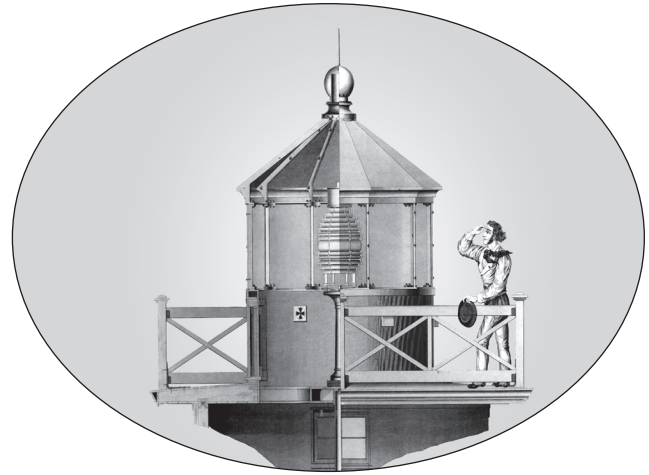


The View From the Lantern Room



First Grant Recipients

This summer marks a modest but historic step for your Society and for the entire American lighthouse preservation movement. With this issue, we announce the first round of funding from the United States Lighthouse Society Preservation Grant Awards Program.

Why historic? Because this is the first time the preservation community has its own self-funded, self-administered, organized grants program. We are helping ourselves, not just seeking donations from others for lighthouse preservation projects. The grants are made from the interest on the Society's Preservation Grants Fund, which we have restricted to this specific use; as the fund grows, each year should see a little more interest available to preservation projects across the country.

To be sure, this Society in the past has funded grants to several lighthouse groups, in addition to funding its own lighthouse and lightship projects on the Chesapeake Bay and the Pacific Coast. Other organizations in the community also have made grants, and we've all joined efforts to encourage government grant programs and other funding avenues. But this is the first organized, yearly grant program, with an open application process, within the community itself. We're proud of it, and we hope it proves to be an increasing source of help as the years go by and the Fund goes beyond its present goal of one million dollars, which still is a few hundred thousand dollars away.

The first award in the program actually was announced for National Lighthouse Day in 2014 as part of a large donation to the Fund by our first corporate partner in this effort, the Lands' End clothing company. In addition to adding \$20,000 to the Fund, company officials and Society executive director Jeff Gales traveled to Block Island to present a \$10,000 check to fund restoration of the lantern at the Block Island Southeast Lighthouse. Lands' End, which has a lighthouse in its logo and a Lighthouse luggage line, "adopted" that light while helping the Society celebrate its 30th anniversary with a \$30,000 preservation program launch.

Today, we announce the first awards made through the open application system, which received 26 applications from all four coasts and Puerto Rico. The grants committee found the process both exhilarating and heartbreaking, because all of the projects were well worth funding but the available interest, this early in the fund's evolution, remains small.

After a painstakingly thorough review and scoring process that winnowed the initial applications down to six finalists for review and debate of more detailed second-stage submissions, the grants committee members—all of who have their own hands-on experience with successful lighthouse restorations—picked three exceptional projects to receive grants this year. Turn to page 44 to see the projects selected.

We feel good about helping these three lighthouses, and hopeful for even bigger contributions to lighthouse preservation in the future. The Preservation Fund has been ably managed by board member Brian Deans, and continues to grow. You can help, too—there's a donation option on the grants program page at uslhs.org, (along with instructions for groups that want to apply), or you can contact executive director Gales at Society headquarters (in another lighthouse we've helped restore!). We're already looking forward to setting deadlines for the 2016 round!

Mike Vogel
Secretary, Board of Directors