

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION

Lightship Sailors came about through the ideas and efforts of Marty Krzywicki (Pollock Rip Lightship- '58/'59) who worked for over a year to bring about the first reunion of this group in August of 1999.

The reunion was held in Quincy, MA and hosted by the Friends of Lightship Nantucket- 1 (WAL-612) Although small in number, with only 27 lightship sailors in attendance, the interest generated was intense. A general meeting was held and various topics discussed. The name of the organization would be, "USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION." The next reunion was held in Baltimore, MD in October 2000, the "host" vessel being Lightship 116 (CHESAPEAKE) Officers were elected and a Board of Directors established. The group met again October 2001 in Port Huron, "host" vessel Lightship 103.

There is much work to be done getting things organized. We need to fine tune our constitution and by-laws, clearly define our objectives, create the necessary committees and assign various responsibilities. So you see, we are just barely "off the ground". In June 2000 we became incorporated as a non-profit organization. The next reunion is planned in New Bedford, MA. First week of AUG. 2002

Lightships, of course, are a thing of the past. The last lightship station bit the dust in 1983. (Nantucket) Of the once mighty fleet of well over 100 ships, only a few remain. The many, perhaps thousands, of stalwart souls that manned those ships have dwindled as well. As we greet the new millennium it is sobering to realize that by the year 2100 there will be not one lightship sailor left and possibly not even one ship.

The purpose of Lightship Sailors Association then, is to preserve what we can of traditions and history of an era that spanned 1820 to 1983, with 179 ships that served 116 stations. The stations of course are now non-existent, and consist only of empty stretches of water marked by a buoy or perhaps not marked at all. The ships too are all but gone. Of that once proud and mighty fleet only 17 remain. Here too, Lightship Sailors are dedicated to preserving those remaining ships.

The Association is presently small but we are growing rapidly and take this opportunity to invite you to join us. As of October 2001 our ranks numbered 425. Membership is NOT exclusively for past lightship crewmembers but open to ALL who are interested in lightships. Obviously, lightship personnel are a valued but diminishing resource and we must look to the inevitable. The future of LSA lies with family, friends, volunteers, model builders, maritime historians and all others who recognize the priceless heritage of the little red ships.

If you are at all interested, or know someone who shares that interest, let us know. Write or email to the following addresses:

Jim Gill
President, Lightship Sailors
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Chula Vista, CA
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619 427 8501
pdp@cts.com

Rick Bennett
Secretary, Lightship Sailors
25 Keswick Rd
Brockton, MA
02302-1518
508 583 3953
coasty@attbi.com

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Information About You (please print legibly)

Name	Today's Date	
Street Address	Telephone Number	
City	Email Address	
State	Zip Code	Age (optional)

Lightships You've Served Aboard

Lightship Name	Number	Service Dates (From - To)
Lightship Name	Number	Service Dates (From - To)
Lightship Name	Number	Service Dates (From - To)

What position did you hold on the lightship?

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Are you associated with any groups similar to LSA?

Name of group
Group function

Membership category applying for (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Member. Was assigned duty on a lightship, can hold office, be part of a board or committee, attend meetings and vote. Pays full dues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Member. Anyone interested in the history of Lightships and the men that sailed/served on them. Can attend and be heard at meetings and can vote. Pays one half dues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auxiliary Member. Wife and/or immediate family of a regular member. Can attend and be heard at meetings, and can not vote. Does not pay dues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honorary Member. Made an outstanding contribution to LSA, Coast Guard or Maritime Community. Can attend and be heard at meetings but can not vote. Does not pay dues.

USE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM IF EXTRA SPACE IS NEEDED. 5/24/2000

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Documentation for Regular Member

The applicant certifies with this application that he did in fact serve as part of the ships company on a commissioned Lightship of the U. S. Coast Guard.

Dues

Dues are to be paid with the submission of this application. Below is the current dues structure as voted upon in August 1999, and the dues calendar year runs from October to September.

Regular Member \$20.00 per year.

Associate Member \$10.00 per year.

Auxiliary Member no dues.

Honorary Member no dues.

Mail page 2, the application, with a check or money order made payable to

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSN to our Treasurer:

Norman LeMoine

333 So. Patrick Dr. #30

Satellite Beach, FL 32937

JOIN US ONLINE

Surf to: [Http://www.USCGLightshipSailors.ORG](http://www.USCGLightshipSailors.ORG)

If you do not own a computer, check your local main branch of the Public Library. Many libraries have public access computers for Internet access.

As stated earlier, it is our intention to preserve and protect Lightships to the best of our ability, and to pass on knowledge to others searching for it. Be it with volunteer service, letter writing campaigns, knowledge from personal experiences or passing on photographs that we may have in our possession. It all serves to carry on the story of the Lightships, the men that sailed on them and the history that was written from their service. Members are asked to assist other members in search of knowledge, for you may very well be the one person that holds the key to a single piece of information needed in another's research.

LIGHTSHIPS REMAINING

Sixteen Lightships remain today, some in serious danger of being scrapped and removed from this list. They are:

1. LV-79 WAL-506 BARNEGAT, resting on the bottom, unrestored.
2. LV-83 WAL-508 RELIEF, RENAMED SWIFTSURE, undergoing restoration.
3. LV-87 WAL-512 AMBROSE, new deck in 1995.
4. LV-101 WAL-524 PORTSMOUTH, dry berthed.
5. LV-103 WAL-526 HURON, dry berthed, well maintained and supported.
6. LV-107 WAL-529 WINTER QUARTER, interior gutted, replaced with offices.
7. LV-112, WAL-534 NANTUCKET, operational as of 1997.
8. LV-114, WAL-536 PORTLAND, RENAMED NEW BEDFORD, unrestored, endangered.
9. LV-115, WAL-537 FRYING PAN, aft mast missing, entertainment complex.
10. LV-116, WAL-538 CHESAPEAKE, National monument.
11. LV-118, WAL-539 CORNFIELD, RENAMED OVERFALLS, being restored by friends.
12. WLV-604, COLUMBIA, National landmark, operational as of 1989.
13. WLV-605, RELIEF, National landmark, engines run, endangered.
14. WLV-612, NANTUCKET I, privately owned as of March 2000.
Decommissioned 3-29-1985 as the last lightship in the U. S. Coast Guard.
Last Lightship to serve a three-week tour on station.
15. WLV-613, NANTUCKET II, privately owned, operational as of 1999. Stood last six hours of duty on Nantucket Shoals.
16. THIS ONE WAS JUST FOUND! Lightship 196 in Ketchikan AK. Privately owned and used as an office for a logging company. More news on this one as it develops.

So as you can see, we have a lot of work to do. Some of the above sixteen have already been saved, others need the opportunity. With your help maybe yet another Lightship will become a prize to behold.

Rick Bennett USCG Ret 71-91
Secretary
25 Keswick Road
Brockton, Ma. 02302-1518
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Portland Lightship WLV-612 1972-1973
Nantucket I Lightship WLV-612 1982-1985 decommissioning crew.