



Grand Lodge
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 32, Number 6
November-December 2018

ISMA LETTER

2019 ISMA Grand Lodge Convention *Save the Dates and Plan to Attend*

The 129th Annual Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Traverse City, MI, at the Park Place Hotel, from February 7 - 10, 2019.

Convention Theme: "What Happens Next?"

Saturday evening party: "Heroes & Villains"
Get your capes and gadgets ready!

See you there!

Construction of New Soo Lock to Begin

On November 21, 2018, the Lake Carriers' Association issued the following release:

After more than three decades, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("the Corps") today said it will proceed with plans to build a new Soo Lock, one of the largest Great Lakes infrastructure projects in a generation.

The news came today in the form of an announcement that the Corps has formally allocated \$32 million this fiscal year for design and construction of the project, which was first authorized in 1986 but stalled. The \$32 million Corps money announced today could be combined with another \$52 million committed by Michigan Governor **Rick Snyder**. The construction will take place in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, over the next 10 years and funded through additional annual appropriations.

"This is the moment we have been waiting for more than 30 years," said **Jim Weakley**, President of Lake Carriers' Association. "The announcement by the Army Corps that the construction program for the new lock at the Soo will officially begin is the direct result of the tireless efforts of so many people and organizations banding together to update one of the most critical pieces of American infrastructure. It is a great day for Michigan, the Great Lakes region, and the entire nation. We are elated."

The funds will be used for design work and to resume construction that began in 2009 and quickly stalled. Construction projects slated to initiate the new lock work include deepening the upstream channel to accommodate modern Great Lakes vessels and construction of the upstream approach walls.

"Money added by Congress and the Corps over the last decade has been used for rehabilitation of the existing locks and for some preliminary construction for the new lock, but this is the first time the Corps has funded construction on its own," **Weakley** said.

Construction of a new lock will provide resiliency to the existing Poe Lock, opened in 1969, which now carries over 90 percent of all cargoes. The Soo Locks are crucial to the American manufacturing supply chain.

"Combining the Michigan funds with the work plan money in 2019 can cut construction time by a year and save the American taxpayer \$30 million on the overall cost of \$922 million," continued **Weakley**. "Governor **Snyder's** focus combined with bipartisan support of the Great Lakes Congressional delegation, President **Trump** and his Administration have paved the way for this monumental move."

"This announcement by the Corps is welcomed and timely as we approach the 50th year since the opening of the Poe Lock, critical to moving cargoes between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes," said **Mark Pietrocchio**, Board Chair of Lake Carriers' Association. "The Locks are the backbone of American steel industry, power generation, construction, and essential for international trade with America's heartland. This new lock provides resiliency and assurance that Great Lakes commercial maritime traffic will continue to support 237,000 jobs and drive \$35 billion annually in economic activity."

According to the 2018 study by Martin Associates on the economic impacts of vessel traffic moving through the existing locks, over 123,000 jobs are reliant on the locks which in turn supports \$22.5 billion in economic activity. A Department of Homeland Security study determined that a six month outage of the Poe, one of two operational locks, would result in 11 million unemployed Americans.

Final Bells

John C. Hanley (#11137), member of Port Huron Lodge #2 and formerly of Detroit Lodge #7, passed away on September 26, 2018. He served in the US Navy, and later sailed on the Great Lakes as first mate on several ships. He retired from Port City Marine Services, where he last sailed on the tug-barge *Prentiss Brown/St. Mary's Conquest*. **John** is survived by his wife **Mary** and son **Jay**. A visitation honoring **John's** life was held on October 14, 2018.

Happy Holidays!



FROM THE LODGES

Detroit Lodge No. 7:

The first meeting of the season for Lodge #7 was held on December 4, 2018, at the Great Lakes Yacht Club in St. Clair Shores, MI. Guest speaker was **Robert Howell**, Director of Operations at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel.



Rick Scott (left) presents Robert Howell with a certificate of appreciation for speaking at the meeting.

—photo by Brian Eickel

The Lost Mariners Remembrance program was held at Detroit's Dossin Museum on November 10, 2018. Several Lodge#7 members participated in the ceremony. **Malcolm McAdam** and **Joel Stone** served as Masters of Ceremonies; **Malcolm** was



also Flotilla Coordinator; **John Mantyk** and **Luke Clyburn** were part of the Honor Guard; **Bill Griffore** piloted the *J.W. Westcott II*; **Ray Oset** served as a bugler; **Kathleen McGraw** served as Necrologist; **Neil Schultheiss** provided the internet feed; **Scott Reynolds** participated as captain of the

Above: *Ray Oset, Scott Reynolds, Luke Clyburn.*

Right: *Wreath provided by Lodge #7.*

—photos by Kat Reynolds



fireboat *Curtis Randolph*. The memorial wreath was provided by Detroit Lodge #7. The evening's program included a lantern vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor, a musical program by **Lee Murdock**, a wreath laying ceremony on the Detroit River, and a presentation – "The Great Storm of 1893" – by **Kevin McGee**.

January 5, 2019, is Lodge #7's Annual Meeting and election of officers.

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From the Lodges, continued

Detroit Lodge #7's 128th Annual Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2019, at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township, MI. More details will be announced soon; for more information, see the Lodge #7 website at www.detroitlodge7.org.

Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23:

Lodge #23 is currently conducting a boat trip raffle.

1st Prize: A 2019 season trip for 4 aboard an Interlake Steamship Company Vessel

2nd Prize: A 2019 season trip for 2 aboard a VTB ATB

3rd Prize: A 2019 season round trip ticket for two aboard SS Badger

Tickets (\$10 each or 3 for \$25) can be purchased at <http://www.shipmaster.org/raffle-tickets.html>, or contact **Mark Mather** at gtrlakescapt@gmail.com or call 231-590-6997. The drawing will take place on February 9, 2019, at 10 pm. Winners need not be present to win.

ISMA Member Involved in Rescue

Macauley Morton, Third Mate aboard MV *CSL Welland* and a member of Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15, was involved in a rescue in Lake Ontario off the coast of Olcott, NY, on August 25, 2018.

While off Olcott, NY, crew members on watch, including **Macauley**, noticed objects floating in the water. Captain **Wilson Waters** was immediately notified and contacted the Coast Guard. It soon became apparent that the objects were in fact two people. The captain activated the general alarm, alerted the Coast Guard and proceeded with an emergency manoeuvre of the ship to rescue the people. The *CSL Welland* crew deployed Man Overboard procedure as they had been trained and drilled to do. A small fishing boat was sighted in the area, and the captain requested their assistance. The fishing boat was able to rescue a conscious man, who was transferred onto *CSL Welland*. The ship's rescue boat was launched to recover the second person, a visibly unconscious man. Once in the rescue boat, the crew administered CPR, which was continued until arrival of the US and Canadian Coast Guards. Once on scene, they attended to the unconscious man, who was unfortunately pronounced dead shortly after. The timely reaction of the *CSL Welland*'s trained crew undoubtedly saved a life that day.

US TWIC Enrollment Information

On November 11, 2018, the US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center issued the following important information:

Mariners applying for a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) must list their occupation as *Merchant Mariner* on their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) applications. The US Coast Guard relies on data provided by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) when evaluating MMC applications. Personal data supplied to TSA must match what is provided to the Coast Guard on the MMC application. If a TWIC applicant does not list his or her occupation as *Merchant Mariner*, the Coast Guard cannot reconcile the data provided by the TSA. In such cases, mariners may be asked to work with TSA to update information, which could result in MMC application and issuance delays.

Great Lakes Memorial Service

The Annual Great Lakes Memorial Service was held at Detroit's Mariners' Church on Sunday, November 11, 2018. The *Octorara* bell was rung nine times for mariners lost on the various waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, plus a final toll for military personnel. Personnel from the US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Army Corps of Engineers, the Consul General of Canada and Sea Cadets also participated in the service. Fr. **Jeffrey M. Hubbard**, Rector of Mariners' Church, officiated, assisted by Detroit Lodge #7 members Deacon **Frank Bateman** and **Kathy McGraw** as Sexton of Mariners' Church.



Bell ringers gather at the Octorara bell. Front: Douglas George (Consul General of Canada), Rick Scott, Ron Ingram, Jack Callahan, Lt Col Gregory Turner (CDR USACE Detroit), John Mantyk; back: Ray Oset, Pat Beard, Chris Stevens, Brian Eickel.
—photo by Paul Jagenow

Other ISMA members attended and participated in the service, including Port Huron Lodge #2 member **Roger Hewlett**; Detroit Lodge #7 members **Pat Beard**, **Jay M. Downen**, **Rick Scott**, **Brian Eickel**, **Chris Stevens**, **Ray Oset**, **Ron Ingram**, **Jack Callahan**, **Tom McMullen**, **Mike Pipia**, **Paul Jagenow**, and **John Mantyk**; and Grand Traverse Lodge #23 member RADM **Jerry Achenbach**.

Industry Newsbriefs –

- On October 17, 2018, the Coast Guard announced in the *Federal Register* that, in accordance with the Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960, it is proposing new base pilotage rates and surcharges for the 2019 shipping season. Comments were due by November 16. For more info, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/17/2018-22513/great-lakes-pilotage-rates-2019-annual-review-and-revisions-to-methodology>.
- On October 18, 2018, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announced that its unionized employees ratified a three-year labour agreement covering the period April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2021.
- On October 23, 2018, President **Trump** signed the Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, legislation that includes the Soo Lock Post-Authorization Change Report that authorizes construction of a second Poe-sized lock at the Soo.
- The US Coast Guard announced on October 25, 2018, that it is finalizing the interim final rule “Harmonization of Standards for Fire Protection, Detection, and Extinguishing Equipment” effective November 26, 2018, to align fire protection and equipment regulations for inspected towing vessels with other commercial vessel regulations. For more information, see [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/25/2018-23314/harmonization-of-fire-protection-equipment-standards-for-towing-](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/25/2018-23314/harmonization-of-fire-protection-equipment-standards-for-towing-vessels)

[vessels.](#)

- In October 2018, the US Coast Guard posted meeting transcripts and other related documents from the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee meeting held on September 10. View more information at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/Office%20of%20Waterways%20and%20Ocean%20Policy/CG-WWM-2/0910USCG%20revised.pdf?ver=2018-10-04-140555-350>.
- Two of Marinette Marine's new LCSs called at Detroit this fall. On October 26, 2018, *USS Sioux City* (LCS 11) arrived, and *USS Wichita* (LCS 13) arrived on November 2.
- The October 2018 *Compass* (newsletter of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers [GSGP]) reported the August 30 launch of “Cruise the Great Lakes,” an initiative designed to bring more cruise passengers to the Lakes. The initiative is led by representatives from both sides of the border. Another item reported that the US Small Business Administration recently awarded the GSGP member states \$3.8 million from its State Trade Expansion Program, designed to support small to medium-sized companies grow their export sales. Find the newsletter at www.gsgp.org.
- On November 15, 2018, Lake Carriers' Association released comments on passage of the 2018 U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act, which includes the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA): *Lake Carriers' Association is pleased with the Senate passage of the 2018 U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act including the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). VIDA is the result of many stakeholders coming to the table to craft this final version. VIDA is a good balance, achieving protection of both the economy and the environment. Importantly, it includes Great Lakes-specific provisions that provide the flexibility to establish uniform practices and standards more protective of our Great Lakes. Over the next few years, LCA looks forward to engaging with our government and regional partners to develop practical and implementable regulations to meet the letter and spirit of the bill.*
- The USCG's National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC) held its fall meeting on November 6-7, 2018, to discuss various issues related to national maritime security. For more information, see <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/16/11-16-2018-recap-of-recent-national-maritime-security-advisory-committee-meeting/>.
- In November 2018, the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership reported an increase in St. Lawrence Seaway Traffic with year-to-date total cargo shipments through October of 30.5 million metric tons, a four percent increase over the same period last year. Total vessel transits were also up by five percent over the same period in 2017.
- On November 20, 2018, the US Coast Guard's National Maritime Center announced that it is seeking comments on the draft Merchant Mariner Medical Manual. The Coast Guard's request includes public comment on the manual's readability, clarity, and ease of use. The Notice of Availability and draft Medical Manual may be viewed on the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <https://www.regulations.gov/>, under docket number USCG-2018-0041. Comments must be submitted to the online docket on or before January 14, 2019.
- The Seaway System announced that both the Montreal-Lake Ontario Seaway Section and the Welland Canal will close for the navigation season at 1200 on December 31, 2018.
- On November 26, 2018, the National Vessel Movement Center recently announced release of the updated Notices of Arrival and Departure (NOAD) Schema Version 3.6 to enhance maritime domain awareness and improve handling of essential data contained within NOAD. Additionally, the official NVMC workbook for submitting a NOAD has been released. It is available as a download from the NVMC's website. For more information, see [https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/nvmc/\(S\(u5mtrjonzqhisaurh4t0eko\)\)/News.aspx?newsId=d4014cb7-6f98-4a3d-920f-f383ead1c9f0](https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/nvmc/(S(u5mtrjonzqhisaurh4t0eko))/News.aspx?newsId=d4014cb7-6f98-4a3d-920f-f383ead1c9f0).
- US shipping on the Great Lakes was down in October 2018. As reported by LCA, lakers carried 9.1 million tons of cargo, down 4.2 percent compared to October 2017 and 6.6 percent below the month's five-year average.
- On November 27, 2018, the US House voted to send to the President's desk a bill to reauthorize, support, and strengthen the US

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Industry Newsbriefs, continued

Coast Guard and to reauthorize and update the authorities of the Federal Maritime Commission. The Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (S. 140) authorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2019 and supports plans to recapitalize and modernize its assets to carry out its critical missions. The measure was approved by the Senate on November 14. President **Trump** signed the legislation on December 4. Find more information at <https://transportation.house.gov/coast-guard-auth/coast-guard-authorization-of-2018.htm>.

- You can view the updated US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, FY 2019 work plan at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/>.
- In November 2018, Canadian Transport Minister **Marc Garneau** visited Hamilton, ON, to announce an investment of C\$17.7 million in the Port of Hamilton from the National Trade Corridors Fund.
- The US Coast Guard announced on December 6, 2018, that it is seeking applications for membership on the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee. Completed applications should be submitted to the Coast Guard by Feb. 4, 2019. View the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/06/2018-26499/merchant-mariner-medical-advisory-committee-vacancies>.
- The USCG also announced in the December 6, 2018, *Federal Register* that it is seeking applications for membership on the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee. Completed applications should be submitted to the Coast Guard on or before February 4, 2019. View the *Federal Register* notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/06/2018-26420/merchant-marine-personnel-advisory-committee-vacancies>.
- In early December 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation awarded an approximate \$3 million grant to Port Milwaukee to upgrade railroad track on Jones Island.
- View the December 2018 issue of *Making Waves*, newsletter of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) at <https://glslicities.org/news/making-waves/>.

January 8-9, 2019 -

Great Lakes Captain's Association
Industry Days
Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City, MI

January 16, 2019 -

Chamber of Marine Commerce Annual Luncheon
Royal York Hotel, Toronto

January 19, 2019 -

Marine Club 79th Annual Dinner
Royal York Hotel, Toronto

February 5-6, 2019 -

Great Lakes Waterways Conference
Westin Cleveland Downtown, Cleveland, OH

February 7-10, 2019 -

ISMA Grand Lodge Convention
Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI

March 10, 2019 -

Blessing of the Fleet, Mariners' Church, Detroit, MI

May 6-8, 2019 -

Great Lakes Economic Forum, Cleveland, OH

June 5-7, 2019 -

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Annual Conference, Sheboygan, WI

June 8, 2019 -

Great Lakes Marine Market
Riverview Plaza, St. Clair, MI



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SHIP MASTERS' SALUTE:
3 Long, 1 Short



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