

Support Groups for People with Vision Loss

Updated 8/5/2020

Spectrios Institute Support Group

Spectrios Institute Call-In Support Group is facilitated by Leah Gerlach, M.S. and often times may have a special guest speakers.

Dates and Times

- First Friday of each month from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 am
- Second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Dial-In Information: 712-432-5610 code 660.

For Questions: Call or Email Susanna at PerrettS@spectrios.org or 630-690-7115 x116

Especially for our Veterans, Service Members, and their families

Hines VA Blind/Low Vision Support Group – for veterans and their families:

Date and Time: 1st Wednesday of every month from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Location: Hines VA Blind Center, 5000 S. 5th Ave. Hines Illinois, 60141

Contact: Pat Zeinstra, VIST Coordinator- 708-202-2351

Jesse Brown VA Low Vision Support Group – for veterans and their families:

Date and Time: 1st Wednesday of every month from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Location: 820 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60612

Contact: Melinda Dunlap, VIST Coordinator- 312-569-7531

Support Groups in Your Community

Second Sense groups

Second Sense has several groups. One specifically for people with Retinitis Pigmentosa, and others centered on a specific activity or interest. Information for the other groups can be found at <https://www.second-sense.org/programs/live-with-vision-loss/support/>

The RP Group

Date: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Dial-In Information: Call the conference line at 312-582-2994, conference bridge 301 and pin 1111#.

Registration and Contact: Kathy Austin at Second Sense, kathy.austin@second-sense.org or 312-236-8569

Low Vision Group – Oregon, IL.

This is a group for those who have low vision, any form of vision loss, or for caregivers of those with vision loss.

Date and Time: Second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Location: Rock River Center, Activity Room: 810 S. Tenth St.; Oregon, IL 61061

Contact: Anne Jones at 815-732-3587 or email birdhse1@comcast.net

Skokie Low Vision Support Group

Date and Time: Monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Location: Currently meeting via Zoom due to COVID-19, previously held at Skokie Public Library.

Contact: Dawn Wlezien. For more information call Skokie Public Library or email events@skokielibrary.info

Talking Books Discussion Group

Books alternate between non-fiction and fiction and are chosen in advance.

Date and Time: Monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Lukie Marriott - call Skokie Public Library or email LMarriott@skokielibrary.info

The Progress Center in Forest Park

Suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic

Meets the fourth Monday of the month from 2:00 -3:00pm at the Progress Center for Independent Living, 7521 Madison St, Forest Park. For more information contact Horacio at 708-209-1500

Oasis Support Groups

Orland Park: Oasis First Steps for people new to vision loss the group meets at Orland Park Christian Reformed Church, 7500 W. Sycamore Dr., Orland Park, IL 60462 the 1st Thursday of each month from 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Frankfort: Oasis First Steps for people new to vision loss the group meets at the Founder's Community Center, 140 Oak Street, Frankfort, IL 60473 the second Thursday of each month 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Call for more information (708) 995-6121

The Chicago Lighthouse Support Groups:

All meetings are taking place virtually for the remainder of 2020.

They have a variety of programming available to seniors with vision loss, including chair exercise, yoga, book club, and art exploration.

The Chicago Lighthouse has two locations: The main location is 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago. The Chicago Lighthouse North is 222 N. Waukegan Rd., Glenview, IL 60025

Date and Time: Monthly Support Group on the first Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Melissa at (847) 510-2060 or e-mail
Melissa.Wittenberg@chicagolighthouse.org

Carillon Low Vision Group – Plainfield:

Suspended until 2021 at the earliest as of 8-6-2020

Date: First Tuesday of the month

Location: 21146 Carillon Drive, Plainfield, Illinois

Contact: 815-886-6767 call for more information

Low vision support group meeting at Wheeling Township in Arlington Heights

Meeting via Zoom for the rest of 2020. Previously meeting in person at 1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd. in Arlington Heights.

Date and time: Monthly meeting is the first Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30.

Contact: Lynndah: email llahey@wheelingtowship.com & phone number is 847-259-7730 x 21

Luther Village in Arlington Heights typically has a bus to shuttle residents to the in-person meeting. Contact person at Luther Village is Lloyd Miller (847) 873-0669

The Mid Valley Low Vision Support Group – St. Charles:

Suspended due to COVID-19 and library construction as of 8-6-2020

Meets at St. Charles Public Library, 1 S. Sixth St., St. Charles, Il.

Meeting date is the second Wednesday of the month starting at 1:00 pm

Contact Dave Peterson (630) 918-0546 or e-mail dcpete43@gmail.com

General Assistance for Seniors

DuPage County Senior Services

Assistance for Older Adults (60+) living in DuPage County, with unpaid bills, respite for a (non-paid) family care giver, Home Delivered Meals or a medical assistive device.

Contact: Amy Gaydos, 630-407-6480, amy.gaydos@dupageco.org