



FOCUS Newsletter

A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

9013 Mullen Road SE Olympia, WA 98513

(360) 923-2075 • <https://www.lionsnwlerc.org>

Editor: IPDG Lisa Ikeda

lionlisaikeda@aol.com



"CHANGING LIVES, ONE PAIR OF EYEGLASSES AT A TIME"

November 2024 to January 2025



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Founder

2024-2025 Directors

District L

Diane Neubert
Sequim Valley Lions Club
diane_neubert@yahoo.com

District I

PDG Patti Sparks
Wenatchee Central Lions Club
pjsparkler5652@gmail.com

District O

ZC Carolyn O'Dell
Whidbey Island Lions Club
odie72092@aol.com

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Olympia West Lions Club
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District S

PZC Sam Clayton
Pasco Lions Club
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Spokane Central Lions Club
joy@frpfinancial.com

Thank You, Volunteers, for Mission 386!

In 2004, The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center began with a simple mission: to recycle good used eyeglasses to benefit people around the world in need of vision care. Our unique ALL VOLUNTEER organization started with humble beginnings 20 years ago and has since become a trusted worldwide supplier of quality recycled eyeglasses.

So here are three important statistics you need to know:

- 3.7 million pairs of eyeglasses received
- 320,000 pairs of very high quality glasses sent on missions
- 386 Missions to locations around the world and here at home

Over the years, our ALL VOLUNTEER grassroots initiative has grown into a beacon of hope for thousands who struggle with impaired vision. By providing free eye wear to persons around the globe as well as here at home, the NWLERC has opened up new worlds of possibility, enabling individuals to pursue education, employment, and a better quality of life.

It is clear that the heart and soul of NWLERC's success lies in the unwavering dedication of its volunteers. From meticulously sorting, cleaning, and reading the prescriptions with our hi-tech lensometers, to shipping them around the world, our everyday volunteer heroes have transformed the lives of countless individuals across the globe. Whether it's a child seeing the blackboard clearly for the first time or an elderly person reading a cherished book again, the impact of NWLERC's work is immeasurable.

As NWLERC celebrates this milestone of 386 missions, we reaffirm our commitment to continue this work with the same passion and dedication we began with over 20 years ago. Here's to many more years of bringing clarity, hope, and a brighter tomorrow to those in need!

Kerby Kee, NWLERC President

NWLERC Key Statistics			
As of December 31, 2024	This Month	This Year 2024-25	Since 2004
Volunteer Hours	419	2,986	161,604
Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission-Ready Eyeglasses	73	397	3,018 (Since Feb. 2021)
Eyeglasses Processed for Missions	1,022	5,496	30,788 (Since Feb. 2021)
Raw Eyeglasses Information			
Raw Eyeglasses Received	13,098	90,663	3,739,828
Raw Eyeglasses Recycled	0	118,000	2,316,670
Mission Information			
Eyeglasses to Missions/Events	2,776	3,511	323,117
Missions Supported	2	4	386
Mission-Ready Inventory	18,100		

VOLUNTEER SITE MANAGERS

1st Monday 9am to Noon	Laurel Strong, Lacey Sunrise
3rd Monday 9am to Noon	Judy Ann Bergvall, Lacey Sunrise
2nd/4th Monday 9am to Noon	PZC Suzanne Gayda, Spanaway
Tuesdays 9am to Noon	Paul Martin, Lacey Sunrise Dave Azeltine, Lacey Sunrise
Wednesdays 9am to Noon	Jean Gallo, Community Volunteer
3rd Wednesday Noon to 2pm	Dir. Tim Johnson, Olympia West George Spencer, Olympia West
Thurs/Fridays 9am to Noon	Paul Martin, Lacey Sunrise
Fridays 1pm to 4pm	Ruby Mitchell, Olympia Host
Saturdays (By Appt.)	Varies by Site Manager's availability
Sundays (By Appt.)	Linda & Gil White, Lacey Sunrise

Please call to confirm days, times and availability before arriving
(360) 923-2075



We cannot do it without our volunteer site managers, who help run the day-to-day operations and oversee the many wonderful volunteers at NWLERC.

Please reach out if you are available to commit to 1 or more shifts per month.

Training is available!

NWLERC Mission Report

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



Upcoming Mission Requests

Received: 11/21/2024 - Nisqually Tribal Elders - Requested by Monica
Requested 50 pairs of reading glasses ranging from +1.00 through +3.25 and up.
11/26/24 - Completed. Delivered

Received: 11/21/2024 - Eyes on James - Requested by Quyen, University of WA
Requested 150 pairs of reading glasses ranging from +1.00 through +175 and +2.75.
11/26/24 - Completed with 96 pairs of glasses available. 12/06/24 - Shipped via UPS.

Received: 12/03/2024 - Kitsap County Homeless Event -
Requested by Roland Arper, Port Orchard Lions
Requested 115 pairs of reading glasses ranging from +.75 through +3.50 and up.
50 pairs of plano sunglasses, 4 boxes of hard cases, and 3 boxes of new frames.
Need by 01/29/2025

12/09/2024 - Veterans Stand Down. Don Bell, Sequim Valley Lions Club.
Requested 50 pairs of reading glasses in various strengths, ranging from +.50 through +3.00 and higher. The readers are given to needy veterans. 12/13/2024 - Completed and picked up.



Recent Mission Photos

Thank you for supporting NWLERC and those who benefit from your generosity!

Email Scams: Please note: No one from NWLERC will email/call asking you to purchase gift cards or send money via PayPal or other online transaction in exchange for reimbursement. Sadly, these are a sophisticated and common SCAM tactics, DO NOT REPLY to them. It is best to BLOCK the email sender and delete the message. Our Executive Board has a process we must go through to purchase items and reimburse our LERC board members.



Any monetary donations to NWLERC should be sent directly to our physical address: NWLERC 9013 Mullen Rd. S.E. Olympia, WA 98513 - Thank you.

HELP WANTED

NWLERC SITE MANAGERS

Help run NWLERC one or more shifts per month.

Requirements: Commitment to a minimum of one 3-4 hour shift per month; ability to work with people; ability to train and supervise volunteers; and a positive, helpful attitude.

Responsibilities: Maintain log of volunteer names and hours, function as the center's receptionist, train work party volunteers, supervise LERC distribution process, and make sure a good time is had by all!

Site managers will be asked to arrive 10 minutes before their shift, help supervise work parties and at the end of the shift, prepare the room and work tables for future work parties. A NWLERC Site Manager Guide is provided as a helpful reference.

Questions? Lion Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters
Email: pcardmaker@comcast.net

LENSOMETER TECHNICIANS

Read eyeglasses two or more times a month.

Requirements: Commitment to a minimum of two shifts per month; ability to sit for 2-3 hours, have steady hands and legible penmanship; a positive, helpful attitude. All lensometer technicians must complete lensometer training, including skills test, to become certified.

Responsibilities: Use the automatic lensometer to determine the eyeglasses' prescription and then label glasses for boxing.

Each Lensometer Technician will be asked to work a minimum of two flexible shifts per month. The more you use the lensometer, the easier it gets!

Questions? PDG Ed Taylor, Lacey Sunrise
Email: kwaj.ed@hotmail.com



2025 Convention Service Project/ Work Parties

If you are attending the District 19N Convention, join us anytime between 2:15pm to 4:00pm on Saturday, April 19th to clean and sort eyeglasses for NWLERC in the Sacajawea room.

We have not heard back from other Districts on if they will be hosting NWLERC Service Project/Work Parties at their District Conventions, but we will post them on our Facebook page if/when we hear of any updates.

California Fire Donations

Checks can be sent to payable to LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation) 300 W. 22nd Oakbrook, IL 60523

("For" line on check add) California 2025 Fires.

Online donations are also welcome. Visit the Lions International website for the link.

Thank you to the following clubs for their financial donations since July 2024.

Wenatchee Central
Whidbey Island
Wenatchee Valley
Sequim Valley
Tonasket/Okanogan Valley
Camas
Enumclaw
Olympia West
South Whidbey
Vancouver Lions Foundation

Please email and let us know and forgive the oversight if we forgot to list your club above.

nwlercmedia@gmail.com

Does Your Lions Club Have a NWLERC Patch?

Lions Clubs qualifying for the patch have sent eyeglasses to NWLERC, provided volunteer hours (such as collecting glasses, volunteering at LERC, the satellites locations or club work parties), and have contributed monetary funds to LERC.

The Supporting Club patch is the annual patch sent to participating clubs every year when they maintain their Trifecta. There are no minimums for the Trifecta. We are appreciative of all donations, big and small; the main objective is for a club to participate in all three categories.

If your club doesn't yet have one - We ask you to meet the challenge for 2024-2025, and we will happily send your set, or annual patch at the end of the 2025 Lions year!

Congratulations again to the 2023-2024 recipients of the NWLERC Supporting Club patch and our newest recipient Shelton Centennial who are pictured.



Photo of PZC Suzanne Gayda, NWLERC Founder
PZC Dr. Robert Pinson and PDG Ed Taylor.
Unfortunately Lion Jerry Engebo had passed away
before the plaque was engraved and photo was taken.



The Founders Fellowship is an annual award given to volunteers who have put in that extra effort to keep NWLERC thriving.

This year's fellowships were awarded to Jerry Engebo, PZC Suzanne Gayda, and PDG Ed Taylor.

Their names were added to the Founders Fellowship plaque that is on the wall at NWLERC.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **PZC Kerby Kee**,
Longview Kelso Early Bird
kerby912kee@hotmail.com

VP - Administration: **Vacant**

VP - Outreach: **PZC Suzanne Gayda**,
Spanaway

VP - Marketing: **PDG Lisa Ikeda**,
Pierce County Virtual
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

VP: Operations: **Vacant**

Secretary: **Jacqueline Nelson**,
Des Moines
jacq-lion@comcast.net

Treasurer: **PDG Stephen Staudinger**,
Battleground

Senior Advisors:

PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Lacey Sunrise

PZC Roberta Pinson, Lacey Sunrise

PCC John Kirry, Gig Harbor

Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters

Lyell Clark, Lacey Sunrise

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Site Manager Trainer and Quality
Assurance: **PDG Ed Taylor**,
Lacey Sunrise

Materials Recycling: **Pat Baron**,
Lacey Lamplighters

Mission Coordinators:
Malena Hine, Lacey Sunrise
Frankie Sokso, Lacey Sunrise
missionsupport@nwlerc.com

Supplies Manager and QA Assistant:
Linda Bennett, Lacey Sunrise

Building Maintenance Coordinator:
Alan Bennett (Community Volunteer)

Volunteer Coordinator: **Vacant**

WE ARE BACK ONLINE!

Please visit our updated **NWLERC Website**
<https://www.lionsnwlerc.org>. **Facebook page**
<https://www.facebook.com/NWLERC> and be sure to
send us your groups work party photos.

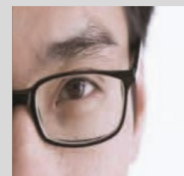
Lastly, please let us know if your club's
“Drop Off” locations need updating or if additional
information on the website information needs editing.
Please be specific on which page and paragraph
needs revision.

Email IPDG Lisa Ikeda at nwlercmedia@gmail.com

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admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net

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NWLERC Hours of Operation

As we are a volunteer operation, our daily
hours of operation vary. Please call
(360) 923-2075 to confirm availability and/or
to arrange for other times of visits if the need
arises. Please note: all work parties require a Site
Manager present.



NWLERC Website / FOCUS Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your website/newsletter
articles, photos and/or updates to our
VP - Marketing Chair PDG Lisa Ikeda
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

