

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society  
General Meeting  
March 31, 2007  
St. Uriel's Church Hall  
219 Philadelphia & 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues  
Sea Girt, NJ 08750**

**Call to Order**

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:17AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Immediately following the pledge the Society observed a moment of silence in honor of Ken Black, leader in the lighthouse history and preservation world, who passed away on January 28, 2007.

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**Minutes from December 2, 2006 General Meeting**

The minutes of the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at West Cape May Fire Hall were submitted for approval.

Kati Moser made the motion to accept the minutes.  
Steve Martorano seconded the motion.  
The motion passed.

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**Treasurer's Report:        **Debbie Megonigal****

Treasury figures for March 31, 2007 are as follows:

Operating Account	\$61,933.66
Sandy Hook Fund	18,173.52
Challenge Fund	8,138.01
Preservation Fund	24,365.33
Memorial Fund	1,722.15
Current Balance	\$ 114,332.67

Bob Gleason made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.  
Jim Cope seconded the motion.  
The motion passed.

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**President's Report:        **Yvonne Miller Thies****

After making a brief introduction of guest speaker Jim Woodward, reports were made for all committees reporting to the President.

**Programs Committee Report – Judi Frank**

Judi outlined the agenda for the meeting and emphasized visiting the Sea Girt Lighthouse and gift shop. The June 30 meeting will be held at Tuckerton Seaport and will include both the society raffle and annual picnic. The September meeting will be held at Henry Hudson High School near Twin Lights.

**Photo Contest – Cindy Mitzen**

Cindy reviewed the rules and categories for the annual photography contest. Voting would take place during the lunch break.

### **Community Outreach – Anthony Albence**

Anthony explained that the Society is participating in a number of new events this year and asked that members consider signing up to participate (sign up sheets at Ways & Means table). Additionally, he asked that members let him know if they know of any additional events that might be a good addition to the Community Outreach program.

### **Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bill Volpe**

Bill related his experience speaking to a meeting of the East Brunswick, NJ Historical Society. The meeting was well attended and resulted in an article & picture being placed in the local newspaper, The Sentinel. He also reported on his speaking engagement with the Bayonne Historical Society and their work in getting Robbins Reef listed on the National Register of Historical Places as a New Jersey lighthouse.

### **Recognition Awards – Tom Laverty**

Tom reminded the Society that nominations for NJLHS Recognition Awards should be forwarded to him via mail or e-mail, no later than June 1, 2007. The March Beam article includes the recognition categories and provides additional details. Winners are scheduled to be announced during the September general meeting.

### **Trips / Activities – Betty Smith (as reported by Yvonne Miller Thies)**

Since 3/31 was opening day at Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Betty provided her report to Yvonne for delivery to the Society.

- Need suggestions for parking sites near the NJ Turnpike that can be used for the Nova Scotia trip. An itinerary will be sent to everyone going on the trip once the pick up spot is finalized.
- The idea of a Spring 2007 Hudson River boat trip has been cancelled because it is too expensive. Betty may incorporate the Hudson River lighthouses into a Seaway Trail trip in 2008.
- Members interested in a bus trip for the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge were asked to sign up during the lunch period. Cost would be approximately \$350 per person or \$550 per couple and include all admissions, transportation, lodging & five meals. Deposits will be due by July 5. By show of hands, approximately 10 members indicated interest.

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### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:     Mary Beth Doherty**

#### **Membership**

The Society's membership totals 754 members, a number that is artificially low due to a number of members still in the process of paying their dues. Mary Beth stressed that the June Beam will only be sent to members who have signed up and paid their dues. The total attendance at the 3/31 meeting was 110 members, 3 non-members and 2 new members. New membership pins are available for ordering at the sign-in membership table (\$6) and can be modified to include your home town.

#### **Website – Howard Wright**

Howie is now back from vacation and has taken control of the webmaster responsibilities.

## **Newsletter - THE BEAM**

Mike Boucher is now the designer for the Society's newsletter. Mary Beth encouraged all members to consider writing and submitting articles for the paper. New contributors would be welcomed. The winners of the photo contest will be shown in the following issue of the BEAM.

## **Publicity – Betty Smith (as reported by Mary Beth Doherty)**

Betty was unable to attend the meeting due to 3/31 being opening day for Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Mary Beth reminded all members to provide Betty with the names of any local papers that would be helpful in publicizing Society meetings and events.

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report:     Brett Franks**

### **Preservation**

- Gulf Coast Lights – NJLHS is staying involved with the repair efforts on the Gulf Coast lights. A link to organizations collecting for repairs will be placed on the Society web site.
- Ludlum – While a change in the Sea Isle City government has temporarily slowed activity we hope to have a strong supporter on the new five person leadership council.
- Conover Beacon – Feb. 24 was the first meeting of the Friends of Conover Beacon. Dennis Robbins is leading efforts for the group. The Mayor of Leonardo, NJ attended the meeting.
- Lens Assessment – Jim Woodward is still finishing the Northern part of NJ. Watch for news coverage of the final report & let Brett know about any articles seen.
- Finns Point – The lighthouse will be open for the 2007 Challenge. Rebuilding a bond with Finns Point thanks to help provided with their lens assessment.
- Grants – examining the possibility of a submission to Jeld-Wen Company (maker of doors & windows) for a grant to assist in renovating lighthouses. However, a formal renovation plan must already be in place and underway and that limits most of the NJ lights from consideration.
- The Society will recognize significant lighthouse events – like Tinicum's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary & Absecon's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – by issuing a formal proclamation.

### **Helping Hands**

Looking for help with cleaning up or painting on May 5. Two sites are planned; Sandy Hook and Absecon. Rich Veit is coordinating the efforts at Absecon – if interested please see Rich. Please see the NJLHS website Preservation page for more information on Helping Hands.

### **Archives – Barbara Pepe (as reported by Brett Franks)**

The NJLHS archives and Library have been moved from Twin Lights to the Sandy Hook Keepers House.

### **Raffle Update**

Raffle tickets will be going out to Society members prior to the June General Meeting.

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### **Challenge 2007 – Doreen Berson**

- Kickoff meeting held February 3, 2007. Challenge will be Oct 20-21 (always the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October).
  - Challenge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) added to the website
  - Tucker's Island has asked to participate as a night climb location in 2007 and offered to provide discounted seaport entry to Challenge participants. (\$2 admission to all exhibits for participants displaying a Challenge puzzle frame.)
  - The Society has applied for a marketing sponsorship from the NJ Commerce, Economic Growth & Tourism Commission.
  - Laura Portée has taken over Challenge publicity and is aggressively placing ads in several popular magazines.
  - Other challenges: Long Island May 19-20 ([www.LILighthouseSociety.org](http://www.LILighthouseSociety.org)), Maryland September 15-16 ([www.cheslights.org](http://www.cheslights.org) or 410-437-0741).
  - Volunteer sign-up has begun. All those who would like to volunteers must sign up even if you volunteered last year. Please see Laura Portée.
  - Similar to prior years, there will be awards for multiple challenge finishers.
  - Organizational meeting for the '07 Challenge will be October 13 @ 10:30AM in the Twin Rivers Library in East Windsor.
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### **Corresponding Secretary – Laura Portée**

- Please copy Laura on any NJLHS correspondence going outside of the Society.
  - Save any newspaper or magazine Challenge articles that you see and provide a copy to Laura.
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### **Sandy Hook – Al Smith (as reported by Yvonne Miller Thies)**

Since 3/31 was opening day at Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Al provided his report to Yvonne via e-mail for delivery to the Society. The e-mail contained the following updates:

- Sandy Hook Lighthouse is now open for tours 12:00 pm-4:30 pm; Keepers House open 12:00 pm-5:00 pm.
  - Gift shop has been renovated and now has ability to accept credit card transactions.
  - The National Park Service will be conducting tours during the week. Beginning April 2, volunteers are needed to staff the gift shop.
  - Volunteers are always needed as tour guides or greeters at Sandy Hook. Contact Al Smith.
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### **Ways & Means – Marty Hudspeth**

- Lots of new products are now available for sale from Ways & Means including Elinor Veit's new book, **Color of the Lighthouses**.
  - Credit cards (as well as checks or cash) can now be used to make purchases at the quarterly meetings.
  - We need to collect 150 new recipes so that we can publish the second edition of the lighthouse cookbook. No limit on the number of recipes which you can submit. A downloadable form for submitting recipes is available on the web site.
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## **New Business**

### **2007 Budget**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chairman Jim Cope presented a balanced 2007 budget of \$149,850 and discussed the major areas of expense and revenues. Copies of the budget were distributed to the members who were provided with the opportunity to present questions.

After completing the Q&A, Jim Cope made a motion to approve the 2007 Budget. Mike Boucher seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously by the membership.

### **Special Recognition for Tom Laverty**

In recognition of his 12 years of service as President of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Yvonne Miller Thies presented Tom with a plaque. She also acknowledged the help and support of Becki Laverty, Tom's wife, throughout Tom's period in office.

There being no further new business, a motion was made by Bob Gleason to adjourn the meeting. Bill Geilfuss seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm for lunch, voting for the 2007 Lighthouse photo contest and guest speaker Jim Woodward at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert E. Gleason  
Recording Secretary