



Focus

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

APRIL 2015

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Founder

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A Note from President Don

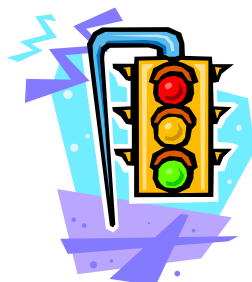
The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center has basic needs. We obviously have financial needs, but without eyeglasses and volunteers we cannot fulfill our mission.

Reviewing our Key Statistics for the past few months (thank you, Sue Madsen), things are looking pretty good. Eyeglasses collected, mission-ready inventory, and volunteer hours are up.

Thank you to the members of all of the Lions Clubs in our modified MD19 collection area, because I realize that although many of you have never visited our facility, you keep us supplied with glasses. I have seen a couple of times that we had *no, none, zip, nada* newly received glasses to process. I was going to say luckily that did not last long, but it wasn't luck, it was Lions throughout our area stepping up and serving the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

Our recent District 19C conference was as usual informative and entertaining. Founders Bob and Roberta Pinson presented a well-deserved **NWLERC Founders Fellowship** to Mr. "Do Everything, Get it Done" Pat Bucknell (who is also C-6 Zone Chair). Bob also presented banner patches to all of the clubs of Zone C-3 for most eyeglasses collected and Lacey Mid-Day Lions for most eyeglasses collected by one club in 19C.

(Cont. on Page 2)



Each month, right here on the front page, we'll display a traffic-light color to signify our current inventory of glasses received for processing.

- Red** = we need more glasses right now
- Yellow** = our supply is dwindling
- Green** = our storage is full

Hopefully it will easily signal our inventory needs so you can help us maintain a steady supply.

Inventory



Still Holding Steady!

Mission Feedback — Mexico

Submitted by Jeff Yerger, Free Methodist Men's Ministries

2015 Mission to Mexico, February 20 - March 2

This mission serves people in Santa Anna and surrounding communities in Sonora, Mexico. They receive distance and close vision exams using standard charts, an autorefractor and also clarification with flippers and trial lenses.



Many of the team members have worked on previous vision clinic teams and are trained to do many of the aspects of the exams and refracting. Dr. Fred Boboth, Optometrist, oversees everything.



Sun damage is prevalent in these areas, so we try to provide clip-on sunglasses for those who will be wearing glasses.

A total of 853 individuals were fitted with eyeglasses.

More from Prez Don (cont. from p. 1)

Friday morning of the conference weekend a few of us had the privilege of receiving International Director Dr. Steven Tremaroli and his wife Marianne for a tour of our Eyeglass Recycling Center. They had never visited a LERC, and I think they were impressed with our operation and volunteers. Few Lions have seen the actual “nuts and bolts” of what makes our international eyeglass program work. (See photos on p. 3)

Thank you to all who contribute to keeping the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center a viable functioning entity.

LION Magazine Loves Us!

Not only was the NWLERC featured in a great 6-page article in our official Lions Clubs International magazine, but Director Bill Miller has an action shot on the **front page**, AND some of our dedicated volunteers showed that working at the NWLERC isn't just all serious business in this 2-page photo!



Lions International Guests

Photos provided by DG John Kirry



International Director Dr. Steve Tremaroli and his wife Lion Marianne were given an informative tour of the LERC by Founder Bob Pinson and President Don Schmidt.



VOICE at NWLERC

Submitted by President Don Schmidt

At NWLERC we enjoy working with students in the North Thurston Public Schools *Vocational Opportunities for Independent Community Employment* (VOICE) program.

These students are 18 to 21 years of age and have graduated traditional high school. They have a variety of special needs, and we work with the students and their coaches to fit the student to the job. The program teaches the students job skills such as promptness, working with others, taking direction from supervisors, and focusing on performing. After completing the VOICE program, the students move on to *Morningside*, where they receive assistance in finding gainful employment.



Weslee, Coach Betty, Ashley, Cyлина

We get to know them and they become part of our team. During the past school year, the students and coaches of the VOICE program contributed nearly 1000 hours of valued service to our mission.



DJ, Coach Erick, Tasha

This year we had students Ashley, Tasha, DJ, Cyлина, and Weslee. Each Tuesday and Thursday they would attend their “job” at the LERC. They perform a variety of tasks, from preparing glasses for shipment to the recycler to drying and inspecting washed glasses for processing by lensometer technicians. We attempt to have the students do a variety of tasks so they learn different skills.

The tasks they perform are very beneficial to the success of our organization, and without their help these tasks would have to be done by other volunteers. I believe this program is beneficial as we can see the improvement in the student’s skills by the end of the school year.

These students also learn what “volunteering” is because some have volunteered at the LERC outside of school time. I like to think these students receive more than job skills from their time with us, and that LERC provides more than eyeglasses to those who have needs.

Send me your news for the FOCUS



Since the local computer geeks could not fix my recent email issues, I now have a new email address. It’s a very subtle change — from a “.” to a “-” between Jacq and Lion.

Please send submissions to Jacq-Lion@comcast.net or call me with your ideas at 360.791.8789. Thanks!

Editor Jacqueline

Reminders about Eyeglass Collection Boxes

COLLECTION BOX LOCATIONS

Our new web site lists locations of collection boxes by zip code. It is beneficial to all if every club will make a list of all boxes placed by members (with addresses) and forward it to missionsupport@nwlerc.org.

This will be very effective because people who view our web site now call the LERC to ask where they can donate glasses. Your neighbors want to give us their glasses, so let's make it as easy as possible.

COLLECTION BOX UPKEEP

We also receive calls from people with overflowing collection boxes. This is frustrating for a business that agreed to have a box on their premises, just to have it become an unattractive annoyance. Because it has our name on it, it reflects poorly on all Lions. Please be sure to list (and update) the contact information on each collection box to help prevent this problem.

It would be great if every Lions Club had one person (a sight chair?) develop a list of every box placed by a club member. Many Lions put a box in a location, but no one else knows. Each time a member checks that box, they can tell the chair, who will then be aware of any boxes not checked regularly.

THANKS FOR HELPING US KEEP THOSE EYEGLASSES MOVING!

Help Wanted



It's officer election time for our Lions Clubs, and a good time for a reminder that the NWLERC still has some long-standing vacancies on the **Executive Committee**, especially in the VP categories. These folks help take some of the burden off the President, by coordinating specific areas — Outreach, Administration, and our Satellites. If you would like more information, please contact President Don Schmidt at northwestlerc@gmail.com.

We've got some great **Lensometer Technicians** who invite you to join them in reading eyeglass prescriptions. Learning to use the machines is easy — just contact Trainer Jack Ford at lynjac@att.net to schedule a date.

And, of course, we can't "make it happen" without our regular **volunteers**. Has your club scheduled a work party? If one of your club members is trained as a **Site Manager**, you can set a date and time to come in at your convenience. Otherwise, you need to arrange a visit when the LERC is already open for business. For further information, call Volunteer Coordinator Cliff Brandsma at 360-456-2318.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 8

NWLERC Exec./Staff Meeting, 10:00 am



5th Week Closures:

Wed, Thurs - April 29, 30



Executive Committee & Staff

Don Schmidt
President

ZC Pat Bucknell
VP-Operations

vacant
VP-Outreach

Sue Madsen
VP-Admin. (Stats)

vacant
VP-Satellite Operations

Hope Ramsdale
Recording Secretary

Lyell Clark
Treasurer / Procurement

vacant
Communications

PZC Bob Pinson
DG John Kirry
Senior Advisors

Pat Baron
Immediate Past President

Cliff Brandsma
Volunteer Coord. / QA

ZC Pat Bucknell
Facilities Manager

Jean Cook
Website

Jean Cook & Berta Fender
Mission Coordinators

Jack Ford
Site Manager Training
Quality Assurance / Training

PZC Bill Miller
Homeless Outreach Programs
VOICE Program
Youth Volunteer Coordinator



As you can see on the list at left, we still need to fill some officer slots. More hands means we can spread the work around; more minds means new ideas; more Lions means more fun!

Mission shipments, March 2015:

Nicaragua - 60 pairs for Interfaith Services

Mongolia - 450 pairs for Bioregions International

Marshall Islands - 1028 for Pacific Cataract & Laser Inst.

| <i>Key Statistics, Feb. 28, 2015</i> | THIS MONTH | THIS YEAR | PRIOR YEARS | SINCE 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Raw Eyeglasses Received | 17,593 | 129,895 | 1,618,930 | 1,748,825 |
| Eyeglasses to Missions | 419 | 8,536 | 183,585 | 192,121 |
| Volunteer Hours | 589 | 3,746 | 48,546 | 52,292 |
| Missions Supported | 2 | 13 | 217 | 230 |
| Mission-Ready Inventory | 12,000 | | | |

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