



**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**  
Founder

### **2016-2017 Directors**

District B  
**PDG Bert Caoili**  
Seattle Bituin Lions Club  
[kuyabert@comcast.net](mailto:kuyabert@comcast.net)

District C  
**Judy Ann Bergvall**  
Lacey Sunrise Lions Club  
[judyannbergvall@comcast.net](mailto:judyannbergvall@comcast.net)

District D  
vacant

District E  
**Joy Otis**  
Spokane Central Lions Club  
[joy@frpfinancial.com](mailto:joy@frpfinancial.com)

District F  
**PZC Sam Clayton**  
Pasco Lions Club  
[sj.kaclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sj.kaclayton@gmail.com)

District G  
**Ron Johnson**  
Longview-Kelso Earlybirds  
[ronniejimmy@comcast.net](mailto:ronniejimmy@comcast.net)

District H  
**Patti Easterling**  
Bellingham Harborview Lions  
[pattieasterling@gmail.com](mailto:pattieasterling@gmail.com)

District I  
**Diane Neubert -Dooley**  
Sequim Valley Lions Club  
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# *Focus*

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

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

## *A Note from President Kerby*

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since taking office, but what a year it has been! I would like to thank everyone who has made this year a success. As they say, it takes a family to get things done and we have the most giving family in MD19.



To the Lions clubs that gather glasses, satellites that sort them, Lions and volunteers at LERC who take the thousands of glasses and sort, wash, and read the prescriptions on the lensometers, I say THANK YOU! To our mission coordinators who store and prepare the glasses for missions around the world, all our work would be for naught if it wasn't for you. HATS OFF TO YOU!

We have accomplished many things on our budget this past year, including buying and having installed a new dishwasher to wash glasses. We have replaced three of our old lensometers — the three that were replaced were the originals from when NWLERC was formed.

Our site committee that has been working on plans for a new facility at NWLERC ran into a setback, but we were in luck. We thought we would have to wait a year as the county and state fish and game department has to inspect our property for an endangered gopher that is native to Thurston County. We were just notified that we are on the list to be inspected; hope we pass with no gophers on our property, so we can move forward. I would like to thank the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club for getting our property mowed and cleaned up for the inspection.

I would like to welcome our new Directors from Districts B, D, G, H and I. I'm sure they will do a great job, as they have been involved with LERC in the past.

I would like to say goodbye to Ron Reiersen as he steps down as Outreach VP/Satellite Coordinator, a job well done. Smooth sailing, my friend.



Got a question for Pres. Kerby? Email him at [kerby912kee@hotmail.com](mailto:kerby912kee@hotmail.com).

# Mission Feedback — Mexico

*Submitted by Carolyn Watson, VISTA MISSIONS*

Location of mission: Concordia, Sinaloa, Mexico

Dates: April 22-30, 2017 (Clinic dates, April 24-28)

Total served: Approx. 560 in vision and 160 in dental

Total fitted with glasses: 536

Number of Lions members on the mission: One

Unused glasses? Yes – they will be added to glasses to be used in Paraguay (July), the Ukraine (September) and our next Mexico trip (October)

Thanks for all you do!



Jenn Fricke is a LION, with the Lakewood Knights Lions Club. She worked mainly in Reading Glasses, but ALSO was a surprising blessing when a lady came who was deaf and as Jenn knew sign language, helped us communicate with her so she could get glasses, but also signed for her the next day when she came back to see the dentist!



# NWLERC on KING 5 News!

*Submitted by Dir. Judy Ann Bergvall & IPP Don Schmidt*

On April 18th, Don Schmidt (Immediate Past President) and Judy Ann Bergvall (District C Director) attended the Auburn Noon Lions Club meeting. King County Councilman Peter von Reichbauer had arranged for all the eyeglasses left on King County transit buses to be collected and saved. He presented to the Lions over 3,000 pair of glasses that had been left on the buses in the last four months.

King 5 News was there and interviewed von Reichbauer, the president of the Auburn Noon Club, and our own Don Schmidt. When the news aired that evening, Don's interview was front and center. We received some positive press for the Lions and some good press for our Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

A big thank you to the Auburn Lions for including NWLERC representatives to be in attendance, and for their continued support of this important project in our district.

The following was broadcast on two editions of KING 5 news that day:

*In just four months, commuters lost more than 3,000 pairs of prescription eyeglasses on King County Metro buses. So what happens to those frames when no one claims them from the lost and found?*

*"I'm sorry someone left their glasses on our Metro buses, but they're going to be used, and they're going to be used well, particularly by those who cannot afford glasses," said King County Council-member Pete von Reichbauer, who helped hand over several boxes of unclaimed glasses to the NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center Tuesday.*

*Lions Club volunteers clean the eyewear, inspect the lenses, check the prescriptions, and then send them to countries like Malawi, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Jamaica. The Lions Club works with non-profits and aid organizations to ship and distribute the glasses.*

*"I see them preparing missions for places I've never heard of," said Don Schmidt, past president of the recycling center, which is working on its 280th mission. They've sent more than 220,000 pairs of glasses to people in 187 countries since 2004.*

*The NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, which is in Olympia, says it's received more than two million pairs of glasses, many of them donated in those cardboard drop boxes you see in places like the grocery store.*

*"We're the ones that put them in use," Schmidt said.*

At the end of the story was a link to the NWLERC for more information on donating eyeglasses.

## Send me your news for the FOCUS

Thanks to everyone who gives me articles, photos, and ideas for the newsletter!

Please send submissions to [Jacq-Lion@comcast.net](mailto:Jacq-Lion@comcast.net) or call me at 360.791.8789.

*Editor Jacqueline*



# Best Wishes from VP Ron

*Submitted by Ron Reiersen, VP - Outreach/Satellite Operations*

Several years ago, I assumed the position of VP - Outreach, at the urging of PP John Kirry. It was a challenging time for LERC, and I was pleased to help out. Personal issues including the care of my wife interfered, and I stepped back. However, after she passed, I re-entered the strong volunteer effort of the job, and for the past year or so have worked with wonderful Executive Committee officers, District Directors and Satellite Managers, whose efforts go largely unnoticed and unheralded. I have been impressed by their willingness... and dedication...to eyeglass collection and all that goes into that effort. I couldn't ask for a better group with whom to work. I am indebted to each of you for your help.

Alas, again my personal circumstances...for the past year at least...have dictated that I once again step back, since I'll be "snowbirding" to Arizona fairly regularly in the future. When back in the northwest, I'll be taking groups down to LERC for shift work, and keeping in touch. I offer my best wishes to all of you for your support of my efforts these past years. God bless you all.



## VP—Outreach/Satellite Ops

The NWLERC officers and staff are so grateful for all the hard work and traveling done by VP Ron Reiersen as he promoted eyeglass recycling throughout MD-19. He actually combined two VP roles into one, making his shoes even larger to fill!

If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee (or know someone else who might be), the following are brief job descriptions as currently defined in our Bylaws. Please keep in mind that these duties can be modified at any time to fit a volunteer's interests — the NWLERC continues to grow and evolve based on everyone's efforts.

**VICE PRESIDENT - OUTREACH:** Responsible for activities pertaining to establishing partnerships with organizations outside of the Association, including Lions Clubs, Districts, and non-profit corporations where those relationships will benefit the Association's operations. He/she will make reports concerning outreach activities at each meeting of the Board of Directors. The Vice President - Outreach shall have other such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the President or the Board of Directors.

**VICE PRESIDENT - SATELLITE OPERATIONS:** Works with existing satellites; sets up new satellites; oversees transportation of eyeglasses; checks quality of eyeglasses processed by satellites; and all other duties as may be required or prescribed by the President or the Board of Directors. This position requires traveling, and a budget will be provided for such.

## Thank You, LERC Volunteers!

**160 Lions from 35 Lions Clubs**  
**98 non-Lion community volunteers**  
**15 Boy Scouts**  
**7 Cub Scouts**  
**4 VOICE students**

***Our facility continues to have a great reputation for quality work because of your efforts!***



# NWLERC Schedule

Exec./Staff Meetings:

2nd Wednesday of the Month, 10:00 am



Holiday Closures:

Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day

Weekly Closures:

Friday - Sunday, Weekdays on 5th week of the month



**Annual Picnic:**

**Saturday, August 5th, 12-5 pm**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PZC Kerby Kee**  
*President*

**Bob Wright**  
*VP-Operations*

**Ron Reiersen**  
*VP-Outreach*  
*VP-Satellite Operations*

**Hope Ramsdale**  
*VP-Admin.*  
*Recording Secretary / Stats*

**Patti Makinen**  
*VP-Communications /PR*

**Lyell Clark**  
*Treasurer / Procurement*

**Don Schmidt**  
*Immediate Past President*

**PZC Bob Pinson**  
**PDG John Kirry**  
**Pat Baron**  
*Senior Advisors*

**Pat Baron**  
*Website*

## STAFF

**Cliff Brandsma**  
**PDG Ed Taylor**  
*Volunteer Coord. / QA*

**Don Schmidt**  
*Facilities Manager*  
*VOICE Program*

**Berta Fender**  
**Jody Taylor**  
**Malena Hine**  
*Mission Coordinators*

**Jack Ford**  
**Bob Wright**  
**PDG Ed Taylor**  
*Quality Assurance / Training*  
*Site Manager Training*

**PZC Bill Miller**  
*Homeless Outreach Programs*

## Mission Shipments, March – May:

**USA** 400 pair for GEO Group, NW Detention Center  
**Nigeria** 2 pair + 150 sunglasses for Lacey Sunrise  
Lions (Laurel)  
**Malawi** 900 pair for Sedona Oak Creek Lions  
**Romania** 315 pair for Project Romania  
**Marshall Isl.** 409 pair + 450 child suns + 300 cases for  
Canvasback  
**Nepal** 98 pair for Northshore Community Church  
**Jamaica** 2350 pair + 450 child suns + 3000 adult suns  
for VOSH & iCARE

Key Statistics as of 5/30/17	March-May	THIS YEAR	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	92,720	243,686	2,190,220
Eyeglasses to Missions	8,524	21,848	234,910
Volunteer Hours	2,166	6,410	72,636
Missions Supported	7	27	283
Mission-Ready Inventory	13,300		

**Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center**  
**9013 Mullen Rd SE**  
**Olympia WA 98513**  
**360-923-2075**  
**www.lionsnwlerc.org**  
**admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net**



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One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”**