

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society  
General Meeting  
September 29, 2007  
Henry Hudson Regional School  
Highlands, NJ 07732**

**Call to Order**

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:05AM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Minutes from June 30, 2007 General Meeting**

The minutes of the June 30th meeting at Tuckerton Seaport were submitted for approval. Cindy Mitzen made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim Cope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**President's Committees****Programs Committee Report – Judi Franks**

The December meeting will take place December 8<sup>th</sup> at Audubon Park Hall. The meeting will be followed by a holiday social. Sue Mazza is coordinating the social and asked that anyone wishing to volunteer to help set up/clean up or bring food should contact her. At 1:30 and again at 2:00PM buses will be available to provide transportation from Audubon Park to Turtle Rock lighthouse (and back). Judi explained that members wishing to take advantage of the bus transportation would need to sign up with her sometime during today's (9/29) meeting.

**Trips – Betty Smith**

Betty stated that the feedback on the recent Nova Scotia trip was very positive. She will be helping the Chesapeake chapter organize a similar trip last week in September 2008 and any Society members interested in joining should see Betty immediately. Bus trips tentatively being planned for 2008 include: Cape Cod/Nantucket (long weekend in early May), Long Island Challenge (May), Seaway Trail (week long trip in July) and Maryland Challenge (September).

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**Challenge 2007 – Doreen Berson**

**Laura Portée has been named Challenge Co-Chairperson.**

**Volunteers Still Needed** – Sandy Hook, Twin Lights and East Point still needs volunteers. Members wishing to volunteer were asked to sign up with Doreen after today's meeting. Volunteers will be receiving written confirmation of their Challenge weekend schedule during the coming week. This year's organizational meeting (mandatory for site coordinators) will take place Saturday, October 13 at 10:30am at the Twin Rivers library.

**Publicity** – The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge® has been publicized in many different magazines, newspapers and web sites this year. The ad in AAA has already generated at least 350 requests for additional information. Some other publications requesting information are: Fodor's Casino Connection, Monmouth Health & Life Magazine and New Jersey Center for the Books.

**Challenge Trademark** – The title "New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge®" and Challenge logo are both trademarked and should be used only with the express written permission of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society.

**Climbing Finns Point** – We are still not sure if Finns Point Lighthouse will be opened for climbing during the Challenge weekend. The Deputy Manager at Supawna Meadows Wildlife Refuge is scheduling an inspection soon and will let me know as soon as possible whether or not it will be safe to allow climbing. However, Finns Point Lighthouse will remain on the Challenge route even if climbing is not permitted. Status will be posted on the web site when confirmed.

**Souvenirs, Pins and Shirts** – This year’s souvenirs will again be puzzles, but they will have the antique theme that was used in the brochures and posters. The souvenirs, pins & shirts are being designed by Brett Franks.

**Night Climbs** – Don’t forget that there will be Night Climbs this year at Sandy Hook, Tucker’s Island, Absecon, Cape May & Tinicum. Get there early because hours are only 6:00pm to 8:00pm and the lighthouses will not stay open beyond 8:00pm.

**Other Challenges** – A “Maine Lighthouse Challenge” and “Martha’s Vineyard Lighthouse Challenge” are being planned for 2008, in addition to the Long Island, Maryland and New Jersey Lighthouse Challenges. Representatives from the Maine & Martha’s Vineyard Challenges have been in touch with us for help in organizing their events. As soon as we receive more information, including dates, we’ll pass them on to you.

**Organizational Meeting** – The organizational meeting for the Challenge Committee will be held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Bill related that in 2007 Education Outreach has reached 1111 individuals through various forums including: 12 dates at Sandy Hook (15 tour groups) and 11 speaking engagements. Bill thanked Maryanne Ferrara for her help with the Educational Outreach program. These numbers are higher than during any previous year!

#### **Sandy Hook – (Al Smith’s Report was presented by Tom Laverty)**

Through the National Park Service 2007 Fiscal Year there has been an impressive 2,800+ volunteer hours logged at Sandy Hook. Volunteers are welcome to attend the end of year picnic later today at the new Fort Hancock Firehouse. Reminder that the lighthouse will be open on Saturday nights for night climbs through October 20<sup>th</sup>. All members are encouraged to visit the Gift Shop located in the Sandy Hook Keepers House.

**Recognition** – Tom Laverty explained that the special Recognition Awards portion of the meeting will take place following a break for lunch.

#### **Ways & Means – Marty Hudspeth**

- Updates on new golf shirts. Ladies: reordered hibiscus shirt and ordered new light blue color, Men: ordered banana colored shirt. To help members identify & approach NJLHS officers, committee chairs & directors a special green shirt has been ordered for them to wear.
  - Elinor DeWires Lighthouse Activity Book is now available (\$10.00).
  - Still need 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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#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President’s Report: Brett Franks**

**Raffle** – There will be a Chinese Raffle during the December meeting.

**Helping Hands** - Helping Hands are scheduled to paint the Sandy Hook barn on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9-Noon. Volunteers should sign up with Brett.

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

**Historian** – Yvonne stated that Jack Slavin, Society Historian, did not have any inputs or changes to report.

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

**Membership** - The Society's membership totals 888 members, 268 single and 310 family memberships. The total attendance at the 9/29 meeting was 92 members & 2 guests. Mary Beth recognized 1 new member joining today's session. New name tags, which include the NJLHS Logo, are available for order at the sign in desk for \$6.00.

**Website** – Howie Wright is looking for pictures from the Nova Scotia trip that he can use on the web site.

**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 December issue is October 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be a color issue so good pictures w/articles are welcomed!

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**Treasurer's Report: Debbie Megonigal**

Treasury figures for September 29, 2007 are as follows:

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Account             | \$10,223.97   |
| Sandy Hook Fund               | 24,960.52     |
| Challenge Fund                | 15,833.36     |
| Money Market Fund (Operating) | 20,320.65     |
| Preservation Fund             | 19,230.23     |
| Memorial Fund                 | 1,724.33      |
| Current Balance               | \$ 119,093.06 |

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

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**Community Outreach – Anthony Albence**

It has been a busy quarter as NJLHS participated in outreaches at East Point, Cape May Clambake and the Island Beach - Beach Plum Festival. The Ocean County Decoy Festival is currently underway and the final '07 outreach will be the Bay & Marine Festival in Cape May. 2008 efforts will expand geographically and include the Warren County Farmers Festival in northwest NJ. Bill Scheider offered brochures on the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival.

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**President's Comments** – Yvonne joined with Anthony to recognize all 2007 volunteers and encouraged all Society members to consider volunteering for next year's events.

**New Business - 2008 Candidates for Officer or Director Positions**

Jean Burgess, Chairperson of the 2008 Nominating Committee, identified the other members of her nominating committee as Annette Colt and Betty Smith. The committee was tasked with identifying a candidate for each of three director positions and for the position of Corresponding Secretary. Jean reported that the committee has asked the three incumbent directors (Jim Cope, Doreen Berson & Marty Hudspeth) to stay on for another term and all three have agreed. The committee nominated Jayne Swope to become Corresponding Secretary. Following Jean's report, Yvonne opened the session for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Steve Martorano made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Cindy Mitzen and approved by the membership in attendance.

The meeting was recessed at 11:56 for lunch. The Special Recognition Award portion of the meeting would take place at 1PM.

## **2007 New Jersey Lighthouse Society Recognition Awards**

The following individuals were recognized and received 2007 Recognition Awards as presented by Recognition Chairperson Tom Laverty. (Comments are courtesy of Tom Laverty's notes)

### **Award In Memory of Michael John Grant**

- Sandy Hook Volunteer
- Volunteer Coordinator for the lighthouse Challenge as well as regional coordinator for the northern lighthouses
- Even when Mike could no longer talk due to his illness he carried paper and through a combination of hand signals and written responses on paper worked hard to ensure the success of the Lighthouse Challenge.

### **Award In Memory of Al Burgess**

- Clearwater Festivals with Bill Gately & Tom Laverty staffing tables and promoting the society.
- Sandy Hook volunteer
- Even when most of his activity confined him to a wheel chair, Al was at Sandy Hook with a smile on his face greeting visitors and promoting the organization.

### **Award to Jean Burgess:**

- Jean was every bit as involved as her husband Al.
- She assisted with many outreach programs for NJLHS.
- She has been a volunteer at the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, serving as a greeter.

### **Award In Memory of Jack Thompson**

- Jack's living room was filled with NJLHS merchandise as he became one of the first to take on the Ways and Means committee of the organization.
- Later, he and Herb Colt were responsible for talking Tom Laverty into becoming President of the organization which he ended up doing for nearly 12 years.
- Jack was also First VP of the organization after NJLHS underwent a major organizational restructuring just prior to Tom being elected President.

### **Award to Ted Panayotoff**

- Preservation Committee - Ted was the coordinator for the "northern lighthouses" including Sandy Hook, Conover Beacon, Twin Lights and Sea Girt. Ted saw a major need for preservation at Conover Beacon. His efforts resulted in the light being repainted and the area being cleaned up by the citizens of Leonardo.
- Later, while owner of a B&B in Maine, Ted ran Lighthouse Tour packages for guests centering around preservation.
- Now works with the Rockland Lighthouse Museum where Ken Black's collection went, as well as does lighthouse tours in Maine.

### **Award to Alvin Brown**

- First Preservation Committee - Alvin was Preservation Coordinator for the "Central Region" which included Barnegat & Absecon. Barnegat was under the protection of the State of New Jersey, but Absecon, while owned by the State, was having significant problems with vandals. While the IPPA was just making arrangements to take responsibility for the Light, Alvin made contact with the individuals involved, brought his report back to the Chairman and the Society and helped identify exactly what the Society could do to help.
- Consistently helps with meeting operations – such refreshments at the beginning of each meeting

### **Award In Memory of Fredric Thies**

- First Preservation Committee - Fred was responsible for the “Southern” region and kept in contact with those in charge at Hereford Inlet, Cape May and East Point. East Point was one of the historical sites maintained by the Maurice River Historical Society but it was so isolated that it was regularly vandalized. There were many times when Fred got a call for help at the light. He reported these back to the Society and traveled down for “clean up and paint up” sessions down there. He & Alvin would often team up on these trips to East Point. In addition, they traveled into Camden to the Pyne Point Marina (a dangerous part of the city) to check on the Barnegat Lightship. They made contact with the gentleman who owned the Lightship and while Fred tried several times to make arrangements for the Society to help them both financially and manually, it became a futile exercise and the lightship still sits there in the mud. Unfortunately, the plans to make it into a museum remain a plan.
- Fred was always talking in the background when Yvonne and Tom were conducting Society business on the phone. He was bound and determined to stump Tom the lighthouse expert: “Astragals”?
- Fred was a pilot and did a lot of photography of lighthouses from the air. Tom and Yvonne called him – Freddie the Flying Pharologist.

### **Award to Bill Volpe**

- Bill was one of Tom Laverty’s right hand persons while Tom was President. He served several terms as VP of the organization, established the Recognition Program that we are running today, served as Chair of the Finance and Budget Committees and worked as a volunteer.
- Bill runs the Society’s Education Committee putting lighthouse kits in NJ schools. He coordinates the school and weekday group tour program at Sandy Hook Light and puts in many hours in that endeavor.

### **Award to Bill Geilfuss**

- Bill ventured into the politics of NJLHS at a rough time as the Society was undergoing a growth spurt that was pulling it in different directions. Bill stepped up to the plate to become VP of the organization under the Society’s first President Jack Granger and was responsible for the formation of the Board of Directors as it exists today.
- Preservation Committee - Bill has been instrumental in presenting the History of Lighthouses by visiting many lighthouses in the state in the uniform of a Lighthouse Keeper. His enactments have given the public insight into the stature of the Keeper – vital to the protection of ships and sailors in the early years of our country.

### **Award to Katie Moser**

- You can’t talk about Bill without mentioning Katie Moser since she travels with Bill G. in the attire of the Lighthouse Keepers Wife. Her interpretation of the Lighthouse Keeper’s Wife furthers the living history for the lighthouses and the families who lived in them.
- Katie was an early Secretary of the Society when the responsibility of recording and corresponding was combined. Katie’s efficiency set the bar for maintaining this very important office of the Society.
- Katie volunteered many hours for the Society in various committees, outreaches and special events

Following the completion of the Special Recognition Awards the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert E. Gleason  
Recording Secretary