



# Inland Seas Education Association Executive Director's Newsletter

October/November 2022

## On the Horizon

**“The future depends on what we do in the present.”**

~ Mahatma Gandhi

When I turned 50, a friend of mine gave me a butterfly tile and shared a poem about the emergence of the butterfly. Of course, while I cannot retrieve the poem, the message my friend was communicating through the poem was that, much like the caterpillar

you change throughout your life. The caterpillar can't imagine who it is going to become, but it can be fairly certain that it is going to like the transformation.

Much like the caterpillar, ISEA has been preparing for a beautiful transformation. However, unlike the butterfly, we have a good idea about the type of organization we are going to emerge as. The fact is, we have been focused for years on expanding our program reach, staff, partnerships, and funding to support the transformation we envision on our horizon.

As you review the accomplishments of this year, know that they are the result of the hard work of our amazing volunteers, staff, and funding partners. These accomplishments are part of a plan and the successes we are enjoying are sure signs that it is indeed time for ISEA to grow. Not only will we all like this transformation, but it will make us stronger and will surely help to protect our Great Lakes for generations to come.

~ Fred Sitkins, Executive Director



Young Women in STEM Program



ROV Engineer and Explore Program



## ISEA Online Store Open Through October 25th

Check out our fall online store and order some cold weather gear before the winter sets in. Items include t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats that make great gifts! Our newest t-shirt design features a plankton illustration by former Captain Remy Champt. The store is open now through October 25th and items will be delivered in early December.

Shop the ISEA store at: [schoolship.org /isea-online-store](https://schoolship.org/isea-online-store)

The ISEA Executive Director's Newsletter is published monthly in digital format December-September and delivered through email (sign up at [schoolship.org](https://schoolship.org)). This printed mailing is published each fall to update a broader ISEA audience.

## Growing Our Staff

As we look forward, Inland Seas will need to expand its staff to keep up with the growing demand for our programs. With this in mind, we brought on three new staff members this year. Kate Jarvi, our Office Manager, oversees daily office activities including interacting with staff, volunteers, and the public as well as maintaining our internal systems and processes. Kari Seres is our Deckhand Educator, responsible for both instructing and working the ship as a crew member. Kari started as a summer intern in 2022 and transitioned into a full-time seasonal position to ensure that all students receive an amazing experience aboard the Schooner *Inland Seas*.

The most recent addition to the Inland Seas staff is Marketing and Communications Coordinator Harrison Fischer. Harrison is the first full-time marketing staff member Inland Seas has ever had and we are excited to see how he can help us deepen our impact by connecting more people to our mission. Please welcome these amazing people to our staff by saying hello the next time you see them on the boat or in Suttons Bay.



Kate Jarvi



Kari Seres



Harrison Fischer

## Donor Dinner 2022

This year's Donor Celebration Dinner was held on September 27th. The less-than-ideal weather didn't stop our supporters from coming and enjoying an intimate evening in the barn at Noverr Farms. We hosted over 80 attendees including four of the nine new members to our Schooner Society (a lifetime giving of \$25,000 or more). Along with a fabulous meal, guests heard from Fred Sitkins about Inland Seas' growth and exciting opportunities on the horizon for ISEA. Guests also heard from Bruce Ross, Director of the Green Door Initiative, on the impact of the programs on the Detroit River and meaningful ways in which we are all inspiring Great Lakes curiosity, stewardship, and passion across the state. If you would like to further our mission with youth and the Great Lakes, visit our website at [schoolship.org/donate](http://schoolship.org/donate) or call (231) 271-3077.

## ISEA Finances

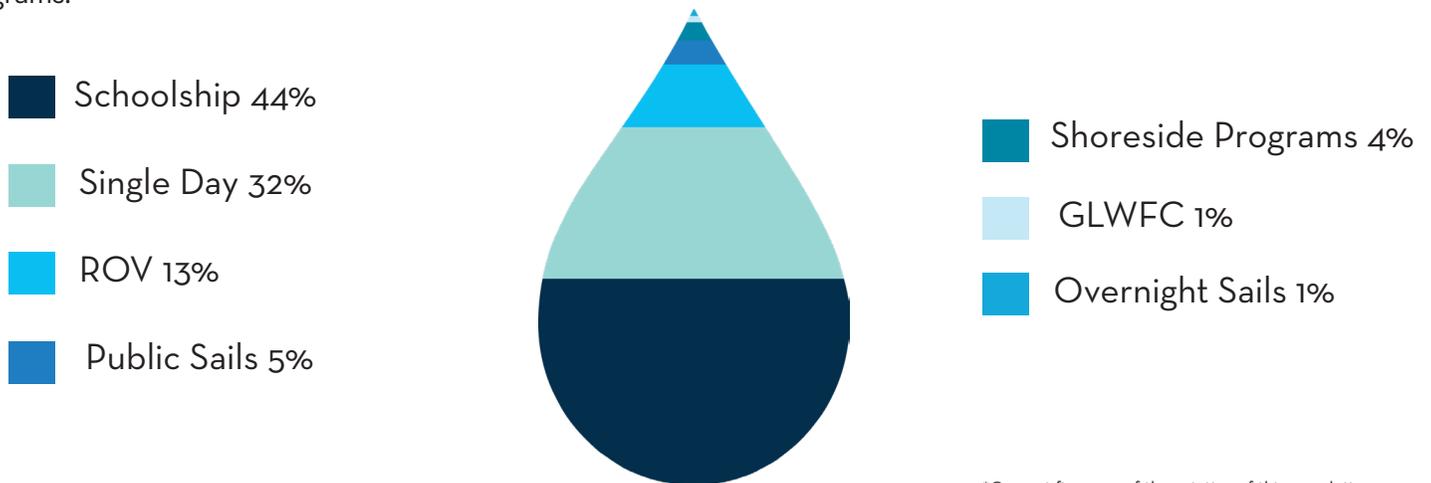
Inland Seas has never been in a stronger position for growth than it is right now. Over the past seven years, even through the pandemic, ISEA has increased its revenue by 143% while expenses increased by only 40%. In that same period of time, assets have grown by 153% while liabilities decreased by 84%, putting us on a firm footing that will help to launch us into the next generation of Great Lakes education.



## 2022 by The Numbers

Prior to the 2022 season, Inland Seas had seen significant recent growth in participation. It took 13 years from our founding to reach our first 50,000 participants and another 12 years to reach our next 50,000. From that point on it has taken only seven years to reach our next milestone of 150,000 total participants, a time period that includes limited participation due to the pandemic. The demand for our programs has never been higher and the desire to protect our Great Lakes is forefront in people's minds like never before.

During 2022 we welcomed 6,677\* participants to our campus and on board our ships to start their journey towards Great Lakes stewardship. From this group, 2,994\* participated in either a spring or fall Schoolship program. Another 896 participated in our ROV Engineer and Explore Program. Inland Seas has been piloting shoreside programs that connect our actions on land to the Great Lakes. There were 286 participants in these pilot programs in 2022. During our single-day charter programs, we had a grand total of 2,143 people aboard the schooner *Inland Seas*. Throughout the sailing season, 302 people joined us to enjoy the beauty of Grand Traverse Bay on our public sails. In August we welcomed a cohort of 25 teachers to participate in our Great Lakes Watershed Field Course (GLWFC). This course puts watershed education into action with practical teaching methods through a multi-day program. Lastly, 31 individuals participated in overnight sailing programs.



\*Current figure as of the printing of this newsletter.

## Schoolship Blog

Have you read the latest ISEA Schoolship Blog ([schoolship.org/schoolship-blog](https://schoolship.org/schoolship-blog))? Staff, interns, volunteers, donors, and guest bloggers share their experiences and insights around the Great Lakes. Whether it's science, sailing, or stewardship, you'll learn more about our work and the people who further our mission.





# Inland Seas

EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

100 Dame Street #218

Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Inspiring Great Lakes Curiosity, Stewardship, and Passion

## Inland Seas Education Association Executive Director's Newsletter

### What's Inside: On The Horizon

- Letter from the Executive Director
- ISEA Online Store is Now Open
- 2022 by the Numbers
- Growing Our Staff
- Donor Dinner Recap



### Ways to connect with us:



231.271.3077



isea@schoolship.org



www.schoolship.org



facebook.com/  
iseaschoolship

Subscribe to our monthly digital newsletter at [schoolship.org](http://schoolship.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the Subscribe button.