

**AMERICAN  
GREAT LAKES PORTS  
ASSOCIATION**

# **MEMBERSHIP**

## MISSION

Founded in 1977, the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) is an organization representing the interests of commercial ports and port users on the United States side of the Great Lakes. AGLPA works to influence public policies with the goal of fostering maritime commerce and related employment in the Great Lakes region. Through our common voice, we work to educate policy makers, media, and the general public regarding the critical role of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway shipping in the region's economy.

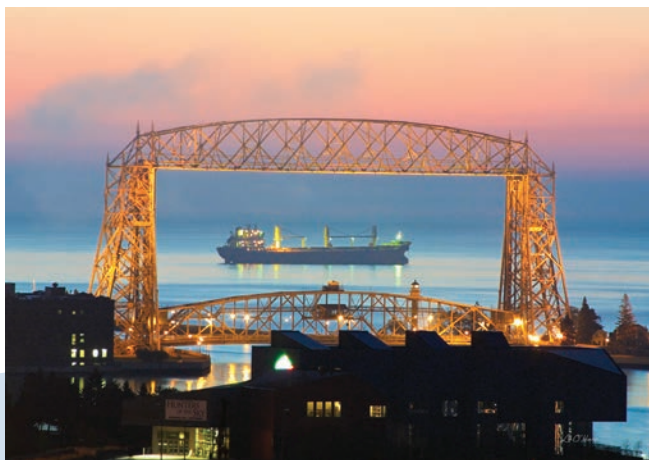


## GREAT LAKES - ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY SHIPPING

Serving as gateways for both domestic and international trade, U.S. Great Lakes ports handle more than 190 million tons of cargo each year. Waterborne commerce is critical to the region's manufacturers and farmers and supports more than 147,000 jobs in the United States, generating \$20 billion in business revenue.

## NAVIGATION SYSTEM ADVOCACY

Every port, dock and marine terminal is part of the larger navigation system. The future of that system cannot be taken for granted. Our industry confronts a host of ongoing challenges that require organized advocacy. For example, aging navigation infrastructure requires rehabilitation and modernization. Navigation channels are choked with silt due to inadequate maintenance dredging. Inconsistent ballast water regulations threaten ship operations. Anti-navigation activists have lobbied for closure of both the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Chicago Area Waterway System. These problems highlight the importance of maintaining an organized voice for the port community.



## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Unique among Great Lakes maritime organizations, the American Great Lakes Ports Association maintains an office, staff, and permanent presence in Washington, DC, with the specific goal of maintaining a close liaison with Members of Congress and federal agencies. Through these liaison activities, AGLPA educates legislators and agency personnel on a host of issues that impact the viability of Great Lakes maritime commerce. These include infrastructure investment; environmental regulations; tax policy; and federal grant opportunities.

- **Lobbying Congress and Federal Agencies**

The association actively lobbies Congress on specific legislation such as authorization and appropriation bills for the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and other key agencies.

- **Working with Coalitions**

Of critical importance is the association's coalition work. Partnering with allies in both industry and labor, the association helps to demonstrate broad political support for pro-maritime policies.

- **Public Education**

The association serves as a spokesman for the port community. Through public speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the Great Lakes region, testifying before Congress and state legislative committees, and interviews with the news media, the association works to advance its pro-maritime agenda.







## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Working with like-minded organizations, the association has undertaken a number of special projects to address navigation system needs. These projects include:

- **Great Lakes Seaway Partnership:**

In an effort to improve public understanding of the maritime industry and the importance of Great Lakes navigation to the region's economy, the association has partnered with other marine industry organizations to establish and manage the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership public affairs program. The Partnership works to convey timely, factual information to the news media, policy makers and the public regarding the economic and environmental benefits of shipping.

- **Economic Impact Study:**

During 2017-18, the association led a bi-national effort to develop a comprehensive economic impact analysis for the entire Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system. Supported by both private and public sector partners, the study demonstrates that more than 237,000 U.S. and Canadian jobs are dependent on Great Lakes shipping.

- **Great Lakes Governors' Maritime Initiative**

Launched in 2016, the association worked closely with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers and helped craft the "Strategy for the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Maritime Transportation System." The strategy is the outcome of three years of work to identify consensus actions that are needed by both government and industry to strengthen the maritime transportation system, grow trade, shrink the industry's environmental footprint and serve the regional economy.



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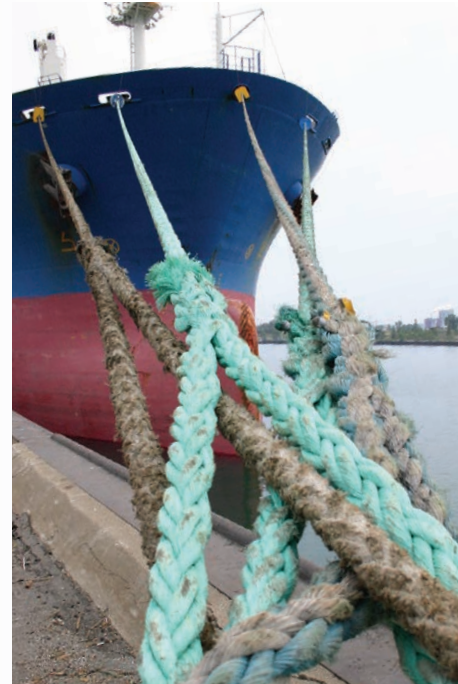
The association provides two membership levels.

- **Corporate Members (voting)**

Corporate membership is available to public port agencies. Such agencies are typically a division of state, county or municipal government, or an independent public agency created by state statute.

- **Associate Members (non-voting)**

Associate membership is open to those organizations, companies and individuals who support the continued viability of maritime commerce in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence region. Such organizations would include port authority tenants, private dock operators, shipyards, vessel operators, cargo shippers, labor organizations, equipment suppliers, marine engineering firms, local, state and federal government agencies, and all other entities that support the organization's mission.



## BENEFITS

The association's primary benefit is to serve as your voice in support of the navigation system's best interests. Additional benefits to your organization include opportunities to:

- network with other Great Lakes port and terminal operators, exchange best practices and discuss common challenges
- receive member updates and briefings on important issues, regulations and legislation
- meet with key regulators and policy makers
- join with other ports to provide input on government actions before they negatively impact you
- be part of our forum to discuss the future of the navigation system



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#### **CONTACT US**

To learn more about the American Great Lakes Ports Association, we invite you to visit our website at [www.greatlakesports.org](http://www.greatlakesports.org), or contact our staff directly:

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