



Minutes, SPLKA Annual Meeting/Dinner

August 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

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

1. Welcome

- a. President Al gave the welcoming remarks, noting that tonight was the time to celebrate.
- b. President Al led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introductions

- a. Jeff dePuis, Interim Executive Director, introduced the members of SPLKA’s staff.
- b. President Al introduced the members of SPLKA’s Board of Directors.

3. Susan Land, member of SPLKA’s Board, gave the invocation.

4. Dinner

5. Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President Al Cocconi.

- a. President Al called for a quorum. Quorum confirmed.
- b. Sara Anne Hook, Secretary, read the report from the 2021 SPLKA Annual Meeting. There was a motion to approve the Secretary’s report and a second. Motion passed.
- c. Ted Robinson, Treasurer, read the report from the 2021 SPLKA Annual Meeting. He made some comments about the differences between 2020 and 2021, which marked a great recovery for SPLKA after the pandemic. He noted that the organization’s finances are strong, but that operations in 2022 may reflect some of the economic issues, including visits to the lighthouses. Although funding for repair projects for Big Sable is in place, the other three lighthouses have maintenance and restoration needs. There was a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and a second. Motion passed.
- d. Al reviewed the mission of SPLKA and commented on its long-term sustainability. We have properties that we can be proud of. However, there are some challenges that SPLKA’s Board and staff will continue to monitor, such as guidelines related to COVID, with our protocols re-evaluated in 2023. He also noted recent organizational changes but focused on SPLKA’s amazing staff. Supply chain issues are improving, which impacts the sales of SPLKA’s merchandise. President Al emphasized that we are on the right track and are the largest operator and preserver of lighthouses in the Midwest, if not the United States. We provide a growing number of educational resources; our lighthouses

are a premier tourist attraction; and we oversee and maintain unique historical sites. On the other hand, we must embrace change, including hiring a COO and a Chief Development Officer. We need new members and to prepare the younger generations to become volunteers and members. He mentioned SPLKA's Strategic Plan and encouraged attendees to recommend major donors and potential candidates for the vacant staff positions.

- e. Jeff dePuis, Interim Executive Director, provided general comments and reviewed his activities since he stepped into this role on June 17, 2022. He reiterated SPLKA's mission and described the events that had been held to date in 2022, including successful volunteer keeper tours, bus days at Big Sable and music events, noting that all four lights were open throughout the season, along with sales at gift shops, tower climbs, and donations.

In terms of the Capital Campaign, Jeff noted that although the focus has been on Big Sable, SPLKA needs everyone to donate generously to help with other initiatives. He invited attendees to become ambassadors and cheerleaders for SPLKA.

- f. Al presented a gift to Ted Robinson, who is leaving the Board after 2 terms of service, thanking him for his service.
- g. Al conducted the election of two Board members. Larry Stultz was re-elected for his second term and Nic Amicone was elected as a new Board member. The Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for both candidates.
- h. Al and Jeff presented SPLKA's Shining Light Award to Bob and Becky Baltzer.
- i. Susan Land, Board member, updated attendees on the proposed Lighthouse Legacy Society. The Finance and Fundraising Committee is working with a local attorney to make sure that everything is done correctly with respect to gifts from estate plans.
- j. Questions from the floor included a request for a lifesaving ring at Big Sable, a plaque at Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse and the need for more warning signs and ribbons at Little Sable as people climb the tower. Staff will attend to these issues. Another attendee was reassured that SPLKA's Board is working on policies and procedures to ensure tighter internal controls.
- k. Motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and passed. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

6. Jeff introduced Dianna Stampfler, who gave a compelling presentation about her research on haunted lighthouses in Michigan, including White River Light Station.

7. Concluding remarks were offered by President Al, while Susan conducted a drawing for the lovely mums that decorated the front of the room.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Anne Hook, Secretary

Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association

Annual Dinner Meeting

Saturday, August 27, 2022

6:00 p.m.



1. **Welcome:**
 - a. Welcome Comments
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Introductions:**
 - a. Staff
 - b. Board Members
3. **Prayer:**
4. **Dinner**
5. **Annual Meeting:**
 - a. Call for a quorum:
 - b. Secretary's report 2021
 - annual meeting:
 - c. Treasurer's Report 2021:
 - d. President's Statements:
 - e. Executive Director's Report:
 - a. General Comments
 - b. Capital Campaign Update
 - f. Recognition of Retiring Board Members:
 - g. Election of New Board Members:
 - h. Shining Light Award:
 - i. The Keepers of the Light Legacy Society:
 - j. Call for Questions from the Floor:
 - k. Motion to Adjourn Meeting
6. **Presentation:**
7. **Concluding Comments/Drawing:**

Al Cocconi

Al Cocconi

Jeff duPuis

Al Cocconi

Susan Land

Al Cocconi

Sara Anne Hook

Ted Robinson

Al Cocconi

Jeff duPuis

Al Cocconi

Al Cocconi and

Jeff duPuis

Susan Land

Al Cocconi

Jeff duPuis

Dianna Stampfler

Al Cocconi

SPLKA thanks the generous sponsors of this event

Shelly & Larry Woodall

Nic Annicone

Julie Babcock

Maryann & Todd Johnson

Sue Oseland

SPLKA Board of Directors

Thomas & Jackie McBride

Cartier Mansion

Jeff duPuis, Interim Executive Director

Cherie Hockenberger, Assistant to the Director

Jim Hardie, Restoration and Maintenance Supervisor

Emily Anson, Marketing/Gift Shop Manager

Raelyn Pitera, Operations Manager

Matt Varnum, WRLS Curator

Carol Cooper, Bookkeeper

SPLKA Board of Directors

Al Cocconi, President

Mark Hallenbeck, Vice President

Sara Anne Hook, Secretary

Ted Robinson, Treasurer

Larry Stulz

Rob Vensas

Susan Land