

NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY
General Meeting September 16, 2000
Gateway National Recreation Area, Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook

President Tom Laverty called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. after many members took advantage of the opportunity to visit and/or climb the Sandy Hook Lighthouse. The minutes of the June 24 meeting at Tuckerton Seaport were distributed and approved by the membership after a motion by Mary Beth Doherty and a second by Jim Wilkinson.

Treasurer Debbie Megonigal presented the Society's financial report, showing a check-book balance of \$15,996.37. There was also \$17,809.26 in the Preservation Fund as a result of the successful raffle, \$1430.60 in the Memorial Fund and \$10,000 in an interest-earning certificate of deposit.

President's Report. Tom Laverty

Sandy Hook Lighthouse. The Society will continue to conduct tours for the National Park Service at the newly-restored lighthouse, but will not assume the burden of leasing the keeper's house. The Sandy Hook Foundation has been raising money and applying for grants to improve the dwelling and will take over the building. As partners of the Foundation, NJLHS will continue to occupy a portion of the premises.

New Jersey Lighthouse 2000. Tom reported for Chairman Rick Weber that a great deal of progress had been made in planning the statewide event scheduled for October 14 and 15. Visitors to each of the 11 participating lighthouses that weekend were to receive stickers depicting each lighthouse and affix it to a souvenir sheet; special recognition would be given to people completing the entire circuit. Brochures had been placed at New Jersey Tourism's welcome centers and at the lighthouses, and Bill Volpe had done the stickers. Tom acknowledged the "excellent job" done by Elinor and Rich Veit in publicizing Lighthouse 2000 and said that additional volunteers would be needed at the lighthouses that weekend.

The Beam. Tom asked for members' patience and understanding as Yvonne Miller and her task force tackle the problem of getting out the quarterly newsletter in a timely manner. Kim Ruth, one of the Society's founders, has been editor for ten years. Despite an increased work load as the Society grew, he and his family have "done it all"—writing, editing, proofreading, putting stamps on the envelopes, carting the boxes to the post office; Kim also designed and maintains the NJLHS website. In an effort to lighten Kim's burden, the task force established earlier deadlines and paid the printer to do the actual mailing, but there are still problems to be worked out. Members can help by contributing articles about their lighthouse trips so that material is available for use when needed.

Tom urged members to read Yvonne's column in *The Beam*—it lists the meeting dates far in advance. Details about the nearest upcoming meeting, including directions to the meeting place can be found on the NJLHS website at <http://njlhs.burlco.org>

Programs and Activities. Yvonne Miller

Yvonne had been searching for a meeting place large enough to accommodate our group in Cape May on December 2, and reported that she ended up with three fire halls to choose from. Members will be able to tour the Cape May Lighthouse—as well as the Hereford Inlet Light—free of charge with a Society membership card or name tag.

Carole DiNapoli will work on another “long trip” for next year. This summer’s extended trip to Prince Edward Island was the Society’s most ambitious so far, and a good time was reportedly had by all who went. Member Barry Wood commented that the days were long, but the guide was fabulous and the food was good—and they got to see 24 lighthouses. He said he would definitely recommend Carole’s trips.

Membership. Mary Beth Doherty

As of September 16, there were 991 members in NJLHS—357 single and 317 “family” memberships counted as two people. Mary Beth said to let her know about address changes, and if you’d like to give someone a Society membership as a gift.

Publicity and Absecon Lighthouse Rich and Elinor Veit

The Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA), the group which operates Absecon Lighthouse, donated the use of its publicity and marketing professional to the Society for Lighthouse 2000. . . . Two summers ago, arson destroyed the newly-constructed keeper’s dwelling, part of the restored complex at Absecon Lighthouse, and since then IPPA has been battling its insurance carrier. IPPA obtained a court judgment to rebuild the structure, but only recently was able to negotiate a favorable dollar amount with the insurance company, Rich said. The group has also received a grant for landscaping on the premises.

New Business. Ray Vliet, Chairman, Nominating Committee

Second Vice-President Steve Martorano, Recording Secretary Judy Swiencki and Director Rick Weber had decided not to seek reelection. The slate of officers chosen by the Nominating Committee are: President, Tom Laverty; First Vice-President, Yvonne Miller; Second Vice-President, Bill Volpe; Treasurer, Debbie Megonigal; Recording Secretary, Cindy Mitzen; and Directors, Mary Beth Doherty and Elinor Veit. Yvonne Miller nominated Barry Wood as Director to replace Bill Volpe; Rich Veit seconded. The election will take place at the December 2 meeting.

Annual T-Shirt Contest.

Joan Murtha wore the T-shirt with the lighthouse from the farthest location. “Most Original” winners were Susan Mazza and Lauren Porfa. The award for the best hand-crafted shirt went to Amy Garcia.

Bill Schneider moved to adjourn, Mary Beth Doherty seconded. The meeting ended at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Swiencki