



INTERNATIONAL SHIP MASTERS' ASSOCIATION

DETROIT LODGE NO. 7

www.DetroitLodge7.org

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

October 28, 2024

The 2025 annual dues notice and the new 2024 membership roster of Detroit Lodge No. 7 is enclosed. Dues should be paid by January 1, 2025. Be sure to return the remittance portion of your dues notice (the bottom half) so that the payment and roster information can be properly recorded and verified. Dues can also be paid on the lodge website. 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.

The lodge meeting schedule for 2024-2025 is included in this mailing. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3.

Pat Beard, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, is gearing up for the upcoming lodge election ballot. He would appreciate input from the lodge regarding candidates for First Vice President, Second Vice President, three Board of Governors positions, Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Nominations will be made at the December 17 membership meeting. Call Pat at 313-884-7488 if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

This past June, the J.W. Westcott Company celebrated 150 years in operation. In a celebration spanning 3 days, company president Jim Hogan hosted an open house, bringing together many former employees, lodge members, and dignitaries. A few days ago, we posted pictures of the celebration on our lodge website (<http://www.detroitlodge7.org/PhotoGallery.html>).

Congratulations to Jim Hogan and the entire Westcott crew on reaching this milestone.

I am sorry to report the problems with our Grand Lodge newsletter persist. Unfortunately, despite at least 2 false start-ups, there has not been a newsletter since long-time editor Christine Tielke retired in December of 2022. If anyone is interested in assuming the role of newsletter editor, please contact 1st Grand Vice President Pat Hart at captpat@charter.net. In the meantime, be sure to check our lodge news page (<http://www.detroitlodge7.org/Newsletters.html>) for the latest news and information.

On September 10, 2024, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 4723, creating a special license plate for current and former members of the U.S. Merchant Marine. The bill and new license plate are a result of the persistent efforts of lodge member Scott Skrzypczak, who also serves as chairman of the Grand Lodge Navigation, Engineering, and Legislative Committee (NELC). Over the past two years, Capt. Skrzypczak devoted many hours toward this effort and his work finally paid off.

Congratulations to our past-president Jeff Haeseker, who recently obtained his original masters license and has been working this summer as 1st mate on the yacht *Ovation*. Capt. Haeseker has also recently accepted the position of Regional Director for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Another past lodge president, Neil Schultheiss, was in the news recently, having rescued a man from the Detroit River on September 23, 2024. The complete story and video clip has been posted on the news page of our lodge website.

Finally, as I assume the role of Secretary-Treasurer, I would like to acknowledge outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Ray Oset for his dedication to the lodge for the past eight years. His continued guidance has been invaluable and is most appreciated.

Fraternally yours,

John Sarns
Secretary-Treasurer