

INDEX 1/3 **Erosion** 2 President's Message Museum Remodel 2025 Gala Lighthouse Restoration 7 **Boat Show** 2024 Gala Aids to Navigation 2024 - Tours and Events Memorial Brick Program Volunteer Info Deerfield Fire Rescue 10 10 **Christina Doone Business Sponsorship** 11 Program 11 HLPS Membership

EROSION AT THE LIGHTHOUSE - Ralph Krugler (with photos)

Erosion of the southern shore of the Station is nothing new. When the property was first purchased, it was for 3 acres- 1 ½ land, 1 ½ marsh. The marshland was slowly filled with sand (from storms that swept over the entire station) and eventually filled with rock in 1943.

The first attempt to help the Atlantic shore line came in 1926 with the construction of six spur jetty's, that were more trouble than helpful. Natural autumn winds and waves (and storms) kept breaking them apart, resulting in more work for the keepers with near constant need for repairs. These were done away with in 1930. District inspector H.L. Beck had been pushing for



SPUR JETTIES (FROM LIGHTHOUSE)
CIRCA 1920'S

a granite jetty to be installed, but was met with great resistance. When he won, the granite groin was installed, is still there today, and has proven Beck's vision was the best decision to save the tip of the peninsula. The groin is designed to catch sand and a simple look at aerial photos over the decades show the sand levels at times completely cover the granite.

As far as the southern border goes, the first attempt to prevent erosion came in 1914 with the placement of rock by the keepers and sons by the old boathouse. Sadly, their efforts didn't hold up. It wasn't until October 1955 that the Coast Guard laid a concrete sack wall with re-bar struck through the bags to help hold them in place. It ran the length of the south border and along the inlet side to where the dock is today. When the beach is eroded, much of the wall can still be seen today.

In 2004, some attention was paid to the grounds and a small semi-circular retaining wall was constructed around the eastern and southern sections around the base of the

lighthouse. This held strong until Hurricane Irma's storm surge wiped out the sand along the inlet. The massive weight of the unsupported part of the wall forced a break and tumble of roughly 1/3 of the structure.

When needed, the Hillsboro Inlet District (HID) dredge operators fill in the inlet shore and that's exactly what happened, burying the descending wall under sand. Various options were floated over the years to lift and fix the wall that never materialized. This year though, a new option presented itself.



CONCRETE SACK SEA WALL

(Continued on page 3)



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - KEN HERMAN

Looking back on 2024, one can only say that this year had some ups and downs. Starting with the Christmas lights for 2023, we had numerous problems with the rope lights and had to scale back our design to be a more modest display. But, our plans for 2024 should prove to be a major upgrade from previous vears.

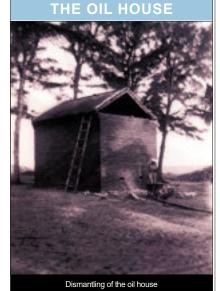
In March, we had our 117th gala event. The event was indeed a success, but it wasn't our most profitable year. Again, we are looking forward to the 118th gala with great expectations.

As far as renovations go, this is where there has only been some conclusive results. As of this writing here is where things stand:

- •We are still working on the bottom strut project. It has been very slow getting the exact scope of work and proper estimates for the job. This is a very important piece of work and needs special attention to get it right. We are hoping for a lot of progress in 2025.
- The paint job of the lighthouse also has been moving slower that we would like. This is again due to scope of work. Many of the crossbars and turnbuckles will need to be repaired and/or potentially replaced - not just painted over. And, getting an accurate and reasonable estimate for this work is both time consuming and expensive. We estimate that this project will easily move to the end of 2025 - or into 2026. We will keep you posted on progress.
- •On a more positive note, the bottom windows within the vestibule (the entrance to the lighthouse) are currently being replaced. As of this writing, there are temporary replacement windows in-place until the new windows get installed. After these windows are installed, all the windows of the lighthouse will have been upgraded.
- ·Continuing with positive news, the electrical system of the lighthouse has been updated. This work included, improving the ground system of the lighthouse, adding a commercial grade surge protector, adding a battery back-up system, and boosting the available power to the lighthouse. This was all completed in early 2024.
- Another positive, is the fact that the lighthouse LED and rotational system are now in-sync. It used to be that the LED was on a light sensor and the rotational system was on a timer. This was a cause for many calls about the either rotation without the light or vice versa. This is called discrepancy. This has now changed. We've added a Raspberry Pi in the mix. This computer system allows the data coming from the LED system to be read and used to turn the rotational system on and off, via a solid state switch. And, this leads to one other improvement...
- We are using the LED data and new internal environmental sensors to output data to our website. This new page currently shows the times that the lighthouse LED and rotation systems turn on and off, its power consumption (voltage), and hourly environmental data (temperature and humidity) within the lighthouse. But, this is only the beginning. We plan to add much more information over time. Stay tuned.

So as 2024 moves into 2025, we continue the endless march forward of not only keeping the lighthouse erect and lit at the appropriate times; but the continued challenge of keeping the natural erosion and degradation of time and the environment from negatively impacting our unique treasure. It is indeed a lot of work, but we happily accept the challenge and responsibility.

And as always, we thank the United States Coast Guard for continuing to trust us with this duty. Bravo Zulu!



by JB Isler CIRCA 1930'S

The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours.

HLPS OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Kev Volunteers - USCG Aux.

Carlos M. Arenas Chris Doone



EROSION AT THE LIGHTHOUSE - Continued (page 1) (Ralph Krugler with photos)



2024 was a particularly bad year for erosion. The entire depressed wall was exposed yet again and the sand behind it washed out, exposing the concrete footers. Knowing that lifting the wall was never really going to be a viable option, the decision was made to completely drop of the broken section.

It took some digging. Ironically, roughly a ton of sand needed to be removed from under the entire section of the wall to ensure that when it fell, it would be flat. Once this was accomplished, the remaining re-bar was cut, and slowly, carefully and precisely, the wall was dropped into its new place.

The theory for the placement is to act as a submerged breakwater/jetty. We're hoping that in future storms that when the wall is exposed, the sand from between the footers won't be washed out again. To help this, the open western end was filled with various rock, discarded waffle paver stones and cinder block that was exposed with the erosion.

Once again, the HID came through with a rented tractor; pushing tons of sand up to the wall that would be hand shoveled over the wall. Over the course of three days, the entire gap was filled. Once the beach is fully replenished, it will be a waiting game to see if our theory is proven successful, much as Inspector Becks' has been over the past century.

A quick addendum in the fight against erosion comes on the Atlantic shoreline.

RETAINING WALL IN PLACE CIRCA OCT 2024

The gazebo was first constructed by Thomas Golembeski during his tenure (1986-1989) as keeper. In 2024, a generous donor provided the funds to the Coast Guard to

completely rebuild and restore the treasured item.



DROPPING THE RETAINING WALL CIRCA OCT 2024

As the beach eroded, the staircase went from a normal step up from the beach to a three-foot drop. The neighboring Hillsboro Club once again saw two of their staircases completely wash away.

The HID had just replaced some of their pilings and generously donated them to help us. Not only were they donated, they voluntarily drove them across the reservation, utilized their crane to lift, maneuver, and gently lower them into pre-dug holes. Quick set concrete was poured around the bases before the

sand was filled back. Lumber, rock and other items were strategically placed behind the piles in hopes to catch and secure the sand under the base of the gazebo for future storms.

Now nothing is guaranteed to be the end-all, be-all; however, no one can say we didn't give it our best shot.



GAZEBO RETAINING PILINGS
Circa Oct 2024



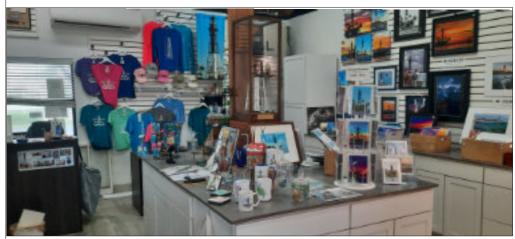
A MUST SEE: NEWLY REMODELED H.L.P.S. MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

Please put a memo to yourself to come visit our newly remodeled, bright and colorful museum. There is no admission fee. The history of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse and the legend of the Barefoot Mailman can be viewed in our new displays and our reading library. Many special gift items have been added in the gift shop. We have clothing, toys, jewelry, unique items for your home or for a friend, and fantastic artwork by local artists. All proceeds go directly to the preservation of our historic lighthouse, to keep the light shining!

Many thanks go out to our HLPS Volunteers and to the City of Pompano Beach, who helped make this renovation possible.



» Pam Wunderlich, Museum Director, designer of the new layout, and gift shop inventory mastermind.



» The hardworking crew from the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society – Ken Herman, Dave DeJesus, Ralph Krugler, Brian Ginch, Misty and Ken Jackson, Toni Hamm, Betsy Slagle, Jan Cayere, RaeLynn DeParsqual.

» David Tansill who, with his creativity and precision carpentry, created a wonderful lighted wall, shelf and bench to house all our historical items.

» Board member Betsy Slagle, the driving force behind the redesign

of our outdoor signage that is already increasing the number of visitors to the museum.

» The City of Pompano Beach department heads George Buenaventura and Mark Beaudreau along with Sean, Eric, and Bill. We couldn't have done it without all of your contributions.

We are now Open Daily, 11am-3pm, and 10am-3pm on Tour days. Come check us out and support our historic Hillsboro Lighthouse!



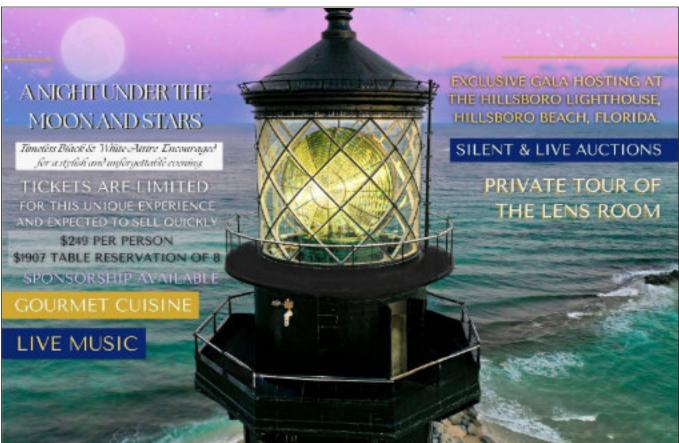
If you are interested in joining our marvelous group of volunteers, please contact Pam Wunderlich at (954) 242-3988.

Training is provided for museum and gift shop staff, most of whom work one day each week and once a month for our tour days. It's a great group and a fun place to volunteer.











FUNDS NEEDED FOR RESTORATION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE - Ken Herman



The primary purpose of the HLPS is the maintenance and restoration of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. With that responsibility is the need to raise funds to accomplish this task.

Although membership, the museum gift shop, and the yearly gala go a long way to raising funds; the lighthouse is a large and expensive structure to maintain properly.

Our current outstanding projects of restoration are:

- Repair of the bottom struts estimated at \$200k \$300k
- Repair of the various turnbuckles estimated at \$100k \$200k
- Blasting and repainting the lighthouse estimated at \$600k \$700k

Through quick addition, one can quickly see that this amounts to around \$1,000,000!

And, these are just the critical projects!

Currently, we have the funds to complete both the bottom strut repair and potentially the repair of the turnbuckles, but we are severely short on funds to repaint the lighthouse.

We are currently applying for various grants that are available, but even with those extra funds we estimate that we will be between \$300k - \$400k short of our target.

Because of this, we are asking our readers and members to help!

If any of you are aware of foundations, patrons, businesses, or other organizations that are willing to contribute, help, and/or participate in these efforts, either monetarily or logistically, please let us know.

We have always been and continue to be an all volunteer group. None of our board, staff, or members get paid nor compensated. All our funds go toward supporting, restoring, and/or maintaining the lighthouse and organization.

Our Fund Chair, Debbie Divich can be reached at: (786) 251-0811

Our Membership Chair, Amber Velez can be reached at: Amberhlps@outlook.com - (561) 231-0303

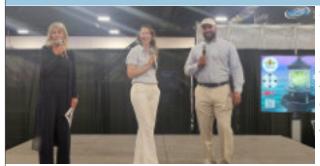
Our public phone number is: (954) 226-3566



Let's all contribute to keeping our shining monument glowing for future generations. We thank you all for your contributions!



HLPS ATTENDS THE FT. LAUDERDALE INT'L BOAT SHOW - Amber Velez



On October 31, 2024, the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) proudly brought a piece of maritime history to the Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS). Invited by Mary Cappello, a passionate new HLPS volunteer, our volunteers seized this incredible opportunity to share the legacy and significance of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, one of South Florida's most cherished landmarks in the maritime community. This globally renowned event served as the perfect platform for HLPS to highlight the legacy and the significance and our efforts in preserving the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse.

By joining FLIBS, HLPS aims to showcase not only the lighthouse's rich heritage but also its ongoing role in ensuring safe navigation along the Florida coast.

A Shared Commitment to the Sea

HLPS's participation at FLIBS was a milestone in raising awareness about the lighthouse. Debbie Divich, Fund Chair, Amber Velez, HLPS Membership Chair, and her husband, David Velez, delivered an inspiring presentation focused on the critical role volunteers and members play in keeping the beacon shining for future generations. The lighthouse is not only a historical site but a symbol of our shared connection to the sea, and the event sparked renewed enthusiasm for its preservation.

As Amber shared, "Presenting at FLIBS allowed us to celebrate the lighthouse's legacy and inspire a new wave of support for its future."

Looking Ahead

The FLIBS event proved to be a significant opportunity for HLPS to connect with new supporters and strengthen its ties to the maritime community. Thanks to Mary's invitation, we were able to showcase its enduring legacy and rally support for its preservation.

We look forward to continuing our outreach efforts, including its participation in the upcoming Palm Beach International Boat Show happening March 19–23, 2025.

For more information about Lighthouse Tours, volunteer opportunities, or how to support HLPS, visit: www.hillsborolighthouse.org

Amber Velez: Membership Chair / Amberhlps@outlook.com / (561) 231-0303

Together, we can keep the light shining bright for generations to come.

2024 HLPS GALA - Over \$30,000 Raised - Debbie Divich Photographs courtesy of Patty Daniels Photography



The 2024 Hillsboro Lighthouse Gala was a memorable tribute to Jimmy Buffett, drawing well over a hundred attendees to support the historic lighthouse. Local photographer Patty Daniels captured the event, which aimed to raise funds for the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

For the first time, inclement weather caused the event to be rescheduled to Sunday March 24, although it ultimately turned out to be a success. The evening highlighted the community's dedication to preserving this local landmark.

The live auction contributed significantly to the gala's success, with one of the standout items being an original ceiling panel from the lens room, beautifully painted by swordfish artist Dan Mathew's. This unique art piece attracted enthusiastic bidding. The presence again this year of the iconic Goodyear Blimp added extra excitement, drawing the attention and admiration of guests throughout the evening.

Our silent auction provided bidders with the opportunity to purchase unique art items, adding to the excitement and variety of the evening. It was a fantastic way for guests to take home special pieces while supporting the lighthouse's preservation efforts.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our guests for supporting your Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. Your generosity and enthusiasm help keep this historic beacon shining for generations to come!



SPOTLIGHT: THE USCG AND THE AIDS TO NAVIGATION (ATON) - Ken Herman



As many of you may or may not know, the lighthouse is located on US Coast Guard grounds. In fact, it is considered an active Coast Guard base. Although, in reality, it is also part of the military MWR system.

This means that cottages on the grounds may be used by military personnel for "vacationing". These are the two main reasons why the lighthouse is not generally open to the public; except during public tours. And, these tours are scheduled many months in advance. This, along with the fact that the grounds are bordered by the Hillsboro Club, make the lighthouse grounds very private and somewhat detached from the rest of the surrounding communities.

Another fact about the lighthouse is that the HLPS is contracted to take care of it by the USCG. We constantly work hand-in-hand with the USCG and its many divisions to keep the lighthouse on and in good working order.

One of the main groups we work with is the Aids to Navigation team (ATON - for short). This is the group that is responsible for the actual light of the lighthouse (not the structure itself). So, for instance, if there is are any

issues with lighting the lighthouse on any particular evening, the

HLPS fixes the issue and notifies the ATON team of what caused the problem, along with the times in which the lighthouse was inactive. That way the ATON team will be able to notify boaters of the lighting problem. All of this for safety reasons to the public.

The ATON team just doesn't support lighthouses, but also the numerous markers, buoys, and signage all over the country.

One of the perks for the USCG is that the lighthouse grounds are sometimes used for graduations ceremonies. The beautiful scenery of the grounds make for a stunning and memorable event. The ceremonies are not just limited to the active duty, but often also include family members and friends.

A small repayment to our men and women of the USCG for their continued dedication to keeping our shores and waterways navigable and safe.



Hillsboro Lighthouse 2025 Events & Tours

Annual Membership Meeting

March 8th (Sat.) 12:00pm - 1:00pm USCG grounds - at Lighthouse



118th Lighthouse Gala

March 14th (Fri.) 6:00pm - 11:00pm on lighthouse grounds

June 15 th (Sun.) – Sands Dock	December 6 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00
May 10 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock	November 9 th (Sun.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00
April 12 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock	October 11 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00
March 8 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock	September 13 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30
February 8 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock	August 17 th (Sun.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30
January 12 th (Sun.) – Sands Dock	July 12 th (Sat.) – Sands Dock
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00





THE MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM - A BEACON OF MEMORY

Vitralase Engraved Brick with Your own Personal Message





Become a permanent part of the Hillsboro Light Station! Purchase a brick that will be placed in our "Centennial Brick Patio & Garden" so that, in the years to come, you will be able to bring your children, grandchildren and friends to see your name, their names and/or your commemorative note and/or place. You will be able to create your own message or choose from selected designs for your brick(s). These specially engraved, decorative bricks will be used throughout the "Centennial brick patio".



Just **\$100** for a 4"x 8"and **\$175** for an 8"x 8"- The price is for a brick <u>with</u> or <u>without</u> clip-art.

Brick Details

The bricks are 4"x 8"x 2 1/4" or 8"x 8"x 2 1/4" and are engraved using state of the art laser technology. This will insure strength and durability for many years to come.

Mini Brick Replica!

In addition, we offer you the opportunity to purchase a miniature replica of the original. This mini brick can be used as a paperweight, given to a loved one or friend as a remembrance, or just as an everyday reminder! The mini brick replicas are **Just \$25**

Visit https://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/memorial-bricks

Or, reach out to **Dave DeJesus**, our monument manager, at one of the public tours of the lighthouse and grounds. He would be happy to answer any of your questions and provide you with more information about this program.



««««« WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER!»»»»»

Help us keep the Light Shining...

We are an All-Volunteer Organization. If you have a few hours a week or once a month to share with us, please call Pam at (954) 242-3988 or our general phone at (954) 942-2102.

Join our great group of people who love our historic Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse and want to keep it lit for generations to come!





SPOTLIGHT: THE DEERFIELD BEACH FIRE RESCUE - Ken Herman



One of the issues with having a flagpole near the beach is not just that the flags get readily torn up by the winds and have to be replaced regularly; but sometimes the ropes also get worn to the point of breaking. This happened this summer. This is a big deal, because how does one replace the rope of a 40' flagpole?

In our case, we called the Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue unit. They were gratuitous enough to come out and replace all the ropes on the flagpole with new ½" cable center rope. And, you would think that was the end of the story. But, no.

It turns out that mother nature decided that 2024 would have extremely high winds for a good deal of the summer months, along with a number of close calls by hurricanes. And, our 1/4" rope broke yet again!

So, we decided that we needed to get a much thicker 3/8" metal core rope and call the Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue for a second time in a few months.

And, without any complaint they came out for a second time and replaced our flagpole rope. This time hopefully for the last time in 2024; and if we are lucky, for a number of years.

The one thing that the reader may be wondering is that the USCG grounds are not in the municipality of Deerfield Beach, it is actually on the edge of Hillsboro Beach (and an inlet away from Pompano Beach). So, why was the Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue able to help us out?

Well, it turns out that Hillsboro Beach contracts Deerfield Beach in the Fire Rescue department. So, the USCG grounds are actually within Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue's territory.

So, a big shout out to the Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue Team - you guys are life savers!

CHRISTINA DOONE - RETIRED BOARD MEMBER / LIFETIME MEMBER / VOLUNTEER



Chris has been an HLPS volunteer for 12 years and an HLPS Lifetime Member for ten and once served on the board as a voting member. In November 2011 Chris joined the LHP Coast Guard Auxiliary. The AUX services led her to serve on the Lighthouse grounds in 2012 where she founded the Mini Mu and served at the AUX table providing Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Awareness and Water Safety Information and greeted our monthly Tour guests as they climbed the Lighthouse. She was boat qualified as an Auxiliarist & manned the dead boat for a HELO Op as a photographer in those early years which was an exhilarating experience!

Over time, Chris became a regular volunteer for the Lighthouse and the USCG. We are happy to highlight Chris this year as a dedicated servant for HLPS over the years. In May of 2019 she was hired as the Hillsboro Recreational Cottages Lodge Host. For those of you not familiar with this role; she is a Coast Guard Civilian Employee and she is our primary liaison to the USCG for access to the grounds. She is also in charge of the USCG

Cottages where the Lighthouse is located. Her primary responsibility is to the military families and their guests who stay in the Cottages for their military vacation plans. She also works closely with HLPS and The Club to approve any requested dates for usage of the grounds, public tours, private tours, The Gala, Milestones and other special events. She works hard to make sure that the military & civilians alike are provided for.

respected and have an enjoyable time when on property.

Chris could not fill this role alone and is grateful for the friends and volunteers that have contributed to her success as the local MWR Lodge Host. She is grateful for Mary, Regina, Debbie, Ralph, Ken, David, Joan, George, Rona, Liz, Bernie, Brian, Carlos, Lissette & the rest of her AUX family. She is happy with the services of Mike Cook and his housekeeping team and our other dependable vendors. She is grateful to the Coast Guard for the hire of a 2nd Lodge Host earlier this year, Ralph Krugler. Chris will maintain her role as an HLPS volunteer and MWR Lodge Host for the foreseeable future and is looking forward to completing new and exciting projects together in the years ahead!





HLPS: BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Mission:

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) would like to offer your business a sponsorship opportunity with exclusive benefits for you and your team.

Business Sponsorship Tiers:

Bronze Level - \$500/year

- Annual Business Membership (up to 8 people per tour)
- Listing on HLPS website as a Bronze Member
- Annual acknowledgment in HLPS newsletter

Silver Level - \$1,000/year

- All benefits of Bronze Level
- Logo placement on HLPS website (on sponsor page)
- Exclusive guided tour of the lighthouse for up to 10 employees

Gold Level - \$2,500/year

- All benefits of Silver Level
- Premium logo placement on HLPS website (on sponsor page)
- Exclusive guided tour of the lighthouse for up to 20 employees
- 1 free memorial brick
- 2 complimentary tickets to the annual Lighthouse Gala

Platinum Level - \$5,000/year

- All benefits of Gold Level
- Prominent logo placement on HLPS website (on web camera sponsorship area)
- 2 free memorial bricks
- 4 complimentary tickets to the annual Lighthouse Gala

Additional Benefits for All Levels:

- Exclusive updates on HLPS preservation efforts
- Access to HLPS educational programs and events
- Networking opportunities with other business members

How to Join:

To become a business or general member of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, please contact:

Amber Velez - Amberhlps@outlook.com (561) 231-0303

You can then choose your desired membership level and make a secure online payment.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join today to help preserve our lighthouse's heritage and receive these benefits:

Join online: https://hillsborolighthouse.org/join-us

- * A subscription to our newsletter "The Big Diamond"
- * Free admission to all tours, programs, and lectures for the membership period
- * Timely updates to events related to the lighthouse

Membership rates:

Individual \$50.00 / year Family (of 4) \$75.00 / year Family (of 6) \$100.00 / year Business (non-profit) \$150.00 / year Business (for profit) \$175.00 / year Lifetime \$600.00 or more / once (per person)

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