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* PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER *
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PROCTOR MEMBERSHIP

There have been significant changes with respect to the procedures and requirements for advancement to Proctor membership. At the meeting of the Executive Committee in New York on May 2, 1991 the requirements then in place were reviewed. The principal obstacle to advancement had proven to be the submission by the applicant of evidence of earning a total of twenty (20) credit points in continuing legal education. Many Associate Lawyer members were unable to provide the necessary documents to substantiate their attendance at seminars and conferences over a period of at least four years. To resolve this problem, the Executive Committee approved a change so that the CLE credits are only one of several factors to be considered for promotion to Proctor in Admiralty. The others include publication of articles or lectures on maritime law, active participation in the work of the MLA through its committees, or significant involvement in admiralty litigation or arbitration. Some or all of these areas of activity, not exclusively continuing legal education, will in the future be taken into consideration in evaluating the sufficiency of the experience and training of the applicant. New application forms are available from the Membership Secretary and I urge all of you who are eligible for advancement to Proctor to submit your applications without delay.

COMMITTEE CHANGE

Prior to 1981 there were only two classes of membership: Active and Associate (see MLA Doc. 634 pp. 266-7). The category of Proctor Member was established at the Fall Meeting of our Association in 1981 (MLA Doc. 638 pp. 7375-7380). During

discussions with the Officers and others concerning the requirements for Proctor membership, it became clear that the Membership Committee should direct its full attention to applications for advancement to Proctor. Accordingly, the name of the Committee has been changed to Committee on Proctor Admissions. All applications will continue to be made to the Membership Secretary but with respect to Proctors, the Membership Secretary will simply forward these applications to the Chairman of that Committee which will have the responsibility for reviewing all factors presented in support of advancement. The Membership Secretary will be responsible for processing all Associate Lawyer applications and this will enable such applications to be acted upon by the Executive Committee at any of their four meetings every year instead of just prior to the May and November meetings as previously. Thus, at the meeting of the Executive Committee held in Portland, Oregon on September 6, 1991, the By-Laws were amended by deleting the last sentence of Section 101 which required applications to be submitted before April 1 or October 1.

OTHER BY-LAW CHANGES

At the May 2, 1991 meeting of the Executive Committee two changes were made which emphasize the importance of advancement to Proctor. Section 202 was amended so as to provide that only a Proctor member shall be eligible for election as an Officer of the Association. And Section 302 was amended so as to provide that only a Proctor member or a Non-Lawyer member shall be eligible to serve on the Executive Committee or as a Committee Chairman or Vice Chairman. Accordingly, for those of you who are interested in assuming a leadership role in our Association (and I hope there are many) all the more reason to take the steps for advancement to Proctor membership.

PROCTOR CERTIFICATES

The Membership Secretary has available very handsome Certificates, suitable for framing, attesting to Proctor membership in our Association. These are available to those eligible for \$20, which covers the cost of inserting the name (in scroll penmanship) plus packaging and postage. There is no charge for the printing of the certificate itself; the Association has already paid those charges. This is therefore a real bargain for a document which will go well on your office wall. Communicate with Ted Cunningham if you would like a certificate prepared in your name.

ABA MEETING IN ATLANTA

As your President I was privileged to address the Admiralty and Maritime Division of the Section of Litigation at the ABA meeting held in Atlanta last August. The subject of my talk was the long and close relationship between the ABA and the MLA. Since 1953 our Association has been accorded the status of affiliated organization (MLA Doc. 382 p.3771) and as such we are entitled to a voice in the House of Delegates which meets twice a year and is the policy-making body of the ABA. Our current representative is Warren J. Marwedel of Chicago, Chairman of our ABA Relations Committee. We have worked closely with the ABA on many occasions and a primary example is in connection with the 1988 amendment to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. This was accomplished through the work of two Ad Hoc Committees, one from the ABA and one from our Association under the leadership of William R. Dorsey of Baltimore (See MLA Doc. 657 pp. 8169-72). Most of our members are also members of the ABA and all the Committees in the ABA which are involved in admiralty are, of course, filled with members from our Association. It is important that we continue this close cooperation and coordination, and, above all, to retain our seat in the House of Delegates. To do this, at least 50% of our members must also be ABA members (See MLA Doc. 420 p. 4283). And so I encourage all who are not already members of the ABA to join that organization.

1991 - 1992 DIRECTORY

The new Directory has now been distributed and you will notice some changes. First of all, it is not as bulky. This is in part due to the double columns listing committee members. Also, there is no longer any listing of subcommittee members which in the past has resulted in duplication in many instances. Lastly, we hope that the new indexing will facilitate the use of the Directory. With such a large membership it is, of course, impossible to produce a document which will remain accurate for a full year. There are always changes in membership, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. To ensure that such changes are incorporated in the mailing list and in the next Directory, it is essential that we receive the necessary information from the members promptly. To facilitate this, you will find in the front of the Directory a change of address card. Please use this card if you find any errors in the Directory or if any changes are to be made.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will also find a card giving information concerning new U.S. postal regulations on mailing addresses. These regulations do not enter into effect until 1995 but it is not too soon for us to start correcting our

database so that we will be ready when the time comes. The most significant change is that all addresses must be by street name and number or by post office box number. Please complete and return the enclosed card to ensure that you will continue to receive our mail.

ANNUAL MEETING 1992

There will be a change of venue for the annual dinner to be held on May 1, 1992. Our Dinner Arrangements Committee has concluded a contract with the New York Marriott Marquis located at 1535 Broadway (at 45th Street). This large, modern hotel has outstanding facilities and promises to meet our requirements and expectations. It is also within easy walking distance of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York where the business meeting will be held on the morning of May 1.

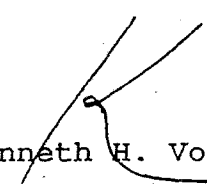
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 6, 1991

As I have already indicated, the Executive Committee met in Portland, Oregon on September 6. The Admiralty Bar of that fine City, all members of our Association, were the hosts of this meeting, making all the arrangements and providing the Committee with an opportunity to learn more about this important port. We are indeed very grateful for their kind hospitality. Annexed hereto, please find a copy of the Minutes of that meeting of the Executive Committee.

SCOTTSDALE

We have had an excellent response to the Scottsdale meeting which will begin Monday, October 28. The Hyatt Regency is rapidly filling up, but there are still a few rooms available so if you plan to attend, you should make your reservations promptly. The Committee has prepared an excellent program and we look forward to a good meeting. I hope to see you all there.

With best wishes,


Kenneth H. Volk

September 17, 1991