



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

# ISMA LETTER

Volume 30, Number 4  
July-August 2016

## From the Lodges

*Note: During the Great Lakes navigation season, many local lodges curtail activities since most of their members are away at work.*

### Port Huron Lodge No. 2:

Lodge #2 is sponsoring a boat trip raffle. Grand prize is a trip for four people aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel during the 2017 navigation season. View details at [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com). There are also second and third prizes.

### Chicago Lodge No. 3:

Lodge #3's August 9, 2016, meeting was held at Chicago Electric Boat Company. Their upcoming September 16 meeting will take place at Crowley's Yacht Yard.

### Cleveland Lodge No. 4:

After their summer recess, Lodge #4 resumes biweekly meetings on September 8, 2016.

### Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Old-fashioned glasses with the ISMA logo are available through Lodge #7 member **Scott Skrzypczak** (NELC Chairman—contact info on page 4). The glasses are made in the USA and are \$15 each or \$28 per pair, plus USPS flat-rate shipping.

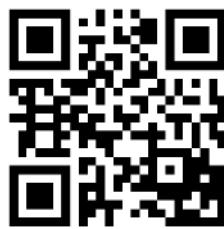


### Georgian Bay-Huronia Lodge No. 15:

Lodge #15 member **Bruce Kemp** has been selected to write the new *Ports Cruising Guide to Lake Erie*. The 90-page navigation guide to marinas, facilities, services, and travel in the region will be released early in 2017. **Bruce** has had a long career as an award-winning writer and photographer covering yacht racing and cruising. He is also the author of *Letters from a Fugitive's Son*, a novel about the American Civil War and Underground Railroad. His latest project is the soon-to-be-released *Weather Bomb 1913 – Life and Death on the Great Lakes*.

### Northeast Michigan Lodge No. 19:

Lodge members whose summer schedules permitted were recently able to get together for dinner.



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



## NEW MEMBERS

### Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional:	John J. Manley	#12992
	Richard Mulvihill	#12991

### Green Bay Lodge #18:

Active Professional:	Don Doggett	#12994
	Mitch Olds	#12993



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

ISMA Membership Applications  
Available Online at

[www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm](http://www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm)

## Members in the News

Port Huron Lodge #2 member and ISMA PGP **George Haynes**, vice president of Lakes Pilots Association, authored the guest editorial column in the April-June 2016 issue of *Great Lakes/Seaway Review*. The article presents the Lakes Pilots Association's view of the recent final rule providing an increase in US Great Lakes pilotage fees. Read the column at [viewer.zmags.com/publication/0c5b48a7?page=41](http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/0c5b48a7?page=41).

An illustrated July 19, 2016, *Atlas Obscura* article about the J.W. Westcott Company mentions Detroit Lodge #7 members **Jim Hogan, Bill Redding, Sam Buchanan, and Ryan Gazdecki**. Read it at [www.atlasobscura.com/articles/on-the-water-with-americas-only-floating-post-office](http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/on-the-water-with-americas-only-floating-post-office).

Lodge #2 member and PGP **George Haynes** was quoted in an August 5, 2016, Duluth *News-Tribune* article, "Great Lakes pilots dispute claims of replica Viking ship that canceled Duluth stop." Read it at <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/4089179-great-lakes-pilots-dispute-claims-replica-viking-ship-canceled-duluth-stop>.

Twin Ports Lodge #12 member **Dan Gallagher**, president of American Great Lakes Pilots Association, was quoted in an MLive article about the same ship on August 9, 2016, "Pilots association says Viking ship 'taking advantage' of donors." Read the article at [http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2016/08/pilots\\_association\\_says\\_viking.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2016/08/pilots_association_says_viking.html).

The tall ship *Draken Harald Harfagre* says they had to cancel their trip to Duluth because of high pilotage fees; the pilots association says the Viking ship operators were advised of pilotage fees in advance and the fees were not nearly as high as they contend.

## Boat Trip Raffles

Visit [www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com) for the latest news about ISMA boat trip raffles.



## Industry Newsbriefs –

**Seaway Traffic.** Total cargo moved on the Seaway through July 31, 2016, was 13,213,000 tonnes, a decrease of 1,662,000 tonnes (11.17%) from the same period in 2015. There were 1559 vessel transits through July 2016, compared with 1611 last year.

**Proceedings.** The Summer 2016 edition of the US Coast Guard's *Proceedings* is now available at <http://uscgproceedings.epubxp.com/t/11313-proceedings-of-the-marine>. Title of the issue is "Waterways: America's Economic Engine." It includes an article about the Port of Milwaukee.

**Updated CG-2692.** On July 1, 2016, the US Coast Guard released a new version of the CG-2692 form, covering reports of marine casualties, commercial diving casualties, or outer continental shelf-related casualties. This is the result of an extensive overhaul of the previous form, which had been unchanged for nearly 40 years. Changes in the new version include: revised addendum forms for barge involvement, personnel casualties, witnesses, and chemical testing; streamlined data fields to align with statutory and regulatory language; ability to be filled out entirely electronically, including a digital signature. Find the new CG-2692 at [www.uscg.mil/forms/CG/CG\\_2692.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/forms/CG/CG_2692.pdf). The forms are accessible via Coast Guard Homeport (click "Investigations" on the left side of the screen, then locate the CG-2692 forms under the header "Casualty Reporting Forms").

**Great Lakes Public Forum.** The Great Lakes National Program Office of USEPA has announced the detailed program and registration for the Great Lakes Public Forum 2016 to be held in Toronto, ON, October 4-6. The forum will focus on issues addressed through the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water quality Agreement. It provides an opportunity to learn about Great Lakes priorities, celebrate the Great Lakes, and provide input to the International Joint Commission. For more details, visit <https://binational.net>.

**Personnel Advisory Committee Vacancies.** The US Coast Guard seeks applicants for membership on its Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee. The committee advises the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security on matters related to personnel in the US merchant marine, such as training, qualifications, certification, documentation and fitness standards. Completed applications must reach the USCG by September 30, 2016. For more information, view the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/08/01/2016-18112/merchant-marine-personnel-advisory-committee-vacancies>.

## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

**USCG MMC Examinations.** On July 28, 2016, the USCG's National Maritime Center (NMC) posted a notice concerning merchant mariner credential exams. Per Section 315 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Coast Guard will cease public disclosure of examination questions and other information related to exams. In place of this info, the USCG will provide an outline of merchant mariner exam topics as well as sample examinations. This was posted on the "Examinations" page of the NMC website about August 1 (<https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/training/exams/default.asp>). The Coast Guard intends to remove the current bank of examination questions and illustrations from the NMC website ([www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)) on or about September 1.

**Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee Vacancies.** The US Coast Guard is seeking applications for membership on the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee, operating under the authority of 46 U.S.C. 9307, making recommendations on matters relating to the Great Lakes. Two positions become vacant on September 30, 2016: one representing the interests of Great Lakes ports, and one representing interests of shippers whose cargoes are transported through Great Lakes ports. Applicants need at least 5 years of practical experience in operations, and completed application must reach the Coast Guard by August 22, 2016. View the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/21/2016-17239/great-lakes-pilotage-advisory-committee-vacancies>.

**Electronic Chart Policy Amendment.** In February 2016, the US Coast Guard released Navigation and Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-16: Use of electronic charts and publications in lieu of paper charts and publications. On July 25, 2016, the Coast Guard said that policy amendments are forthcoming. "Through our own evaluation and a review of stakeholder feedback, we are aware that it has not allowed certain existing equipment to replace paper charts. Therefore, we are working to amend this policy and update third-party consensus standards... We are collaborating with representatives from maritime industry and marine electronics manufacturers. The solution will require more than one amendment to this policy..." You can see the notice at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/07/25/7252016-upcoming-amendment-to-electronic-charts-and-publications-policy-nvic-01-16/>.

**Seaway Annual Report.** The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation's Annual Report contains some great graphics showing the economic advantages of waterborne transportation. View the entire Annual Report at [www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/slsmc\\_ar2016\\_en.pdf](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/slsmc_ar2016_en.pdf).

**NDGPS Sites Decommissioned.** On July 5, 2016, the US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing decommissioning of nine maritime nationwide differential global positioning system (NDGPS) sites, including those at Pickford, MI, Saginaw Bay, MI, and Sturgeon Bay, WI, to occur within 30 days.

**Maritime Industry Advisory Panel.** On July 19, 2016, US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced appoint-

ment of 29 new members to the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Committee (MTSNAC). The committee has 40 members from commercial transportation firms, shipbuilding, repair and recycling companies, trade associations, state and local entities, labor organizations, academics and environmental groups.

**Towing Vessel Officer Credentialing.** On July 7, 2016, the US Coast Guard announced NVIC 03-16, Guidelines for Credentialing Officers of Towing Vessels. It provides guidance to mariners concerning regulations governing endorsements to merchant mariner credentials for service on towing vessels. View NVIC 03-16 at [https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC\\_3-16\\_towing\\_endorsements.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_3-16_towing_endorsements.pdf).

**CGLSLGP.** On June 15, 2016, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (CGLSLGP) released a regional strategy for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation system. The strategy's objectives are to double maritime trade, shrink the environmental footprint of the region's transportation network, and support the region's industrial core. Also in June, the CGLSLGP received a national award for its program to combat invasive species from the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC). Again occurring in June, in conjunction with the release of a report on the regional economy and its competitiveness, the CGLSLCP created a regional economic task force. The group's immediate focus is working toward easing cross-border trade, supporting key economic sectors and boosting regional productivity. See more on these topics and others in the *Compass* newsletter at <http://www.cgslgp.org/media/1836/compass-2016-issue3.pdf>.

On July 20, 2016, the US Coast Guard issued Safety Alert 07-16 recommending that vessel owners and operators inspect their Type 1 unicellular plastic foam lifejackets for potential indications of failure or degradation.

The US Coast Guard announced publication on July 21, 2016, of a correction notice in the *Federal Register* for the Inspection of Towing Vessels Final Rule that was published on June 20, in order to correct three dates that were listed incorrectly. Read it at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-21/pdf/2016-17224.pdf>.

On July 6, 2016, the USCG's National Maritime Center (NMC) announced a change to the organizational structure related to the Mariner Credentialing Program (MCP). This action creates one centralized office responsible for all technical aspects, including statutory, regulatory, and policy development related to the USCG MCP. The Director of Standards will now have responsibility for all aspects of the credentialing program, including oversight of NMC operations, as well as the newly created Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing (CG-MMC). Necessary changes have been made to Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations; you can find them at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-06/pdf/2016-15660.pdf>.

On June 10, 2016, Lake Carriers' Association, along with American Great Lakes Ports Association and Great Lakes Maritime

## Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Task Force, published a news release, "Ballast Water Facts, Not Hype," about the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. Read the release at <http://www.lcaships.com/2016/06/10/ballast-water-facts-not-hype/>.

On July 15, 2016, the US Coast Guard announced a draft update to the Marine Safety Manual, Volume III, Marine Industry Personnel, which provides information and interpretations on international conventions and US statutes and regulations relating to marine industry personnel. Comments may be submitted by September 13. Full information can be found in the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/15/2016-16691/draft-revisions-to-the-marine-safety-manual-volume-iii-parts-b-and-c-change-2>.



### September 3, 2016 -

Annual Canada Merchant Navy Day

### November 11, 2016 -

Remembrance Day (Canada)

Veterans Day (United States)

ISMA Lodge #15 lays CMNVA wreath at  
Owen Sound Cenotaph

### November 26, 2016 -

William Hamilton Merritt Day

Welland Canal celebrations

### February 2-5, 2017 -

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention  
Sanctuary Inn, Alpena, MI

To apply for the

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[www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org)

And follow the blue Scholarship links

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



### ISMA Website:

If you don't know how to log into the members-only section of the ISMA website, contact your local lodge president or secretary. Note that the username and password are case-sensitive.

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