



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: St. George Lighthouse Association, Inc.

Mailing Address: 2-B East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328

Telephone Number: 850-927-7745

Website Address (*required if applicable*): www.stgeorgelight.org

Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Section 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CSO's Mission: (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)

The St. George Lighthouse Association preserves the Cape St. George Light and its Keepers House Museum and educates the public about the history and importance of the lighthouse. The Cape St. George Light and the Keepers House Museum and its Board of Directors and employees strive to make it a highly regarded and frequently visited lighthouse and, in so doing, provide a rewarding learning experience for visitors.

The Lighthouse Association also strives to be a community partner by participating in and hosting community events.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:

In 2021, climbers at the Cape St. George Light totaled 25,247 with thousands more who visited the Museum but did not climb the Lighthouse. This was a record-breaking year for visitation to St. George Island and to the Cape St. George Light. In July we broke our all-time one-day climbing record with a whopping 407 climbers.

As always, three Lighthouse Keepers recount the history of the Lighthouse to visitors, as do staff in the Lighthouse Gift Shop and docents in the Museum. The Museum includes displays illustrating the history of the Lighthouse, its tragic collapse in 2005, and the community effort to reconstruct it.

In late 2020 and early 2021 the CSO secured \$34,000 in grant funding from the Florida Lighthouse Association to assist in a maintenance project to the lantern room and tower. \$24,000 was received in October 2020 and \$10,000 was received in February 2021. The total cost of the work was \$94,000. The project was completed in January 2021 and will ensure that the lighthouse is sound, safe, and better protected from the elements for

years to come. Alongside the maintenance project we created a capital fundraising campaign to offset some of the costs. We are pleased to have raised over \$19,000 towards that project through those efforts. The remainder was funded through the CSO's maintenance reserve funds.

Due to covid, we were unable to host our annual Tour of Homes fundraiser in 2021. That event returned in February 2022.

In our ongoing effort to make our facility more accessible to all, in 2021 we installed a webcam at the top of the lighthouse tower that provides a 180-degree view of the island. This view can be enjoyed from anywhere at any time on our website. Additionally, we installed a television monitor in the museum which live streams the view from the top for those who visit our facility in person and are physically unable to make the climb.

In addition to individual visitors to St. George Island, the Lighthouse and Museum hosted many groups of students from local schools in the past year. In July we hosted a special group of students from Hope Park, a summer program for disadvantaged children. That group graciously pilot tested the activities we've created for our new educational outreach initiative – the Junior Keeper program. CSO board members along with local educators as well as a representative from ANERR worked on developing activities that would educate children at a fourth-grade level about the history of the lighthouse and its keepers. We learned quite a bit from the pilot testing and look forward to launching the Junior Keeper program officially in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.

In October of 2021 we hosted our 2nd annual Lighthouse Spooktacular community trick-or-treat that was again very well received by local and surrounding community members. It was a free family-friendly event that offered guests a fun outdoor evening. Thirty-six local businesses and residents signed up to pass out candy and we were able to serve around 350 children and their families.

In November, we hosted our annual Veterans Day ceremony paying homage to those who have served our country. We worked with the local school's new JROTC to provide color guard services for the event. This year we also involved the local Boy Scout Troop to assist with ushering and distributing programs.

In December of 2021, we hosted a Strategic Planning session and board retreat for our CSO board and administrative employees. As part of that process, we sent a survey out to our community stakeholders for feedback on our organization and how we can be a better partner moving forward. The plan lays out the CSO's goals and objectives for the next three years

Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:

We've developed a strategic plan which lays out our goals for the upcoming three years to include four areas of focus: Development, Financial, Education, and Standards & Best Practices. Under each of these areas we've defined specific goals to help fulfill our mission and further professionalize our organization.

Under "Development" we are working to expand long-range and large amount fundraising through both grants and individual donors as well as advance our community stakeholder relationships. Under "Financial" we are working to create a robust and diversified financial plan which includes long term maintenance reserve funding, maximizing revenue in our gift shop, and expanding our fundraising through special events and increased membership income. 2023 marks the 15th anniversary of the reconstruction of our lighthouse and we're planning a large celebration to commemorate this monumental anniversary. Under "Education" our goal is to make this a key focus and to establish community education partnerships. We are looking to hire an

Educational Director who will oversee our educational programs and lead the charge in our outreach. Under “Standards & Best Practices” our goals are to further professionalize our organization by completing and updating a core set of documents to include an employee handbook, disaster preparedness plan, policies and procedures manual, and a collections plan. Additionally, we are looking to apply technology trends that will advance accessibility to all audiences.

CSO’s LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 413

Total Number of Board of Directors: 9

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 116

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Don’t duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Describe the relationship here.

Manager’s Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:

Historically, the Reserve manager and staff have not been very involved in the operation and maintenance of the lighthouse because the SGLHA (Board and Executive Director) has done such an exceptional job. The CSO is a little bit different in that their purpose is specifically related to maintaining the lighthouse, not supporting the Reserve. This is perfectly fine in that the lighthouse is a Reserve facility (owned by the State of Florida) and the Reserve would not be able to manage (operate and maintain) the lighthouse if not for the SGLHA.

While the primary mission of the Reserve is to conserve natural resources, we also believe that our natural resources are inextricably linked to our local coastal communities. Because of the abundant natural resources, productive fisheries and location at the mouth of a large river system, this area has been occupied for millennia. There is an extensive maritime history, and the Cape St. George lighthouse is just one piece of that. We would like to continue developing that story in our Nature Center with upgrades to our human dimensions exhibit over the next year. We would like to be engaged with the SGLHA as much as possible to make sure that both locations are telling a similar story and that we are working synergistically.

Currently we are working with the SGLHA to start up the Junior Keepers program and are excited to explore more opportunities for education and outreach. The SGLHA hosts several fundraising events that may allow for Reserve staff to provide outreach on various topics. Situated next to one of the most productive sea turtle nesting beaches, the lighthouse is a prime location to provide in-the-field outreach with our island visitors. The lighthouse has graciously allowed us to post our “Lights Out for Sea Turtles” sign on their property, which is the first thing that people see when they arrive on the island.

The Reserve manager has been building a stronger relationship with the Executive Director and wishes to strengthen the relationship with the Board. The Reserve hosted the annual meeting of the Board last year and a couple of regular board meetings. We would like to attend future board meetings as much as possible in the future to keep the communications open. This is important as there is current planning about future maintenance needs. The Reserve would be happy to support and apply for external funding to address these needs.

CSO President’s Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the ORCP and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

In 2021, ORCP participated in the CSO’s strategic planning session by providing survey responses in advance of the session. ORCP has provided valuable input in the preceding year in the creation of the Junior Keeper activities. The CSO

would benefit from quarterly meetings with ORCP managers to ensure compliance with CSO policies and best practices as well as keeping ORCP abreast of CSO's goals and objectives.

The CSO operates efficiently and effectively in managing the facility. Little oversight is required, but ORCP managers are always available to answer questions and provide guidance as needed. CSO board members meet 4-5 times per year to discuss the status of the organization and to ensure the organization is on track to meet annual goals and expectations.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:

Program Service Expenses are

Building improvement, construction, or renovations	\$ 0.00
Cultural resources (Lantern Room restoration work by Razorback, LLC)	\$ 84,000.00
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$ 0.00
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 0.00
Other facilities and landscape maintenance (landscape & museum maint)	\$ 9,765.20
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$ 0.00
ORCP employees or volunteers support (2021 employee payroll minus \$28,100 PPP loan)	\$ 138,579.70
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$ 0.00
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$ 586.32
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$ 0.00
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 0.00
Other program services (contract labor for regular lighthouse maintenance)	\$ 18,165.00
Total Program Service Expenses	\$ 251,096.22

Visitor Services Revenue

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on managed area property. Replace examples with your information.

Gift shops, craft stores, and concession sales (Total gift shop sales minus COGS)	\$ 97,528.87
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Programs and Special Events (Capital campaign for lantern room reno)	\$ 19,350.50
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Donations (this includes an ~ \$200K bequeath that is allocated to our maint reserve)	\$ 211,662.19
Other visitor services revenue (climbing tickets and memberships)	\$ 112,787.80
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$ 441,329.36

NET ASSETS: \$ 476,662.72

Organizations end of last year's Total Liabilities minus Total Assets. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:

Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$ 318,705.93

Are the CSO's annual total expenses \$300,000 including grants? Then Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)). The audit is **due by September 1** (or 9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

The St. George Island Lighthouse Association is aware of this responsibility and since our expenses in 2021 exceed \$300K including grants we are having an audit completed by the September 1 deadline.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	Amy Hodson, Exec Director	<i>Amy Hodson</i>	05/16/2022
ORCP Manager		<i>Jennifer Harper</i>	05/20/2022

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached
- CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be *complete* with Part III Program Service and *all* appropriate Schedules (A, O and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.