

SPLKA Annual Meeting

September 23, 2023

- I. Call for a quorum
 - a. A quorum is present.
- II. Secretary's Report 2022
 - a. The motion was made and seconded to accept the secretary's report for 2022. The motion carried unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report 2022
 - a. The association is in good financial shape. We are solvent and sustainable.
 - b. The association has made more money this year than last year.
 - c. Expenses are slightly higher, but the association is doing well.
 - d. It was moved and seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. President's Statement
 - a. Al reviewed the mission of SPLKA
 - b. Discussed the changes made in bylaws, staff, leadership.
 - c. We are the biggest association in the Midwest.
 - i. We have more lighthouses than any other single association.
 - ii. We are the premier provider of educational resources for lighthouses.
 - d. Work is being done to sustain us for the long haul.
 - e. The HSR on Big Sable Point is being done.
 - f. We have implemented controls for finances and operations.
 - i. These changes make the organization more financially accountable.
 - g. Updated the by-laws with the consent of the membership.
 - i. Increased the size of the Board of Directors
 - ii. Changed the way that Board members could communicate with one another.
 - h. The Board has been able to return to strategy and oversight rather than managing operations.
 - i. We have the right people in the right jobs with new ideas and energy.
 - j. We are focused on increasing membership and donors.
 - k. We are improving relationships with the owners of the lighthouses.
 - i. City of Ludington, Fruitland Township and the Friends of White River, State of Michigan Park Service
 - l. Al put out a call for members to talk up the association and encourage friends to join.
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Our volunteer base has 22 states represented in our membership making us a national organization.
 - b. Our volunteers are the backbone of the organization.
 - i. We have over 400 active members and over 200 volunteers
 - c. Next year is a celebratory year.
 - i. LSP will be 150 years old, and we will celebrate during the Applefest.
 - ii. We will focus on improving safety at that light. We are collaborating with the Coast Guard.

- iii. We are hoping to have electric and internet at LSP next year.
 - iv. LNBL is celebrating 100 years.
 - 1. Light show is being planned. A 20–30-minute light show coordinated with music.
 - 2. We are focused on doing it without touching the budget and are applying for grants.
 - 3. People still don't realize we are opened for climbs. It will provide advertising in a big way. Hoping to assist with encouraging business and tourism.
 - v. Historic Structures Report – the diagram is available.
 - vi. WRLS is working on a new generator for the light. Fruitland Township is paying for that. A new platform will be built there, as well.
 - vii. Jack acknowledged all the volunteers.
- VI. Election of New Board Members
- a. Two new members have been appointed and need to be confirmed by the membership.
 - i. Erika Nielson – expertise in government relations
 - ii. William Gardner- expertise in contracts and financial management
 - b. Three seats
 - i. Dean Collingwood – expertise in maintenance
 - ii. Bobby Rhymen - small business owner
 - iii. Susan Land – incumbent
 - c. A motion was made and seconded that the slate be approved by acclamation. Susan Land, the association secretary cast the one vote for acclamation.
 - d. The board now consists of 10 members.
- VII. Call for Questions from the Floor
- a. What is the status of the Big Sable Capital Campaign for the repair of the tower?
 - i. The cladding needs to be repaired. There is a lot involved with the repair and most of the money will go to that. An engineer advised us on how to buy a little time. We are caulking near the which will buy additional time for the association to continue fundraising. The other part of the fund is for strategic projects, like building a barn at BSP and at some point, rebuilding the keepers house at LSP.
 - b. Are there term limits?
 - i. Yes. Board members are limited to 2 three-year terms.
 - c. Is adding so many board members at once a good thing?
 - i. There was a long discussion at the board meeting and not complete agreement. It was suggested that we could have elected new members to terms of varied length.
 - d. The Board was complimented on providing leadership during a tough time.
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting
- a. A motion was accepted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.