



Grand Lodge

International Ship Masters' Association

ISMA LETTER

Volume 34, Number 5
September-October 2020

From Our Grand President



I sincerely hope this finds you and yours in good health and spirits.

My tenure as Grand President has not presented itself, in any way, as I had envisioned. I had hoped to visit as many Member Lodges as possible. I looked forward to a meeting on the *GOODTIME II*. I looked forward to Chicago Lodge's Industry Day. I looked forward to Detroit Lodge's picnic at the Westcott Company. I looked forward to Port Huron Lodge's annual Summer picnic. Twin Sault and Engineer's Day was in the mix. I thought I'd ferry to Wisconsin and visit Milwaukee and Green Bay, drive up to the Twin Ports and on to Thunder Bay. I thought a trip to Niagara and Buffalo would be an easy jaunt across Canada. Summertime at the Falls is so nice.

But, I didn't.

Now I simply look forward. Our institution has weathered many a storm. We will weather this one as well.

The leaves are changing. The birds, including the snowbirds, are gathering for their journey. We have managed the August shipping doldrums and are now hopeful for a cargo push to close out another season.

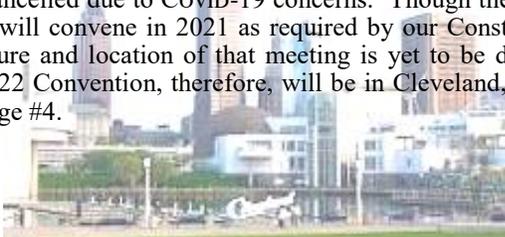
Stay safe, stay strong, be alert. I am proud to be associated with you all. You are an incredible group. Keep your chin up. Keep your socks dry. You are the Great Lakes marine family. Own it.

Excelsior!

Captain **Joseph C. Ruch**, retired
Grand President

Convention Cancellation Reminder

This is a reminder that the 2021 Grand Lodge Convention, originally scheduled for February 4-6, 2021, in Cleveland, has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Though the Grand Lodge will convene in 2021 as required by our Constitution, the nature and location of that meeting is yet to be decided. The 2022 Convention, therefore, will be in Cleveland, hosted by Lodge #4.



FROM THE LODGES

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

Several Lodge #7 members participated in member **Malcolm "Mac" McAdam's** summer project.

While contaminated soil was being removed in order to expand Riverside Park in Detroit, an antique ship's anchor, thought to be from the early 1800s, was discovered 25 feet underground and more than 100 feet away from the river. The heavily rusted anchor's wooden cross-stock had long since disintegrated. The anchor's shank was 8.5 feet long and weighed about one ton. The anchor was lying out in the open, and "I was concerned that 'scrappers' would remove it by sun-up, so I made a few calls. There were no plans for the anchor and no room in the budget to do anything with it. So I made some suggestions and the next thing I knew, I was a one-man team expected to refurbish the anchor with no budget to do it."



Malcolm McAdam and the anchor in the condition it was found.

Mac received assistance from other Lodge #7 members at the J.W. Westcott Co. – **Jim Hogan** (for use of the Westcott parking lot as the secure work site), **Bill Griffore** (for welding and fabrication), and **Sam Buchanan** (for assistance in moving and logistics).

The anchor had to be de-scaled, sandblasted, rust-treated, filled, and finish coated, as did the 1000 lbs. of chain. **Mac** worked most of the summer outdoors in the heat. He also designed and fabricated the cross-stock from five planks from fallen oak trees. They had to be shaped, planed, filled, glued, screwed, sealed and bolted together. To finish, custom fitted steel bands were welded and ground smooth. Finally, it was sanded, sealed, and finished with multiple coats of marine



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From the Lodges, continued

spar varnish. Discussion with park designers and planners led to the completed anchor and chain being moved to its new home (*below*) on a cement pad within the site of the expanded Riverside Park just west of the Ambassador Bridge and east of the boat slip alongside the Detroit Fireboat dock.



Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge No. 15:

Lodge #15 reported the death of **R. J. Peterson** at the age of 93 on August 11, 2020. He was the man who saved the SS *Keewatin* from the scrapper's torch in 1967, and later worked to move the ship in 2012 from Michigan to Port McNicoll, Ontario, where the vessel's heritage lay.

From the Editor...

I'm sure you've noticed that recent issues of *ISMA Letter* have space for more news and photos. COVID-19 has resulted in cancellation of lodge meetings and events, and we miss these opportunities to gather together! To those members who continue to work to facilitate commerce, we thank you. When you notice something that may be newsworthy or see a photo opportunity that may interest your fellow members, please send it along for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you, and stay safe!



ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMA Letter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries. Therefore, **Make sure your local secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

Remember that *ISMA Letter* is always available on our website, www.shipmaster.org, for viewing at any time.

ISMA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

This is a reminder to all members that Ship Masters' scholarships are available! **Deadline for application for the 2020 Scholarships is November 1, 2020.** If you know someone who may qualify, please encourage them to apply! The Scholarship Awards have been increased to \$1500.00 each.

Access the HAWSEPIPE SCHOLARSHIP at

<http://www.shipmaster.org/hawsepipe-scholarship.html>

Access the CADET SCHOLARSHIPS at

<http://www.shipmaster.org/cadet-scholarship.html>

Seann O'Donoghue (Canada) and
Russell Brohl (USA)
Scholarship Chairmen

NEW MEMBERS

Detroit Lodge #7:

Active Professional: **Shane Buchanan** #13172

Thunder Bay Lodge #16:

Active Professional: **Jane Lewis** #13171

Final Bells

Port Huron Lodge #2 member **Andrew C. Anderson** (#A-12323) passed away on September 19, 2020, at the age of 84. **Andy** was a proud crew member aboard the Sea Cadet training vessel *Grayfox*, where he took over the engine room. His training program was very successful, including a graduation for each cadet assigned to him. **Andy** was happy to fire a small cannon aboard the *Grayfox* for a Navy veteran's funeral many years ago. **Andy** also enjoyed being part of Loomis' Battery, a Michigan Civil War Reenactment unit. He enjoyed relating how his unit was hired by the film crew of the movie *Master and Commander* (which starred **Russell Crowe**). They used their cannons firing against objects to create battle sounds for the movie -- in the dead of winter at Camp Grayling, MI. **Andy** had been a member of Lodge #2 since December 7, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife **Nancy** in March 2006. He is survived by his five children, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Andy Anderson at the 2009 Lodge #2 picnic aboard Grayfox.
--photo by Frank Frisk

Members in the News

An article about J. W. Westcott Co. and Detroit Lodge #7 member **Jim Hogan**, "Legacy on the Lakes: Detroit's Floating Zip Code," appeared in Michigan Country Lines. You can see the illustrated article at <https://www.countrylines.com/cover-story/legacy-on-the-lakes/>.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- On August 25, 2020, the US Coast Guard published CG-MMC Policy Letter 3-20, providing temporary guidance for renewal of a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) and STCW endorsements with expiration dates from March 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. This document may be accessed by selecting "Policy & Regulations" on the National Maritime Center's website at www.uscg.mil/NMC.
- The US Coast Guard issued Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 13-20, Change 1, on August 31, 2020, to address changes in Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Operations. Find it at https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/64203/MSIB%2013-20_chg1_TWIC-COVID.pdf.
- The August 2020 edition of *News by Land & Sea*, the newsletter of Mariners' Church of Detroit, included an illustrated article on the 56th Annual Blessing of the Fleet which was held on March 8, 2020, at Mariners' Church.
- In September, Lake Carriers' Association released their 2020 *State of the Lakes*. 2020 marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of LCA. "Today our core priorities remain the US-flag Great Lakes vessel operators, the crews of the fleet, a safe and efficient navigation system, and the Great Lakes themselves," said LCA President **Jim Weakley** in his introduction. "The issues that enhance or hinder commercial navigation on the lakes have changed some over the last 140 years and yet they remain rooted in safety, efficiency, and fair competition." The report, as usual, covers issues and concerns for the US-flag Great Lakes fleet, but this year includes a section on the impacts of COVID-19. Read the document at <https://lcaships.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-LCA-SOTL-23-September-2020.pdf>.
- The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC) met on September 1, 2020, in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The meeting was a discussion among representatives for shipping, terminal operators, labor, pilots, and the public. Read the summary at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/09/09/recap-of-great-lakes-pilotage-advisory-committee-meeting/>.
- On September 3, 2020, the US Coast Guard Mariners Blog reported that The Office of Operating and Environmental Standards (CG-OES) would like to clarify for the maritime community the February 28, 2015, sunset provision in Title 33 CFR 151.66. Vessel owners and operators are no longer required to submit to the Coast Guard quarterly reports of their discharges of bulk dry cargo residues into U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, or to use the official Form CG-33.

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

- Recordkeeping on board is still required, but vessel owners and operators may use their own forms. The Coast Guard no longer maintains its official Form CG-33 and has removed it from the CG-OES website. Read the entire notice at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/09/03/end-of-reporting-for-bulk-dry-cargo-residue-discharges-into-u-s-waters-of-the-great-lakes/>.
- *WorkBoat* published an article on September 4, 2020, examining the US presidential candidates' support for the Jones Act. Read it at <https://www.workboat.com/news/government/trump-biden-support-the-jones-act/>.
- On September 8, 2020, a \$14 million boost to federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for environmental projects throughout the Twin Ports. Approximately \$5 million will go to the University of Wisconsin-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute for ballast water research at Montreal Pier. The five-year UWS grant will gather a binational group of stakeholders from federal, state, tribal, and business entities. They will engage with UWS researchers to assess the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species through ballast water and identify best practices for commercial vessels to prevent that spread.
- On September 15, 2020, US Senators **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), **Todd Young** (R-IN) and **Gary Peters** (D-MI) introduced the Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act, bipartisan legislation to codify the U.S. Coast Guard's icebreaking mission on the Great Lakes and increase the icebreaking capacity of the Great Lakes fleet. Read more at <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/press-releases/great-lakes-winter-commerce-act>.
- A September 18, 2020, article in the *Duluth News Tribune* discussed the 2020 slowdown at the port of Duluth-Superior, where the Covid-19 pandemic is blamed for a marked slowdown in the port of Duluth-Superior. You can read it at <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/business/transportation/6665675-Great-Lakes-shipping-campaign-hit-hard-by-pandemic>. Various news outlets ran similar pieces.
- On September 23, 2020, the USCG National Maritime Center addressed the continuing effects of the pandemic on Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) processing times, and what mariners can do to streamline their application processing. See https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020/covid_impacts_on_mmc_app_processing_times_092420.pdf
- On September 28, 2020, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. announced that it is acquiring ArcelorMittal USA and its subsidiaries, making Cleveland-Cliffs the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America. Incidentally, Cleveland-Cliffs has also posted drone videos of its new HBI plant in Toledo. See one from September 11 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju_4YA6vODY.
- At the end of September, several news outlets reported on the Enbridge Straits Maritime Operations Center. The facility, located in Mackinaw City, became fully operational in

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Summer 2020. Read one of the articles at <https://www.miningjournal.net/news/front-page-news/2020/09/new-embri-ge-straits-maritime-operations-center-unveiled/>.

- On September 30, 2020, the US Coast Guard issued MSIB 08-20, Change 4, "COVID-19 – Mariner Credentials: Extension of Merchant Mariner Credential Endorsements, Medical Certificates and Course Approvals." See https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2020/MSIB_08-20_CH4.pdf.
- In October 2020, the US House of Representatives approved a bill introduced by **Marcy Kaptur** (D-OH) that calls for the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. to become known at the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.
- On October 6, 2020, Maid of the Mist boat tour company at Niagara Falls introduced two new all-electric tour boats fueled by locally generated hydropower. Their batteries recharge in seven minutes.
- On October 15, 2020, US Transportation Secretary **Elaine L. Chao** announced more than \$220 million in discretionary grant funding to improve port facilities through the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program. Two Great Lakes ports will receive some of this funding: Burns Harbor, IN, and Conneaut, OH. For more information, see <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/newsroom/press-releases/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-over-220-million-grants>.



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



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



Scan the QR
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will take you to
the ISMA web-
site.

International Ship Masters' Association

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