Presidents Message

Hello again.

What a fantastic time we had in Mount Dora at our January meeting. We had almost one hundred in attendance. The weather was great and our guest speaker Dr. Kevin McCarthy was wonderful. For those folks that took the afternoon boat ride on the lake and down the Dora canal, what a treat it was to go back in time.

Well that brings me to our next meeting in Pensacola on April 24th. Dianne Levi has put together an outstanding program that you will not want to miss. I know it is a journey for a lot of folks but it will be worth your time.

We have started a committee to work on the license plate project again. With Geneva Hopkins as coordinator and Linda Patel, Glenn Swigart, Kathy Fleming, Rip Puls, Tom Klinker & Gene Oakes as members, I believe we are on the right track to accomplish our goal. If you would like to give your support to this effort please contact Geneva Hopkins at genevaimages@aol.com. This would mean so much for the preservation of our beloved Florida lighthouses. If you are asked to help in this area, I hope you will consider giving of your time.

Keep our Lights shining and I’ll see you all in Pensacola.

Wayne Hawes  
President
FLA News from Mount Dora

It's Official!

The Board announced the appointment of Alice and Dave D'Amico as the FLA’s Goodwill Ambassadors. Alice and Dave have been active Board members of the FLA in the past, and you will now be seeing them at many of the functions that are happening around our great State promoting the works of the Florida Lighthouse Association.

Congratulations Alice & Dave!

Dave and Alice D'Amico, the FLA Goodwill Ambassadors will also be at St. Augustine on March 20th for a Harbour Lights signing and would love volunteers to help man that booth. If you would like to be a volunteer at either event, please contact Judy Trotter at 407-771-8197 or 407-332-7833- or call Dave and Alice 407-331-9468.

Meeting Registration Note:

The number of people attending the quarterly meetings has been most gratifying as it shows a genuine interest in our common goal of lighthouse preservation. The most recent meeting in Mt. Dora had nearly 100 people attending and a good time was had by all. We expect even greater numbers at our next events in Pensacola, Key West, and Ponce Inlet due to the unique agendas and speakers at those meetings.

When the FLA schedules an event, we are held to the same financial accountability as anyone planning a wedding or a banquet. Depending on the facility, we are required to provide a total number of attendees anywhere from 2-7 days prior to the event. We will then be billed for that number of people regardless of how many people actually attend. Some facilities will allow us to add people at the last minute – others will not. The “bottom line” is that any unplanned change in the final total of attendees could cost the association money. Therefore, we are asking all registrants to help us plan a profitable event so we can continue to benefit our state's lighthouses. To accomplish this goal:

1) Please send in your registration by the DEADLINE. Any monies received after the deadline will be returned.

2) If you would like a confirmation of your registration, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your registration form.

3) Preplan your personal agenda for the day. We will be unable to accommodate unregistered guests. (This is especially true when events are planned on military bases)

4) We are unable to provide refunds. Remember, we have already paid for your lunch or seat whether you attend or not.

We are anticipating some great events this year and a first-time-ever meeting at St. Marks Lighthouse in 2005. We look forward to seeing all of you at the meetings in the coming years.

Gayle Stemac
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Mount Dora Lighthouse January 24, 2003

CALL TO ORDER. No minutes were received for publication in the Flash.

Photo Contest

The F.L.A. is excited to learn David Hanko is organizing and conducting another photo contest. He will be one of a panel of judges who will select a winner to be announced at the October 2004 Annual Meeting held at Ponce Inlet. Everyone is encouraged to participate by submitting an 8 x 10 of their favorite lighthouse photo entry. A contestant will be able to submit up to 3 entries, so please get your cameras ready and stay posted for further updates as the contest progresses over the next several months. All photos may be mailed to Dave at 13500 Balboa Drive, Largo, FL 33774. There is a $5 entry fee for each photo submitted. All entries must be submitted by September 1, 2004.

Dr. Kevin M. McCarthy
Guest Speaker at Mt. Dora

Paul Bradley
Renowned Lighthouse Artist
Remarks on his latest drawing.
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING

Pensacola Naval Air Station – April 24th, 2004

The second quarter 2004 meeting of FLA will be held at the Lighthouse Point Restaurant, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, just off Radford Blvd. overlooking Pensacola Bay. You may enter the base via the Main Gate at the south end of Navy Blvd. Please have the enclosed sign that you are attending FLA meeting on the driver's side of the dashboard. You may begin picking up your lunch tickets at 9:00 a.m. plus have a chance to visit with friends and bid on Silent Auction items or go to the beach for a view of Pensacola's lighthouse.

The business meeting will start at 9:45 a.m. (Central Time) Following the business meeting our program will be scenes from the original play "The Keeper", written and directed by Dr. Yolanda Reed, retired University of West Florida Professor of Drama. The play is set in a lighthouse on a rocky ledge off the New England coast in late 1939. As was often the case among lighthouse keepers, if the husband who was the keeper died, his wife assumed his duties. If she could manage well, she kept the position. Charlotte Elizabeth Grainger, portrayed by Patricia Simmons of the Lobliolli Theatre, is one of those women. Her husband has recently died; the war is starting in Europe and Grainger faces the impending loss of her home as the Coast Guard is in the process of automating the lights, thereby negating the need for a keeper. Keeper Grainger is visited twice a week by a young woman named Paula, played by Lisa Goodness, who rows over from town with supplies. Paula is vivacious and full of life and talk – a sharp contrast to the silence and seclusion of the keeper's world. The play is dedicated to the women who tended the lights and today honors Michaela Ingraham who, when her husband Jeremiah Ingraham died, took over his duties. Michaela was keeper of the first Pensacola lighthouse from 1840 until her death in 1855 and was the third woman keeper in Florida.

Following the buffet luncheon we will walk next door to the Navy Lodge, which is constructed at the site of Pensacola's first lighthouse and Florida's first Gulf Coast lighthouse, to dedicate a historic marker commemorating the 180th anniversary of the 1824 lighthouse. In March 1823, Congress took the first step to build a lighthouse at or near the entrance of Pensacola's harbor by appropriating $6,000. On April 23, 1824, the low bid of New England lighthouse builder, Winslow Lewis, was accepted. Work progressed rapidly and on the night of December 20, 1824, the new lighthouse lit the horizon. The Pensacola Lighthouse consisted of a round, whitewashed brick tower, 30 feet in height, 18 feet in diameter at its base and 9 feet in diameter at its top. The lantern, a metal housing with glass window panes designed to protect the lamp from the elements, rested on top of the tower. The combined height of the tower, the lantern and the bluff on which they were constructed, placed the lighthouse beam approximately 75 feet above sea level. The light itself consisted of 10 individual whale oil lamps. A 14 inch, silver-plated, bowl shaped reflector backed each lamp. The lamps and their reflectors were arranged on a rectangular frame in 2 groups of 5 lamps each, known as a Lewis Lamp. The keeper's home built near the light tower appears to have been wooden on brick piers with a bedroom loft. There was a small one-story structure for a kitchen attached at the rear of the house. In spite of the refurbishing of the Pensacola light in the late 1840's the lighthouse remained inadequate.

In April 1856, a site was chosen for the second lighthouse on another bluff, approximately one-half mile west of the original lighthouse. In 1858 construction was completed, and on January 1, 1859, the new Pensacola lighthouse was lit for the first time. Today you will be able to visit this lighthouse, which is still an active navigational aid with its first order Fresnel lens, and climb its 177 steps for a view of the surrounding area. Bring cameras and binoculars. By the end of 1869 a new brick duplex for the keepers was completed. In 1938 funds were appropriated to electrify the Pensacola light and on October 10, 1939, the electric light was lit for the first time in the tower. In addition to electricity, other modern conveniences were added.
Indoor plumbing replaced outhouses and water cisterns. In 1965 the light was automated. With the rotation of the Fresnel lens the 1000-watt bulb appears to flash at 20-second intervals; the beam can be seen for 27 miles. With automation there was no need for on-site keepers and plans were developed to demolish the dwelling. However, preservationists won out, and the dwelling was leased to the Navy. Thanks to Richard Callaway, former Cultural Resource Manager for the Navy, the keepers’ quarters were restored and opened in May 1995 as the Command Display Center. The first floor and basement have new exhibits about the history of the Navy Air Station, the first and present Pensacola lighthouses plus stories of the ghosts. Since the 2001 Pensacola FLA meeting, the light tower and house have been repainted. The original keeper’s room in the tower has been restored and is now an additional exhibit room. You will also be able to visit the second floor of the quarters, not open to the public tours, to see the famed bloodstains.

**BOAT TRIPS**

**USE THE FORM ON BACK OF LUNCHEON RESERVATION TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR EITHER FRIDAY, APRIL 23RD OR SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH**

The Coast Guard in Mobile will again try to provide us with a trip to view Middle Bay Lighthouse and Sand Island Lighthouse on Friday, April 23rd. We will leave Pensacola and car pool to the Coast Guard Station, Mobile – approximately 54 miles. The boat trip to see the lighthouses will be approximately 4 hours. Since we cannot control the weather or a Coast Guard emergency, we will not charter a bus for transportation. There is no charge by the Coast Guard for the boat. You may take snacks and non-alcoholic beverages on the boat trip. We’ll also have “Dutch Treat” lunch upon our return to land.

Please meet at Cracker Barrel parking lot, 8050 Lavelle Way, Exit 7 of I-10 (Pine Forest Road) to receive a map and directions. We will leave at **7:30 a.m., Central Time.** Please make reservations on the form included even if you signed the list in Mount Dora.

Sunday morning those who wish to sail the tall ship schooner Joshua on Mobile Bay to view Middle Bay Lighthouse may make reservations on the form included in the newsletter. There is a $25.00 charge, which must be paid when you make a reservation for the 3-hour trip. There is a minimum of 15 people required. The ship can accommodate up to 49 passengers. If bad weather cancels the trip you will be refunded the money. We will not charter a bus for just that reason, but will carpool to the beautiful Marriott Grand Hotel Marina, Point Clear, Alabama. You may take snacks and non-alcoholic beverages on the boat trip. We’ll also have “Dutch Treat” lunch upon our return to land. For further information about the Joshua, visit the website www.schoonerjoshua.com. Please meet at Ashton Inn parking lot, 910 North Navy Blvd. to receive a map and directions. We will leave at **7:30 a.m., Central Time.** Please make reservations on the form included even if you signed the list in Mount Dora.

Both of these trips are different – different types of boats, different water routes. Only the view of Middle Bay Lighthouse may be the same. Keep your fingers crossed and do your magic tricks that we have fabulous weather for the weekend. See you in April!

Dianne Levi
"So You Want to Own a Lighthouse?" Seminar brings leaders from across the U.S. to St. Augustine

St. Augustine, FL – Experts in historic preservation and the successful operation of America's lighthouses traveled from around the country to St. Augustine in November to take part in a groundbreaking event to provide representatives of lighthouse organizations with a voice in new federal legislation affecting the future of their light station properties.

The 76 attendees represented more than 160 light station properties around the United States. Folks traveled from more than 20 states including California, Washington, North Carolina, Minnesota, and Maine to take part in this important opportunity to work together to better control their light stations' destinies.

The seminar "So You Want to Own a Lighthouse?" is already being applauded as a triumphant success by those who took part.

"I don't know when I have had such a meaningful experience and met such wonderful people," said John Bogacki of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Bogacki is the park manager of the Piedras Blancas Light Station in California. "Having worked in this business for 35 years, I was amazed at the grassroots efforts and determination shown by the folks who made all those (lighthouse) success stories come true!"

The event was the inaugural seminar in a four-part National Maritime Heritage Education Series made possible by the generous support of Harbour Lights Corporation, makers of award-winning lighthouse replicas. The weeklong seminar was organized and hosted by the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum with assistance from the Tybee Island Light Station and members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the National Park Service.

"Thank you for setting an excellent precedent with this event," said Cheryl Roberts, Executive Director of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society in North Carolina. "At this historic time during which conveyance of hundreds of lighthouses will find new stewards, you are champions," she wrote in a letter of thanks to the staff of the St. Augustine Lighthouse following the seminar.

Development of the National Maritime Heritage Education Series came about following the pilot program of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPRA) of 2000. The NHLPRA is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Coast Guard, the General Services Administration, and the National Park Service that endeavors to transfer ownership of lighthouses to eligible recipients after a detailed application and review process. Some 300 lighthouse properties are intended for release by the Coast Guard to new owners over the next 10 years.

A key session during the seminar involved the collective group of attendees compiling a master list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats pertaining to the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act. The group agreed that one of the most important strengths of the law is the preservation of the historic resource (i.e., the light station) itself. This not only benefits the organizations working diligently to save lighthouses for their historic and cultural significance, but also proves advantageous to the Coast Guard by freeing up its resources -- both monetary and manpower -- for more urgent matters such as Homeland Security.
Another significant strength of the NHLPA is that the law makes it possible -- for the first time -- for there to be an equal playing field for all applicants who may seek ownership of a light station property: both nonprofit organizations and government-affiliated entities.

The group identified several opportunities for positive changes to be made to the law. These include the opportunity to limit the direct legislative transfer of lighthouse properties outside of the NHLPA by closing any existing loopholes that currently allow this to happen. Furthermore, there is a need to vastly improve the understanding of the monies that have been invested in lighthouse properties by the organizations already managing them under lease from the Coast Guard. Also, representation in the decision-making process of determining lighthouse ownership should include those who have hands-on experience in lighthouse management and operations.

The second of the seminars in the National Maritime Heritage Education Series will take place June 2-5, 2004 in Traverse City, Michigan. If you would like information about attending the event, contact Dr. Steve Belko, administrator of the Michigan Lighthouse Project at: Belko.mlp@voyager.net. You may also refer to a web site that has been set up specifically to serve as a clearinghouse of information about the NHLPA and the National Maritime Heritage Education Series at: http://www.ownalighthouse.com/.

Florida Inland Navigation District

A note from Barbara McClure of Ponce deLeon Inlet Light Station alerts all Florida lighthouses to the availability of grant money from a program through the Florida Inland Navigation District. Time is short to apply, so visit the web site indicated here for more information.

Ponce deLeon Inlet Light Station

Environmental Gardening at the Lighthouse

Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station will be offering an eight week course in environmental gardening taught by Don Spence, MS, at the Light Station. There is a $45.00 materials fee. As part of the class, students will create garden beds on the lighthouse grounds and will learn the specifics of ecological gardening in Florida. Field trips will also be included. Contact Ellen Henry, (386) 761-1821, Ext. 17

Other Lighthouse News

This http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=65706&ran=104807 link was provided by Hib Casselberry. It will take you to a news article in the online version of the Virginian-Pilot newspaper. The article points out the challenges facing restoration efforts at Bodie Island lighthouse in North Carolina's Outer Banks.

The Flash does not have permission to reprint the article here, but the please take the time to read the online version.
PENSACOLA AREA

While in the Pensacola area for the FLA meeting, take some time to enjoy the historic area and beautiful white sandy beaches. The area is known as the Emerald Gulf Coast because of its blue-green waters, sparkling white sand and dunes. While the first attempt to settle the area ended in failure because of a hurricane, the flags of five countries would fly over the city in the next four centuries. In 1992, underwater archaeologists located a Spanish galleon from Pensacola's first European settlement attempt in 1559. The Seville Historic District is one of the oldest and most intact in all of Florida, its architecture reflecting modest structures suited to the climate. Within this neighborhood is Florida's oldest church (1832) and St. Michael's Cemetery, deeded to Pensacola by the King of Spain in 1822. Historic Pensacola Village is a collection of house museums and commercial structures featuring costumed guides. The North Hill Preservation District began around 1870, when great wealth was acquired by men in the fishing, lumber and shipping industries. The Downtown Commercial Historic District preserves the historical integrity of stores, shops, art galleries and warehouses dating from the 19th century. The Wall South at Veterans Memorial Park on Bayfront Parkway is a one-half scale replica of the Maya Lin design in Washington, D.C. A local doctor started The Civil War Soldiers Museum, which displays a huge collection of medical artifacts, photographs and realistic dioramas. A life-size diorama of a Confederate field hospital is especially outstanding.

Pensacola Beach (Santa Rosa Island) stretches from Fort Pickens on its western tip to Navarre Beach to the east – 48 miles long. The pure white sand is ground quartz, washed down from the Appalachian Mountains eons ago. It even squeaks when you walk through it and the locals call it “barking” sand. The old Pensacola Bay Bridge is one of the longest fishing piers in the U.S., and you can fish right in the middle of the bay. There is a brand new quarter mile fishing pier at the beach, replacing the one destroyed in Hurricane Opal. Fort Pickens, constructed in 1834, is now an historic attraction in the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Along with the ruins of the old fort, the area offers camping, swimming, fishing and other activities, exhibits, a bookstore and a museum. The fort was occupied by federal troops during the Civil War and at one time was the military prison for Apache medicine man and warrior Geronimo.

The world-class National Museum of Naval Aviation showcases the history of aviation through indoor and outdoor exhibits. You're sure to be awed by the Blue Angels Atrium, the Flight Adventure Deck and the IMAX Theatre, where a film features the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team. Located also at the Naval Air Station is Fort Barrancas built in 1844, and includes the restored Water battery originally built in 1797 by the Spaniards. Fort Barrancas and the Advance Redoubt are part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Both are open for daily tours, no charge. A self-guided walking tour takes you around the location of the 1698 Spanish Fort of San Carlos De Austria and village or presidio Santa Maria de Galvez, located at Simmer Avenue. A portion of the fort with two of the Spanish cannons can be seen. A driving tour guide is available at the Naval Air Station's Welcome Center, Bldg. 35, to the right of the Main Gate.

If history and beaches aren't your cup-of-tea, there are fifteen 18-hole courses and six 9-hole golf courses in the area. So come spend a few days in the Florida panhandle, but remember we are in the Central Time Zone, so set your watches back 1 hour.

Dianne D. Levi
MOTELS IN THE PENSACOLA AREA
(Make reservations early – busy season)

ASHTON INN & SUITES
910 North Navy Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32506
1-866-274-8668 (toll free)
Tel. 850-455-4561
Full kitchenette in each room
FLA rate - $75.00 ($83.63 tax incl.)

Smoke-free facility
For those wishing smoking facilities,
same reservation number, but location
at 4 New Warrington Road
Muffins, juice, coffee included
3 miles from meeting; allow 20 minutes

HAMPTON INN- AIRPORT
2187 Airport Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32504
Tel. 850-478-1123
1-800-HAMPTON
FLA rate - $85.00

Full breakfast included
15 miles from meeting; allow 45 minutes
Close to mall & restaurants

SUBURBAN LODGE EXTRA
3984 Barrancas Ave.
Pensacola, FL 32506
Tel. 850-453-4140

$54.99 – Queen; $59.99- two Doubles (AAA,AARP rate)
$64.99 regular price
$5.00 for 2nd person on all rates

Full kitchen in each room
Breakfast available next block or at
A.C. Read Golf Club – The Oaks on base
(very reasonable) or McDonald’s on base
3 miles from meeting; allow 20 minutes

NAVY LODGE (for active duty or retired military)
1 Queen – microwave/refrig. -$55
coffee only available
2 Queens – stove top/micr/refrig. - $61
next door to meeting location
breakfast available on base at McDonald’s
or The Oaks – A.C. Read Golf Club
800-628-9466

Other motels available in Pensacola area, but
AVOID Pensacola Blvd. (Rt. 29) area; Comfort Inn NAS/Corry; Days Inn Downtown
and Seville Inn.

Hall’s Seafood Restaurant – East Gregory – good food, reasonable and senior rates
Gus’s Shuck Shack, 550 Scenic Hwy and Cervantes St. meet
Mr. Manatee’s – 619 S. Palafox Street – downtown by the water
Scenic 90 Café (diner) – 701 Scenic Hwy. and E. Strong St.
Peg Leg Pete’s – 1010 Fort Pickens Rd., Pensacola Beach
ATTENDING
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION
MEETING
APRIL 24, 2004
LIGHTHOUSE POINT
RESTAURANT

PUT ON FRONT DASHBOARD OF DRIVER’S SIDE

BOAT TRIP RESERVATIONS

Name(s) __________________________________________

Telephone: Home ( ) __________________ Work ( ) ________________

Email Address _______________________________________

Friday, April 23 trip (Coast Guard – Mobile) YES _____ Number _____

Sunday, April 25 trip (Joshua sailboat) YES _____ Number _____

Cost: $25.00 per person for Sunday’s sailboat trip.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: FLORIDA
LIGHTHOUSE ASSOC. NO RESERVATIONS AFTER DEADLINE – APRIL 7TH.
MAIL WITH MEETING RESERVATION ON REVERSE SIDE.
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING
PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE, NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004

The second Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association for 2004 will be at Lighthouse Point Restaurant, Radford Ave. (see map) tel. 850-452-3251. From the restaurant's beach there is a view of the lighthouse. You will be responsible for arranging your own lodging, but the new Ashton Inn & Suites and the Hampton Inn, Airport are offering special rates to FLA members. (See Further Information)

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2004

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004 SCHEDULE
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. - Board Meeting – Lighthouse Point Restaurant – Goat Locker Room
9:00 a.m. - Registration Opens at Lighthouse Point Restaurant (Pick up lunch tickets)
9:45 a.m. - Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association
11:15 a.m. - Break
11:30 a.m. – Program – scenes from the play “The Keeper” – Lobloolly Theatre Group
12:00 noon – Raffle and Auction
12:30 lunch – Italian Buffet – tossed salad, lasagna, chicken cacciatore, linguini with clam sauce/marinara sauce, Italian green beans, garlic bread, fresh fruit, dessert, coffee, tea (soft drinks available at own expense)
1:30 – Dedication of a historic marker at the site of the first lighthouse on Florida’s Gulf Coast, built 1824 (180 year anniversary) - Next door outside the Navy Lodge
Following the ceremony, the present 1859 lighthouse and 1869 keepers’ quarters will be open for tours.

FLA MEETING – PENSACOLA – APRIL 24, 2004
RESERVATIONS DUE APRIL 7, 2004
$25.00 PER PERSON – LUNCHEON AND FACILITY RENTAL

Name(s) ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City, State and Zip __________________________________

Telephone: Home ( ) Work ( )

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOC.
MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
GAYLE AND DENNIS STEMAC
10847 Duck Hook Court
San Antonio, FL 33576

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE WILL BE RETURNED
ANYONE WISHING A WRITTEN CONFIRMATION, PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.