

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

May 14, 1997

The minutes of the recent St. Clair & Detroit Rivers Operations Group meeting of March 20, 1997 are enclosed. Capt. Pat Owens attended this meeting on behalf of Detroit Lodge No. 7 and any questions or comments should be directed to him.

Member Ken Gerasimos recently mailed the lodge a copy of an article from the Journal of Commerce of April 4, 1997. The article by David Helberg of Duluth pertains to the issue of user fees for U.S.C.G. ice breaking services. The Detroit News of April 29, 1997 had a article about proposed legislation to ban the photographing of human remains at shipwreck sites. The lodge has taken the official position of supporting this proposed legislation.

Member Jim Nuzzo, Captain of the S/S Lee A. Tregurtha, appeared in the Sault Ste. Marie Evening News of March 25, 1997 when his vessel was the first vessel of the season at the Soo Locks. Coincidentally, his vessel was also the first vessel serviced by the Westcott mailboat which commenced its season on April 9. Member Charlemagne (Chuck) Wilson was mentioned in an article about job opportunities with the Detroit Fireboat Curtis Randolph that appeared in the Detroit News of April 20, 1997.

The lodge lost two members in February. Mentioned in an earlier lodge letter was the death of member Bill Luke on February 13. The Detroit Marine Historian published a tribute in Bill's memory in its March, 1997 issue. The lodge has also received word that member Rod Beaton, retired Windsor Harbour Master, passed away on February 14, 1997. Rod joined the lodge on January 10, 1978 and his pennant number was A-1549. Rod was instrumental in advising the lodge on waterfront developments in Windsor, especially in the last couple of years regarding that proposed Windsor marina project which threatened to encroach on the Detroit River shipping channel. That proposed Windsor marina project is now on the distant back burner in some part due to Rod's very public opposition, based on his knowledge of riverfront safety and Great Lakes shipping. Rod's obituary appeared in the Windsor Star of February 15, 1997.

The following lodge members served as cooks at lodge meetings this past winter: Ron Ingram, John Nye, Bob Green, Scott Suomela, Elmer Dunn, Don Erickson, Oscar Rosso, John Sarns, Alan Flood, Sam Tundo, Ron Nelson, Pat ŠOwens, Bernie Ogden, Jim Hogan, Kathy McGraw and Gus Balanda. I always like to recognize and thank our cooks because their efforts play an important role in making our weekly luncheons a special bonus to being a member of the Detroit Lodge No. 7. Meetings were very well attended this past year, with speakers from the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, U.S. Coast Guard and the Str. Columbia Foundation helping to increase attendance. I would like to thank lodge President Sam Buchanan for the special efforts he made to schedule the program with the Str. Columbia Foundation. That particular program presented by Bill Worden attracted 43 lodge members, the largest attendance at a lodge meeting in recent memory.

Cleveland Lodge No. 4 is conducting a fund raising raffle in hopes of sponsoring a convention in Cleveland in the year 2000. The raffle includes a boat trip aboard the S/S K.E. Barker. The lodge was sent a limited number of raffle tickets. If anyone is interested in buying a raffle ticket, please see the enclosed flyer.

Fraternally yours,

Paul M. Jagenow
Secretary-Treasurer