

**.New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Membership Meeting – March 19, 2016
www.njlhs.org**

Surf City Volunteer Fire Company #1
713 Long Beach Boulevard
Surf City, New Jersey 08008

President’s Call to Order

President Brett Franks called the meeting to order at 11:15 A.M.. He remarked about the great turnout for the meeting as well as the amount of entries into the photo contest, over 80 pictures.

Jim Cope, sergeant at arms, mapped out the facilities and exits. The flag salute was then recited by all.

Minutes from Prior General Meetings

Karen Owen, recording secretary, submitted the minutes from the December 12, 2015 held at Mastoris Diner – Restaurant, Bordentown, NJ. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Cope and seconded by Mike Boucher, all were in favor.

Financial Updates

Treasurer’s Report:

Faith reported:

	as of February 29, 2016
Operating Fund	21,697.60
Memorial Fund	1,655.77
Preservation Fund	32,233.94
Total Society Balance	\$ 55,587.91
Trip Account	\$9,443.25

Faith explained that a trip account was opened with a debit/credit card since the next trip would be out of the country, Prince Edward Island, Canada. \$1,500.00 from the operating fund was put into the account to start it up and will need to be replaced as the account gets deposits.

Gene Goch then gave the Budget Committee Report. He highlighted areas for members to look at on the budget sheets and submitted the \$95,300.00 balanced budget. Gene made a motion to accept the budget for 2016. The motion was seconded by Rick Hogman and all were in favor.

Brett stated that an audit committee needs to be formed and he has asked Jim Cope to head that committee. Karl Fahringer will be the board member on the committee, Gene will be there as well as budget chair, and Doreen Berson as Vice President. They will meet with Faith at their earliest convenience and report back at the next general membership meeting.

First Vice President – Doreen Berson

New Jersey Lighthouse Managers Liaison

Doreen reported the challenge group had their first meeting of the year this past week. She said that the society will be participating in a matching funds venture with the group to provide souvenirs for the event. Things have been getting a bit stale and she hopes to bring back the excitement again. Possible ideas are the puzzles that were a hit a few years back.

Publicity / Social Media / Website

Doreen will be attending a workshop on April 5th entitled Maximizing Your Organizations Online Marketing Presence.

Howie reported that the website has all the old copies of the Beam online. There are a few copies missing from the early years, but they are current up to December 2014.

National Lighthouse Day

Doreen met with Cindy Mitzen and Allan Jacobson and came up with objectives for National Lighthouse Day. First we would like to increase the awareness of the lights and the New Jersey Lighthouse Society and second we would like to see more children get involved at the lights. The idea was to offer free climbs to children on the National Lighthouse Day, but the Lighthouse Managers group said they already do that. So the committee is still looking for ideas. A possible theme of "Let's Go Climb a Light" with a scavenger hunt of the light might be an idea. Souvenirs for the day are still needed. Judy Boucher suggested stickers. The next meeting of this committee will be on April 2, 2016 at the Twin Rivers Library. National Lighthouse Day is Sunday, August 7th.

Second Vice President – Carol Winkie

Programs

Carol shared that it is wonderful to see all the pictures. She reviewed the schedule for the day. Judy shared that voting is to take place during lunch and the ballots are all color coded. Voting is for your top three (3) in each category. Votes will be tallied during the speaker and winners will be announced at the end of the day's events. Each category will have 6 winners to go before the board for submission to the calendar and 4 winners from the cover group category.

Treasurer – Faith Giamboi

Trips

Today's speaker is Mike Boucher and he will discuss trips at that time. See the Beam for more information.

Recording Secretary – Karen Owen

Liaison to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

The next meeting will be on April 9th in Wildwood, New Jersey. The meetings cost \$25 and include a meet and greet continental breakfast, meeting, lunch, and tours of the historical locations in the area. Their June meeting is before we meet again, so that is on June 11th in Tweksbury Township, New Jersey. If you are interested in attending any of the events, please access the website- www.lhsnj.org. All members are members of the league, but only Karen or her designee can vote.

Corresponding Secretary – Kathy Lanzim

Kathy met with Jayne and was given boxes of stationary and materials. She has also spoken to Howie about getting set up as the email receiver on the webpage.

Faith suggested a round of applause for Kathy, who stepped up to a job that needed to be done.

Board of Director – Karl Fahringer

Liaison to the Membership and Hospitality Committee

Bob Gleason reported membership renewal forms have been coming in, but we are still lower than last year. In 2015 we had a total of 466 members (132 single and 334 family) and today we only have a total of 381(109 single and 272 family).

At today's meeting we have 71 attendees. That number includes one new member and two guests.

Door Prize and 50/50

{After lunch, the following were awarded: the door prize - a bottle of wine with a lighthouse ornament (Ann Volpe), 50/50 totaled \$80 (Nancy Cope), and there were 11 raffle tickets called for prizes. Congratulations to all of the winners.}

Holiday Auction

Karl was excited to announce that the basket raffle was a success. Over \$500 was raised in the raffle alone and another \$100 for the 50/50. Basket donations for 2016 are always accepted and much appreciated.

A round of applause was given to Karl, Gene and their wives for all they do. It's a lot of effort to run this event.

Board of Director – Winnie McKelvey

Educational Outreach / Speakers Bureau

Winnie reported that there are 9 events scheduled plus one that was just booked today for April to July.

Community Outreach Liaison

Nothing at this time

Board of Director – Lauren Ward

Unable to attend

The BEAM

Nothing at this time

Board of Director – Gene Goch
Finance Committee

Gene was proud to have the approved budget. He said, "All is good!".

Board of Director – Anne Solaequin

Ann reported that several new items were purchased with the new New Jersey Lighthouse Society logo. Items include tote bags, denim shirts, golf shirts, and hooded, zip front sweatshirts. If you need a size we don't have, it can be ordered. Another round of applause was given to Ann for stepping up to a job that was in need. Thank you Anne! Faith stated that Anne could use some assistance selling the merchandise. If anyone is available at the beginning of the meetings and/or at lunch please see Anne or Faith.

Old & New Business

- A member stood and shared the sad news of Tincum Rear Range Light. After the Coast Guard analysis of the tower last fall, the area is now closed. No one can climb the tower or enter the fenced area. They plan to be open for souvenirs during the challenge, but climbing will not be permitted.
 - Brett is still working on a donation for the National Lighthouse Museum.
 - Jim shared of the passing of Howard Koslow, lighthouse stamp designer and friend of the society. He was in the middle of a stamp series and at this time Jim was unsure if the series will continue.
 - Marty Hudsbeth shared that the Chesapeake Society is also looking to the postal service to have a series of their lights.
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For the Good of the Society

- The society is looking for someone, or a group, to step up and lead or help spread the infectiousness of lights to different events. If you feel you would be interested in this community outreach, please see one of the Board Members.
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Adjournment

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M. after a motion by Doreen Berson, seconded by Jim Cope, and all were in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Karen Owen, Recording Secretary, NJLHS

Dates of General Membership Meetings

June 25, 2016

September 24, 2016

December 10, 2016

Approved – June 25, 2016

No reports were given by

- Historian of the Society
- New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL) Liaison