

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society  
General Meeting  
March 29, 2008  
Center School  
Highland Park, NJ 08904**

**Call to Order**

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:07AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Cope then provided a short review of the site safety regulations.

**Minutes from December 8, 2007 General Meeting**

Bob Gleason submitted the minutes from the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Audubon Park Hall were submitted for approval. Al Smith made a motion to accept the minutes. Anthony Albence seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: Debbie Megonigal**

Treasury figures for March 29, 2008 were as follows:

Operating Account	\$18,243.52
Sandy Hook Fund	27,287.63
Challenge Fund	2,490.40
Preservation Fund	22,577.91
Memorial Fund	4,177.36
Current Balance	\$74,776.82

During the Quarter NJLHS received donations in memorial to Carol Ann Cook and Mark J. Kellehen.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

**Corresponding Secretary: (Jayne Swope traveling – Yvonne Miller-Thies representing)**

Yvonne explained that there was nothing new to report.

**President's Report****Programs Committee Report – temporary chairperson Yvonne Miller Thies**

2008 Programs are set for the year and detailed in the BEAM. Holiday Social will take place at Absecon Lighthouse. Yvonne asked for volunteers to get involved with Programs.

**Carol Ann Cook Grant** – Due to the significant size (\$2,100) of the donations the Board has determined that this money will be used to fund a specific lighthouse project grant. Guidelines for applying for the grant will be developed and a letter sent to the lighthouse managers explaining the application process.

**Trips** – Due to growing personal commitments, Betty Smith will not be able to continue to arrange the longer trips. While Betty will continue to work on the shorter (day/weekend) trips, the Society needs a new volunteer to work with Betty as co-chair to help with the longer (week long) trips. Please see Yvonne or Betty if interested.

**Barnegat Lighthouse State Park** – has asked NJLHS to assist in the development of a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for Barnegat Lighthouse in 2009. We will be working with the Friends of Barnegat Light. Volunteers will be needed and more details to follow.

**Photo Contest – Cindy Mitzen**

Cindy started by giving a big, "Thank You", to Carol & Joe Guchek for helping to secure this beautiful Highland Park location for the March, Photo Contest Meeting. Cindy reviewed the contest rules, the voting procedure and explained that winners will be asked to sign a Sandy Hook Foundation release form. The release form will enable the winning photos to be displayed prominently at the Sandy Hook Keepers House beginning on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Yvonne explained that since Alvin Brown was unexpectedly in the

hospital with an infected cut, she had called on the Copes, Amentos, Ducheks & Bill Volpe to help with hospitality for the meeting. She thanked them all for pitching in and everyone wished Alvin a quick recovery.

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

**Membership** - The Society's membership totals 942 members, 284 single and 329 family memberships. The total attendance at the 3/29 meeting was 97 including 3 new members.

**Website** – No updates.

### **Newsletter - THE BEAM – Mike Boucher**

The proposed 2008 budget, if passed, will enable the BEAM to be printed as a 16 page, color edition each quarter. We are getting new contributors. Deadline for articles for the June BEAM is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Publicity** – No updates.

### **Past President's Report: Tom Laverty**

**Recognition** – Reminder that nominations for the NJLHS Recognition Awards should be submitted to Tom via e-mail ([tom.laverty@njlhs.com](mailto:tom.laverty@njlhs.com)) or regular mail (Tom Laverty, NJLHS, Inc., PO Box 332, Navesink, NJ 07752-0332).

**Sandy Hook Foundation Liaison** – Two new signs recognizing the efforts of the Sandy Hook Foundation and the New Jersey Lighthouse Society have been placed at the Keepers House (one inside, one outside). The proposed 2008 budget also contains money to paint Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Beginning April 5<sup>th</sup> the lighthouse will be open for weekend tours (noon – 4:30pm). The National Park Service has arranged for an intern to be available for lighthouse tours daily, 1-5pm, beginning on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in volunteering as a tour guide or as a greeter should please see Al Smith or Tom.

### **New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge – Doreen Berson**

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NJ Lighthouse Challenge will be held on Oct 18-19, 2008. Barnegat Light Historical Museum and Lens and The Cape May County Historical Museum and Lens have been added to the route and volunteers are needed. See site coordinator, Al Smith to volunteer.
- Grant proposals have been submitted for 2008 Ocean County Tourism Promotional Matching Grant and New Jersey Department of State Division of Travel & Tourism. Results should be known by early April.
- The Challenge has also been nominated for the 2008 Governor's Tourism Award with results to be announced on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic City. Watch for results on the Society's New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge® web page.
- Look for a History of the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge® in the next edition of the BEAM.

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

The Spirit of New Jersey History event at Washington Crossing State Park will take place in early May. Volunteers are still needed for the week long Warren County Farmer's Festival, July 27 – Aug 2, 2008. Please check the BEAM and the website to volunteer for other events.

### **Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bill Volpe (presented by Yvonne Miller-Thies)**

Volunteers are needed to assist with Educational Outreach, both Speakers Bureau & Sandy Hook. We particularly need help in Northern New Jersey. Volunteers do not need dynamic speaking skills or extensive knowledge of lighthouses – presentation materials are already prepared & ready to go. Please consider volunteering!

### **Trips – Betty Smith**

The Long Island Lighthouse Challenge bus trip has been cancelled because the bus was only filled to 50% capacity. Deposit checks will be returned. The Cape Cod / Martha's Vineyard / Nantucket bus trip is

a GO! With great sadness & with a big thanks for all the support she has received (particularly from husband Al) Betty announced that she will no longer be coordinating the longer trips. Anyone interested in taking over should please see Yvonne. See Betty if you are interested in understanding more details about the position. The membership expressed their appreciation for Betty's work.

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### **Ways & Means – Marty Hudspeth**

- New recipes still needed for the cookbook, particularly bread or muffins (need 150 – we have 79)
  - New Products Available include: magnetic bookmarks, magnetic memo pads, cards, overnight bags & shadow boxes.
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – Brett Franks**

#### **Preservation**

- “Stepping it up quite a bit” for the 2008 Preservation Raffle. In an effort to stimulate sales outside of the membership, this year's top prizes are expected to be:
  - First Prize: Cruise for 2 – 6 nights
  - Second Prize: Laptop Computer
  - Third Prize: Overnight Stay for two at Atlantic City Casino.
- Helping Hands events planned for about every three weeks. If you are interested in joining please see Brett or any of the committee members at the 50/50 or door prize table. Details on Helping Hands events will be posted on the web site. Coming events include:
  - Painting at East Point
  - Painting & cleaning up the grounds at Sandy Hook
  - Cleaning the 1<sup>st</sup> Order Fresnel lenses at Cape May & Barnegat for the Challenge

**Archivist** – Elinor and Rich Veit have been working hard and making progress on the Society archives stored at Sandy Hook Keepers House.

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### **New Business - Election of 2008 Officer or Director Positions**

**2008 Budget** – Jim Cope, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2008 budget. Copies of the budget were distributed (handed out at the membership table as people entered the meeting). Following review of the budget the President asked for a motion to approve. Joe Guchek made the motion to approve which was seconded by Faith Giamboi. The motion was passed without objection by the membership. The President announced that the 2008 budget was Approved and Passed.

Doreen Berson reminded the membership that more 2008 Challenge brochures are available if needed.

There being no further New Business, Yvonne asked for, and Al Smith made, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Flandera and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Gleason  
Recording Secretary