

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting
December 3, 2005
Sandy Hook Education Center

President Tom Laverty opened the meeting at 11:10 am with the pledge of allegiance. .

The minutes of the September 24th in Paulsboro were submitted for approval. Dennis Robbins made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Richard Flandera seconded, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report-Debbie Megonigal

Debbie read the treasurer's report. Total Receipts \$18,911.08; Total Disbursements \$30,604.01; Total Operating \$39,478.09; Sandy Hook Fund \$15,352.05; Preservation Fund \$16,161.62; Memorial Fund \$1,716.45 and the Sandy Hook Money Market \$1,008.40. Bill Matias accepted the Treasurer's Report, Mike Boucher seconded, and the membership approved.

Presidents Report Tom Laverty

- Doreen Lagattuta, Yvonne Miller and Tom attended a luncheon in Trenton and accepted the NJ Historic Award to the NJLHS for all the work that is done for the lighthouses of our state.
- NJLHS also received congratulations from the Cultural and Heritage Commission of the County of Middlesex for our organization's contributions to public appreciation for and understanding of the history of the Garden State. Ocean County Freeholds and National Parks at Sandy Hook also extended their congratulations.
- Joe and Carol Gucheck are retiring from the Beam. Mary Beth will head a committee to find a replacement for them. A motion was made by Jim Cope, seconded by Betty Smith to recognize all the hard work and dedication by Joe and Carol. The membership approved.
- Tom introduced Lou Venuto Interpretation and Cultural Resource Director of the National Parks at Sandy Hook. He apologized for the broken heater. (Coats were worn for this meeting). Lou hopes to have the Sandy Hooks Keepers house opened in June. (Which June?) Much laughter.
- Tom explained that he wrote a letter of apology to Abescon Lighthouse for the problems with the color of the lighthouse on the Challenge tee-shirt.
- Tom announced the passing of Jack Granger, a founder and first president of the NJLHS. He explained that he gave the lawyers for his estate our mailing list for one time use, to announce his estate sale, since it included many lighthouse artifacts. Dave Birch another founder from Tinicum has also passed on.

Officer and Committee Reports

Vice President Yvonne Miller as Programs Chair

Yvonne announced that after the business meeting Jim and Nancy Cope will give a slide presentation of their recent Hawaii trip. Carol DiNapoli is hard at work with her crew over at the History House where the Holiday Social will be held following the slide presentation. Sandy Hook lighthouse is open for tours and their gift shop is also open.

Programs

- The March 25th meeting will be on Long Beach Island at the Surf City Fire Hall. The member's annual photo contest will be held. There will also be a Recognition Awards presentation to nominees who have given exemplary service to the NJLHS. The Barnegat Lighthouse and Interpretation Center will be open.
- Junes meeting is not finalized at this time.

Outreach

Last year was a success. Yvonne thanked all those who helped; the 2 Katherines, Dixie Amento, Debbie Megonigal, Anthony Albens, Marty Hudspeth, Jimmy Gale, Lisa and Donna.

Bill Snyder is doing an outreach on March 18th in St. Augustine. Outreach will also be taken to Piney Point in May. Winter Lights in Maryland will be attended by BJ, Al and Debbie, and Marion.

Trips

- Summer of 2006 to Lake Champlain is sold out.
- May, look for a bus trip to the Little Red Lighthouse.

Membership: Mary Beth Doherty 2nd Vice President

- Membership 297 (x2) families 594; 338 single; total 932.
- In attendance 108 members and 11 guest.

Web Site

Howard Wright and Greg Fitzgerald have done a great job and a lot of work. They will launch the new web site today and give a ten minute presentation to show it to us. Howard will be our new web master. The new address is NJLHS.org

Education – Bill Volpe Director

- 24 speaking engagements to date this year, with one more planned. 24 educational kit orders were also placed.
- Bill invited Courtney Simon a 4th grader to bring her school Lighthouse project to our meeting. It is on display in the back of the room.

Recognition Program

- The nominees were approved by the Board of Directors.
- Letters will be going out in February to those people receiving awards at the March meeting.

Lighthouse Challenge 2005-Doreen Lagattuta

- Another successful Challenge. 1088 people finished the Challenge.
- They came from 26 states and also from Poland and Romania
- Thank you to Assistant Chairman Laura Portee and Greg DiNapoli for his design and artwork.
- 127 finished the Dual Challenge, and 93 finished all three.
- Doreen thanked everyone for their participation and support. Over 230 NJHLS and local volunteers put on 2,275 hours during the weekend.
- 7th Annual New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge October 14th and 15, 2006.

Preservation-Brett Franks

- The raffle is doing very well this year. About \$6500 will go towards our preservation fund. The raffle will be pulled later, after the presentation by Jim and Nancy Cope.
- Preservation is looking to put a calendar together for next year, more details to come
- Brett also discussed the condition of the lighthouses after hurricane Katrina.

Photo Contest-Cindy Mitzen

- The 2006 categories are National, International, New Jersey, and Lighthouses in the fall, and Masters.

Ways and Means

- Marion reported that she is working on new tee shirts.
- Please bring any ideas you have about what you would like sold to Marty.

Publicity

Betty Smith has agreed to be the publicity chair. The board will be appointing her at the January board meeting.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Faith Giamboi chairperson read the candidates for office;

- Laura Portee Corresponding secretary
- Doreen Lagattuta Director
- Marion Hudspeth Director
- Jim Cope Director

Faith Giamboi, judge of election reported that the candidates for office were unopposed and there were no write in votes she directed the recording secretary to cast one ballot for the slate. Cindy Mitzen did so and the candidates were duly elected.

Dennis Robbins reported that 20 people came out to help at the clean up at Conover Beacon on November 12. It made an amazing difference. He also asked that the Conover Beacon be considered to participate in the Lighthouse Challenge.

Mike Boucher made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rich Flandera seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Mitzen,
Recording Secretary