

DETROIT LODGE NO. 7
INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

November 23, 2001

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

The 2002 annual dues notice is enclosed. Dues should be paid by January 1, 2002. 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 checking for any errors. There is space provided on the dues notice to mention any corrections required. Please remember that e-mail addresses can now be listed on the lodge roster if desired. Those with e-mail addresses should double-check that entry on the roster, as some e-mail addresses had to be deleted from this year's roster because they did not work. I would like to thank Bill Graham for continuing to maintain the database for the roster in his computer. His help, as always, is much appreciated.

The lodge meeting schedule for 2001-2002 is included in this mailing. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 3. All of the lodge's business meetings will be held at Dossin Museum on Belle Isle, except for the last meeting in April, which will be held at Mariners' Church.

The minutes of the Detroit / St. Clair River Operations Working Group meeting held on October 15, 2001 are enclosed. As usual, Pat Owens, who is chairman of the lodge's Navigation Committee, attended the meeting as the lodge's representative. If anyone has any questions about any of the agenda items discussed, please contact Captain Owens at 810-364-8374.

Carolyn Hoey is continuing the tradition of sponsoring the lodge's annual holiday cocktail party. This year's party will be held on Saturday, December 22 at Carolyn's residence on Grosse Ile. 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 Convention Delegate. Nominations will be made at the December 17 membership meeting. Call Tom at 810-748-3841 if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

Deepest condolences are extended to lodge member Bill Graham, whose wife Jeanie passed away on November 3 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Jeanie was active in the lodge's Auxiliary, serving on numerous committees and also as Auxiliary President. Jeanie for many years hosted Blessing of the Fleet brunches at their home on Harbor Island, and was much involved with community affairs in their neighborhood. Obituary stories appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* of November 6, and the *Detroit News* of November 7. Copies are enclosed. Personal condolences may be sent to the Graham family at 14441 Harbor Island Drive; Detroit, MI 48215.

Tragedy Struck the J. W. Westcott Company on October 23, 2001 when the *J. W. Westcott II* mailboat sank while attempting to make a pilot change on the Detroit River. The crew of the mailboat, deckhand Dave Lewis & lodge member Capt. Catherine Nasiatka, did not survive the sinking. Most of the Westcott staff (Jim Hogan, Len Tanner, Charlie Wundrach, Don Carns, Sam Buchanan, Dick Boyle, Mary Taylor, Ken Crowley, Dave Tozer and of course myself) are lodge members, and this disastrous event has deeply affected us all. We have received numerous calls from many other lodge members

who have either worked on the mailboat in the past, or have caught a vessel via the mailboat at one time or another over the years, and like us cannot believe that such a thing could happen. In any case, it has been a very difficult time for us and the thoughts and prayers sent our way have been very much appreciated.

Memorial services have now been held for both Cathy and Dave, and the newspaper reports are enclosed. The memorial services were especially well-attended, reflecting the impact that Cathy and Dave had on the lives of the many people they came in contact with. Many lodge members came to Cathy's memorial in uniform, which pleased the Nasiatka family and the Westcott staff very much. Also, Father Russ Kohler, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Church and director of the Apostleship of the Sea for the Port of Detroit, has had Cathy's name and the mailboat's name inscribed on the memorial obelisk in front of the church. Cathy had joined the lodge just last December and was issued pennant number 11910. Besides working on the mailboat, she also worked for the Diamond Jack Cruise Boats and on the yacht *Infinity* and was working to upgrade her marine license. Her upbeat and cheerful personality will be sorely missed.

Dave started at the mailboat just last season, and had fallen in love with his job. Prior to working at the mailboat, Dave was very active in the music business as a sound engineer, and he still worked in clubs around town. One of his friends composed a very moving ballad, which was sung at his memorial service. Dave, with his pony-tail, beret, considerate and caring attitude and even his cooking skills (he often cooked meals for sailors waiting for ships at the mailboat) will be deeply missed by all of us at the mailboat and others who met him getting on and off ships at the mailboat.

One last word. Obviously, I have been very preoccupied with the events of the last month. I would like to especially thank and recognize the efforts of John Sarns, Ken Gerasimos, and Tom Allor, who pitched in to help contact lodge members via telephone and e-mail advising the lodge membership of events as they unfolded and the scheduling of the memorial services. I would have been at a loss without their help.

Fraternally,

Paul M. Jagenow

Secretary-Treasurer