

Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Spring 2009

Programs & Services

Pat Bishop, a ServMart sales associate of six years and Lighthouse employee for 25 years, has the opportunity of a lifetime. After hearing about management classes sponsored by National Industries for the Blind (NIB), Pat knew that she was interested in taking advantage of this opportunity. Last August, Pat submitted her application to the NIB Business Management Training Seminar hosted by the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business, and was accepted into the program. Pat sees this MBA-level course as a way to further her career.

The coursework is presented to the legally and totally blind students in whichever format they prefer – large print, Braille or audio. The classes have



students that range from 30 to 50 years of age and come from all over the country. The students are receiving great accommodations from the staff at Darden, and the faculty receives inspiration from the tremendous effort the students bring to the program.

Bishop will return to Washington, D.C., in March for her second series of classes. Pat said that “this is one of the greatest opportunities for a visually handicapped person to acquire skills that will provide them with greater vocational

Message from the President

Greetings from the Lighthouse. The end of March will mark five months on the job for me. My goodness, how time flies. It seems like just yesterday I was asking Bob Mosteller to explain one more time how we go about getting new products on the State Use Program.

While I still have much to understand, I am getting comfortable with the acronyms and familiar with the people at NIB in Washington, D.C., and Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped, Inc. (TIBH) in Austin, Texas – and none too soon. By the time you

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possibilities.” Once Pat completes her fifth session, she will return to Fort Worth in pursuit of management positions.

Employee Profile

Robert “Bob” Chelette has been named the 2009 Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth Employee of the Year.

Over the nine years Bob has worked for Lighthouse for the Blind, he has demonstrated the ability to carry out multiple tasks in the Industrial Division with outstanding quality and attention to detail.

He said, “Working here has given me a new life and something to live for, I look forward to Monday mornings because that means I can go to work.”

Throughout his years with the company, Bob has worked in several areas ranging from digital imaging to the pen/sub-contract and paper departments. He was surprised to find out that he was the Employee of the Year and said, “It is such a great honor to be chosen for this award.”

As a consequence of an automobile accident a number of years ago, Bob sustained head injuries that resulted in significant vision loss and is



Bob Chelette is pictured here with President Platt Allen at the Annual Meeting on February 3rd.

now legally blind. Married, with five grown daughters, Bob is one of the best-liked and most respected workers at the Lighthouse.

**“Working here
has given me a new
life and something
to live for.”**

His supervisor noted: “Bob is rated near the top in the quality and quantity of the work he performs. His attendance record is perfect and his work skills are impeccable. He gives every task assigned to him his very best effort.”

President’s Message continued

receive this publication, the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities should have approved us for seven new products. These products will broaden our markets, increase sales and expand the vocational opportunities we provide to people who are blind.

In addition to providing job opportunities, these new products will allow us to expand our reach into the community.

As the new guy, it has been my pleasure to meet and talk with many individuals with vision loss who participate in our programs, as well as the donors who give generously to the Lighthouse. Your gifts allow us to serve the needs of vision-impaired people across the state. We appreciate your generosity and look forward to your continued financial support.

Please drop by the Lighthouse for a visit. In our case, seeing is truly believing.

Kind regards,

Platt Allen, III
President/CEO

In the News

“Some Companies Helping Employees Cope with Higher Transportation Costs”

-Sandra Baker of the *Star-Telegram* references Lighthouse for their move to benefit worker's schedules by modifying their work week to be Monday -Thursday.

“Rules on Access for Those with Disabilities set to Change.”

-Anna Tinsley of the *Star-Telegram* quoted Vice President Wayne Pound about the need for laws that benefit those with limited eyesight. Pound mentions that every day items such as cell phones and ATM machines need to be manufactured for those with vision impairments.

“Lighthouse for the Blind Saves Money with Shorter Week.”

-Elizabeth Bassett of the *Fort Worth Business Press* quotes employees of Lighthouse, such as Josie Gordon, who explains the benefits of moving to a four day work week.

Annual Meeting Overview

This year's annual meeting marked the transition to welcoming President Platt Allen to the Lighthouse. Bob Mosteller stepped down from this position at the end of 2008. He received the Lumen Award at the meeting on behalf of his contributions to the

organization for more than 35 years. Words of heartwarming sentiment proved the strong admiration that many felt for Mosteller, while Allen was welcomed with great anticipation. Supportive members and endearing leadership proves Lighthouse's future to be strong.



Members of Lighthouse at the annual meeting.

Tips & Tools

For Those with Vision Impairments

- In the kitchen, mark controls on appliances such as ovens and dishwashers with puff paint or raised dots.
- Fully open and close all cupboard doors to avoid kitchen collisions.
- Keep furniture well organized to allow for plenty of passage space throughout rooms.
- Store emergency phone numbers by the main phone in large print.
- Create a nightly routine of checking locks, lights, and appliances.
- Separate medications by location: put breakfast pills in the kitchen and nighttime pills in the bedroom.

Board Member Profile

For current chairman Steve Peglar, the Lighthouse for the Blind is not just a way for him to make a positive impact on the community. “For me it’s a personal thing,” he said.

At the age of seven, Peglar suffered optic nerve damage in one of his eyes following a bicycle accident and is almost totally blind in one eye. It is this personal experience that


guides his passion to help other visually impaired individuals through his service with the Lighthouse for the Blind.

This year, Peglar hopes to increase employment for the visually impaired. With new CEO & President Platt Allen, Peglar has high expectations. “I think he will take Lighthouse for the Blind to the next level,” he said.



Peglar at the annual meeting.



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Permit No. 1673