

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting - December 6, 2008
Uptown School Complex
323 Madison Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
<http://www.njlhs.org/>**

Call to Order

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:08AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Cope provided a quick review of safety procedures.

Minutes from June 28, 2008 and September 27, 2008 General Meetings

Bob Gleason submitted the minutes from the June 28th and September 27th meetings at Fort Mott and Sandy Hook for approval. (Copies of the June meeting minutes were not available for review at the September meeting.) Jayne Swope made a motion to approve the June minutes which was seconded by Bill Geilfuss. Mike Boucher made a motion to approve the September minutes which was seconded by Bill Volpe. Both motions were passed by the membership and the September 27th and June 28th minutes were approved.

President's Opening Remarks: Activities of the day were reviewed by Yvonne and include the Preservation Raffle and Auction followed by the Holiday Social and Visitation to Absecon Lighthouse. Rules for "seatings" at the Social were reviewed. The membership was reminded of the importance of contributing to the Hospitality donations can. The Society can not pay for food – so donations are vital if we want coffee+ at meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Megonigal

Treasury figures for December 6, 2008 were as follows:

Operating Account	\$5,718.96
Sandy Hook Fund	29,096.91
Challenge Fund	18,530.26
Preservation Fund	28,883.62
Memorial Fund	4,828.82
Current Balance	\$87,058.57

There were no questions following the reading of the report so the Treasurer's Report was filed for audit. A clarification was provided that there are still outstanding bills against the Challenge Fund.

Ways & Means – Marty Hudspeth

- Sufficient recipes have been collected to go to press with a new cookbook.
- All four books in the Terry Webb series are now available for purchase.
- Sweaters, T-Shirts & Stocking Stuffers are available for purchase so please visit the table.

Yvonne recognized Marty for all the work, loading/unloading/setting-up Ways & Means at meetings and at NJLHS Outreach events. The membership gave Marty a strong round of applause.

2nd Vice President's Report – Brett Franks

Preservation

- Brett explained the auction rules and stated that next year's auction will need to be supplemented by donations since we have "tapped out" our current sources.
- Bob Uhrmann, of Ludlum Beach Friends, provided an update on Ludlum Beach Lighthouse. The Downtown Merchants Association has requested that the lighthouse be moved downtown to help

attract customers to local businesses. Site would be on the boardwalk near the middle of town. Currently reviewing bids for moving the building. Bob thanked NJLHS for their continued spiritual & financial support of Ludlum's efforts.

- Brett explained how Preservation's "Circle of Life" works. Support of raffles & auctions leads directly to support of efforts like Ludlum's.
- 2008 Preservation Raffle results are still being finalized.

Past President's Report - Tom Lavery

Recognition – The Recognition Ceremony will be held at the end of the meeting.

Sandy Hook Report

While both Al & BJ Smith will continue to volunteer at Sandy Hook, Al will be retiring as Sandy Hook Coordinator effective December 31, 2008. In recognition, the entire membership gave Al and BJ a warm round of applause for their tireless work and dedication as leaders of the Society's efforts at Sandy Hook. Ken Schumacher will take over as volunteer coordinator (greeters and tour guides) while the running of the Gift Shop will be managed by a committee of volunteers.

1st Vice President's Report - Mary Beth Doherty

Newsletter - THE BEAM

Mike Boucher is taking over as the new editor for THE BEAM. Please send in your stories, vacation pictures, etc. to share in the newsletter. Please submit stories in Microsoft Word if possible, but Mike will take a written copy if you don't have access to a PC. Judy Boucher will be helping with the proof-reading and Mike is currently looking for a publisher closer to Newburgh, NY where Mike and Judy live. The deadline for March's edition of THE BEAM is February 1st.

Membership - The Society's membership totals 826 members, 180 single and 323 family memberships. The total attendance at the Dec 6th meeting was 85 members and five guests. The 2009 Membership renewal process is underway at the Membership table. Please pick up your renewal form.

Website – Howie would like to freshen up the look of the website in 2009 and is asking that anyone with ideas please forward them to the webmaster at webmaster@njlhs.com.

Importance (& Fun) of Volunteering – Mary Beth reminded the membership of the importance of volunteering to help the Society to fulfill its goals and to have fun at the same time.

Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bill Volpe

(In her introduction Yvonne recognized both Bill Volpe and Brett Franks for their outstanding programs presented at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Barnegat Lighthouse. Both speakers were very well received and reflected tremendous credit on the Society.) During 2008 Education Outreach/Speakers Bureau has provided Sandy Hook morning tours for over 1,500 people and traveled over 2,900 miles. High points of the year include participation in the Barnegat Re-lighting Ceremony, providing guide services on a Lower NY Harbor Boat Tour and providing a Sandy Hook Tour to members of the US Lighthouse Society's NJ Lighthouses Tour. Bill extended a very special "Thank You!" to Faith Giamboi, Jim & Nancy Cope, Joe Kelly, Al & BJ Smith and Brett Franks for their assistance throughout the year.

Community Outreach – Anthony Albence

Community Outreach completed the 2008 season with the Ocean County Decoy and Gun Show. For 2009 Anthony is looking to add new events (like the Warren County Farmer's Fair) and possibly curtail events with limited or declining attendance. A second four-panel poster board has been added and Anthony expressed his appreciation to Marty Hudspeth, Mary Katherine Kennedy and Yvonne for their help in setting it up. He also acknowledged the Carol Nail's craftsmanship in constructing a beautiful

frame for displaying the Fresnel lens ornaments. Please let Anthony know of any major events in your area which you believe might be a good candidate for the 2009 Outreach Program.

Challenge – Doreen Berson and Laura Portée

- 2008 NJ Lighthouse Challenge Successfully Completed! Some key statistics include: 1,646 completers, participants came from 20 states plus the District of Columbia and 3 foreign countries, 163 Dual Challenge completers, 81 Triple Challenge completers, and 320 volunteers working a total of 2,860 hours over Challenge Weekend.
 - While increased paid advertising helped, the efforts of other NJLHS committees and member “word-of-mouth” contributed mightily to the success. In addition to members of the Challenge Committee, specific thanks go to:
 - THE BEAM Staff – specifically Mike Boucher for the Centerfold spread
 - Preservation Committee Helping Hands – cleaning Barnegat & Cape May lenses
 - Webmaster Howie Wright for the Challenge web site
 - NJLHS Speakers Bureau members for “plugging” the Challenge at every opportunity
 - NJLHS Community Outreach for distributing all those brochures
 - Cindy Mitzen for following up on the AAA World leads
 - Planning for the 10th Anniversary NJ Lighthouse Challenge is underway. HELP IS NEEDED! The 2009 Challenge is looking for volunteer help in the following capacities:
 - Challenge Chairperson (will receive extensive assistance from 2008 Co-Chairs)
 - Grant Writer
 - Publicity Coordinator
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Brochure Poster Design & Production Coordinator
 - Souvenir Design & Production Coordinator
 - Sales Items Design & Production Coordinator
 - E-Mail CoordinatorInterested parties please speak with Doreen Berson, Laura Portée or e-mail challenge@njlhs.com.
 - The 2009 Challenge Kick-Off Meeting will be held on February 7, 2009 at 9:30am in the Twin Rivers Library.
 - Suggestion was made to consider the purchase of children’s sized shirts for future Challenges.
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President’s Report – Yvonne Miller Thies

Vacancies – Martha and Alvin Brown are retiring as Hospitality Co-Chairs, BJ Smith is retiring as Publicity Chairperson and Jim Gales will no longer be able to transport the Society’s public address equipment. Please consider volunteering for these positions/responsibilities.

Trips - Great Lakes Seaway Lighthouse Tour – Yvonne has arranged and will lead this tour starting Sunday June 7 thru Friday June 12th. The tour will include:

- 6 days deluxe motor coach transportation
- 5 nights lodging
- 5 full course dinners, 5 hot breakfasts and 6 luncheons
- 20+ lighthouses (see website for complete listing)
- Buffalo Harbor Lighthouse Cruise
- Cost \$1,550 for two persons

For details and information contact Yvonne Thies at 609-654-2585. A \$100 deposit per person is required.

Photo Contest – Cindy Mitzen

Five categories for this year’s contest include: East Coast Lighthouses, West Coast & Great Lakes Lighthouses, All Other Lighthouses, Rise to the Challenge and Winners Circle. Some type of Challenge related recognition will be awarded to the winner of the “Rise to the Challenge” category.

Programs Committee Report – Cindy Mitzen

Cindy Mitzen has agreed to take over Programs responsibility and plans to set up a committee to assist in planning Society programs/venues for 2009. March 21st will be the date for the next General Membership Meeting tentatively scheduled to be held at VFW Post 2179 on Route 36 in Middletown Township. Final details will be posted on the website and in THE BEAM. The planned speaker will be Tom Hestor, a former Coast Guardsman, discussing Roamer Shoals. Future Programs may include a boat trip and other exciting venues. If you are interested in joining the Programs Committee please see Cindy.

New Business - Election of 2009 Officer or Director Positions

The candidate slate recommended by the Nominating Committee and consisting of President - Mary Beth Doherty, 1st Vice President – Brett Franks, 2nd Vice President – Cindy Mitzen, Recording Secretary – Bob Gleason, Treasurer – Faith Giamboi, Director – Tom Laverty and Director – Anthony Albence. Since there were no other nominations, the slate as put forward by the Nominating Committee was approved by acclamation.

2008 NJLHS Recognition Awards - Tom Laverty

The following individuals / organizations were recognized for their outstanding service to the goals of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society during the year 2008:

- Martha Brown – Service as Hospitality Chair
- Jim Gale – Ensuring Sound System Support
- Dixie & Joe Amento – Assistance with Ways & Means
- Marty Hudspeth – Running Ways & Means
- Chesapeake Chapter of US Lighthouse Society – Assistance in Spreading Challenge Message
- Debbie Megonigal – Service as Treasurer and Society Parliamentarian for 15 years
- Yvonne Miller Thies – Service as President, Program Chair, Outreach Chair, BEAM Editor and more.

Hospitality Vacancy Filled

Mary Beth Doherty announced that the position of Hospitality Chairperson, announced as vacant earlier in the meeting, has already been filled.

There being no further New Business, Yvonne asked for, and Mike Boucher made, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Cope and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Gleason
Recording Secretary