

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting - March 21, 2009
VFW Post 2179
Route 36 East
Port Monmouth, NJ
<http://www.njlhs.org/>**

Call to Order

President Mary Beth Doherty opened the meeting at 11:05AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. She then introduced herself for the first time as President and congratulated Renard Petronzio and Cindy Mitzen on a the great site (VFW Post 2179) for the day's meeting. Jim Cope provided a quick review of safety procedures.

Minutes from December 6, 2008 General Meeting

Bob Gleason submitted the minutes from the December 6th meeting at the Uptown School District in Atlantic City for approval. Tom Laverty made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by George Naill. The motion was passed by the membership and the December 6th minutes were approved.

President's Opening Remarks: Reviewed agenda for the day. Reminded members of the importance of volunteering for the Society. There are a number of openings available for members looking to participate more actively in our Lighthouse activities. Bill Volpe will be stepping down as Educational Outreach and Speakers Bureau Chair at the end of the year. She mentioned that she had been contacted by someone with historian experience interested in becoming Society Historian. More help like that is needed! On a sad note, Joe Solaequi passed away on St. Patrick's Day weekend. A copy of Ann Solaequi's address was available for those wishing to send cards of condolence.

Membership - The Society's membership totals 851 members, 233 single and 309 family memberships. The total attendance at the Dec 6th meeting was 101 with 98 members and 3 guests. A convenient form for giving "Gift Memberships" is now available at the Membership sign-in table. Reminder to please sign-in when arriving to help us keep track of attendance and plan for hospitality in future meetings.

Newsletter - THE BEAM - Mike Boucher

Layout changes are underway including republishing some "Classic" BEAM articles from the very first newsletters. The deadline for next edition is May 2, 2009. Please send in your stories, vacation pictures, etc. to share in the newsletter.

Website – Howard Wright

Since adding a counter to the NJLHS homepage last Fall, the site has received over 14,000 visits or "hits". Our site is becoming widely known. Check the left-hand side of the home page for new & late-breaking information. Copies of the first ten copies of The BEAM are now posted on the site to read.

Challenge – Doreen Berson and Laura Portée

This year (Oct 17-18) will be the 10th Annual New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge®.

- All volunteers, even those returning to the same site, must sign-up with either Carol Naill or Apryl Roach, the Challenge Volunteer Coordinators. Help is particularly needed at Sandy Hook on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.
- Challenge Publicity Chair - Volunteer is still needed for this important position. Our experience in 2008 combined with a smaller 2009 publicity budget due to the economy will make Publicity more manageable - but no less important on this 10th Anniversary Year. Please consider volunteering!
- Site coordinator is needed for East Point location. Please see Laura if interested.
- Special 10th Anniversary Events include: two boat rides on Friday 10/6, and the addition of Ludlam Beach Lighthouse as a "Bonus" site. The North boat ride will leave from Keyport and tour Raritan

Bay (see Renard Petronzio for details and to sign up). The South boat ride will leave from Cape May (see Mike Boucher for details and to sign up).

- Updates on other Challenges:
 - Long Island - 5/16-17
 - Martha's Vineyard - 6/12-14
 - Mid-Coast Maine - 6/27-28
 - Lights Across the Border International Lighthouse Challenge - 9/12
 - Maryland - 9/19-20
- Reminder that we are looking for volunteer(s) to work with Doreen & Laura and be ready to take over Chairing the Challenge following the 2009 event.

Ways & Means – (No report this month)

Treasurer's Report: Faith Giamboi

Faith requested that all Committee Chairs keep a record of what you spend or deposit and let her know if she will be receiving a bill or a change in account balance due to a deposit.

Treasury figures for March 20, 2009 were as follows:

Operating Account	\$30,088.44
Sandy Hook Fund	29,878.63
Challenge Fund	6,537.97
Preservation Fund	14,717.67
3 Mos. CD (Preservation)	5,000.00
6 Mos. CD (Preservation)	5,000.00
Memorial Fund	4,881.80
Current Balance	\$96,104.51

There were no questions following the reading of the report. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Finance – Jim Cope

- Jim reviewed the 2009 NJLHS budget recommendation as prepared by the Finance Committee with input from the various committees and the board. The 2009 budget includes production of a color BEAM for all four editions.
- Following his review, Jim, as Chairman, stated that the Finance Committee recommends the approval of the 2009 Society Budget as presented. Tom Laverty seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote of the membership. The 2009 budget was approved.
- Mary Beth explained that the 2008 Financial Audit Committee has been formed to review the 2008 books. Members are Judy Boucher, Jayne Swope & Bob Gleason (chair).

1st Vice President's Report – Brett Franks

Preservation

- Helping Hands will be anticipates forming working parties to help with a) the repair of the Absecon Keepers House porch and b) the clean-up of Sandy Hook Lighthouse grounds & painting of the barn.
- The annual raffle will be held during the Fall with the final drawing at the Holiday Social.
- Preservation will be running a one-day trip from Cape May to Fenwick Island Lighthouse on April 25th. Trip will include a ride on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry and views of the Delaware Breakwater, Harbor of Refuge, Indian River Lifesaving Station and Fenwick Island Lighthouse. Cost is \$95 per person. Please see Renard to sign-up.
- Helping Ludlum with their relocation.
- Cleaning the Barnegat & Cape May lenses. May clean the Twin Lights lens.

Sandy Hook Report - Ken Schumacher

- The Lighthouse opens on April 4th.
- Watch for some excellent sales at the Sandy Hook Gift Shop.
- Volunteers are needed for Sandy Hook. Both tour guides and greeters are needed. Please see Ken if you are interested in volunteering and learning more about the Oldest Lighthouse in the United States. Weekend volunteers can qualify to stay over in the Keepers House.
- An electronic calendar for volunteers is being introduced.

2nd Vice President Report - Cindy Mitzen

Cindy described her participation in a couple of History Society related meetings where our participation will be valuable and informative as we look to keep NJLHS current and growing.

Programs

- Reviewed explained ordering process to take advantage of today's VFW lunch service.
- June meeting will be either the 20th or the 27th in Cape May. Please watch the website and the BEAM. Meeting theme is a "Family Picnic" with fun outdoor games and activities. Possible visit to the Coast Guard station.
- September meeting in Bayonne area. Possible visit to USCGC Katherine Walker.
- Looking for suggestions for other sites for future use. NY Maritime College was suggested.

Photo Contest

Cindy reviewed rules for the Photo Contest and announced that Judy Boucher will be taking over the leadership of the contest for next year.

Trips – Apryl Roach

The Seaway Trail trip is a "go". There are still a few more seats available on the bus if anyone else knows someone who would like to sign-up. Please keep checking the website for updates.

Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bill Volpe

Slow start in 2009 Speakers Bureau. Bill needs help with meeting a June 4th Sandy Hook Tour commitment for Sussex Christian School. Please let Bill know if you can help him to meet that June 4th commitment for this group.

Community Outreach – Anthony Albence

Anthony had car problems and was not able to make it to this meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, he asked that we let members know that Community Outreach opportunities are now listed on the Society website. Please let Anthony know if you would like to volunteer for any of these dates. He is in particular need of help on the 5/16, 6/7, 6/13 and 10/11 dates.

The President of the Keansburg Historical Society gave a brief overview of the area and the museum we will be visiting following the meeting. Mary Beth recognized three new NJLHS members at today's meeting. There being no further Business, Mary Beth asked for, and Jim Cope made, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alan Mertz and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Gleason
Recording Secretary