



International Shipmasters' Association
Detroit Lodge No. 7
Chartered April 2, 1891

December 4, 2003

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

The 2004 annual dues notice and the new 2003 membership roster of Detroit Lodge No. 7 are enclosed. Dues should be paid by January 1, 2004. Be sure to return the remittance portion of your dues notice (the bottom half) so that payment and roster information can be properly recorded and verified. Please review your entry in the lodge roster to check for any errors. There is space provided on the dues notice to list any corrections required. Those with e-mail addresses should double-check that entry on the roster as a single incorrect digit will invalidate the address. We had to drop some e-mail addresses because they did not work. I would like to thank Bill Graham for continuing to maintain the data base for the roster in his computer.

There will be a significant adjustment in the lodge's use of DeRoy Hall at Dossin Museum for lodge meetings. For those who may not have heard, Dossin Museum has been severely affected by budget cuts. The museum is now open only on weekends (Saturday & Sunday) and all staff positions at the museum were eliminated, including the position of marine curator. John Polacsek is now Curator of industrial Collections and is working out of Fort Wayne, the old military post in southwest Detroit. He is, however, still responsible for looking after the Dossin Museum on weekends. In any case, due to staff shortages and overtime concerns, the museum cannot be opened on Mondays or Tuesdays. After much discussion between the lodge, John Polacsek and the Main Historical Museum, a compromise of sorts has been arranged.

The lodge has been granted permission to hold lodge meetings at the museum twice a month on Fridays, when a department staff member will be available to open the building for the lodge's use. We will have access to the museum from approximately 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. To make the best use of these new hours, the lodge's business meeting will precede the luncheon, and the lodge will leave Dossin after the luncheon. Obviously, the lodge will have to become accustomed to this new setup, but I am sure we can adjust. Also, once in a while, a tour group (usually a school group) may be in the museum at the same time as a lodge meeting. If such is the case, the lodge will be expected to provide a member to help explain the equipment in the William Clay Ford Pilot House. I am sure we will find willing volunteers from the membership to help out during these tours, if they come to pass. Special thanks are extended to John Polacsek for all the extra effort he gave in helping to work out a suitable arrangement for the lodge's continued use of DeRoy Hall. He did a fine job presenting the lodge's case.

The lodge schedule for 2003-2004 is included in this mailing. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 12. All of the lodge's business meetings will be held at Dossin Museum, except for the last meeting in April which will be held at Mariners' Church.

Ron and Mary Ann Ingram have graciously volunteered to sponsor the lodge's annual holiday cocktail party. This year's gathering will be held on Saturday, December 13 at the Ingram's residence in Livonia. A special invitation with additional details and a map is enclosed.

Tom Baumgarten, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, is gearing up for the upcoming lodge election ballot. He would appreciate input from the lodge regarding candidates for Second Vice

President, three Board of Governors positions, Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Nominations will be made at the December 19 membership meeting. Call Tom at 810-748-3841 if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

The annual Fitzgerald Memorial Service was held at Mariners' Church on Sunday, November 9, 2003 with numerous lodge members in attendance. The uniformed honor guard included lodge members Don Erickson, Patrick Owens, Art Herrala, Mel Riecher, Ron Ingram, Ted Cogswell and Tom Jannausch, as well as several members from other lodges, including Roger Hewlett (#2), Wade Streeter (#2), Fred Leete (#3), Harry Anderson (#4) and John Tanner (#23). Members of the lodge's Auxiliary (Barbara Baldwin, Jean Weber, Cathy Baumgarten, Anita Frost, Pat Rosso, Mary Ann Ingram and Kathy McGraw) served as hostesses for the social hour that followed the service.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of member Chuck Meldrum (Pennant No. 11270), who died suddenly on Friday, November 21, 2003, apparently from a severe heart attack. Chuck was 67 years old and is survived by his wife Carolyn. Sincere condolences have been extended to the family. Lodge member Luke Clyburn was one of the eulogists at Chuck's funeral and he was kind enough to allow the lodge to reprint his remarks about Chuck's life and Chuck's influence on young people who participate in the Sea Cadet Program.

Fraternally yours,

Paul M. Jagenow
Secretary-Treasurer