

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting
June 30, 2007
Tuckerton Seaport
Tuckerton, NJ 08087**

Call to Order

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:06AM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from March 31, 2007 General Meeting

The minutes of the March 31st meeting at Sea Girt were submitted for approval.

Jim Cope made the motion to accept the minutes.

Rebecca Colesar seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Megonigal

Treasury figures for June 30, 2007 are as follows:

Operating Account	\$30,784.94
Sandy Hook Fund	20,920.50
Challenge Fund	5,403.15
Preservation Fund	30,238.61
Memorial Fund	1,723.24
Operating – Money Market	30,022.56
Current Balance	\$ 119,093.00

Debbie advised of the creation of the Operating Fund Money Market account which will enable to the Society to obtain a 4.5% interest rate on operating funds that do not need to be immediately available for disbursement.

Faith Giamboi recommended that the report be accepted and the Treasure's report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Yvonne Miller Thies

President began the meeting by reminding all members in attendance to obtain their Tuckerton Seaport admission wrist band from the membership table.

The Absecon Lighthouse presented the NJLHS with their Lighthouse Lantern Award. Yvonne and Marybeth Doherty attended the ceremony at Absecon Lighthouse's 150th Anniversary Celebration; Yvonne received the award and proclamation for the Society.

A "Sunshine Column" will be started on the Society website to enable members to acknowledge/cheer-up members who are ill or have experienced the loss of a family member.

Programs Committee Report – Judi Franks

September meeting will be in the Twin Lights area on September 29 and will include the 2nd annual recognition program. The actual meeting location is still being confirmed and will be included both on the web site and in the next edition of the BEAM. The December 8th meeting will take place in Audubon Park and will be followed by the Holiday Social near Turtle Rock Light in Fairmont Park in Philadelphia. A bus from Audubon Park to Philadelphia will be available for those not wanting to drive into the city. Interested members must see Judi Franks to sign up. Judi also asked for site suggestions for future meetings.

Community Outreach – Anthony Albence

Community Outreach has been off to a great / early start this year beginning down in Piney Point, MD. "Spirit of New Jersey" was a new and very well attended event that took place in Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ. The busy fall schedule kicks off with East Point in August. Additionally, Anthony asked that members let him know if they know of any additional events that might be a good addition to the Community Outreach program. Outreach now includes some children's activities and will be adding craft items. Volunteers welcomed – see Anthony at the Ways & Means table.

Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bill Volpe

Bill related that Education Outreach has presented 18 talks (6 at Sandy Hook Keepers House) to a total of 775 people. Educational Outreach could really use some more volunteer help – particularly talking to school children about Sandy Hook. Please contact Bill Volpe if you are interested. Bill reminded the membership that there is a Jersey Shore exhibit, which includes the Finn's Point 4th Order Fresnel lens, at the Middlesex County Museum, Cornelius Low House, 1225 River Road, Piscataway, NJ. He suggested calling ahead to confirm admission hours (732-745-4177). He is also working with the NJ Coastal Heritage Trail committee to identify lighthouses for inclusion in a tourism guide for future publication.

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

Betty Smith, who was unable to attend due to volunteer needs at Sandy Hook, filed her report with Yvonne Miller Thies for presentation to the membership. To date, only 8 members have expressed an interest in a bus trip for the Maryland Challenge placing the viability of the trip in jeopardy. Please let Betty know if you are interested.

Recognition Awards & Sandy Hook – Tom Laverty

Al Smith, who was unable to attend due to volunteer needs at Sandy Hook, filed his report with Tom Laverty for presentation to the membership. Tom emphasized the need for Sandy Hook volunteers both for weekend tour guides & greeters and well as weekday educational outreach representatives. Please visit and patronize the newly remodeled Keepers House Gift Shop.

Recognition Award nominations were closed as of June 1st. 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, 2008. The March Beam article includes the recognition categories and provides additional details. This year's recipients are scheduled to be announced during the September general meeting.

1st Vice President's Report: Mary Beth Doherty

Membership - The Society's membership totals 831 members, 247 single and 292 family memberships. The total attendance at the 6/30 meeting was 110 members & 12 guests including 2 new members. New membership pins are available and can be ordered at the membership sign-in table (\$6). The new pins can be modified to include your home town.

Website – Howie Wright continues to be very responsive; updates/changes are normally posted within 24 hours.

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

Betty, who was unable to attend the meeting due to volunteer needs at Sandy Hook Lighthouse, reported to Mary Beth Doherty that there were no major changes. 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.

Newsletter - THE BEAM

Mary Beth encouraged all members to write and submit articles for the newsletter. Please share your stories – Share your travels! New contributors are welcomed. Please forward articles in Word format if possible, or type-written. Deadline for the September issue is August 11th.

One member shared his comments regarding the excellent and professional appearance of the June 2007 BEAM and the benefit to the Society's reputation. He particularly acknowledged the layout work of Mary Beth and Mike Boucher and the excellent lighthouse detective article authored by Brett Franks. A great job that reflects much credit to the NJ Lighthouse Society!

2nd Vice President's Report: Brett Franks

Preservation

- Fresnel analysis will be wrapping up by the end of July. It has resulted in some excellent publicity including a great article, originally published in the Allentown Morning Call that was subsequently picked up and re-published in many city papers including Pittsburgh PA, Miami FL, Chicago IL, Buffalo NY, Macon GA & Tacoma WA. The article mentioned the NJ Lighthouses, the Society and the NJ Lighthouse Challenge.

- Reminded all members that Tuckerton Seaport has on display the Brandywine Shoal Fresnel lens which was the 3rd in the United States.

Raffle - Raffle sales total approximately \$6,500 - \$6,700. Brett shared the example of his co-worker's "extra step" efforts which resulted in the sale of over \$200 in tickets. The raffle drawing will take place at 1pm following lunch.

Helping Hands

- Helping Hands events included a clean up at Sandy Hook and the painting of Absecon Keeper's House porch. The porch painting came up very quickly and Rich & Elinor Veit single-handedly jumped in and finished the job. Please see Rich to sign up to help for other Helping Hands projects that come up for the rest of the year.
- In response to a question from Rich Veit, Debbie Megonigal will double-check with our insurance company to see if volunteers are covered when they are working.

Ludlum's Beach - While a change in the Sea Isle City government has temporarily slowed activity it has also resulted in the selection of a new and better location.

Finns Point – Suggest that individuals should write to their elected representatives asking that Finns Point be re-opened. Brett shared the story of Crystal (8th Grader) who researched a paper on Finns Point and then organized a petition, signed by all of her classmates, to re-open the light. Crystal and her Mother were in attendance at the meeting and received a warm round of applause.

Archivist - Looking for a volunteer to serve as Archivist (see Brett). Should have some experience with archiving materials.

Yvonne introduced **Tim Hart, Director of the Tuckerton Seaport Museum**, who warmly welcomed Society members to the Seaport and encouraged everyone to enjoy the many interesting exhibits, including the newly opened Pirates (Privateers) exhibit. He mentioned that future plans call for the addition of a Lifesaving Station exhibit at the Seaport. Tim also encouraged all members to visit the Seaport Gift Shop.

Challenge 2007 – Doreen Berson

Marketing Sponsorship Awarded – NJLHS received a Marketing Sponsorship from the NJ Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission, to be used for advertising the NJ Lighthouse Challenge 2007. Laura Portée has secured space in many publications such as Lighthouse Digest, Family Fun Magazine, New Jersey Monthly and AAA World. The ads were designed by Michele Hohner of Michigan and are on display at the Challenge table.

Publicity – Besides the advertisements that we paid for, we're also getting free publicity from articles such as the one by Diane Stoneback (shared by Brett earlier).

Brochures & Posters are here! – This year's brochures and posters were also designed by Michele Hohner. Thanks to all of the NJLHS members who helped to distribute them to lighthouses, travel centers and other sites around the state and the country!

Volunteers Still Needed – All sign-ups must be done through Laura Portée. A printable version of the sign-up sheet is available on the Challenge page of the NJLHS website. Deadline for volunteering is August 31st.

Tuckers Island Night Climbs – Tuckers Island will be charging \$3.00 to Challenge participants to enter Tuckerton Seaport the weekend of the Challenge. (This is a wonderful discount – but not the \$2 fee originally announced during the March general membership meeting.)

Climbing Finns Point – We are planning to have the lighthouse open for climbing during the Challenge pending the results of a required safety inspection. We met with Virginia Rettig, Deputy Manager of

Supawana Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and we are working with her to expedite the inspection. Finn's Point will remain on the Challenge route regardless of whether or not it can be climbed.

Challenge on the NJLHS Website – A big “Thank You!” to Webmaster Howie Wright for the work he has done on the Challenge page of the website. The newly added “hit counter” showed over 100 hits during the first two days. Check it out when you have the chance!

Organizational Meeting – The organizational meeting for the Challenge Committee will be held on Saturday, October 13th at 10:30am at Twin Rivers Library in East Windsor. A meeting reminder with directions will be sent several weeks prior to the meeting date.

Ways & Means – Marty Hudspeth

- Lots of new products are now available for sale from Ways & Means – Credit Cards Accepted!
 - Golf shirts come in Men/Women styles in sizes from Small – 3X.
 - New hats
 - Two different Christmas ornaments
 - Lighthouse Bingo for ages three and up
 - 2008 NJ Lighthouse calendars are available
 - 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

2008 Nominating Committee

As President, Yvonne selected Jean Burgess to serve as Chairperson of the 2008 Nominating Committee. While Jean was not at the meeting, Yvonne mentioned that Jean will be getting in touch with some of the members to serve with her on the Nominating Committee. The Committee will recommend candidates for nomination to fill the Corresponding Secretary and 3 Director positions which are up for election during the December 2007 general membership meeting.

Harry Megonigal Bench – Jim Cope suggested that all members visit the front of the Tuckers Island Lighthouse to see the bench (and attached plaque) dedicated in memory of Harry Megonigal.

USPS Lighthouse Stamps – Jim Cope mentioned the importance of purchasing copies of the new US Postal Service Lighthouse Stamps. He suggested buying a sheet for using and a sheet for saving. Strong sales of the stamps will encourage the Post Office to continue to commission new lighthouse stamps in the future.

There being no further new business, a motion was made by Lou Colesar to adjourn the meeting. Doreen Berson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:09.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert E. Gleason
Recording Secretary