



A Publication of the
Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
March, 2009

48,972 and Counting...

"I can't do everything, but I can do something."

John Kirry, President, NWLERC

One of the privileges of being President of NWLERC is to carry our message to clubs, zones and other organizations, near and far. On one of those occasions recently, I was introduced to Harry and Wanda Thornton of the Lacey Lamplighters Lions. Harry and Wanda truly represent the Helen Keller spirit of "I can't do everything, but I can do something," and their story of persistence is a real inspiration to volunteers everywhere.

Many of you may know Harry and Wanda; they have been in the Lamplighters since 1996 and a few years ago Jacqueline Pratt did an article on them for an earlier NWLERC newsletter. Harry and Wanda have a single focus: eyeglass collecting.

What you may not know—and what I found out at that meeting—is that Harry and Wanda are responsible for collecting **48,972** pairs of eyeglasses for NWLERC over the last 12 years. Their story bears repeating, primarily to underscore the point that while they might not be able to do everything, they certainly have found their "something."

Forty eight thousand, nine hundred and seventy two is an astonishing number of glasses. Looking at our collection statistics, we have many large clubs who send 200, 500 or even 2500 pairs of glasses in a given year. These are significant numbers, but Harry and Wanda of the Lacey Lamplighters sometimes bring in 7000 pairs a year. Just the two of them.

This relentless couple has about 25 donation sites they tend regularly. They have drop-boxes at senior centers, doctor's offices, bowling alleys, thrift stores, grocery stores and many other locations. In addition to the glasses, they have also retrieved other things from the collection boxes, such as 28,000 cases, 707 hearing aids, lots of loose change, photos and even a credit card.

Many who know Harry fondly say he has the "gift of gab," since he can come into an office or retail business and easily start a conversation with just about anybody. And the conversation usually turns to the importance of Lions and what we do at NWLERC. In short, Harry and Wanda are great ambassadors and year after year they contribute their time and talent in a very focused and meaningful way. They have our thanks.

I think all of us can be inspired that they have found their "something."

John

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A 501(c)3 Foundation

Things you should know about ---

March, 2009

Once again, our thanks to MD-19 and Webmaster Stacey Walters for enabling us to temporarily host the Focus on the MD-19 website —Ed.

Our 60th Mission! This month we are pleased to report that our 60th mission went out! Since our beginning in 2004, we have sent 65,589 pairs of glasses on sixty missions to twenty three countries, with six more missions in the works. This mission was to Sierra-Leone. Special thanks to site manager **Jean Cook** for putting together the mission glasses and sending them on their way. See more statistics on the last page.

Satellite Update. We welcome our fifth official satellite, this one from the Whidbey Island area of Zone H-7. ZC **Ralph Nakamura** and his wife **Troy** made a visit to NWLERC this month and got a satellite operations briefing by **Jeannie Phillips** and **John Kirry**. When they got home, they went right to work organizing the necessary space and even bought a dishwasher to clean the glasses! We are looking forward to their first shipments of sorted and cleaned eyeglasses, ready for our lensometers.

Our other official satellites are **Wenatchee, Moses Lake, Ft Vancouver and Longview**. They are all doing a great job of sending processed glasses to our center in Lacey.

Website Update Our Chief of Public Relations, **Ed Kane**, is making great headway on our new website. We hope to have it on-line very soon. He previewed it to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee in January, and we look forward to the upcoming day he “flips the switch.”

Border Crossing Highlights The MD-19 Bi-Monthly newspaper, **the Border Crossing**, reported that our PR Chief, **Ed Kane**, is the winner of the MD-19 trading pin contest. Ed designed the pin that will be used for the Lions Club International 2011 Convention pin. In another article, **Mel and Bonnie Williamson** were featured in an article about their many years of service to Lions. Congratulations to **Ed, Mel and Bonnie!**

Hudson News Donates Glasses. We were recently contacted by the parent company of Hudson News, the people with gift shops in most major airports. They were changing out their stock of eyeglasses and wondered if we would like some new reading glasses and sunglasses? We jumped at the chance and were rewarded with about 10,000 pairs of new readers and sunglasses that came out of inventory at the Seattle-Tacoma International airport. Thank you **Hudson News!**

Conference Time! During the months of March and April, staff from NWLERC will be attending each of the District Spring Conferences being held south of the border. Here's the schedule in order by date:

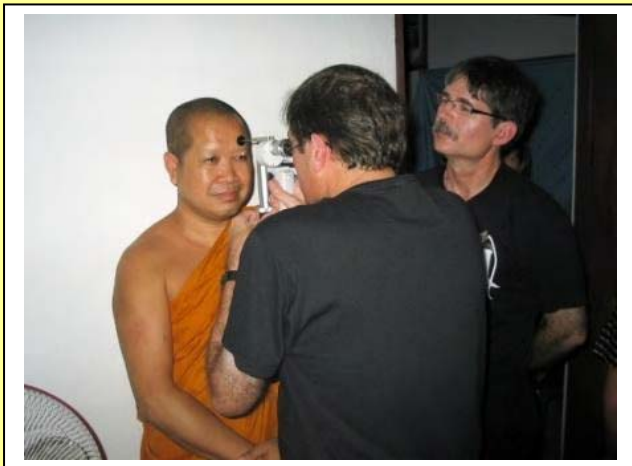
District C, March 6-7, Laquinta Inn, Tacoma WA
District G, March 13-14, Chataqua Conference Center, Longbeach, WA
District F, March 20-21, Yakima convention Center, Yakima WA
District B, April 3-4, Smokey Pt WA

We will also be attending the **MD-19 Annual Convention** May 14-16 in Penticton B.C. We hope to see you there!

Why We Do What We Do

Images from Thailand, November 2008

VOSH and your NWLERC Glasses



A Few Words About \$\$\$ From Lyell Clark.

Lyell Clark is a member to the Lacey Sunrise Lions and is also our NWLERC treasurer. He is the one who puts together the wonderful SEE Cruise you have seen on these pages (information now moved to our website) He works tirelessly in the background keeping track of our donations and expenses, and he is a highly valued member of our staff. At our last Executive Committee meeting Lyell was asked to please analyze where we are with our finances compared to last year at this time and here was his response:

"As far as club donations are concerned we are 30% behind where we were this time last year. C-4 is well ahead of last year. C-2 and C-6 are doing ok but still a little behind. C-1, C-3, and C-5 are way behind. It would also be nice to see a little bit of new money coming in from other districts. Recycle and Ebay sales are coming on strong and taking up some of the slack. Overall expenses are up about \$1,500 over this time last year."

If your club hasn't sent in your donation yet, now would be a great time to do so. NWLERC Thanks you and Lyell thanks you!



Lyell "Show Me The Money\$" Clark at an open house for NWLERC



Lyell is standing by for your donation...



Wanda and Harry Thornton of the Lacey Lamplighters Lions and just a few of the 48,972 pairs of glasses they have collected since 1996.



Kerby Kee (l) and his crew from the Longview satellite secure the load on several thousand pairs of glasses they took back to their facility to sort.

The Thompson Report.

Selected Key Statistics up to Feb 28, 2009.

	Current Month	Lions' Year to Date July 08 to June 09	Total
Eyeglasses Received	39,323	138,413	594,795
<i>Eyeglasses Distributed to Missions</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>14,669</i>	<i>65,589</i>
Eyeglasses Transferred*	0	37,842	101,085
Volunteer Hours	575	2,836	15,928
On-Hand Inventory of Mission Ready Eyeglasses			13,100

- Transferred to other recycling or processing centers

Missions Supported

Calendar Year	Number of Missions	Locations	Eyeglasses Provided
2004	1	Honduras	1,148
2005	7	Mexico (3), Peru, Guatemala, Mongolia, Tanzania	6,250
2006	9	Mexico (2), El Salvador, Ukraine, Malawi, Mongolia, Panama, Dominican Republic, Ghana	9,561
2007	21	Mexico (6), El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (2), Panama (2), Morocco, Philippines (2), Indonesia, Dominican Republic, United States, Uganda (2), Chile	20,415
2008	17	Peru, Mexico (4), El Salvador, Ukraine (2), Nigeria, Thailand (2), Philippines (2), Mongolia, Nepal, United States, Ghana	22,046
2009	5	Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone	6,169
Total	60		65,589