



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>

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

March/April 2025



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Founder

2024-2025 Directors

District L

Vacant

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PDG Patti Sparks
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Spokane Central Lions Club
joy@frpfinancial.com

THIS IS A TOUGH ONE...

As volunteers of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, we rely on the energy, enthusiasm and expertise from our legion of volunteers. Whether Lions or community volunteers, all who sacrifice their time and energy to help our worldwide cause are welcome here. More importantly, we consider all the volunteers at NWLERC to be family.

It is very sad for me to tell you that we have lost one of our dearest family members recently: our Immediate Past President Suzanne Gayda. Suzanne was President during the difficult and turbulent years of Covid19 and she helped us navigate the many unknowns with grace and a heart for service.

Suzanne was one of our most active and consistent volunteers and we will miss her strong and steady leadership. A memorial Service has been announced (see details below) and it is my hope that many of our volunteers will attend the service to say goodbye to Suzanne and support her family at this difficult time.

As we know, the highest award given by the NWLERC foundation is the Founders Fellowship. This is an award given by our Founders, PZC Bob and Roberta Pinson. We are very pleased that they were able to recognize Suzanne as a Founders Fellow just a few months ago.

As always, we will press on with our important mission. In the course of our 20 year history, we have received over 3.8 million pairs of eyeglasses and processed the best to be sent on nearly 400 missions around the world. Our all-volunteer staff made that happen, in no small part through the efforts of outstanding people like Suzanne Gayda and the many volunteers she worked with. Godspeed Suzanne.

With Sadness and Great Respect,

Kerby Kee, President

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	Vacant
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	Tim Johnson, Olympia West George Spencer, Olympia West
Thursdays 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



Email Scam Reminder

Please be aware: No one from NWLERC will ever email or call you asking to purchase gift cards or request that you send money via PayPal or any other online platform in exchange for reimbursement.

These are sophisticated and common scam tactics. If you receive such a message:

- Do NOT reply
- Block the sender
- Delete the message

NWLERC follows a strict process for purchasing items and reimbursing board members. All legitimate expenses are handled through our official procedures.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, please send it directly to our physical mailing address:
NWLERC
9013 Mullen Rd. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513

Thank you and stay safe.

In Memory of PZC Suzanne Gayda

A memorial service for Suzanne Gayda will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 1:00 PM at Spanaway Lutheran Church in Spanaway, WA.

To honor Suzanne's memory, along with that of Cliff Brandsma and Jerry Engebo who also passed away this year, memorial plants will be placed in NWLERC's Memorial Garden.

Their contributions and spirits will continue in our hearts and in our NWLERC community.



New NWLERC Website Coming This Summer!

We're excited to announce that a new NWLERC website will be launching this summer!

In the meantime, if there is any information that needs to be updated on the current site, please contact nwlercmedia@gmail.com with the following details: Specific page and section where the change is needed your name, club, and contact information, in case clarification is needed. Your input helps ensure our new website will be as accurate and helpful as possible.

Thank you for your support as we move forward with this upgrade!

NWLERC Mission Report

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



Mission Requests

01/19/25 - Mission Dates: 04/04/25 -04/12/25.

Mission #387: Accra, Ghana - Africa. Dr. Paul Chung Eastside SDA Fellowship / Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute

Request: 2450 eyeglasses. 210 single (+), 240 single (-), 360 readers, 240 multi (+), 200 multi (-), 1200 plano sunglasses, 200 eyeglass cases

Due date: 03/15/2025 Delivered/in-person pick up: 03/08/2025

01/23/2025 - Mission Date: 02/21/25

Mission #388: Dominican Republic. Christine Manzo Children of the Nations

Request: 3 pairs of eyeglasses, single vision +0.25 and +0.50. Paperwork for additional order of 30-40 pairs of eyeglasses was not received.

Due date: 03/04/2025 Delivered/in-person pick up: 02/12/2025

03/07/25 - Mission Date: 05/24/25 - 06/19/25

Mission #389: Zomba, Malawi - Africa. Lindsay Wellman Sedona Oak Creek Canyon Lions Club & Verde Valley School, Arizona

Request: 1000 eyeglasses. 350 single (+), 650 single (-)

Due date: 05/10/2025

03/26/2025 - Mission Dates: 4/26/25 -12/2025

Mission #390: El Salvador - Central America. Darren Streff & Dr. Erica Tores
Peace Health / Paz Salud, El Salvador Central America.

Request: 400 pairs of reading glasses, +2.50

04/04/2025 - Shipped via FedEx

Inventory Report: 19,550 pairs of eyeglasses that are mission ready.

***Multi vision +** 2300 eyeglasses (46 boxes) +1.75 thru +4.75 not available

***Multi vision -** 1650 eyeglasses (33 boxes) -1.25 thru -2.75, -3.25 not available

***Single vision +** 1950 eyeglasses (39 boxes) +1.00, +1.75 thru +2.25, +3.00 thru +4.00 & up not available

Single vision - 10,200 eyeglasses (204 boxes)

*** Readers** 3,400 eyeglasses (68 boxes) +.25, +.75, +2.25, +3.25 & up not available
(*Low)

Other Activity

Received a couple mission reports, #48 and #49 from Peace / Health or Paz/ Salud El Salvador Central America. See our Facebook page for the article.

Darren Streff writes, "thank you for providing this essential support to the economically marginalized seniors of El Salvador. The attached Paz Salud mission reports contain both photographs of the mission and additional specifics of the event."

Contact Lens Donations:

Though we do not distribute Contacts, there are a couple options for those wanting to donate their new/unexpired and/or used contacts and/or unexpired contact solution.

Expired/Used Contacts can be sent to for recycling through Terracycle and Bausch. You can look up drop off locations by zooming into your specific area on their map for drop off locations within your community.

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/bauschrecycles#@47.05247607736691:-122.83307726036787zoom:13>



Contact Lenses left with NWLERC are collected by Lion Kris Reinbold, University Ballard Lions and shipped to Terracycle.

New/Unopened Unexpired Contacts/Solution can be mailed directly to: DonateContacts a non-profit in Florida run by young adults. This organization provides contact lenses and solution to under-privileged youth.

<https://donatecontacts.com/> Donation Mailing Address:

DonateContacts 6409 Congress Ave, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487

Eyeglass Collection Box Maintenance – A Friendly Reminder

To all Clubs: Please check and maintain your club's eyeglass collection boxes regularly to help avoid overfilling and potential damage to the glasses.

We kindly ask that each box be clearly labeled with your club's contact information for pickup. NWLERC receives numerous calls and emails requesting pickup, and it's often difficult to determine which club is responsible for each location.

Additionally, when possible, please email us at nwlercmedia@gmail.com with an updated list of your club's collection box locations. We continue to receive frequent requests for drop-off sites, and our website list has not been updated since before COVID.

Your continued support helps keep this vital program running smoothly - thank you!



Onsite Site Managers and Lensometer Technicians are currently in high demand at NWLERC.

Site Managers help with the day-to-day operations of NWLERC, keeping things running smoothly for our volunteers and the community we serve.

Lensometer Technicians play a key role in our eyeglass recycling process by reading prescriptions after the glasses have been sorted, washed, and polished.

If you can spare 4 or more hours a month, we would be incredibly grateful for your time and energy. Training is available for both positions — no experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and a heart to serve. Please contact missionsupport@NWLERC.org to learn more or to get involved. Your support helps us continue our mission. "Changing Lives - One Pair Of Eyeglasses At A Time."

The Need for Non-Prescription Sunglass Donations

Did you know that Sunglasses are crucial in third world countries because of the high levels of sunlight exposure, which can lead to serious eye damage due to UV radiation, particularly when people lack access to proper eye care and often spend long hours outdoors working in harsh conditions, making eye protection like sunglasses vital for preventing cataracts, macular degeneration, and other vision problems; however, affordability and awareness about the need for sunglasses are often major barriers in these regions.



Key points about the need for sunglasses in developing countries:

High UV exposure: Many developing countries have high UV index levels, exposing people to significant amounts of harmful UV radiation from the sun.

Limited access to eye care: Lack of access to ophthalmologists and affordable eye exams means many people in these regions are unaware of the risks associated with excessive sun exposure to their eyes.

Outdoor work: Many people in developing countries work outdoors for extended periods, increasing their vulnerability to sun damage.

Economic impact: Poor vision can significantly affect a person's ability to work and earn income, making access to sunglasses even more important.

Challenges related to sunglasses in developing countries:

Cost: Affordable sunglasses are often not readily available in many developing countries, making them inaccessible to many people.

Awareness: Lack of awareness about the importance of UV protection and the risks associated with sun exposure to the eyes.

Cultural factors: In some cultures, sunglasses may not be widely accepted or considered necessary.

We appreciate and value all donated glasses collected by our Lions and Leos Clubs and received at NWLERC. At this time we only process and distribute non-prescription (Plano) sunglasses at NWLERC.

Just like prescription eyeglasses, all sunglasses go through a rigorous cleaning, sorting and inspection process before heading on to a vision mission. Thank you for your donations!

Gratitude Corner: We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Diane Neubert, who has served as 19L's NWLERC Director for the past 10 years. Diane's dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on our team and the broader community. We are incredibly grateful for her decade of service and wish her all the best in her next chapter.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

VP - Administration: **Vacant**

VP - Outreach: **Vacant**

VP - Marketing: **IPDG 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, (Community Volunteer)

Building Maintenance Coordinator:
Alan Bennett (Community Volunteer)

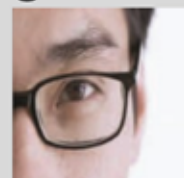
Volunteer Coordinator: **Vacant**

Join our Team, Volunteer Today!

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Olympia, WA 98513
360-923-2075
www.lionsnwlerc.org



admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net

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2025 NWLERC UPCOMING CALENDAR

Holiday Closures: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Eve/Day.

Executive Board/Staff Meetings:

Held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 12:30 PM



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



NWLERC Hours of Operation

As NWLERC is a volunteer-run operation, our daily hours may vary.

We kindly ask that you call ahead at (360) 923-2075 to confirm availability or to arrange an alternate time to visit, if needed.

Please Note: All work parties require a Site Manager to be present.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

