new 1200-foot lock at Sault Ste. Marie... It has been a pleasure to serve as your Grand President ... and I ask ... that you show Captain **Mather** the same support you showed me as he and his officers continue moving ISMA forward in 2019.”

As reported in the previous *ISMA Letter*, the following Grand Lodge officers were elected:

- Grand President: **Mark Mather**
- Grand 1st Vice President: **Joseph C. Ruch**
- Grand 2nd Vice President: **William J. Rabatsky**
- Grand Secretary-Treasurer: **Brian L. Eickel**

The following Grand Lodge officers were appointed for 2019:

- Grand Chaplain: **Mary Ann Schallip**
- Grand Marshal: **Scott Reynolds**
- Grand Warden: **Patrick Hart**
- Grand Sentinel: **Curtis Kikkert**

Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** reported that there were 700 ISMA members at the end of 2018.

Navigation, Engineering and Legislative Committee (NELC) chair **Scott Skrzypczak** gave his report on committee activities during 2018. “The past year proved to be a watershed year for large projects on the Great Lakes. Cleveland-Cliffs began construction on a new hot briquetted iron production facility in Toledo, a synchronized ballast water management bill was passed by Congress...The biggest news was the huge advance toward constructing a new Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie.” **Scott** discussed other topics addressed by NELC: Mackinac Pipeline, Gordie Howe Bridge, Autonomous Shipping, Revision of LCA Courses. Canadian NELC activities included the Annual Marine Advisory Committee, request to the Canadian Hydrographic Service for an updated survey for Little Current Harbour, resolved concern over recent changes to Sugar Island Lead Light, port expansion at Goderich, feedback on AIS weather stations, working with the Canadian Coast Guard on newly-placed, experimental Virtual Aids to Navigation (V-ATONs).

continued next column...



2019 ISMA Grand Lodge officers: Front row, left to right: **Brian Eickel**, **Mark Mather**, **Joseph Ruch**, **William Rabatsky**; Back row, left to right: **Curtis Kikkert**, **Scott Reynolds**, **Mary Ann Schallip**, **Patrick Hart**.

Other committee reports followed, including Newsletter, Membership & Outreach/Website, Historian, Scholarship, and Grand President’s Award.

The Membership & Outreach-Website committee reported that visits to the ISMA website were up 137% from the previous year. Observations by M&O co-chairs **Tom Blakely** and **Richard Gray** included the need for more engaging content within the site, including items that illustrate who we are and what we are doing/have done, our traditions, and social media feeding the website.

Paul Jagelow, chairman of the Historian Committee, reported on a visit to the ISMA archives at the Institute for Great Lakes Research at Bowling Green State University.

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients who were announced in the Scholarship Committee report (**Rebecca Hancock**, chair):

- Great Lakes Maritime Academy: **Heidi Wagner**
- Georgian College: **Brian Barty**
- Hawsepipe: **Jason Cracraft**

Grand President’s Awards were presented to Captain **Wilson Walters** and crew of the *CSL Welland* for rescue of an unconscious person in Lake Ontario off Olcott, NY; and Captain **Joe Walters** (ISMA Past Grand President) of R/V *Kiyi* for



continued on page 2...

2019 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention, continued

rescue of a kayaker on the west side of Michigan Island in Lake Superior.

Milwaukee Lodge #6 delegate **Jonny Slanga** spoke to the Grand Lodge heralding the re-instatement of the Milwaukee Lodge, and thanking all those who helped in that process. (See page 3.)

Two amendments to the ISMA Constitution and By-Laws were approved. An ISMA logo is now permitted to be displayed on the Grand President's flag. In the other action, standing committees were further defined.

Following Grand Lodge business conducted on Friday and Saturday mornings, afternoon sessions featured guest speakers on a variety of topics of interest/concern to ISMA members. Key-note speaker at Friday evening's Grand Ball was US Congressman Gen. **Jack Bergman**. Saturday afternoon included a tour of US Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

The 130th ISMA Convention will be held in Port Huron, MI, January 30-February 1, 2020.

You can view the 2019 convention program book online at <https://www.harborhouse.com/digital/isma>. Watch the ISMA website for more on the convention, including photos.

Final Bells

Deborah L. Sheldon, wife of PGP Capt. **Ray Sheldon** of Escanaba, MI, passed away on February 12, 2019, from complications of a heart attack, while in Cleveland, OH. In addition to **Ray**, she is survived by a daughter, son, stepson, and two step-daughters. Services were held on February 22 in Escanaba.

Cleveland Lodge #4 Chaplain Rev. **Alfred A. Hart** (#A-11291) passed away on February 15, 2019, at the age of 86. A Presbyterian minister as well as an accomplished musician, **Al** was well-known around the Great Lakes and had joined Lodge #4 in 1993. Earlier that year, he was named "one of Cleveland's most interesting people." He also served as chairman of the publication committee for the Great Lakes Historical Society's journal *Inland Seas*. He is survived by his wife **Jan**, one daughter, two step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services were held on March 3. One of the speakers paying tribute to **Al** at the service was retired LCA President **George Ryan**.



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

FROM THE LODGES

Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

Port Huron Lodge No. 2 is conducting a raffle with several prizes, including a grand prize trip for four aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel. Second prize is a two-night stay for two people at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel, and third prize is round-trip passage for two aboard the carferry *Badger*. Tickets are \$10 each, and winners will be drawn on January 31, 2020. For more information, see <https://www.freightertrip2020-ismalodge2.com/>.

Chicago Lodge No. 3:

Chicago Maritime Industry Day was February 21, 2019. Sponsored by Lodge #3 in conjunction with the US Coast Guard MSU Chicago, the day-long event brought together several Federal, state and municipal agencies that have jurisdiction over the waters in and around Chicago.

Chicago's Navy Pier is the site of the 2019 National Maritime Day observance and Chicago's annual Blessing of the Fleet on May 20, 2019.

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Lodge No. 7's Annual Dinner Dance was held on February 23, 2019. Joining in the fun were PGP **Harry Dusseau**, Grand President **Mark Mather**, and PGP **Tom McMullen** (Lodge #7 member), pictured below.



—photo by Paul Jagenow

Support the US Jones Act

Supporters of the US Maritime Industry are urged to contact their elected representatives in Congress to voice support for the Jones Act. The American Maritime Partnership, a coalition of which ISMA is a member, has created an electronic portal to make the process fast and simple. Access the online portal at:

<https://www.voterveice.net/mobile/AMP/campaigns/63097/respond>

Members in the News

Twin Sault Lodge #22 members **Mary Ann** (Grand Chaplain) and **Bob Schallip** (PGP) were featured and pictured in a March 7, 2019, NPR story, "Neebish Island community braces for winter isolation." See the story at <http://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/post/neebish-island-community-braces-winter-isolation>.

NELC News

by *Scott Skrzypczak, NELC Chair*

Gordie Howe Bridge. At the end of February, the Windsor Port Authority hosted a stakeholder meeting to distribute updated information regarding the new bridge. Members of the maritime community, including our NELC, were well represented at the meeting. Information conveyed included the name of the project contractor and other relevant data concerning the timeline of construction. The bridge will be a cable stay bridge with a road deck of six traffic lanes, three in each direction. The towers of the bridge will be on shore, outside the limits of the river, giving it a clear span of 2800 feet (853 meters). The air draft will be 164 feet at mid channel, decreasing to 138 feet at the river bank. The project will take 74 months to complete at a total cost of \$5.7 billion. In 2019, construction will consist of reinforcing the seawalls and preparing for construction on land.

Most of the construction that we will see will be from 2021-2023, when 70% of the total man-hours will be performed and the bridge will span the river. The NELC is very involved with Sector Detroit and the Port of Windsor as this



project proceeds and is always happy to relay concerns from our membership to the management teams on this project. More project information can be found at:

www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com.

Congressional Maritime Sail-In. On March 6th, NELC Chairman **Scott Skrzypczak**, traveled to Washington, DC, for the annual Maritime Sail-In on Capitol Hill. This event takes place to meet with federal representatives in both the House and Senate and build support for Jones Act shipping in the US. Additionally, the group spoke to representatives about the importance of funding construction of the new lock at the Soo, and the need for another heavy ice breaker on the Great Lakes. The group met with Representatives **Tim Ryan** (D-OH), **Steve Chabot** (R-OH), **Bill Johnson** (R-OH), **Bob Gibbs** (R-OH), **Lauren Underwood** (D-IL), and **Jack Bergman** (R-MI) or their staffs. Cabotage laws are increasingly coming under attack both in the US and Canada due to increasing pressures from a globalized economy to open industries to the lowest cost providers. ISMA is a strong supporter of these laws in both countries, and will continue to advocate for that cause at local and federal levels.



Scott Skrzypczak with Rep. Jack Bergman

Address at 2019 Grand Lodge Convention

by *Capt. Jonny Slanga, Milwaukee Lodge #6 Delegate*

Brothers and Sisters of International Ship Masters' Association,

I bring greetings from the president and secretary of the reinstated Milwaukee Lodge No. 6 of International Ship Master's Association. Milwaukee Lodge No. 6 was originally established in 1891 (Lodge President **James Leisk**), and survived until approximately 1970. That such an important Great Lakes port existed the intervening 40 years without an ISMA lodge is regrettable. However, the re-establishment of Milwaukee Lodge No. 6 is indicative of the renewed and rising status of the multi-faceted Port of Milwaukee. Once the world's leader in grain exports and once the lake's leader in coal imports; the port now handles diversified cargos from foreign ships as well as our lakers. We are the home of the Milwaukee Brewers, Harley Davidson, and the Beer Capital of the World – a great place on a Great Lake.

We are in debt to our past and remember those who came before us. We especially thank Past Grand Lodge President **Capt. George Haynes**. We recognize **Dave Blomberg** for his long-time membership in ISMA; **Dave** singlehandedly recruited many of our current members. We appreciate the work of **Mike Nesbitt** in grabbing the reins and returning Green Bay Lodge No. 18 back to its home port. **Paul Haley**, past Green Bay Lodge president and convention delegate, has our thanks for his efforts in sustaining both Green Bay and Milwaukee lodges. Many thanks to **Greg Stamatelakys**, past Lodge 18 President, longtime convention delegate and lodge secretary. We sail upon the waters of many distinguished Milwaukee mariners. To all, a simple request: "Steady as she goes."

Milwaukee Lodge No. 6 meets September through May on the second Wednesday of the month at O'Lydia's Irish Pub, located two blocks from Milwaukee Lodge's original office.

Respectfully,

Todd Taylor, President, Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

Greg Stamatelakys, Secretary, Milwaukee Lodge No. 6

Owen Sound Blessing of the Fleet

The 27th Annual Mariners Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet was held on Sunday, February 17, 2019, at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound, ON.



Left to right: Thomas Foster (Lodge #15 1st VP, Ron O'Donoghue, Grand President Mark Mather, Church Captain Ray Schrempf, Seann O'Donoghue (Lodge #15 President), Thomas Aulinger (Lodge #15 Secy-Treas) John Brookham (Lodge #15 2nd VP), Evan Dubblestyne, Colin MacNeil, WW II Veteran Percy Warrilow, Owen Sound Mayor Ian Boddy, Ontario Member of Parliament Bill Walker.

—photo by *Brian Eickel*



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

Mariners' Church Blessing of the Fleet

Article and photo by Paul Jagenow

The 55th annual Blessing of the Fleet was held on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Mariners' Church in Detroit. A large contingent of ISMA members participated in the service as members of the Honor Guard: Grand 1st Vice President **Joe Ruch** (Port Huron Lodge No. 2); PGP **Bob Lund** (Chicago Lodge No. 3), PGP **Ron Ingram** and Grand Secretary-Treasurer **Brian Eickel** (both Detroit Lodge No. 7); PGP **Harry Dusseau** (Toledo Lodge No. 9); PGP **Joe Walters** (Twin Ports Lodge No. 12); PGP **John Biolchini** (Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19; Grand President **Mark Mather** and PGP **Ray Sheldon** of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23); **Jim Semerad** (Port Huron Lodge No. 2); **Tom Foster** (Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15); and from Detroit Lodge No. 7: **Ray Oset, Art Brooks, Rick Scott, John Mantyk, Scott Reynolds, Lynne Kogel, Bill Griffore, Paul Gallas, Neil Schultheiss, Chris Stevens, Jay Downen, Ken Suddick, and Kathy McGraw**. Several other ISMA members were in the congregation, including **Dominic Gorno** and **Paul Jagenow** (Detroit Lodge No. 7), **Phil Knetchel** (Toledo Lodge No. 9), and **Curt Kikkert** (Twin Sault Lodge No. 22).

Lynne Kogel, Detroit Lodge No. 7 Chaplain, rang the *Octorara* bell as the names of last year's departed mariners were read by necrologist **Kathy McGraw**. LTC **Scott Snyder**, Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, rang the bell for military personnel who have given their lives. Grand President **Mark Mather**, PGP **Harry Dusseau, Rick Scott, and John Mantyk** presented the wreaths representing the dangers of Storm, Reef, Fire and Collision. **Art Brooks, Ken Suddick** and **Chris Stevens** served as the flag receivers. Fr. **Jeffrey Hubbard**, Rector of Mariners' Church, officiated at the service.

Lewis Ludington Awards

Neil Schultheiss, President of Detroit Lodge #7, read recipient biographies during the Lewis Ludington Award presentations at Mariners' Church in Detroit on March 10, 2019. **Jason Ludington**, great-great-grandson of Capt. **Lewis Ludington**, presented the Ludington Awards on behalf of the Ludington family. This year's Award recipients are shown below: Capt. **Scott Reynolds**;

Capt. **Robert Thibaudeau** represented by Capt. **Joe Ruch**; and Capt. **Paul Gallas**, all members of Detroit Lodge #7.



Article and photo by Paul Jagenow

International Ship Masters' Association

Grand Lodge President

Capt. **Mark Mather**
382 S. East Silver Lake Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49685
(231) 590-6997
E-mail:
grtlakescapt@gmail.com

Grand First Vice President

Captain **Joseph C. Ruch**
1145 Watson Drive
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059
(810) 385-6585
E-mail:
jcruch@comcast.net

Grand Second Vice President

Captain **William J. Rabatsky**
2104 Bassett Rd.
Westlake, OH 44145
(216) 392-5443
E-mail:
raboatsky@sbcglobal.net

Grand Secretary-Treasurer

Captain **Brian L. Eickel**
3566 Pratt Rd.
Metamora, MI 48455
(810) 338-6352
E-mail:
ismasecretary@aol.com

Navigation, Engineering, and Legislative Committee

Chairman....**Scott Skrzypczak**

2109 Davis St.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(231) 590-2884
E-mail: NELC@shipmaster.org

Canadian Co-Chairman...

Captain **Seann O'Donoghue**

527 5th Avenue E
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2R4
(519) 371-2723
Email: capt.s.odonoghue@gmail.com

Membership/Outreach/Website Committee

Co-Chairman....**Richard Gray**

13684 S Thorn Creek Dr. #22
Traverse City, MI 49684
(734) 536-8162
E-mail: Firebird327@gmail.com

Co-Chairman....**Tom Blakely**

E-mail: tblakely@gmail.com

ISMALetter is published bi-monthly by the ISMA

Editor....**Christine R. Rohn-Tielke**

39039 Bridle Court
Avon, OH 44011
(440) 934-6960 Cell (440) 452-6960
Email: chilston@aol.com

Website: **www.shipmaster.org**

Contact... **Thomas Blakely** Email: tblakely@gmail.com

