

ILLUMINATING THE WAY



Throughout its rich 113 year history, The Chicago Lighthouse has been guided by exemplary leaders whose vision, passion, dedication and commitment to excellence have enabled it to extend life-changing services to people with disabilities and Veterans. Here are some of our brightest stars who have made The Lighthouse the premier social service organization it is today.



L to R: Ray Wieboldt, Jr., Alfred Severson and Mrs. Edward Benninghaven pose by the architectural model of The Lighthouse's new headquarter building.

1954

Board President 1959 - 1962

Former Board President **Raymond C. Wieboldt, Jr.**

Longtime Lighthouse Board Member Raymond C. Wieboldt, Jr., who also served as Board President, was part of the famous Chicago retail family which operated department stores downtown and across the metro area. **Mr. Wieboldt owned a construction company which built The Lighthouse's new headquarters facility in 1955.** His service to our agency began in the early 1950's and extended into the mid 1970's. Mr. Wieboldt, his construction company and his family's foundation are all acknowledged on the Donor Wall in our Lions Hallway, which marks when the building was first constructed and dedicated by Helen Keller.



L to R: Helen Keller, Miss Polly Thomson who was Miss Keller's companion and A.R. Peterson at the November 17, 1955 dedication of The Chicago Lighthouse .

1955

Board President 1954 - 1956

Former Board President **Abe Peterson**

Board President Abe Peterson, along with Executive Director Al Severson, developed The Lighthouse's present-day headquarters facility, a 55,000 square foot building at 1850 W. Roosevelt Road in the Illinois Medical District on Chicago's near West Side. This expansive building still remains our flagship location today. Mr. Peterson also welcomed Helen Keller, the legendary crusader for people with disabilities, to The Lighthouse in 1955. Ms. Keller officially dedicated the new building, which included our low vision clinic, the oldest and most prominent in the United States.

NOTE: In 1990, The Lighthouse changed the title of President of the Board to Board Chair.



1958

Board Service 1956 - 1959
2011 - present



1978

Executive Director 1979 - 1996

The Clarke Family

Former Executive Director **Milt Samuelson**

Under the direction of Milt Samuelson, The Lighthouse established one of America's first Early Intervention programs, the Birth to Three Program, which sends teachers and therapists into the home to work with infants and toddlers who are blind and who often have multiple disabilities. The Program is designed to help parents, babies, and toddlers move through the natural stages of development. Previously, he created The Lighthouse Children's Development Center, serving children who are blind or visually impaired and medically fragile. Mr. Samuelson is also credited with establishing a strong partnership with the Lions that continues to the present day. Since 1985, the Lions have contributed over \$1.67 million to The Chicago Lighthouse for various programs that have all become some of our core services.



now serves on the Board and is Chair of the Finance Committee. This past March, Mr. Clarke's wife, Janice, also became a member of the Board.

TOP: Norman and Jane Clarke. AT LEFT: Robert and Jan Clarke.



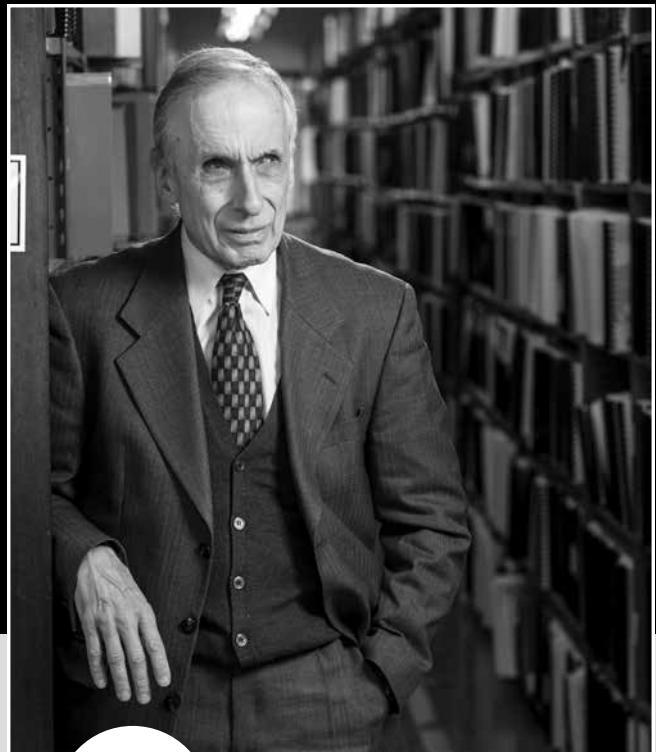
1984

Board President 1984 - 1987
Industries Director 1995 - 2001

Former Board President and
Director Chicago Lighthouse
Industries

Daniel G. Lee

Mr. Lee, who served as Lighthouse Board President and Director of Chicago Lighthouse Industries, is credited for chairing a committee in 1981 which established one of America's first adaptive technology programs at The Lighthouse designed to give computer access to people who are blind. As Board President in 1985, he presided over the organization's purchase and expansion of additional space that doubled the size of The Lighthouse. Among current programs housed in that space are the Childrens' Development Center, the Pangere Center, the Strickfaden Tools for Living Store and part of the UI Health Customer Care Center. After Mr. Lee left the board in 1995, he served as director of Lighthouse Industries for more than 15 years.



1989

Board President 1989 - 1992

Former Board President
Paul Rink

Attorney Paul Rink has served on The Lighthouse Board from 1979 to the present, holding various positions and offices, including Board President in 1989. A graduate of Loyola University and Northwestern University Law School, Mr. Rink worked in the Trust Division of Continental Bank, then became a Commissioner (Judge) with the State of Illinois Industrial Commission, reviewing worker on the job injuries and compensation cases. A tireless champion of the blind community, Mr. Rink now volunteers his time as Director of The Lighthouse's Kane Legal Clinic. Mr. Rink and senior attorney Carol Anderson, both of whom are totally blind, were honored by the North Suburban Bar Association this past spring for the outstanding service they provide to low income people in need of legal assistance at no charge through the Kane Legal Clinic.



1996

Board Chair 1996 - 1999



1996

Executive Director 1996 - 2009
President 2002 - 2009

Former Board Chair **Linda Manning**

Linda S. Manning, retired Asset Management & Planning Vice President of Commonwealth Edison, joined The Lighthouse Board in 1993. A graduate of IIT with a Bachelors degree in electrical engineering, she served as Lighthouse Board Chair from 1996-1999. Under her leadership, The William (Bill) Strickfaden Assistive Devices store, also known as the Tools for Living Store, started operating at The Lighthouse in 1996 through a grant from District 1-A and the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Since the facility opened, over 65,000 customers, the vast majority of whom were blind, have been served. Included in that number were more than 28,000 blind Veterans. During Mrs. Manning's tenure, The Lighthouse also began operating the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers warehouse in Bloomington, Illinois, employing people who are blind.

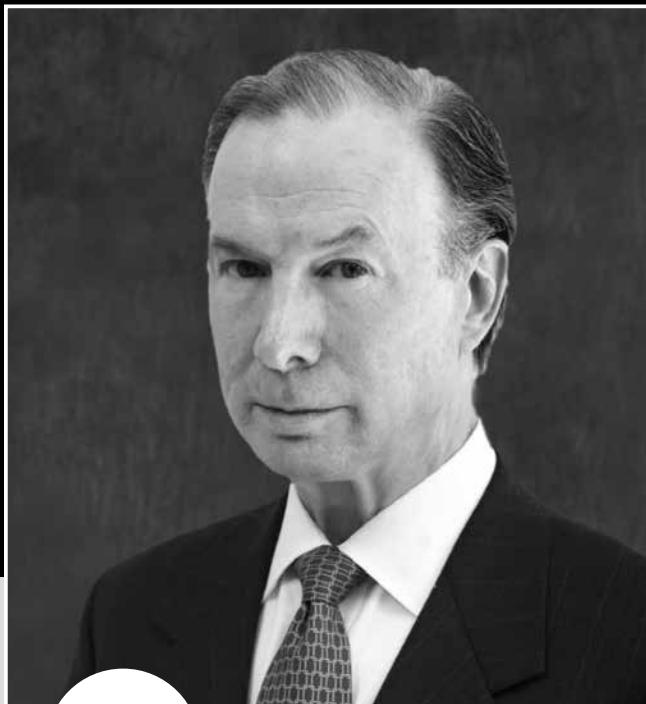
Former Executive Director and Board President **James M. Kesteloot**

James M. Kesteloot became the first blind Executive Director of The Lighthouse in 1996. Six years later, in 2002, he became Lighthouse President as well as Executive Director. Mr. Kesteloot, who spent 50 years at the agency, presided over a period of substantial growth. He also gained national acclaim for his tireless efforts to secure employment for people who are blind. Those efforts led to his appointment by President Obama in 2010 for a seat on the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, the independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program. From 2015 through 2018, Mr. Kesteloot served as chairperson of the committee. He still remains an active member of The Lighthouse Board.



1999

Board President 1999 - 2002



2002

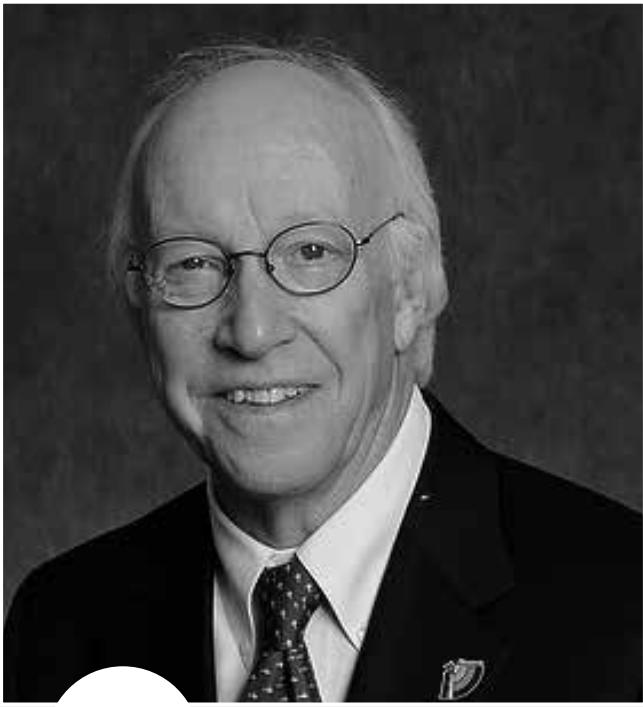
Board Chair 2002 - 2005

Former Board President
Thomas Deutsch, M.D.

Dr. Deutsch, who was president of The Lighthouse Board from 1999 to 2001, is the Henry P. Russe, M.D. Dean of Rush Medical College of Rush University in Chicago, and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, a post he has held since August, 2003. He also serves as the Provost of Rush University. Dr. Deutsch is the author of over 75 articles, books, and book chapters, and he lectures extensively. During his tenure as Lighthouse Board President, in 2000, The Lighthouse received a grant from District 1-A and the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to enhance and expand Lighthouse Low Vision Clinic services. Lions Clubs International President Dr. Jean Behar traveled all the way from France to personally present the check.

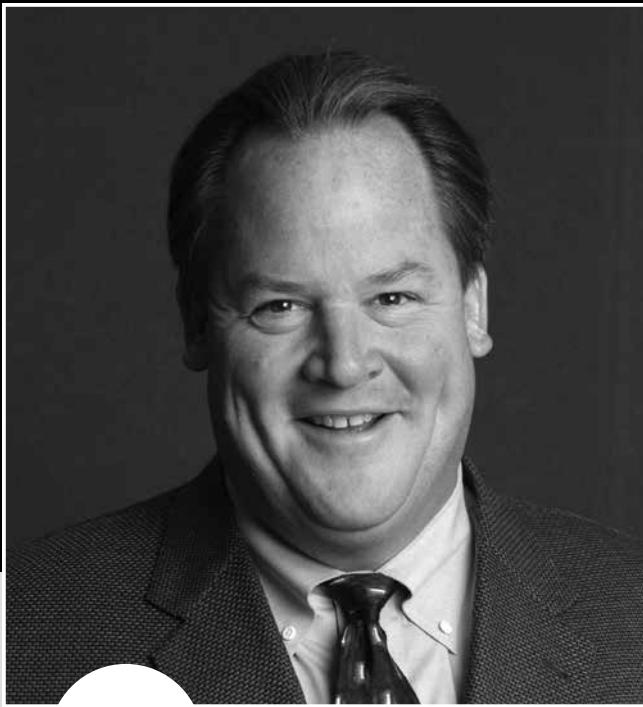
Former Board Chair
Bruce Foudree

Mr. Foudree, a practicing attorney who served as Board Chair from 2002 through 2005, helped work to establish the Kane Legal Clinic at The Lighthouse. Named in honor of philanthropists Arthur and Esther Kane, the clinic is the first of its kind in the nation to provide free assistance to individuals who are visually impaired facing discrimination in housing, transportation and other areas. Mr. Foudree also helped relocate the Illinois Instructional Materials Center (IIMC) to The Lighthouse. It provides books in Braille and large print as well as assistive technology to students who are blind or visually impaired, relocated from Springfield to The Lighthouse. Another initiative under Mr. Foudree was to have VA hospitals provide assistive technology to Veterans with visual impairments through The Lighthouse store.



2005

Board Chair 2005 - 2008



2013

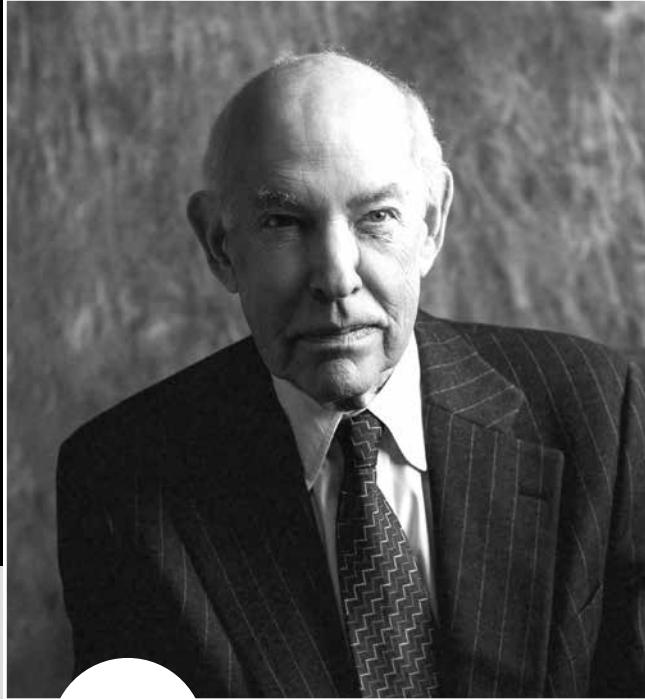
Board Chair 2011 - 2014

Former Board Chair
Joel Kaplan, M.D.

Renowned ophthalmologist Dr. Joel Kaplan, who served as Lighthouse Board Chair from 2005 to 2008, spearheaded, along with his good friend and Board colleague Frank Chanen, the incredibly successful "Seeing What's Possible" fundraising campaign that netted \$17 million dollars for The Lighthouse. Dr. Kaplan, whose board chairmanship coincided with our centennial anniversary in 2006, took then Senator, and future President Barack Obama on a tour of the agency in 2005. Dr. Kaplan remains a crusader for the organization, bringing in supporters and working to open doors to greater employment opportunities for people with disabilities and Veterans. Dr. Kaplan has helped grow our Scholarship Program along with fellow Board member, Marv Lader.

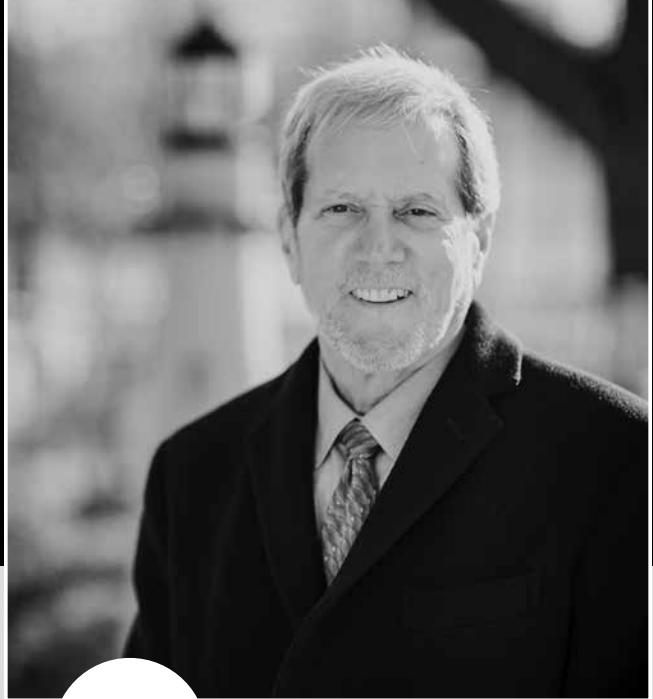
Former Board Chair
Bruce Hague

Under the leadership of Board Chair Bruce Hague and President/CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk, The Lighthouse signed the biggest contract in its history, an agreement with the Illinois Tollway in which The Lighthouse would manage their new call center. The facility, which was formally dedicated in November 2013, has extended employment to hundreds of individuals who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans. In another major initiative under Mr. Hague's tenure, The Lighthouse opened a new facility in suburban Glenview, marking the first time that the organization began offering comprehensive services beyond its Chicago headquarters. In another breakthrough under Mr. Hague, The Lighthouse's Judy and Ray McCaskey Preschool opened in September 2013. The Preschool is the first in the Midwest to provide learning in a blended environment to both sighted and visually impaired children.



2014

Board Chair 2014 - 2017



2017

Board Chair 2017 - Present

Former Board Chair
Richard H. Schnadig

Distinguished labor attorney Richard Schnadig had several notable achievements during his 2014-2017 tenure as Board Chair. Among them was the launching in November 2014, of the new UI Health Customer Care Center, managed by The Chicago Lighthouse. The center creates hundreds of jobs for people with disabilities and Veterans. In 2015, The Lighthouse Board of Directors, under the leadership of Mr. Schnadig, voted to split Lighthouse Industries into a separate entity. This was done to satisfy National Industries for the Blind (NIB) requirements that 75% of employees must be legally blind. By splitting into two non-profits, The Lighthouse now satisfies federal and state hiring requirements while preserving critical employment and broadening its mission to serve additional audiences.

Current Board Chair
Gary Rich

Businessman and entrepreneur Gary Rich took the helm of The Lighthouse Board in 2017. After a career building businesses, and operating his own home repair firm, Mr. Rich is putting his experience to work for The Chicago Lighthouse. He worked with many Lighthouse staff, for example, to expand the UI Health Customer Care Center this past year. Mr. Rich's penchant for thinking outside the box led to a new Lighthouse fund-raising event, "Poker and Casino Night" held the last three years at Chicago's iconic Gibsons Steakhouse. The event, which is co-chaired by Mr. Rich and Dr. Jeffrey Jackson, has raised nearly \$285,000 for Lighthouse programs since it began in 2017.