



A Publication of the
Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
February, 2010

"Changing Lives. One Pair of Glasses at a Time"

Some Eyeglass Collections in Jeopardy

New Lions/Wal-Mart Partnership Won't Benefit NWLERC

John Kirry, President, NWLERC

By now you probably have seen the email distributed to all Lions announcing a new partnership between Lions International and Wal-Mart. Unfortunately, this new program isn't the best news for NWLERC.

To bring you up to speed: LCI announced last month that they would be putting new Lions eyeglass collection boxes in all Wal-Mart stores with vision centers across the country. The bad news for NWLERC is that all the glasses collected in MD-19 that have been going to our local Lions clubs and Satellites, will be collected and shipped to one of five regional distribution centers across the US. Glasses collected in Washington and Northern Idaho will be shipped to Arizona, not to NWLERC.

Make no mistake: I'm in favor of any program that will collect glasses that will eventually go to developing countries around the world. The problem is, thousands of pairs collected locally in our Multiple District will be shipped out of state. In a poll of our District Directors, it seems that District D, the Moses Lake area in particular, will be the hardest hit. They get most of their glasses from a local Wal-Mart. Other districts are affected; some more, some less. Keep in mind that this applies to Wal-mart stores with vision centers. Stores without vision centers may still collect glasses in cooperation with local Lions clubs.

I bring this disappointing news to you because, while it may be a setback in some places, it gives us an opportunity to re-evaluate and strengthen our local eyeglass collections. If your club or satellite collects from Wal-Mart, now may be a good time to diversify and broaden your club's collection efforts.

John

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Things You Should Know About

February, 2010

Welcome New Site Managers!

I am very pleased to announce that we have three new site managers at NWLERC: **John and Sue Madsen** from Kent and **James Bennett** from Tacoma Downtown. James will get a chance to get to work right away as his club has accepted the responsibility working on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6-9pm. He and Site Manager **Ron Reiersen** will share the duties.

NWLERC Signs Three Year Lease.

By the time you will read this, we will have signed a three year lease extension on our current fire station property in Lacey. Founder **Bob Pinson** re-negotiated the lease with Fire District Three along with help from Lacey Sunrise Lions **Pat Bucknell** and **Andrew Barkis**.

Spring Conferences Scheduled.

Our Executive Committee has scheduled three spring conference appearances by NWLERC staff in March and April. We will be at the District C conference in **Tacoma** on March 5-6, District B in **Renton** on April 9-10 and District H in **Bellingham** on Mar 26-27. We will also be attending the MD-19 Convention in Olympia in May. **We will be bringing our cargo trailer to Tacoma, Renton and Olympia, so if your club or zone has glasses to hand off, we'll be glad to take them at those events.**

Banner Patches to be Awarded.

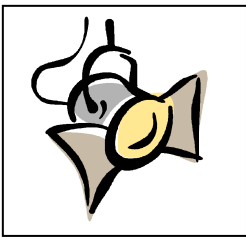
Satellite Manager **Jeannie Phillips** has arranged for our 2008-09 of large and small banner patches to be distributed by our Directors in each district. Below, you will see photos of Director **Sue Campbell** awarding those banner patches in District B. Congratulations to all clubs who have contributed to the success of NWLERC.

New Partnership in Works with North Thurston Schools.

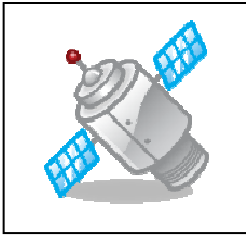
Thanks to Site Manager PDG **Jim LaBelle**, we are working on implementing a new program with the North Thurston School district that would enable developmentally disabled students to work at NWLERC and learn valuable job-related skills. The program is projected to run one and one-half hours, two days per week. Lacey Lamplighters President **Bill Miller** has also agreed to help with this program.

Holiday Closings at NWLERC.

Volunteer Coordinator **Lynda Ford** reminds everybody that NWLERC is closed on all US Government Holidays. This month, we'll be closed **Monday, February 15.**



Spotlight on Satellites



New Satellite in the Works for Spokane

Satellite Manager **Jeannie Phillips** reports that a new Satellite in Spokane is starting to take form. District E Director **Howard Bergdoll** has plans to create a satellite and will consult with District D Director **Russ Fineman** for ways to implement and execute that satellite. Spokane clubs have been sending glasses to NWLERC for years, but this will be the first coordinated effort to streamline the process. We look forward to this new start-up!

New Satellite Shipping System

Free is always a good word to volunteer groups such as ours, and we were pleased to receive word of a new shipping concept that will help our satellites immeasurably.

PDG Stacy Walters from District G has created a new program to get glasses shipped from our satellites to our center in Lacey. Our first shipment arrived recently, and we are immensely grateful to Stacy for his help getting this program off the ground.



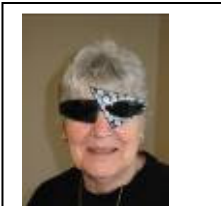
Gig Harbor Satellite Holds Work Party/Potluck



Gig Harbor Lions gathered Saturday, January 30 to hold a work party and potluck at the NWLERC Gig Harbor Satellite.



Satellite Coordinator **Jeannie Phillips** and co-workers **Bill Amesbury** and **Jim Panks** sort glasses.



Jeannie keeping an eye on the troops...



3VP **Bonnie Manning**, 2VP **Sandy Bradley** and IPP **Elaine Morales** help sort at the Gig Harbor work party. The Satellite was able to produce about a dozen boxes of sorted glasses and five boxes of recyclables.



What's a Lions event without food?

Kudos to District B!

Banner Patches Awarded by Director Sue Campbell



NWLERC District B Director **Sue Campbell** gives a letter of thanks along with NWLERC banner patches to Des Moines Lions club Pres. **Russ Carlsen**.



Sue Campbell with Renton Eyeglass Collection Co-Chair **Bob Munnoch**.



Sue with Rainier Lions President **Donald Harris**

