



**International Shipmasters' Association  
Toledo Lodge No. 9  
P.O. Box 5218 ☀ Toledo, OH 43611**

January 6, 2020

**To the ISMA Grand Lodge and all Member Lodges,**

The following proposal concerning the creation of an International Shipmasters' Association Foundation which would act as a non-profit entity designated to secure tax deductible donations. Part of the proposal is to go "back to the future", by returning to the original mission of the ISMA as a benevolent association for disadvantaged mariners and / or their families, as well as other "worthy" causes. Additionally, the ISMA Foundation could award grants and scholarships for any maritime related item, not just for GLMA/ Parry Sound scholarships. This also opens the door for ISMA, via the Foundation, to apply for various grants from other foundations, companies, agencies, and possible endowments. We believe this would be a force multiplier for ISMA Foundation donations. This proposal was discussed and approved by the membership of Toledo Lodge No. 9 at its regular business meetings in April and December 2019. We request that it be presented to the Grand Lodge at its annual meeting in Port Huron, MI during the 2020 National Convention.

**Background:**

Presently, ISMA Grand Lodge is limited in its ability to fund scholarship efforts for future mariners. The key issues are:

- ✿ The lack of a designation that does not allow for tax deductible donations;
- ✿ No formal / on-going structure is in place to solicit scholarship donations;
- ✿ With limited donations the ISMA Grand Lodge is greatly hindered in its ability to financially support the education efforts of future mariners, disadvantaged mariners and their families, as well as other worthy causes;
- ✿ When scholarship donations are made, they are generally to the same schools, despite the fact that there are numerous educational institutions training our future workforce;
- ✿ Although a Hawse Piper scholarship is given, there are many more mariners that need additional costly training, and presently the scholarship is limited to one per year;
- ✿ The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in the maritime industry will grow by 16 percent through the year 2020, and the high demand for workers to fill open positions will outweigh the supply of workers.

We see the solution as the creation of the International Shipmasters' Association Foundation that would have non-profit status designated for accepting financial contributions that would allow tax deductions for the donations and would be earmarked for scholarships for future mariners. The ISMA Foundation would have a board of directors that would include 2 – 3 Honorary Board members. The Honorary Board members would be made of maritime industry professionals with strong name recognition who can assist in directing the working board for sources of funding. The Honorary Board would also serve as a function to lend credibility to the ISMA Foundation itself. The working board members would be made up of maritime industry professionals who are influential and with a vested interest in improving both ISMA membership and meeting the on-going need for a quality workforce. The board would meet 2 – 3 times a year in-person or via conference call. The board would have the responsibility of securing donations and their distribution towards qualified maritime students at accredited institutions.

## **Proposal**

**WHEREAS:** The creation of the International Shipmasters' Association Foundation would aid in returning the ISMA to its original mission as a benevolent association for disadvantaged mariners and / or their families, as well as other "worthy" causes, and,

**WHEREAS:** The ISMA Grand Lodge currently lacks the non-profit designation to accept tax deductible donations that can be used specifically for scholarship and other worthy causes and opportunities, and,

**WHEREAS:** The ISMA Grand Lodge lacks a formal / on-going structure in place to solicit donations and with limited donations the ISMA Grand Lodge is greatly hindered in its ability to financially support the educational efforts of future mariners and other worthy causes, and,

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in the maritime industry will grow by 16 percent through the year 2020, and the high demand for workers to fill open positions will outweigh the supply of workers, and ISMA Grand Lodge, member lodges, and ISMA member companies have a vested interest in a well-trained maritime workforce, and,

**WHEREAS:** When scholarship donations are made, they are generally to the same schools despite the fact that there are numerous institutions of higher education training our future workforce, and,

**WHEREAS:** The creation of the ISMA Foundation would allow for a non-profit status designated towards accepting financial contributions, and said donations would be considered deductible for the donor with said donations earmarked for scholarships for mariners and other worthy causes, and,

**WHEREAS:** The ISMA Foundation would have a board made up of Honorary Board members and a regular working board. The Honorary Board would include maritime industry professionals with strong name recognition who can assist in directing the working board for sources of funding, and serve to lend credibility to the ISMA Foundation itself, and,

**WHEREAS:** The working board would be made up of maritime industry professionals who are influential and with a vested interest in improving both ISMA membership and meeting the on-going need for a quality workforce with the additional responsibility of securing scholarship funding and their distribution towards qualified maritime students at accredited institutions.

**BE IT PROPOSED:** That the Grand Lodge accept and be instructed to take necessary steps to create the ISMA Foundation, a separate non-profit organization, designated for the solicitation of tax deductible donations with the additional responsibility of distributing scholarship contributions to mariners for educational purposes and other worthy causes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rick Brown  
President  
ISMA Toledo Lodge No. 9

RB:msz