



International Shipmasters' Association Detroit Lodge No. 7

Chartered April 2, 1891

December 2, 2004

To: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

Enclosed is the schedule for winter meetings and events. The Detroit Historical Commission has granted the lodge permission to use DeRoy Hall at the Dossin Great Museum for our winter meetings and luncheons. The format will be the same as last year. There will be two meetings a month, usually every other week, December thru March. The membership meeting will begin at 11:00 am with the luncheon to follow at noon. As usual the final meeting in the spring will be held at Mariners' Church. I would like to thank John Polacsek of Dossin Museum for guiding our meeting request through channels within the City of Detroit. His assistance is always a great help to the lodge. I would also like to thank Rt. Rev. Richard Ingalls for allowing the lodge to continue the tradition of holding our last winter meeting of the season at Mariners' Church.

There is a possibility of tour groups visiting Dossin Museum when the lodge is at the museum. If that ever occurs, the Detroit Historical Commission has requested that a lodge member assist the museum staff in explaining the equipment in the 'William Clay Ford Pilot House'. The Commission feels that the presence of a lodge member would greatly enhance the experience of visitors to the pilot house. This occurred only once last year, and I thank Nick Gorno, who sails for American Steamship, for representing the lodge that day in the pilot house. The museum staff was very pleased with the positive reaction of the school group from Livonia as Nick talked about the pilot house and sailing on the Great Lakes

This mailing usually contains the annual dues notice and lodge roster, but there will be a short delay in mailing them out this year. Bill Graham has maintained the lodge roster in his computer for many years, and unfortunately his computer was recently stolen. As a result, the whole roster had to be reconstructed. The task of retyping and proofreading the data in the roster (addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.) has been a daunting one, but the job should be finished shortly. Since I use the annual dues notice as a means of verifying roster data, I have decided to hold off sending out the dues notice until the roster is finished. I will probably send out the dues notice and the finished roster with the mail ballot later this month.

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 membership meeting of December 17. Call Tom at 810-748-3841 if you have any recommendations or suggestions that the committee should- consider.

The lodge's summer picnic held this past August at the residence of Arlene and Dick Earl on Harsens Island was a great success, despite the inconvenient rain showers. Special thanks are extended

to the Earls for inviting the lodge to their home on the St. Clair River and for their fine hospitality.

As many of you probably already know, two senior lodge members died this fall. Gus Balanda passed away on September 18 after a long battle with cancer, and Jack Love died on October 30 due to congestive heart failure. Both had been members of the lodge for over 25 years. [An obituary about Capt. Balanda appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* of September 21, 2004.](#) Capt. Donald Willecke, President of Western Great Lakes Pilots Association, gave the eulogy at Gus's funeral service and he was kind enough to make a copy available to the lodge. A copy of both the eulogy and obituary are enclosed. [An obituary about Capt. Love appeared in the *Detroit News* of November 1, 2004.](#) The bulletin prepared by Mariners' Church for Jack's memorial service contained a similar obituary. Copies of both are enclosed.

The annual Fitzgerald Memorial Service was held at Mariners' Church on Sunday, November 7 with numerous Shipmaster members in attendance. The uniformed honor guard included several members of Detroit Lodge No.7 (Tom Allor, Ted Cogswell, Don Erickson, Art Herrala, Ron Ingram, Tom Jannausch, Bob Kerr, Kathy McGraw, Jim O'Hara, Pat Owens and Mel Reicher). Several other lodges were represented as well (Jerry Knox and Wade Streeter of Port Huron Lodge No.2, Fred Leete of Chicago Lodge No.3, Mike Capser of Toledo Lodge No.9 and John Tanner of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23). Members of the lodge's Auxiliary (Barb Baldwin, Jean Weber, Cathy Baumgarten, Helen Kerr, Pat Rosso and Kathy McGraw) served as hostesses for the social hour that followed the service. In recognizing these participants, I hope that I didn't miss anyone.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and fall, and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming lodge events.

Fraternally,

Paul M. Jagenow
Secretary - Treasurer