

NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

General Meeting

December 2, 2000

West Cape May, New Jersey, Fire Department Hall

President **Tom Laverty** called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. The minutes of the September 16, 2000, meeting at Sandy Hook were submitted for approval. Ray Vliet moved, Bill Geilfuss seconded, acceptance of the minutes; the motion carried. Treasurer **Debbie Megonigal** reported receipts of \$16,102.84 expenditures of \$15,997.50 since the last meeting. The assets of NJLHS were: Checkbook, \$16,214.01; Preservation Fund, \$17,853.80; Memorial Fund, \$1434.18; and Certificate of Deposit, \$10,000. Rebecca Colesar moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, Jim Wilkerson seconded; the membership approved.

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS.

- On behalf of the membership, Tom thanked "three devoted officers who have done an excellent job for the Society"—2<sup>nd</sup> VP **Steve Martorano**, officer and Ways and Means chairman for many years, **Judy Swiencki**, recording secretary for four years, and **Rick Weber**, a member of the Board for two years and coordinator of Lighthouse 2000.
- NJLHS has a new address: PO Box 332, Navesink, NJ 07752-0332. Tom asked members to change the address on any brochures they may distribute and said that the old post office box in Brick would be retained during a six-month transition period.
- Tom announced that the Board had named **George Feirer** a "life member," an honor reserved for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to NJLHS. George served as historian since the Society's beginning, and frequently assumed the duties of judge of elections at the December meetings. He was given an enthusiastic round of applause, in absentia, by those present.
- Tom said that we get many requests from community groups throughout the state for people to speak about lighthouses and NJLHS. **Joe Kelly**, **Ray Vliet**, **Bill Volpe** and **Tom** himself have been representing the Society in this capacity, and would like anyone with the time and ability to contact Tom or an officer to volunteer.
- **Kim Ruth**, one of the founders of NJLHS, has retired after ten years as editor of *The Beam*, Tom announced. Kim and his family have done "an absolutely outstanding job" on the newsletter, Tom declared; the membership endorsed his statement by applauding Kim in his absence. Kim will continue to maintain the Society's website, and **Joe Guchek** will become editor of *The Beam*. Joe urges members to contribute articles of interest; the e-mail address is [njlhsbeam@prodigy.net](mailto:njlhsbeam@prodigy.net)
- Describing Lighthouse 2000 as an "overwhelming success," Tom introduced **Rick Weber**, creator and coordinator of the event. Rick said that the 11 participating lighthouses reported record numbers of visitors and sales during the two-day affair in October, and that Society and lighthouse site volunteers had contributed 1298 man-hours. Rick gave special thanks to **Mary Anne**, **Matthew** and **William Weber**, **Mike Grant**, **Bill Volpe**, **Al** and **Betty Smith**, **Elinor** and **Rich Veit**, **Yvonne Miller**, **Judy McCann** and **Steve Martorano**.

Lighthouse 2000 was enthusiastically received by the public. The first of 338 persons to become members of the Eleven Points of Light Club by visiting all of the lighthouses arrived at Sandy Hook at 11:10 a.m. on Sunday, and one woman was so eager to get to all the lights on the list that she received a speeding ticket. The most common question asked by visitors was, "When are you going to do this again?" Rick will get together with representatives of the lighthouses to evaluate the event, plan for the next one and make improvements based upon volunteers' and visitors' comments.

#### OFFICER and COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Activities**—**Yvonne Miller** welcomed the large crowd, explained the day's agenda and told about future meetings. The Spring meeting on March 24, 2001, will feature the annual photo contest, which will be handled by **Al Smith**. The annual raffle will be held at the Summer meeting and picnic on June 23; volunteers are needed for the raffle. September 22 and December 1 are the dates for the remaining 2001 meetings. Yvonne commended **Carole DiNapoli** for the great job she has done in arranging Society-sponsored excursions. The motorcoach trip to Prince Edward Island and the Chesapeake Bay cruise got "rave reviews," Yvonne said; a long trip to North Carolina and a Hudson River boat cruise are in the works.
- **Membership**—As of December 1, there were 1067 members in NJLHS, and membership renewal forms had been sent to everyone, **Mary Beth Doherty** reported.
- **Sandy Hook Lighthouse**—Sales of merchandise at the lighthouse were expected to reach \$11,000 this year, said coordinator **Al Smith**. The following "top ten" received gifts in recognition of the many hours they volunteered at Sandy Hook: **Al Smith, Betty Smith, Michael Smith, Grace Schumacher, Joe Cimora, Andy Colmant, Greg Jansky, Rich Wikander, Pat Brooks and Dixie Amento**.
- **Publicity and Absecon Lighthouse**—NJLHS members also volunteer at Absecon Lighthouse, and 12 of them were present at the meeting. A judgment in favor of the Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA) has made it possible to rebuild the keeper's house at the lighthouse complex, **Rich Veit** reported. The newly-constructed replica was destroyed by arson several years ago. **Elinor Veit** thanked the IPPA for donating the services of its professional publicity agent for promoting Lighthouse 2000.
- **Hospitality**—**Betty Smith** thanked everyone who brought pastries, cookies and other "goodies" to the meeting. There was more than enough food for all to enjoy.
- **Election of Officers**—Candidates for office were unopposed, and there were no write-in votes, said **Rick Weber**, judge of elections. Ray Vliet moved, Steve Martorano seconded, directing the recording secretary to cast one ballot for the slate. **Judy Swiencki** did so after the motion was approved, and the following were duly elected: **Tom Laverty**, president; **Yvonne Miller**, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president; **Bill Volpe**, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president; **Debbie Megonigal**, treasurer; **Cindy Mitzen**, recording secretary; **Elinor Veit** and **Mary Beth Doherty**, directors, two-year terms; and **Barry Wood**, director, one-year term.

Rick Weber moved adjournment; Judy Swiencki seconded. The meeting ended at 12:12 p.m.