

February 26, 2006

TO: MEMBERS OF DETROIT LODGE NO. 7

This mailing contains a revised lodge schedule for the remaining meetings of the winter schedule. There have been several changes in dates and times. Please dispose of the old schedule that was mailed out in December as it is now obsolete. I need to go into some detail to explain the need to issue a revised schedule.

For approximately 40 years, the lodge has used the DeRoy Hall in Dossin Museum for our lodge luncheons and membership meetings. The lodge began meeting at Dossin Museum in the mid-1960's by arrangement with then-Curator Robert E. Lee. That arrangement was continued by present-Curator John Polacsek. Unfortunately, the dire financial situation in the City of Detroit has forced the city to reduce expenditures by eliminating the Detroit Historical Department and its 9 remaining employees. Operation of the buildings, including Dossin Museum, will be turned over to the Detroit Historical Society. As a result of all this, **John Polacsek has retired as Curator of Dossin Museum after 25 years of service.** He began his earlier than expected retirement on February 17, and I am sure the lodge wishes him good fortune in his future endeavors. As Secretary-Treasurer of the lodge, **I want to take this opportunity to thank John for his support of the lodge over the years,** especially during the last 3 or 4 years when the city's worsening financial woes led to reduced hours and staffing at Dossin Museum. John often rearranged his own personal schedule so that he could open the museum for the lodge's use. He was very effective in pleading our case with the Detroit Historical Department and I will always be grateful for that assistance.

Sadly, with John's retirement, we no longer have an advocate at Dossin Museum. The lodge has contacted the Detroit Historical Society, which will be operating the museum in the future. The Society has indicated that it does not have sufficient staff to open the building on any day during the week to accommodate the lodge as in years past. Thus, **the lodge will have to find a new home.** Obviously, Dossin Museum was an ideal meeting site for the lodge, and will be sorely missed. I'm sure everyone in the lodge will have many fond memories of our meetings and programs held in DeRoy Hall over the last 40 years. It is the only home most members of the lodge have ever known, and in many ways will be the end of an era for the lodge.

Discussion as to a future meeting site has dominated the last two lodge meetings. Several intriguing alternatives and possibilities for next year have been suggested. In the mean time, **Mariners' Church and J.W. Westcott Company have stepped forward on behalf of the lodge.** I want to thank Rev. Richard Ingalls, Jr. of Mariners' Church and Jim Hogan of J.W. Westcott Co. for offering use of their facilities so that the lodge can complete its winter meeting schedule. We have four meetings remaining on the lodge's winter schedule. Two will be held at Mariners' Church and two will be held at J.W. Westcott Co. Refer to the revised schedule for dates and times.

Parking for the upcoming lodge meetings is as follows. For the Westcott lodge meetings, there is free parking in the parking lot behind the Westcott building. However, for the

Mariners' Church lodge meetings, parking passes from the church cannot be used on weekdays in the Underground Garage next to Mariners' Church. Parking for two hours or so will cost about \$8 to \$10. Members might consider carpooling. As an alternative to paid parking, I understand that you can park for free in the Greektown Casino parking lot so long as you get your parking ticket stamped at the Casino's Guest Relations desk. Dropping money into a slot machine is strictly a personal option and is not required. The People Mover can be used to ride over to Mariners' Church, or you can enjoy a refreshing walk of several blocks to the church.

This mailing includes the convention delegate's report to the lodge. Lodge President Luke Clyburn did an excellent job representing Detroit Lodge No. 7 at this year's ISMA Convention held in Chicago and his report explains what took place at the convention.

On February 12, Rev. Richard Ingalls, Jr. was installed as Rector of Mariners' Church, succeeding his father Rt. Rev. Richard Ingalls. Bishop Ingalls, who has retired after 41 years of service as Rector, will continue as Rector Emeritus and Bishop-in-Residence. Several lodge members and their wives were in attendance to witness the impressive installation ceremonies. Congratulations to both Rev. Ingalls, Jr. on his installation and to Bishop Ingalls on his well-earned retirement.

On February 25 the lodge held its 115th annual dinner dance in Mac and Rays Commodore Ballroom. Luke Clyburn and his dance committee are to be congratulated for a job well done. Everyone had a great time and it was a pleasure to have members of Port Huron Lodge No. 2, Cleveland Lodge No. 4 and Toledo Lodge No. 9 in attendance as well. Port Huron Lodge No. 2 has issued an invitation to the lodge to attend its upcoming dinner dance at the Thomas Edison Inn on Saturday, March 4. See the revised lodge schedule for details.

The annual **Blessing of the Fleet** will be held at Mariners' Church on Sunday, March 12. Members of the lodge who plan to be in the uniformed honor guard should contact Mariners' Church so that the names of those participating can be listed in the church bulletin.

Cleveland Lodge No. 4 is sponsoring a boat trip raffle to raise funds for the ISMA Convention, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio in February, 2007. I have enclosed one of the raffle tickets in the hope that lodge members will support this fund-raising effort. Purchase of the ticket is strictly voluntary and you are under no obligation to buy one. But if you do, please mail the ticket stub and payment to: Detroit Lodge No. 7, 18258 Mayfield St., Livonia, MI 48152. Make checks payable to Detroit Lodge No. 7. **Cleveland Lodge No. 4 is offering a special deal to attendees of the 2007 ISMA Convention.** Sell 20 tickets and you will receive a free registration. I have plenty of tickets on hand if anyone wants to take advantage of this special bonus offer. If sufficient individual tickets are returned to Detroit Lodge No. 7, they will be gathered and used for our convention delegate, thus saving the lodge some convention expense.

I recently visited Bob Kerr in the Special Tree Rehabilitation Center in Romulus. He continues to recover from severe injuries incurred last July, undergoing daily therapy to rebuild strength in his legs. He is in excellent spirits, and we had a good time talking and joking. His recovery is such that he is allowed to go home on weekends, something he very much looks forward to.

Fraternally yours,

Paul M. Jagenow
Secretary-Treasurer