

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
 General Meeting
 September 27, 2008
 Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, NJ

President Yvonne Miller Thies opened the meeting at 11:10am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June meeting at Fort Mott State Park were not available; they will be submitted for approval at the December meeting. Mary Beth Doherty, 1st Vice President, will try to get our Webmaster, Howard Wright, to post the minutes on our web site.

Treasurer's Report – Debbie Megonigal

Debbie read the treasurer's report. Total Operating \$12,383.86; Sandy Hook Fund \$22,155.93; Preservation Fund \$22,726.66; Memorial Fund \$4,825.82 and the Challenge Fund \$20,750.04. Rod Mulligan accepted the Treasurer's Report, Al Smith seconded and the membership approved.

President's Report – Yvonne Miller Thies

Barnegat Light will be holding its 150 Anniversary on October 11th. The light will be opened to climb, members Bill Volpe and Brett Franks will be giving two different presentations. Outreach will be there. A presentation will be made to the Friends of Barnegat Light in the form of a check. January 1, 2009 is the official anniversary.

The next meeting of NJLHS will be December 6th at the Uptown School in Atlantic City. We will have the Society's awards program and you are asked to bring your own lunch. Afterwards at the Absecon Light Keepers House we will have our Holiday Social.

Yvonne requested that the board members present meet after the business meeting to discuss a few issues which have come up.

Lighthouse Challenge 2008 – Doreen Berson

- Today is the last day to sign-up to volunteer at the Challenge. Please see Al Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, to sign-up.
- The souvenirs, shirts and pins are currently in production. The theme this year is "Lights and Lenses".
- "Thank You!" to Bob Neild for finding the marketing company we are using this year.
- The next meeting of the Challenge Committee will be on Saturday, October 11th from 9:30am – 1:00pm at the Twin Rivers Library.

Community Outreach – Anthony Albence

- The Decoy and Gunning Show is going on this weekend and we have an outreach setup there.
- New this year was the Society's participation at the Warren County Farmers Fair. This is a week long event with 4-H and hot air balloons. Anthony thanked Alan and Amy Mertz along with Mary Catherine Kennedy who spearheaded the volunteers at this event.

- If you know of an event that you think NJLHS should participate in, please let Anthony know about it.

Education Outreach – Bill Volpe

33 speaking engagements have happened so far this year. Faith Giamboi was recognized by her local paper for the speaking she has done about lighthouses on Long Beach Island. Mike Boucher has taken educational outreach to new heights by guiding a tour group on the lights of the lower Hudson River. So far it has been a successful year.

2nd Vice President – Mary Beth Doherty

Membership

- Membership 292 (x2) families 588; 219 single; total 803.
- In attendance 84 members, 4 guests and 1 new member.
- Membership renewal forms will be available at the next meeting; dues will be accepted.

THE BEAM

THE BEAM had a little glitch some sort of pod thing. If you received a less than perfect BEAM, see Mary Beth for a replacement copy.

Web Site

Updates to the web site can go to Howard Wright; he stated that if you have vacation pictures of lights visited to send them in. Our web site is <http://www.njlhs.org>.

Recognition Committee – Tom Laverty

Those nominated will be recognized at the December meeting.

Sandy Hook – Al Smith

- The Sandy Hook Keepers House is open. Sign-up to climb the light.
- Al thanked Bill Volpe for the over 300 climbers he has added to this year's total.
- Al will be retiring from his Sandy Hook Coordinator position at the end of the year.
- Al thanked the many volunteers he has worked with over the years.
- "Thank You, Al!!!", from your many volunteers.

Lou Venuto – Sandy Hook Director of Interpretation

- Thanked the Society in particular Al Smith for all his help at the lighthouse, also Yvonne for all her help during her presidency and Lou looks forward to working with Mary Beth.
- Lou told the Society that he knows we all see that the lighthouse has been recently cleaned and is glad she will look her best for the Challenge. The last time the lighthouse was painted was in 2000. He said that in another few years she will be painted again, they are already looking for funding.

Ways and Means – Marty Hudspeth

Marty had 2 new lamps made by Howard Wright, one has already sold. She also has some new tees and sweater vests. If you have any recipes, please get them to her. About 40 more are needed for the cook book.

2nd Vice President – Brett Franks

Preservation

- Sea Isle City has granted a piece of land so that the Ludlum Lighthouse can be moved.
- Finns Point has had an engineer study done of the deck for its safety. The light will be open for the Challenge. Brett was notified by Deputy Virginia who he has been working with at the US Fish and Wildlife Service is being transferred.
- Helping Hands: the group has been formed to give hands-on help where needed. Recently, help was given right here at Sandy Hook with painting. Plans are in place to clean the Cape May and Barnegat lenses. See Rich Veit for more information.
- The Preservation Raffle will be drawn after lunch. \$6,000 was raised with about \$4,500 going to Preservation.
- Anne and Karl Fahringer will be taking over the 50/50 and items raffle that is held at every meeting. Karl will find you just like Harry Megonigal did in the past.
- Renard Petronzio has put together a trip for Preservation that will be going to Coney Island, Staten Island and various other lights on November 8th.

Nominating Committee Report – Debbie Megonigal

Nominating Committee Chair Debbie Megonigal reported for the nominating committee the following slate of nominations for a two-year term:

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Mary Beth Doherty | President |
| • Brett Franks | 1 st Vice President |
| • Cindy Mitzen | 2 nd Vice President |
| • Faith Giamboi | Treasurer |
| • Bob Gleason | Recording Secretary |
| • Tom Laverty | Director |
| • Anthony Albence | Director |

Hearing no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the slate presented accepted.

Bill Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bill Volpe seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Mitzen,
Director