

A close-up photograph of a man with a mustache and sunglasses, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. He is looking down at a white clock face. His hands are positioned over the clock, with a small, round, metallic object resting on the surface. The clock face shows numbers 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 12. The man's shirt has a small tag that says "CHAPS".

# the Beam

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From the  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer:  
Janet P. Szlyk, PhD

Dear Friends,

As Lions Club members from around the world prepare to come to Chicago for their international convention later this month, all of us at The Chicago Lighthouse extend a very warm welcome!

We also offer best wishes and congratulations to the Lions as they observe their centennial anniversary this year.

Founded just 11 years apart, our two organizations have enjoyed a special relationship during much of our respective histories. Through their generous support, the Lions have left an indelible mark on The Chicago Lighthouse. It would be impossible to list all the game-changing projects that the Lions helped fund over the years.

Most recently, we received a \$100,000 matching grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation to develop a new seniors' wing at The Lighthouse.

From our perspective, several of our staff and program participants are also proud Lions. In fact, five Lighthouse representatives have served as president of the Chicago Central Lions Club, the very first Lions Club in the world known as the “Mother Club of Lionism” due to the fact that it was the home base of Lions founder Melvin Jones.

To showcase key highlights in the rich Lighthouse/Lions partnership, we will be unveiling a new shadowbox exhibit on June 27. The exhibit will include historic photographs, documents, Lions pins and other memorabilia. Joining me in dedicating the exhibit will be Lions International President Robert Corlew and several other Lion dignitaries.

Speaking of anniversaries, we are also proud to note that this year marks the 40th anniversary of Chicago Lighthouse Industries' exclusive contract to manufacture clocks for the U.S. government. Four decades later, the program is still going strong. It provides steady employment for talented individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

To celebrate this very special milestone, we are proud to introduce an exciting new line of colorful fashion clocks and a distributor partnership with Target. Please see the feature article on the new clocks and also the profile of Mike Wallace, our very own “Ironman” who has been a mainstay of the clock operation since its inception.





The Chicago Lighthouse Industries team has produced **over 5 million clocks** and counting!



## YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY BY INTRODUCING NEW CLOCKS

It has been 40 years since Lighthouse Industries gained the exclusive right to manufacture clocks for the US Government worldwide. To honor this special anniversary, a new line of fashion clocks are being introduced to the market.

What is unique about our clocks is that they are made by individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Jean-Claude Kappler, Vice President of Lighthouse Industries, stated, "We are proud to have been able to provide sustained employment for these talented individuals for the past 40 years."

Realizing design conscious consumers are looking for

clocks to provide the perfect accent piece for their home, the idea to design and manufacture fashion clocks was born. Beautifully designed and highly accurate, these timepieces are certain to make a wonderful addition to any home or office.

Currently, the clocks are being sold on Amazon and in select Chicago area Target stores beginning in August.

In the near future, the clocks will be sold on The Chicago Lighthouse website and on Target.com.



### MIKE WALLACE: CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES IRON MAN CELEBRATES 47 YEARS WITH AGENCY

The first Earth Day is observed. The Beatles officially break up. Michael Jackson and his brothers make their TV debut on "American Bandstand." Many milestones took place in 1970.

Lighthouse Industries marked one of its own that year when Mike Wallace came on board as production supervisor. Forty-seven years later, Mike is going strong! In fact, he is currently one of the organization's longest serving employees.

Though visually impaired since birth, he has never let his disability get in the way of pursuing his dreams.

Since he was a child, Mike has been good with his hands. "I could take things apart and put them together again without any difficulty," he stated.

Despite his talents, Mike, like many others who are visually impaired, had difficulty in finding work. Then upon the advice of his mom and neighbors, he decided to give Chicago Lighthouse Industries a try.

Reflecting on how friendly everyone was and how valued he became, Mike states that his first day in 1970 at Chicago Lighthouse Industries forever altered his life. "I knew I found my dream job," he smiled.

To this day, Mike remains a critical player. Among other things, he makes sure that all the machinery is functioning smoothly.

Noting that while many things have changed in the past 47 years, including technological advancements, Mike maintained that some things haven't.

"I still feel that the environment here is very caring and supportive, our talents are appreciated and we're part of a larger family," he said.

Veteran employee Mike Wallace.



## LIGHTHOUSE'S TIM PAUL, VISUALLY IMPAIRED, COMPLETES BOSTON MARATHON

Competing in the Boston Marathon is a challenge for any well-conditioned runner. The annual race is one of the world's top running events and its course through hilly areas and meandering streets makes it one of the most grueling.

Yet, Lighthouse staff member Tim Paul, who is visually impaired, successfully completed the Marathon not once but three times!

"It is a real thrill to be able to run in the Boston Marathon," Tim smiles. "For myself and others with a disability, it gives us the satisfaction in knowing that we can do it and hold our own with runners from all over the world."

Tim, who works as an agent in The Lighthouse's UI Health Call Center, is no stranger to running. "Ever since I was a kid, I liked to run," he recalls. Despite being visually impaired, he regularly ran in high school and participated on the track team in college and has been actively involved in running ever since. As Tim's vision worsened in his 20s, he would start running with sighted guides.

"Working with sighted guides has been essential to my success," he says. "Not only do they serve as my eyes, but their incredible kindness, competitive spirit, and commitment to teamwork helps push us over the finish line!"

This year's run in Boston is Tim's 13th marathon. He has also successfully competed in races in Chicago, Houston and California. Tim also took home a medal for his participation in the annual Lions District 1-A Helen Keller Race this past April 30.

"Running keeps me physically fit, helps work off stress and gives me a sense of accomplishing something," he reflects, adding with a laugh, "I really enjoy it!"



Lighthouse employee Tim Paul (left) runs competitively with the assistance of a sighted guide.

## AHEPA'S PASSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE SPREADS TO LIGHTHOUSE'S PANGERE CENTER

Though small in numbers, their imprint on the community has been large. Whether it is providing food to the hungry, supporting scholarships for deserving students or championing affordable housing for low income seniors, they are offering hope for a better tomorrow to thousands of northwest Indiana residents.

Most recently, they began supporting the Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases at The Chicago Lighthouse through grants and endorsements.

Meet members of the Gary-Merrillville, Indiana chapter of the AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association).

With about 130 members, the chapter is part of the largest and oldest American-based Greek heritage grass roots membership organizations in the country.

"We were founded in 1922 to combat the twin evils of bigotry and racism that were prevalent in American society at that time," said Nick Gianikos, who serves as the Indiana group's director of philanthropy. He added that AHEPA embodies the ideals of ancient Greece, which include democracy, philanthropy and civic responsibility.

Gianikos pointed out that the group began supporting The Lighthouse in 2012 after they toured the facility



Georgiann and Steve Pangere (center in red) along with several members of AHEPA.

following an endorsement from fellow AHEPANS Steve and Georgiann Pangere, who established the organization's Pangere Center in 2010.

"Everyone loves Steve and Georgiann, so when they talk about a worthwhile cause like The Lighthouse, we take notice," smiled George Domoras, Chapter Vice President.

He added that the chapter members were impressed with the outstanding quality of care the Pangere Center offers under the leadership of internationally recognized ophthalmologist Dr. Gerald Fishman.

"We could see for ourselves how The Lighthouse was profoundly impacting the lives of the people you served," Gianikos said.

**PLANNED GIVING**—With a planned gift (like a gift in your will or trust) to The Lighthouse, you can help thousands of people The Lighthouse serves each year AND obtain significant financial benefits. In making a planned gift, you will also have the satisfaction of knowing people with visual impairments in the future will benefit from your generosity today. For more information, please contact Jen Miller, Chief Development Officer, at (312) 997-3643 or [jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org).





Outgoing Chairman of the Board Dick Schnadig receives an award for his service from Dr. Szlyk.



Beacon of Light Recipient Larry Broutman (left) with his wife, Susanne, and family.



Gala Chairman Cookie Cohen (standing right) along with supporters from The Service Club of Chicago including Board Member Vonita Reescer (seated).



## LIGHTHOUSE 2017 GALA GOES HOLLYWOOD!

The Chicago Lighthouse went “Hollywood” this year at its Annual Seeing What’s Possible Gala on June 9 by featuring a red carpet premiere of an upcoming PBS profile on “The Visionaries.” The Lighthouse will be showcased on the acclaimed series this fall, which spotlights innovative non-profits from around the world.

Receiving accolades from the audience were the documentary’s producers, Jody Santos and Lit Turner, as well as Executive Director Joe Gieger and Board Chair Hugh Parry of First Nonprofit Foundation, which provided funding for the film.

Over 300 guests attended the Gala, which saluted Lighthouse Board Member Larry Broutman, an award-winning photographer and author who has worked tirelessly as a goodwill ambassador for the organization. In addition, outgoing Board Chair Richard Schnadig was honored for his outstanding service.

Serving as Gala chair was The Lighthouse’s own “Hollywood star,” Board Member and prominent Chicagoan Anida Johnson “Cookie” Cohen.

The festive event, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel, was emceed by ABC 7 reporter Leah Hope. All proceeds benefitted Lighthouse programs serving people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans.

Over \$350,000 was raised from the Gala, which is one of the highest amounts in recent years.



ABC 7 reporter Leah Hope emceed the Gala.

## FIRST EVER CASINO NIGHT DEALS THE LIGHTHOUSE A WINNING HAND



Board member Ellen Martin was among those hoping to win big at the roulette wheel.

The Chicago Lighthouse was dealt a winning hand with the results of its first ever “Raising the Stakes for Vision: Poker and Casino Night” held on March 2.

The colorful event, which took place at Gibsons Steakhouse/Hugo’s Frog Bar, raised over \$70,000 and drew nearly 200

guests. Participants enjoyed playing such classic casino games as Craps, Roulette, and Blackjack. Center-stage was the Texas Hold Em’ Poker Tournament, where nearly 90 players battled it out for a chance of winning the grand prize, a \$10,000 seat at The World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

Over \$20,000 in prizes ranging from romantic getaways to a brand new Apple Watch were awarded to different players.

Proceeds benefitted Lighthouse programs assisting people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all of “Casino Night’s” sponsors, including our Four of a Kind Sponsor, Assurance, as well as to Lighthouse Board Vice Chair Gary Rich and Jeffrey Jackson, who co-chaired the event.

## “JAZZ NIGHT” PROVIDES SOUL-STIRRING ENTERTAINMENT WHILE BENEFITTING THE LIGHTHOUSE

Two of The Chicago Lighthouse’s favorite performers, Lisa Hilton and Nikki George, provided an evening of entertainment at our annual “Jazz Night” event on Tuesday, April 11.

The special benefit attracted a full house to Buddy Guy’s Legends in the city’s South Loop area.

Lisa Hilton is considered one of the most distinctive composers and pianists in jazz today. She is also a leading advocate for contemporary composition and a jazz educator who has made a special commitment to helping people who are blind or visually impaired.

With an ingratiating personality and amazing voice, Nikki George embodies the versatility of jazz. She began her musical career in Chicago and has performed nationwide.

Buddy Guy himself stopped by to chat with Lisa.



Lisa Hilton with Buddy Guy (top) and Nikki George (bottom) delivered outstanding performances.

To receive our most up-to-date Lighthouse happenings, sign up for our electronic newsletter and events at:

[www.chicagolighthouse.org/newsletter-signup](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/newsletter-signup)



# The Chicago Lighthouse

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FLAIR

**Tuesday, September 12** | Macy's on State Street  
[www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/flair](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/flair)

### Charity Golf Tournament

**Monday, October 2** | Skokie, IL  
[www.chicagolighthouse.org/golf](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/golf)