



Focus

A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
"Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time"

MAY 2010

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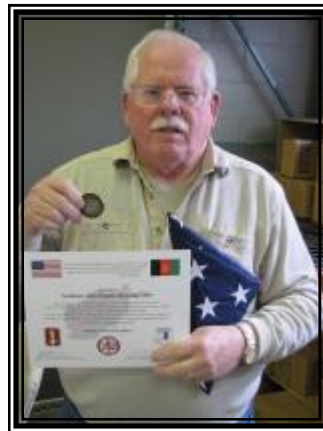


Operation Afghanistan, Part II

A few months ago in this column, I described the efforts our friends at the Longview Satellite to make a new kind of mission happen for NWLERC. I'm pleased to report that a good idea got even better.

For the first mission, Kerby Kee and his hard working crew initiated contact with a USAF optometrist in Afghanistan who wanted some eyeglasses for a civil assistance mission. He asked NWLERC to provide glasses as a way to reach out to the war-torn civilian community.

We happily provided glasses as requested, but then the officer assigned to the facility reached the end of his tour and program continuity was



NWLERC founder Dr Bob Pinson with mementos from the USAF Afghanistan Eyeglass mission.

in doubt. Fortunately, a new staff officer optometrist was assigned to the task in Afghanistan, and we were thrilled to find out that he was equally committed to the work of pro-

viding eyeglasses for local civilians.

So, at their request, we shipped them 600 more pairs of eyeglasses, this time with more specific parameter requirements and using more stringent packing, organizing and shipping criteria. NWLERC Founder Dr Bob Pinson and Mission Coordinator Jean Cook worked directly with the mission requestors to fill the order and meet the new standards.

In return, we got a few mementos from the USAF officer. He sent a nice certificate of appreciation, a unit challenge coin and a US flag that had been flown over Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Our thanks to everybody involved.

A good idea just got better.

John

NWLERC at MD-19 Convention in Olympia

The MD-19 Convention in Olympia is just two weeks away, and NWLERC will be there.

For starters, officers and staff volunteers will man our information table in the display area of the convention. We'll

also be collecting eyeglasses, so bring your bags and boxes of used eyeglasses and we'll transport them to NWLERC in our cargo trailer.

In addition to having on-site staff during the convention, we will have daily open houses at the NWLERC

center in Lacey. We'll be open Friday, May 14 from 1-4pm and Saturday May 15 from 2-4pm. We're located at 9013 Mullen Rd SE, Olympia, so crank up the old GPS and head our way, or call 360-923-2075 for directions.



This is who we serve...

Mission Statistics, Jan-Mar 2010

January:

El Salvador, 1900 Pairs

February:

Afghanistan, 600 Pairs

Ecuador, 710 Pairs

March:

Fiji, 200 Pairs

Mexico, 1600 Pairs

Nigeria 400 Pairs

NWLERC Travels to District B

On April 10, officers and staff from NWLERC travelled to Renton to participate in the District B Spring Conference.

Bob Pinson and Bill Miller drove up from Lacey towing the NWLERC cargo van. The collected several

thousand pairs of eyeglasses from clubs in District B.

NWLERC Director **Sue Campbell**, of the Renton Lions, was there to help other participants **John Kirry, Jeannie and Pat Phillips, Emerson Bishop and Pat Baron**.



I have no idea who these people are.....



Pat Phillips, Jeannie Phillips, Pat Baron, DG Dave Pratt (the man is EVERYWHERE!) Bob Pinson, Sue Campbell and John Kirry. Not shown: Bill Miller.

Seven Lakes Satellite Sends 6000 Pairs!

The new Seven Lakes Satellite from District B has really come on board with a bang! Below is a note from Satellite Coordinator Jeannie Phillips to District B Director Sue Campbell:

*Sue,
My hat is off to the Seven Lakes Satel-*

lite. We received over 6,000 pair of glasses, sorted, washed and labeled. The paper work sent with them blew me away. They did a suburb job!!! I'm so very pleased with what they have accomplished in a short period of time.

They account for 13 clubs in their satellite.

Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful.

A huge welcome to District B's satellite!

Jeannie/Satellite Manager of NWLERC

New Officers Elected for Term 2010-12

The NWLERC Board of Directors voted in April for some bylaws changes to alter the structure of the NWLERC Executive Committee. Among those additions were the positions of Immediate Past President, and a new VP-Operations position to replace the current position of VP-Fundraising.

The Board then approved the

entire slate of candidates as nominated. We are pleased to announce the elected officers for 2010-12:

- Jeannie Phillips, President**
- John Kirry, Immediate Past President**
- Patricia Baron, VP Operations**
- Bill Miller, VP Outreach**
- Roberta Pinson, Secretary**
- Lyell Clark, Treasurer**
- Ed Kane, Public Relations**



NWLERC Undergoes “Extreme Makeover”

Olympia WA—April 2010. Volunteers from NWLERC chipped in and did some long overdue maintenance and upkeep to our leased building on Mullen Road.

The idea of an extreme makeover was spearheaded by Volunteer Coordinator Lynda Ford and Pat Phillips. They spent time organizing the things that needed to be done and made appropriate assignments. In all, the volunteers painted the bathroom and installed new curtains, painted the floor, painted the front door, reorganized the office with new equipment and floor carpet, cleaned the parking lot and grounds, cleaned the NWLERC sign by the road, removed shrubs for easier maintenance, updated the wall plaques, moved the white board, improved the look of the lensometer information wall and did dozens of small things to improve the overall look of the building. Those involved were: **Jeannie and Pat Phillips, Bob and Roberta Pinson, Pat Baron, Cliff Brandsma, Bill Miller, Pat Bucknell, Don Schmidt, Jim Labelle, Lynda Ford, Jack Ford, Emerson Bishop, Jim Bennett, Michael Petty, Ron Reieron, Emerson Bishop and John Kirry.**



This and That...

The word is out about our successful partnership with the **North Thurston School District**. Now **Clover Park High School** is exploring plans to become a Satellite...

On April 24th, a large group of volunteers from **District G** brought glasses and volunteers to work at NWLERC. Headed by NWLERC Director **Stephen Staudinger**, the group brought a large number of glasses and members were given a tour of the

new facility.

Director **Howard Bergdoll** from Spokane gave a presentation at the District E Spring Conference about setting up a Spokane satellite. While the good folks from the Spokane area have been sending glasses for years, we welcome their efforts to form an official satellite.

Director **Sue Campbell** is leading our efforts at the Snohomish County Project Homeless Connect on June 29. The event premiered last year and was very successful. NWLERC provided

reading glasses and sunglasses. The event will be held at Cascade High School.

A big thank-you to our many **lensometer operators** who have recently put in additional hours to bring our mission inventory numbers up. We are receiving a lot more glasses per month that when we started, so our lens-tech's are very busy. If you would like to be trained as a lensometer technician, please contact Michael Petty mkpetty@comcast.net



**9013 Mullen Road SE
Olympia WA 98543
360-923-2075**

Upcoming Events

May 11

NWLERC Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 PM, Lacey NWLERC HQ

May 14-15

NWLERC Open House (MD-19 Convention)

1-4 Friday

2-4 Saturday

NWLERC Board of Directors

District B
District C
District D
District E
District F
District G
District H
District I

Sue Campbell
Dr Bob Pinson
Russ Fineman
Howard Bergdoll
Lonnie Morgan
Stephen Staudinger
Dr Ken Henderson
Marty Vetere

