



## SPLKA Annual Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2014, 6:35 PM

**"The mission of SPLKA is to preserve, promote, educate the public, and to make our lighthouses accessible to all."**

### Call to Order/Establish a Quorum:

A business meeting of the Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers' Association was held September 20, 2014 at 6:35 p.m. at the Applewood Grill, 3666 S. Scenic Drive, Stoney Lake, Michigan. The business meeting was preceded by a dinner and silent auction. The President, Lenore Janman, called the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting to order. The following Board members were present: Lenore Janman, John Truxell, Roger Pashby, and Sheila Meeusen. Absent board members were: Bob Baltzer, Doug Buikema, and David Dietrich.

Lenore welcomed all members and thanked Sheila Meeusen and Carol Buikema for organizing donations for the silent auction. Lenore also thanked everyone who made a donation and to Carol Buikema for donating the fall centerpieces for the table.

Lenore then introduced Executive Director Peter Manting. Peter, who has just finished his first year as Executive Director, reported to our membership as follows:

- The historic plaque at Little Sable Point (which had just turned 140 years old this year) was dedicated on August 6, 2014.
- The Historic Structures Report for LSP is in process.
- Our staff will be finishing the windows at BSP.
- Replica fog horns were installed last fall at BSP.
- The inside of LNBL was painted this past summer; repair of ceiling is to be done this fall.
- Completion of our new activity booklet for students who visit our four lights.
- Special events this year included Ark Harbor, a folk singing musical group, who reunite for one week during the summer months, they performed at three of our four lighthouses.
- A Dulcimer/folk music group performed at WRLS.
- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual West Michigan Lighthouse Festival was held in June at which time bus day trips to BSP were also held as well as other events at our other three lights.

- Special guest Valerie VanHeast, noted maritime historian, author, diver and co-founder of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates, made a presentation on the ship, the Thomas Hume, one of many shipwrecks uncovered in our Great Lakes.
- Lee Murdock, minstrel of the Great Lakes, performed a 45-minute concert before Valerie's presentation.
- SPLKA continues to be involved in Friday Night Live and Chamber business promotions in Ludington.
- Website improvements such as historic and current pictures of our lighthouses as well as a coming gift shop.
- Education of our young people as well as the general public with our open houses and our keepers.
- Fundraising projects such as "Leave a Print in the Sand", which gives everyone an opportunity to purchase a trex board for the new walkway around BSP
- Our newly launched Capital Campaign Fund where we need to raise \$250,000 for needed repairs at BSP, including repairs to steel cladding, repainting the tower, roof replacement on the keepers' quarters, completing window repairs, replacing deteriorated bricks on the keepers' quarter, sandblasting and whitewashing the entire building.
- Peter complimented and thanked his audience by saying that we have the best volunteer base he has ever worked with as we continue to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible to all.

Peter then fielded questions from the membership about our foundation and getting the light at Little Sable Point turned back on.

#### **Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting of September 21, 2013:**

Sheila Meeusen read the Annual Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2013. A motion was made by Robert Everett and seconded by Bryan Stauffer to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Reports:**

- **Treasurer's Report:**—John Truxell reported (for absent Doug Buikema) that SPLKA's revenue for 2014 is up 5 percent from last year's figures. SPLKA continues to look for sources for grants to fund our ongoing and future projects. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

#### **Shining Light Award:**

Lenore Janman then presented David Depie with our Second Shining Light Award. Lenore explained that David participated in the window workshop at Big Sable by

designing and building one unit including the screen for the new storm windows installed at BSP. This window project will be completed during this coming year. Our Association paid for the materials while David donated his labor and installed six new windows. David was presented with a Harbour Lights model of Big Sable.

**Election of Officers:**

Sheila Meeusen announced that the Board of Directors have three openings this year: Lenore Janman is seeking election to her second three-year term on the Board, John Truxell is seeking election to the two-year term opening, and Sue Ann Schnitker is seeking election to a three-year term. Sheila read a short synopsis of each candidate's background. Grace Truman made a motion to accept all three candidates; Roger Howell seconded her motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Program:**

Todd Reed, assisted by his wife Debbie, presented an awesome PowerPoint presentation of photographs from his book "Tuesdays with Todd and Brad Reed." Todd informed us that his book has won several national awards. Todd also showed a short video taken at about the time that weather remnants of Hurricane Sandy came through the Great Lakes region showing shots of the waves (some up to 20 feet in height) on Lake Michigan from the Ludington shoreline to St. Joseph. Lenore Janman thanked Todd Reed for his many contributions and for his generosity with his photography over the years to our Association.

**Announcements:**

Lenore Janman reminded attendees to leave their completed surveys on the table at the exit.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn was made by John Truxell and seconded by Judy Evans. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Meeusen, Secretary