

MLA E-Newsletter May 2008

Hello Everyone,

We are pleased to have two great Honorary Co-Chairs for the Great Lakes Lighthouse Conference, which are Senator's Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin. Please see their special letter below and also attached to this e-mail. Both of these Senators have been staunch supporters of lighthouse preservation and we are pleased they have joined in the effort!

As of last check, we have a great turn out for the conference and all of you who are waiting to register at the last minute, please do so now as time and rooms are running out! The PayPal registration for the conference is a quick and easy way to register. For those that are not allowed to use PayPal through some government agencies, we have a way to process credit card payments manually. Everything has fallen into place and we are extremely happy with the support everyone has given. All of the information is available on our web site at the following link www.michiganlighthousealliance.org . Please click on Sally's contact name here [Sally Frye](#) for more information via e-mail on manually processing a credit card payment.

We look forward to seeing everyone there for learning and networking with the community. Previous MLA newsletters are available online from the MLA web site, so if you missed a past communication, please see the web site for more information.

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1. A special conference invitation from Senators Stabenaw & Levin:

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE INVITATION FROM SENATORS STABENOW & LEVIN

As Honorary Co-Chairs, we want to encourage you to attend the 2008 Great Lakes Lighthouse Conference, June 11-13, 2008 in Traverse City, Michigan sponsored by the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance.

The Great Lakes are an inseparable part of Michigan's identity and cultural history. Michigan is second only to Alaska in length of shoreline; however, Michigan is second to none in the number of lighthouses which grace its shores. Michigan is home to over 120 lighthouses, some dating back to the 1820's.

These majestic structures have remained standing through years of winter storms, eroding shoreline and other hazards. While in years past, the federal government, through the National Lighthouse Service and then the US Coast Guard maintained these structures, in recent years, the maintenance of our lighthouses has fallen to volunteers and not for profit groups.

We understand that there are many obstacles that make the preservation of Michigan lighthouses especially challenging - inadequate funding; lack of comprehensive planning; and many times, poor coordination between local, state, and federal governments. The 2008 Great Lakes Lighthouse Conference is being held in order to help groups meet these challenges and we encourage all interested parties to attend. Working together, we can ensure that Michigan's lighthouses remain cultural beacons for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Carl Levin

2. Great Lakes Regional Lighthouse Conference Update:

The time is now to finalize your registration and attendance plans for this exciting conference. Everything has come together with experts near and far to help educate you on topics dealing with lighthouse preservation. The conference takes place in beautiful Traverse City, Michigan at the Park Place Hotel. This town is bustling in the summer, the remaining rooms that are reserved for a special conference price at 3 local hotels cannot be guaranteed after this week. Hotels are: The Park Place-cost \$129; The Holiday Inn West Bay-cost \$119; Bayshore Resort-cost \$123; all pending availability at this point, so don't wait any longer to reserve your room! Be sure to tell them you are with the "Lighthouse Conference" when you register. All hotel contact information is on the MLA website listed below.

Come and network with lighthouse experts and enthusiasts and get answers to questions regarding all sorts of topics including: Leases & Transfers; Structural aspects regarding moisture, paint, timber testing; lightning protection, Aids to Navigation-the Fresnel lens; Researching your Lighthouse, Historic Structures Reports and much more. Visit the newly opened Old Mission Point Lighthouse, open to the public for the first time in its history. Hear Keynote speaker Peter Annin, author of The Great Lakes Water Wars, an authoritative book on the battles between those wanting to use or protect the waters of the Great Lakes. Peter is also the Executive Director of Gull Rock Lightkeepers. Meet with architects or paint and brick experts regarding your building issues. Hear about the importance of educational programming for our youth/schools and adults. There is something for everyone involved in lighthouses. Don't miss out on this opportunity to share and learn.

The latest conference information including a conference brochure with registration and hotel information can be found on our website: www.michiganlighthousealliance.org. You can also call or email Sally Frye at lighthsesally@charter.net or (231)590-4004 if you have questions or wish more information.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE JUNE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL LIGHTHOUSE CONFERENCE

Through the generous sponsors of the conference that have come forth for this conference, it has helped keep the cost at a minimum for those attending. We do have a few sponsorships available for those who wish to inquire about them, please contact Sally Frye.

BOOTHS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR YOU “TO GET THE WORD” OUT ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

Tables are available for any group or organization to put up displays, pass out literature, sell lighthouse/maritime items and talk with participants of the conference. The cost is \$150 per booth, (special pricing for non-profit groups is available, please inquire). Contact Sally Frye at lighthsesally@charter.net or (231)590-4004. Please go to the MLA website at www.michiganlighthousealliance for a downloadable sponsorship form.

PROMOTE YOUR ORGANIZATION!

Any organization wishing to place your brochures on your organization, lighthouse, etc. in the conference packet can do so for FREE! You can have your literature placed in the conference bag for each attendee to receive at the time of registration. All materials for these bags must be received by May 31st in order for them to be sorted into the conference registration bags. Please send at least 120 copies, but no more than 150. So promote your organization or lighthouse for free with this great opportunity. Please physically mail all information to:

Sally Frye
2884 Wild Juniper Tr.
Traverse City, MI. 49686

3. JELD-WEN Lighthouse Window and Door Opportunity Deadline Upon Us:

Now's your last chance to tell JELD-WEN why your favorite lighthouse deserves new JELD-WEN[®] windows and doors! This company continues their generosity with this program for another year. The deadline is fast approaching and we invite all lighthouse enthusiasts and operators, architects and anyone that supports historic preservation to participate and nominate a lighthouse. To nominate a lighthouse for new windows and doors, please complete the nomination form found on the web site at www.jeld-wen.com/lighthouse.

THE DEADLINE IS MAY 18TH!

All of your comments are important to the success of the MLA. Your participation in the upcoming conference will help ensure the future success of Michigan's lighthouses. You may contact [John Gronberg](#) or [Jeff Shook](#) for any questions or comments on the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance. Thanks for all your help and continued support.

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