

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting – March 20, 2010
Tuckerton Seaport, NJ
<http://www.njlhs.org/>

Call to Order

President Mary Beth Doherty called the meeting to order at 11:07AM and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Cope provided a fire safety review.

Minutes from December 5, 2009 General Meeting

Bob Gleason submitted the minutes from the December 5th meeting at the Paulsboro Sportsman's Inn. There being no changes noted, Jayne Swope made a motion to accept, Bill Geilfuss seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

President's Opening Remarks: Mary Beth reviewed the day's agenda, including guest speaker Gary Martin who will speak on photographing lighthouses in stormy weather. Tuckerton Seaport will also be open for all members to tour at no charge today. There will also be a golf cart available for members needing assistance going back to the Museum or parking lot. Mary Beth encouraged all to patronize the Seaport's concession stands.

Membership - George Naill & Bob Gleason (for co-chairs Carol Naill & Linda Gleason)

Attendance at the meeting totaled 106 members, including 6 new members. There were also five guests. Membership numbers including were 224 single, 281 family for a total of 786 members. Reminder that name tags and gift memberships are available at the membership table. Gift membership forms are also available on the website.

Newsletter - THE BEAM - Mike Boucher

Mike thanked the membership for submitting articles. He already has four articles in-hand for the next BEAM. The BEAM will be going to two 12-page and two 16-page editions this year. May 1st is the deadline for the next edition of The BEAM so please keep submitting stories, pictures & articles!

Website –Howard Wright

Forty old editions of The BEAM are now posted on the website. Howie encouraged all members to view last years winning photos which he set up in a slide show at the front of the meeting room.

Lighthouse Challenge Events – Doreen Berson

- The 2010 Forgotten Coast Lighthouse Challenge will take place on April 24-25 on the Florida Panhandle. Website & FAQ for this challenge are available at www.stgeorgelight.org.
- 4th Annual Mid-Coast Maine Challenge: June 26-27, 2010
- Martha's Vineyard Challenge: June 11-13
- Maryland and Long Island challenge events have been cancelled for 2010 due to the economy and difficulty in signing up volunteers.
- The Lighthouse Managers of New Jersey will be sponsoring and running a 2010 New Jersey challenge event titled **The Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey** which will take place on October 16-17, 2010. Doreen introduced Paul Hart, Executive Director of Tuckerton Seaport, to allow him to explain the 2010 event.
 - Paul first thanked and acknowledged the efforts of Doreen, Laura Portée and the NJLHS in highlighting the importance of NJ's lighthouses through the ten editions of The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge®. He then introduced Nanci Coughlin, of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & manager for the Cape May Lighthouse, who will chair the 2010 challenge.
 - Nanci read the Press Release (copy below).
 - Nanci and Paul then answered questions from the assembled membership.
 - The event will closely resemble the very first year of the original Challenge.

- Volunteers are needed for the event. Paul encouraged all NJLHS members to continue to volunteer at the same sites as 2009. Individuals should volunteer by contacting the individual lighthouse manager at the lighthouse of their choice.
- Lighthouse Manager's Press Release:

The New Jersey Lighthouses and select affiliated museums will host a "Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey" weekend on October 16 & 17, 2010. Visitors will enjoy the opportunity to tour the state and visit each lighthouse over the weekend, and help raise funds for continued lighthouse preservation.

Hours of operation for each lighthouse can be found on lighthouse and museum websites listed below, and at www.lighthousechallenge.nj.org, www.njlhs.org and www.visitnj.org. Night climbs will be offered as well at Absecon, Cape May, Sandy Hook, Tinicum and Tuckerton Seaport.

Whatever lighthouse you choose to begin your journey on the Challenge, a tri-fold souvenir pamphlet will be available for purchase for \$1.00. As you visit each lighthouse your souvenir will be stamped as proof of each visit. This will be your souvenir to commemorate your participation in the event. The lighthouses encourage the public to take advantage of this special weekend to financially support and preserve the maritime history of our state as we face the same economic challenges as other sectors of commerce.
- Paul provided a brief overview of Tuckerton Seaport. The facility encompasses 40 acres; 24 developed and 16 green acres - larger than Mystic Connecticut. The museum house the oldest Fresnel lens in the state of New Jersey, originally from Brandywine Shoals.

Ways & Means – Carol Winkie

- Today, every person making a purchase or donation at Ways & Means will receive a pencil sharpener as a gift.
- Carol welcomed any suggestions or comments regarding Ways & Means. Please let her know.

Treasurer's Report: Faith Giamboi

Faith started by reminding the membership of the process for recording & reporting sales, deposits and purchases. Any time a bank deposit is made; all copies of the deposit slip should be validated by the bank teller. Understanding the process is particularly important for Committee Chairs.

Treasury figures for March 20, 2010 were as follows:

Operating Account	\$13,295.03
Memorial Fund	<u>4,910.48</u>
	18,205.51

Sandy Hook Account	\$27,989.14
Challenge Account	4,200.63
Preservation Account	<u>28,034.50</u>
Society Balance	\$78,429.78

The Treasurer's Report was submitted for file.

2010 Operating Budget - Jim Cope, Finance Committee Chair

- A copy of the 2010 budget was distributed at the membership table.
- Jim reviewed the proposed 2010 budget at a high-level for the membership.
 - NJLHS is not budgeting any expenses for The Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey
 - \$5,000 "seed-money" for the Absecon Lighthouse Museum
 - \$8,000 for the lens replacement.

- As chairman of the Finance Committee, Jim made a motion that the Society accept the 2010 NJLHS Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

1st Vice President's Report – Brett Franks

Preservation

- Ludlum status: The owner of the property on which the lighthouse currently stands was recently denied a permit to build on that site. As a result, while the final site is still in question, the lighthouse can remain on the current site for an estimated 6-8 more months.
- "Wandering Wickies" Rich & Elinor Veit recently cleaned the Absecon lens.
- The \$8,000 lens replacement budget item refers to the repair & stabilization of the Brandywine Shoals lens here in Tuckerton Seaport. Brandywine Shoals is the third Fresnel lens brought into the United States and is believed to be the oldest lens in the country.
- Establishing a \$5,000 matching fund to act as seed money for updating the Absecon Museum. The goal is to provide a better representation of the life of a lighthouse keeper and family life. Brett is working with Jean Muchanic, manager of Absecon.
- Brett is working with the State of NJ to resolve raffle license issues for 2010.

Sandy Hook Report – Al Smith & Sue Mazza

- Sandy Hook tours will begin on April 4th
- Mandatory National Park Service training for all volunteers is scheduled for March 27th at the Sandy Hook Chapel @ 11am.
- Volunteers are needed for tour guide. Please see Al.
- The Gift Shop is currently open with some new merchandise available. Please visit and shop!

2nd Vice President Report – Cindy Mitzen

Programs

- June 26 meeting is being planned for Liberty State Park. Hope is to allow time for a visit to the Statue of Liberty following the meeting. Please check The BEAM and the website for final details.
- September 25 meeting will be held in Lewes Presbyterian Church in Lewes, DE. Guest speaker will be Wayne Kirklín, author of the book, Lightships: Floating Lightships of the Mid-Atlantic. Following the meeting we plan to visit the OVERFALLS Lightship.
- Details for the December 4 holiday social are still being developed.

NJLHS Corporate Seal - Cindy presented the Recording Secretary (Bob Gleason) with a new NJLHS Corporate Seal.

Trips – Apryl Roach

- May 22 - Delaware Bay Boat Trip. Originally the Southern Boat Trip for the 2009 NJLHS Challenge. Leaves from Cape May at 10am and includes lunch. Cost is \$85 per person and deadline for signing up is May 1st. Further details and sign-up sheet are available on the website.
- Other trips in the planning process but not yet finalized:
 - Long Island Sound - American Princess Cruise. One day, six or seven hours, July timeframe.
 - Sheffield Island Lighthouse Lover's Getaway & Clambake: Aug 7-8, 2010. Optional overnight package with breakfast available at the Hilton Garden Inn, Norwich, CT
 - Southern East Coast Lighthouse Tour: October 23-31, 2010. Nine day bus & boat trip through Georgia, South & North Carolina. Anticipate working with Trolley Tours for this trip.
 - To assist in planning and prioritizing, Apryl requested members to indicate their interest in these trips by signing up at the Trips table during lunch. Signing up will not commit anyone to attend - simply provide more information for Apryl to use in negotiating prices & accommodations.
 - Prices for these trips will be available over the next few weeks.
- Please check the NJLHS website regularly for trip updates.
- Please forward any trip inquiries to Apryl at trips@njlhs.org.

Publicity & Community Outreach - Anthony Albence

- NJLHS is now on Facebook and Twitter.
- The Society is providing updates to over 50 media outlets.

Community Outreach – Anthony Albence

- Unfortunately the Spirit of the Jersey's History Fair was cancelled by the state due to budget.
- New addition to the schedule: Annual Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Maritime Festival, July 17-18.

Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau – Bob Gleason

- Bill Volpe completed a presentation to 30 attendees at the Somerville Jewish Community Center on February 17th, (17 adults & 13 kindergartners). NJLHS received a \$50 donation as a result of Bill's work.
- Five other speaking events have been scheduled.
- Anyone interested in sharing their love of lighthouses through public speaking should please contact Bob Gleason.

Photography Contest - Judy Boucher provided an overview of the contest categories and rules.

Passing the Bar - Bill Geilfuss informed the membership of the passing of George Feirer, the Society's very first Historian. He passed away in early February at the age of 86.

Before breaking for lunch and the guest speaker, Mary Beth reminded everyone to visit the bench dedicated to Harry and Debbie Megonigal and located right in front of the museum. Members of the Megonigal family were invited to join today's meeting. However, daughter Ann said that while they appreciated the invitation, it was still "too soon". Mary Beth postulated that the fact that we had such a beautiful sunny day for today's meeting was no doubt due to Harry & Debbie smiling down on us all.

There being no further Business, Mary Beth asked for and Mike Boucher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Katie Moser and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert E. Gleason
Recording Secretary