

Joe's Corner

I hope everyone is taking what's happening around the globe seriously and being as safe as you can. We will be facing many changes in the coming months. It's a scary feeling to realize all the things we took for granted have changed.

On a more positive note, as the Lighthouse Society moves forward, we have good news to report. Our contractor, ER Utility, out of Cleveland, is ready to move forward. The improvements we hope to make this year include new windows, doors and shutters. We also plan on reinstalling all the walls to recreate the original rooms. A bathroom, gift shop and learning center will also be created. All these projects will be funded by a state grant. I met with the contractor a couple months ago, along with his electrician. We went to the location of our marine cable exit point behind the water company. Lloyd and I had searched that out some years ago. We discovered that the water company has bulldozed an area where our electric cable had been buried and destroyed the possibility of reconnection. We now plan on having a Generac propane powered generator installed to run the lighthouse when we are out there. We are working to devise a plan to install a solar recharging system to handle some of the security needs.

As you can see, we have big plans for the remainder of the summer. However, before the contractor can begin, the floating dock system must be in place. This is our most critical need at present. To do the necessary dock repairs and get it in place takes many hands. I am sincerely requesting all able-bodied persons to help in this project. Nothing can be accomplished at the light without the dock. We Need Your Help! If you can help or could enlist the help of family members or neighbors, please contact me. Time is of the essence.

Thanks,
Joe Santiana
santiana@roadrunner.com



CHECK US OUT AT: www.ashtabulalighthouse.org
For news on upcoming events, items for sale, contact information, lighthouse history, photos, and much more!

The Beacon

Ashtabula Lighthouse
Restoration and Preservation Society
June 2020

From the V.P.

A good 2020 to all! Although the Wuhan China virus has everything in an uproar, the annual Fish Fry has been set for August 29th at Lakeshore Park. We will be needing lots of help. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is for



all involved. Please consider donating your time, purchasing a meal, inviting your family and having a good time with us! This, being our only annual fundraiser, helps pay for all the society's expenses, including insurance.

Also, a special shout out to Debbie Santiana. The restoration process and the state of Ohio keep putting up more hoops for the Society to jump through. Debbie has been working diligently, in an effort to keep the restoration and grant process moving.

Stay safe and hope to see you at the fish fry in August.
Mark Patterson.

June Membership Drive

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your yearly membership envelope. We sincerely hope you continue support our efforts with your donation. Please also encourage your family and friends to support the restoration and preservation of our Ashtabula Lighthouse. Membership forms can also be found on our website.

2019 Christmas Raffle Winners

Bradshaw Cunnington	Eleanor Stuart
Mark & Kris Paolillo	Linda Nerad
Lynn & Diane Stright	Baby Joey
Bryan Wood	Cyndi Sleigh Ribich
Donna McGrath	Charlene Anchor

Thanks to everyone who bought or sold tickets!

Message from our Historian

I am hoping that since you are reading this, everyone is weathering the COVID-19 crisis. I have spent the past three months isolated in my house, as many of you. There has been some good news-I have a new grandson, James, age 6 months, and my family is healthy.

I think I would be remiss if I did not share something about the last "Great" pandemic, the Spanish Flu, that lasted from 1918-1920. Spain was neutral during WWI so there were the usual cross border exchanges of goods and people. Early in 1918, the flu began striking in Spain, whom incidentally had the highest

national death toll from this disease. However, because of the war in Europe, it received little attention. American servicemen returning from the war brought it back to the U.S. Early on, many called it the Kansas Flu because most servicemen returning from

Europe were sent first to Ft. Riley Kansas. Over 44,000 servicemen died of the Spanish Flu while on active duty. Camp Custer, Michigan lost over 640 men in 34 days!

As the Lighthouse Historian, I have joined the National archives to aid in finding more information about our lighthouse and its history. Thus far I have been able to confirm listings for 10 Light Keepers and 12 Assistant Light Keepers. Many of the assistant positions show a progression up the ranks. The archives document a lengthy history and association of many of these men with our city. I have also discovered several old photos and postcards showing the lighthouse. The search continues.....

Trivia: The daily ration allowance for light keepers in 1918 was \$.30!

Thanks

Earl Tucker



Secretary Notes

Please email nelce@windstream.net if you would like to receive email notification of upcoming meetings and events. Additional newsletters, brochures and membership envelopes are available upon request. We also have t-shirts, polo shirts, hats, wine glasses and coasters for sale.

Check out our website at www.ashtabulalighthouse.org for more information.

Linda Nerad

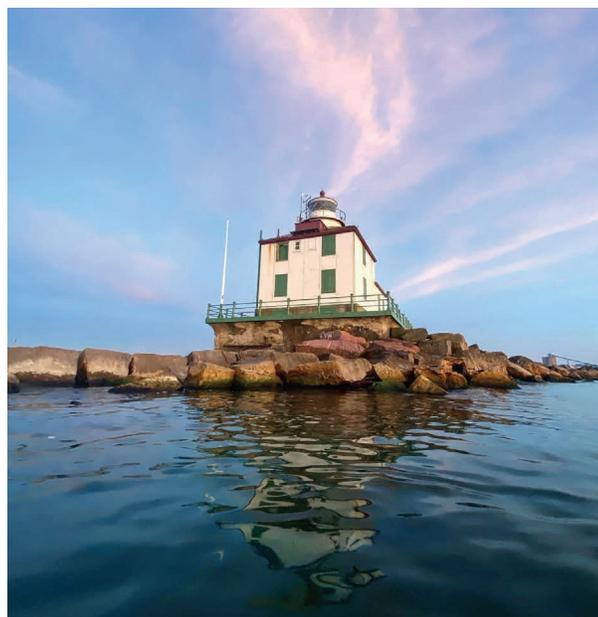
Treasurer's Notes

Hello Everyone,

It's been a long winter and so far, a long virus. But we are well and that is what's important. I've been keeping up on all the financial filings and payments to the state, sales tax and property taxes etc. However, mostly I have been working with the State regarding our grant, State Rep. John Patterson, his Aide, the OFCC and the contractor. I had submitted the original bid from the contractor in January and after some final authorization from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Parks Service, we are moving forward. However, the docking system needs to be in place and serviceable before the contractor can begin. Help is needed to repair the dock and move it out to the light. Please call Joe at 440.228.2441 or me at 440.319.4835 if you can assist in this most urgent need.

Thanks

Debbie Santiana



Lighthouse Fish Fry 2020

Lakeshore Park/Main Pavilion

August 29th 2-7 PM

We will be following all the guidelines set by the Health Department to keep everyone safe. This year, we will not be asking businesses to donate items but are requesting members to donate completed baskets for the raffle. Volunteers will be needed also the date of the event. If you have gift cards or baskets to donate, please contact Debbie at santi-ana@roadrunner.com for more information.

Carryout, as always, will be available.



Amazon Smile

Amazon will make a donation to the Lighthouse Society on any purchases through Amazon Smile. You must designate the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration & Preservation when placing orders for donation.

