

**NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
June 28, 1997
Liberty State Park Railroad Terminal**

President Tom Laverty called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. and introduced the two featured speakers-- Debra Kindervatter, principal preservation specialist for the New Jersey Parks Department, and Howard Koslow, artist, illustrator and designer of lighthouse stamps.

Ms. Kindervatter welcomed the Society to the "most-visited of New Jersey's state parks" and explained that although the historic railroad terminal was gutted and rebuilt, it is considered an "adapted re-use" rather than a renovation. Members were invited to look at the exhibits housed there.

The minutes of the March 15, 1997 meeting at Barnegat Firehouse were distributed to the members present. George Feirer moved, Steve Martorano seconded that they be accepted; the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report. Debbie Megonigal

The balance on hand as of March 15, 1997, was \$6045.48. Receipts of \$6404.21 and disbursements of \$5722.77 resulted in a balance on hand on June 28, 1997 of \$6726.92. The savings account balance forwarded was \$6354.42. Additions of \$943.00 (raffle ticket sales), \$391.05 (donations at Sandy Hook Lighthouse) and \$28.96 (bank interest) brought the total to \$7717.43. After a motion by Bill Geilfus and a second by Steve Swiencki, the membership approved acceptance of the treasurer's report.

President's Report. Tom Laverty

There has been an excellent response from the public to the guided tours of Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Tom reported. To date, there have been 65 tours taken by 453 visitors, as well as 158 "mini-tours" given outside and in the base of the tower. Forty volunteers have put in a total of 493 hours. The summer schedule will include four Thursday evenings in July and August, and the Society and the National Park Service are looking forward to a successful fall season, Tom said. The tours are held rain or shine, although a severe storm would prevent going into the lantern room.

Programs. Yvonne Miller

Yvonne thanked Debra Kindervatter for her staff's hospitality and suggested that members visit LV 107 (Winter Quarter) at the park and/or take the Circle Line boat to Liberty Enlightening the World.

The next meeting on September 20 is to be held aboard the *Renaissance* out of Wildwood Crest as it sails on Delaware Bay to view many of the lights there. The cost will be \$25 a person, including lunch, and 100 members are needed to break even, Yvonne noted. Jim Gowdy, one of the Society's founders and an expert on the area lights, will be the featured speaker. The winter meeting is expected to be held in the Leonardo area, with a visit to Conover Beacon and perhaps Chapel Hill Light.

Outreach. Yvonne Miller

Yvonne mentioned many upcoming events at which the Society will be represented. Volunteers are needed to talk about lighthouses and the NJLHS at the Clearwater Festival on August 23 and 24 and the Heritage Festival on September 6 and 7, she said. The "South Jersey Contingent" will be manning a table at Fort Mott on September 13, and some Society members are expected to attend the Barnegat Bay Decoy Festival at the Tuckerton Seaport Museum on September 27 and 28. The Megomigals and the Smiths expect to be present at the museum's groundbreaking on July 12.

The Martoranos and the Veits will attend the Founders' Day ceremonies at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on July 12, and members will also be present at East Point Lighthouse's annual Open House on August 2. Carol Reily will do outreach for the Society at all the craft shows she attends. Tom urged interested members to attend or volunteer at these events.

Activities. Carole DiNapoli

An October bus trip to Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse (the Little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge) is in the works. It is expected that one bus would leave from the Burlington area and another from New Brunswick; the cost would be approximately \$20 per person.

One of Carole's friends has put together an "escorted motorcoach tour" in the fall or spring to Maine and coastal New Hampshire. The trip would be for four nights and five days at a cost of \$520, and would include two meals a day and stops at the Shore Village Museum, the Lighthouse Depot and L. L.

Bean, as well as a cruise of the Boofhbay area. About 25 to 30 people have expressed interest, Carole said, adding that 35 are needed to fill the bus.

Membership. Joan Walton

The "sign-in list" from the March meeting, part of the Society's official record, was lost, Joan reported. She asked those present at that meeting to mark an "M" by their name as they signed in today.

Officers, board members and committee chairpeople were introduced, especially for the benefit of new members and guests.

Ways and Means. Steve Martorano

Items for sale include tote bags, towels, Christmas ornaments and 1998 calendars, as well as T-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets. Members of the committee sell these and other items at meetings, during Sandy Hook Lighthouse tours and at other events.

Preservation. Tom Laverty

Middletown Township has signed a five-year lease with the Coast Guard, putting the municipality in charge of Conover Beacon. "It's nice to hear that it will fall under somebody's jurisdiction and get the attention it deserves," Tom remarked.

A check for \$500 will be presented to Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood at its Founders' Day event on July 12.

Publicity. Elinor and Rich Veit

Information about our Society and activities has been submitted to the *Lighthouse Digest*, and we should receive some mention in coming months, Rich said. Rich and Elinor have both been in close contact with the group restoring Absecon, and have attended events concerning the Atlantic City lighthouse. Elinor has been keeping an Absecon Light scrapbook.

Tom mentioned a recent *Star-Ledger* newspaper article about New Jersey lighthouses, which included a mention of the NJLHS and the Sandy Hook tours. Joan Walton added that 15 written inquiries about membership were received after the article appeared.

Raffle. The winning tickets in the Preservation Fund Raffle, led by Al and Betty Smith, were drawn at noon. The winners were: First Prize (two nights at The Elms Bed & Breakfast with lighthouse tour) G. Vincent Brady of Brick NJ; Second Prize (tickets to any NJLHS boat trip) J. Gilligan of Little Silver NJ; and Third Prize (two Society sweatshirts) Paula Librecht of Laurel MD.

Awards. In appreciation of their efforts in establishing and promoting the Society, three "founding fathers" were presented with plaques. Past president Jack Granger and Kim Ruth, editor of *The Beam*, accepted their awards. Jim Gowdy was unable to attend due to other lighthouse commitments, but sent his best wishes for the continuing success of the organization.

Board member Al Smith presented certificates to the winners of the photo contest held in March.

After Steve Martorano moved and Tony Pintauro seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Speakers. Debra Kindervatter gave a slide presentation about New York Harbor navigational aids, specifically the Statue of Liberty, which was originally a "lighthouse." Howard Koslow, a noted artist and illustrator who was selected to design the 1990 American lighthouse and the 1995 Great Lakes lighthouse stamps, told how his photographs became stamps and showed slides of some of his work.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Swiencki, Recording Secretary