

The Beacon

Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society

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A Message from Our President

As many of you are aware, we have been granted permission from the Coast Guard to lease the lighthouse. However, for the past ten months we have been unable to acquire the necessary insurance. We have been in contact with government officials as well as the Coast Guard concerning the issue of one stipulation in the lease. At this point, the Coast Guard is willing to work with us and has directed us to their legal department to rectify the problems with the language in question. As soon as this is corrected, insurance will be obtained and we can begin the restoration of the lighthouse. Needless to say, this process has been very frustrating for all of us. However, we earnestly believe the Coast Guard is willing to work with us and is anxious for us to obtain the lease and begin the work!

Lighthouse Summerfest 2004

The festival will be held this year on June 19th –20th at Lakeshore Park. There will be a variety of entertainment during the festival with lots of food, crafts, music and speakers. Last year's festival was very well attended. We have even bigger and better things planned for this year! This event promises to be fun for the entire family. Don't miss it! If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact Karen Davis at 440-964-2540. We can use help in planning but also during the festival weekend. If you can donate even a couple of hours please contact Karen. Remember "many hands make light the work."

New Officers

Elections were held at the February General Meeting. Officers for the next two years are: Joe Santiana-President, Lloyd Bogue-Vice President, Lorna Greicius-Secretary, and Debbie Santiana-Treasurer. Special thanks go to Dennis Hale for his vision and leadership during the past two years as President.

Historian Report

By Bob Frisbie

During 2003, several of the former USCG Light Keepers spoke to members of the society at the Marine Museum concerning their experiences at our lighthouse. Neil Barton, Buck Price, Rick Chalker, Bill Knipper and Harry Solomon have all been video taped. We appreciate their willingness to share some of their history with us. This spring, Mr. James Woodward, who is retired from the Coast Guard, will be speaking at the Marine Museum concerning his work preserving and restoring Fresnal Lens throughout the United States. Amy Winger is also conducting a search of past lighthouse keepers. If you have any information you can contact her at 440-599-1858.

Membership Drive

Our membership drive has begun for 2004. When the problems concerning the wording in the lease agreement are resolved, insurance will be acquired and our restoration expenses will mount very quickly. Remember to encourage your friends to join. The first one hundred members will have their names engraved on a plaque to be hung in the lighthouse. We are VERY close to that number at this time.

Merchandise Available

We have t-shirts and mouse pads as well as cups and caps with the Lighthouse logo, still available. There are a few t-shirts (large) from last year's festival, also available. These can also be purchased on our website. We have ordered blue and clear glass mugs etched with a picture of our lighthouse that may be purchased at the Lighthouse Summerfest this June.

Please join us at our next General Meeting on April 14, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the old Coast Guard Station on the east side of the lift bridge.

Check us out at:

www.ashtabulalighthouse.com