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- ◆ By now, our membership - and our potential members - should have received information relating to the increase in our annual membership dues that will become effective for the 2003 calendar year. ***This is the first time in the 29-year history of our Association that the membership dues have been increased***, and we trust our present and future members understand the necessity of increasing the dues at this time. ***Now, as much as ever, our industry needs representation during ongoing regulatory and legislative initiatives that can directly impact our livelihood.*** An increase in our membership dues, coupled with an increase in membership, will help SCAA continue representing the interests of our profession in Washington and elsewhere as needed.
- ◆ The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee ("CTAC") will meet on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, October 9, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The meetings will take place in Room 2415 of the Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, in Washington, D.C. For more information on the meetings, which are open to the public, contact CTAC's Executive Director CDR James Michalowski, or his assistant Sarah Ju, at telephone 1-202-267-1217, facsimile 1-202-267-4570. (Sources: *Federal Register* and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ A call for applications for the Seatrade Awards 2003 has been made by the Seatrade Awards Secretariat. The deadline for submittal of entries is December 31, 2002. Awards are given for a product, service, or system that was introduced or approved in 2002 in any of the following fields: Safety at Sea; Protection of the Marine and Atmospheric Environment; Innovation in Ship Operations; and New IT Applications for the Shipping Industry. For more information, contact Laura Paris at +44-1206-545121, facsimile +44-1206-545190, e-mail awards@seatrade-global.com.
- ◆ The Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") and the U.S. Fire Administration announced this week that 389 fire departments will receive grants totaling some \$28 million in the third round of awards that are being made under the Assistance to Firefighters Program. It is anticipated that 5,500 fire departments will receive awards before the end of this calendar year. More than 19,500 fire departments applied for grants this year, with the submitting requests totaling almost \$2.2 billion. A list of all current 741 recipients to date is posted on the USFA web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/grants. (Source: *USFA Press Release*)

- ◆ California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response ("OSPR") recently issued a notice of availability regarding a modified Oil Spill Response Organization ("OSRO") rating program. The modified text shows changes from OSPR's earlier proposal, and the draft changes show related changes in other parts of the OSPR regulations. Comments are being accepted on the modified proposal until August 24, 2002. For more information or to view the text of the proposals, visit the OSPR's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The Australian Maritime Safety Authority recently fined the owners of the "Botany Trust" some USD \$600,000 for an oil spill (320 yards wide and 3 nautical miles long) that occurred in June

of 2000. Authorities have been searching for the culprits since then, and identified the Japanese-owned “Botany Trust” as the offender after analyzing samples from the vessels’ oil tanks. The AMSA also fined the owners of the “Doric Chariot” the same amount after the vessel grounded on the Piper Reef some 370 miles north of Cairns, damaging nearly 1,800 square yards of coral reef. (Source: *Oil Spill Responders*)

- ◆ The Research and Special Programs Administration (“RSPA”) of the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Final Rule revising transportation (all modes) requirements for infectious substances, including regulated medical waste. The revised requirements, which are consistent with international standards, come into effect on October 1, 2002. (Source: *Federal Register* and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Last month, the marine conservationist group Ocean Conservancy announced its intent to lobby in the U.S. for pollution controls in the Clean Water Act to cover cruise ship and shipping activity. The group contends that these ships are not sufficiently regulated under the CWA, and are not required to obtain discharge permits. As such, the group continues, much of the waste generated by these ships (e.g., oily bilge water, sewage, gray water, and chemicals used in dry cleaning, photo processing, etc.) ends up in the ocean. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ Early this summer, the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services (CIS) announced a settlement agreement with ATOFINA Chemicals Inc., and the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers (PACE) International and its Local No. 6-0591, with a combined total of \$6.2 million in penalties, safety enhancements, and the resolution of multiple violations. The settlement closed a seven-month investigation into a catastrophic explosion that occurred at ATOFINA’s Riverview (Michigan) facility in July of 2001 that claimed the lives of three workers. This is the second largest monetary sanction ever levied in Michigan as a result of a MIOSHA investigation. (Source: *MIOSHA News*)
- ◆ **Did you know . . .** On a given day, 35,000 members of the U.S. Coast Guard, 8,000 reservists and 32,000 trained volunteers conducted 109 search-and-rescue missions; saved 10 lives; assisted 192 boaters in trouble; seized 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine; responded to 20 oil or hazardous chemical spills, totaling 2,800 gallons; boarded 100 large vessels for port safety checks; and helped 2,509 commercial ships navigate into and out of U.S. ports. (Source: *USA Today*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Often times, management spends substantial time and money on training in their eagerness to support the “team” concept. Sometimes these dollars are wasted because leaders make the following mistakes: (1.) **Failing to assess team needs** – teaching people skills they already have is a waste of time and money. Team members don’t need training just for the sake of training. (2.) **Thinking that training sessions will eliminate conflict** – while training sessions can help people learn to get along, they often overemphasize teamwork rather than team effectiveness. Conflict is an important part of the team process – without it, the result is mediocrity, because the opposite of conflict is apathy, not peace and harmony. (3.) **Treating team building as a program rather than a process** – for training to work, insights gained from training must be quickly translated into action. Real development is never completed. (Source: *Team Management Briefings*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “We are of course a nation of differences. Those differences don’t make us weak. They’re the source of our strength . . . The question is not when we came here . . . but why our families came here. And what we did after we arrived.” – Jimmy Carter (1924-), *Speech at Al Smith Dinner, New York City [October 21, 1976]*