

NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

General Meeting

December 4, 1999

Spring Lake Heights Elementary School, Spring Lake Heights NJ

President Tom Laverty called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Rebecca Colesar moved and Loretta Wilkins seconded acceptance of the minutes of the September 18, 1999 meeting; the membership approved. Treasurer Debbie Megonigal submitted the Society's quarterly financial report, showing \$22,760.48 in working capital, \$9512.78 in the Preservation Fund and \$1414.56 in the Memorial Fund. Ray Vliet moved to approve the report and Cindy Mitzen seconded; the motion carried.

First Vice-President and Programs Chair Yvonne Miller welcomed the crowd of some 150 members and guests and thanked Laurie and Jim Wolfrum for arranging the meeting place and the visit to Sea Girt Lighthouse. They had also contacted Ken Black, the featured speaker, and Conrad Yauch, who welcomed our group on behalf of the Sea Girt Lighthouse Citizens' Committee. Checks of \$100 each from the Presentation Fund were presented to Mr. Black and Mr. Yauch as a donation from the Society.

Meetings and Activities. Yvonne announced upcoming events—the spring meeting on March 18, 2000, in North Wildwood; the Long Island Sound boat trip from Waterford, Connecticut, on May 20; and the meeting/picnic at Tuckerton Seaport on June 24. Details will be included in future issues of *The Beam*.

Outreach. Yvonne also reported successful outreach programs throughout 1999 and urged members to volunteer to represent the Society at activities in 2000.

Director Al Smith reported a very successful year at Sandy Hook Lighthouse and presented certificates of appreciation to the volunteers who had helped to keep the tower open for tours. The “top ten” also received gifts acknowledging their exceptional donation of time. Michael Smith, son of Al and Corresponding Secretary Betty, volunteered a remarkable 191 ¼ hours at Sandy Hook! Tom Laverty noted that some of our members also volunteer on a regular basis at Absecon Lighthouse, and that the Tuckerton Seaport will need more than 100 people to staff the buildings at the new facility, which will be a miniature Mystic Seaport.”

Rich Veit, publicity chairman and liaison to Absecon, along with his wife, Elinor, said that more volunteers are still needed at the lighthouse, which will be re-lighted on October 3. The Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA), which maintains Absecon Light, gave NJLHS a certificate of appreciation for our donations, and anyone who volunteers there at least four hours a month is given IPPA membership.

“New Jersey Lighthouse Weekend,” a project coordinated by Director Rick Weber to increase lighthouse awareness, will take place on October 14 and 15, 2000. On those dates, the accessible lighthouses throughout the state will be open to visitors, who will have a commemorative paper stamped at each lighthouse; those visiting them all will

receive a certificate. Rick needs some people to organize the outreach at the various lighthouses.

Election of Officers. Tom expressed regret that the late mailing of *The Beam* had caused some confusion, especially regarding the absentee ballots that were mailed with it. “We can’t blame Kim (Kim Ruth, the editor)—he has to wait for people to submit items for publication,” Tom commented, adding that every effort would be made to deliver future newsletters earlier. Although the lateness of *The Beam* was unfortunate, our bylaws state that the Society is not obligated to provide absentee ballots unless requested by individual members. Any absentee ballots received by today, December 4, 1999, will be counted, Tom said.

Steve Martorano, Judge of Elections, and Rich and Elinor Veit examined the ballots received and reported that there were no write-in votes for any of the offices. Rich moved, Bud Griffin seconded, that the secretary cast one ballot to elect the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee at the September 18, 1999 meeting. After the motion was approved, Recording Secretary Judy Swiencki cast one ballot to elect the following: Corresponding Secretary Betty Smith and Directors Al Smith, Ray Vliet and Bill Volpe. All will serve two-year terms.

Educational Outreach Project. Through the efforts of Director Bill Volpe, educational kits designed to increase awareness of New Jersey’s lighthouses among secondary-school students is available for purchase by individuals wishing to donate them to schools of their choice. The package contains the book, *Sentinels of the Shore* by Bill Gately, the New Jersey Network video, *Eye of the Mariner*, NJLHS material and lists of lighthouse resources. It costs \$27 and is sent to the school in the name of the purchaser.

Bill said he is disappointed in the response from members so far, adding that it is the Society’s goal to place the educational materials in every school district in the state. One way to accomplish this would be to obtain grants; Bill asked anyone with experience in obtaining grant money to contact him.

After a motion by George Nail and a second by Cindy Mitzen, the business meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m. Following a lunch break, Ken Black, New England’s “Mr. Lighthouse” and curator of the Shore Village Museum in Rockland, Maine, presented an informative and interesting slide show in spite of suffering from laryngitis. Afterward, most of those who attended the meeting visited Sea Girt Lighthouse, which was decorated for the holidays.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Swiencki, Recording Secretary

