

THE TURKEY POINT BEACON



Our web site: www.tpls.org
Our e-mail is: tpls@magnus.net

Meetings are scheduled on the **2nd Wednesday** of **EVERY** month (7pm) at the **Upper Bay Museum** in the North East Town Park. **Please join us!**

Second Qtr. 2002 Meetings will be held on the following dates, so mark your calendars and join us. We need your help!

April 10th, May 8th, June 12th

Turkey Point Light Station Inc. P.O. Box 412, North East, MD. 21901

Volume IV, No. 1



From The President's Desk

This is the first Beacon of 2002 and we have some important information, ideas and opportunities to share with you, but first a short review.

What a year we had in 2001. We saw our membership grow, our finances increase, a lot of new interest in Turkey Point Light Station Inc. and many other positive signs. We saw our organization move forward in many areas, we now have a very nice website complete with an e-mail address, but we cannot rest on our past accomplishments. We must continue to move forward if we are to achieve our objectives. There will be time to rest a little when we can stand on the front porch of the newly rebuilt Light Keeper's House and watch the sun set over the beautiful Chesapeake Bay.



Membership

According to our records, we have 262 members who have joined our organization and have agreed to pay at least \$25.00 Annual Dues. Have you paid yours? If every member pays their dues, that will raise \$6,550 this year. That's not a lot when we are looking at a goal of \$325,000 to rebuild the Light Keeper's House, plus the additional expense of taking care of the lighthouse.

Fundraising

We are applying for grant money, but since the events of September 11th and the pressures of the economy, funds are a little tougher to find and even more difficult to acquire. But rest assured, we will not give up!

We also make money from merchandise sales. We have merchants that sell our merchandise in their shops. We also attend social events like St. Mary Anne's Spring Fair, Canal Days, the Water Festival, etc. just to mention a few. **Will you help?**

Memorials

We have recently received several Memorials. Families have asked people to donate money to TPLS instead of sending funeral flowers. This is yet another special way people can support the lighthouse.

Election of Officers

In January we elected Officers and Directors for the year. The Officers remained the same for 2002. They worked hard in 2001 and will continue to work hard to move the organization forward.

Website

Pat Swoboda developed an official website for us, (www.tpls.org). It has helped us reach more people and offer more benefits to our membership. We now publish the current and back issues of the Beacon on our website. We also have a complete copy of our Official Presentation on our site. It's filled with history, photos, contact addresses, phone numbers and other important information. Pat does an excellent job of maintaining and updating it. If you know someone who wants to join TPLS Inc. they can download the application from the website and even pay their dues via our website. **Check it out!**



E-Mail Addresses

Thanks to everyone who has sent us their e-mail address. E-Mail helped us save hundreds of dollars last year on paper, ink, stamps and most of all time. Now that we have about 100 e-mail addresses, we are going to separate the addresses by LOCAL Members, REGIONAL Members, LONG DISTANCE NATIONAL, and INTERNATIONAL Members.

Whenever a local event or special meeting is scheduled, we can send e-mail to the members who are close enough to attend and not annoy long distance members with events beyond their reach.

Just a reminder, if your e-mail address changes, PLEASE let us know. Mike spends hours each month trying to figure out why some e-mails are undeliverable. Most of the time the address has changed or the person has completely changed Internet providers.

We will not send you ANY SPAM. We will send you meeting reminders, and let you know when the most recent Beacon will be available on our website.

A Personal Letter From Melba

Melba Barteau sent us a terrific letter about her childhood at the lighthouse and Mike divided it into several episodes and published it in the Beacon. Many people have commented on how much they enjoyed it. If you would like a complete copy, let us know; we can print it on quality stationery.

History Buffs & Lighthouse Lovers

If you know anyone who likes lighthouses, please let them know about Turkey Point Light Station. Inc.

There are many people, organizations, and businesses out there who would be willing to help us if they just knew about our organization. We need our entire membership to be Public Relations contact people for us. If you know of anyone who would be willing to provide time, money, talents, materials, etc. please let us know.

TPLS License Plates

As of March 2002, we have 165 TPLS Inc. license plates on the road. We don't make any money on the license plates, but it has been great Public Relations for us.

We have been barraged by requests from license plate collectors from all over the world wanting one of our TPLS plates. We do have a number of SPECIAL Collector Plates available; however they only have 0's on them.

Many of our members do not live in Maryland, but would like a TPLS license plate. We cannot arrange that at the current time; however, we are working on a Turkey Point Light Station "Vanity Plate" for those members who live in states that only require a rear license tag.

Country Rock Concert

The Country Rock Concert is still on schedule for this summer. We will need **your** help! **This should be a major fundraiser, \$\$\$\$\$!**



Lighthouse Art & Photos

We now have "Framed" Paul Shertz prints of "Lighthouses of the Upper Chesapeake Bay".



Our current raffle is for a framed print of Roy Woodall's latest painting, "Rounding Turkey Point." He graciously donated Print #1 of 500. If you are a serious art collector, you know how valuable print #1 is. Sales are going well. If you would like chances to sell or for yourself, please let us know and we will get them to you.

Electric To The Lighthouse

Our major project for 2002 will be to get electricity back to the lighthouse. This must be done before we can move forward with any other significant projects. We are researching the possibility of our lighthouse being listed on Navigational maps as a "Private Navigational Aid". This could open the door to getting the light turned back on in the lantern room. There are many people and pleasure boaters who have expressed a strong desire to get the light turned back on. **We Agree!**

How Can You Help?

First and foremost, if you live in the local area, you can become an ACTIVE member. We need YOUR help, NOW!

In closing, remember that your contributions are tax deductible and Greatly Appreciated!