



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson
Founder

2018-2019 Directors

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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 8

E D I T O R : J A C Q U E L I N E N E L S O N

OUT ON A LIMB with Pres. Dick Woods

They say the older you get the faster time goes by.....well 2017-18 sure went fast. After serving one year on the board.....now I am your President. Apparently everybody on the board was leaving or had been President before. "So let's get the New Guy!" This next year will be a learn-as-you-go year for me. But as I looked around, I could see there is enough knowledge to get us through the year.



For those who may not know me, I am in my 51st year as a Lion. I was a member of Wenatchee Central until six years ago when I moved to Raymond and became a member of the Willapa Harbor Lions Club. I found LERC the first year they were in business at a Lions Conference in Surrey, BC, and met Lion Bob Pinson. I went back to my club in Wenatchee and Zone D2 and went to each club in the zone and got a \$100 donation from each club for LERC operating expenses. Then appointed a year ago to the board, here I am. Ready to serve you, the Lions in Washington and Northern Idaho.

A couple of things that need repeating: We always need volunteers. If you are close enough to Lacey, you could volunteer on a regular basis. If you are a club that would like to visit and volunteer, we can work with you to fit your schedule. And we always need collection sites around the Districts. And be sure to LABEL any boxes of glasses your club sends in, so that you can get credit on the club report.

*"Great Achievers are often
Great Troublemakers.
Don't they have to be,
At least some of the time"*

Got a question for Pres. Dick? Email him at woodsie550@comcast.net

Mission Feedback — Malawi

From a report submitted by Caroline Diehl, Verde Valley School

I just wanted to let you know that the free eyeglass clinics in Zomba were a huge success. We gave out over 3500 pairs of glasses during the clinics on June 15, 16, and 17.

This was our 6th year of this project and over 17,500 Malawians have now been given the gift of clear sight. It feels like a huge accomplishment for a small school of only 120 students, but we couldn't make this possible without partners like you.



I truly can't thank you enough for the difference you helped create in so many lives. Glasses are so out of reach for most Malawians who live on under \$1.25 a day, so it's truly life-changing. The economy has actually gotten worse and the locals tell me that a majority of people in Malawi are now earning just \$0.67 a day. Despite this crippling poverty, the people are incredibly warm and joyful — it's amazing and inspiring.

Keep up the incredible work that you do! You were able to get us much-needed glasses very quickly and they are packaged for safe transport. We couldn't have asked for a better partner on this. Your support each year is invaluable.



Editor's Note: This mission was a partnership between the Sedona Oak Creek Canyon Lions Club and Verde Valley School in Sedona, Arizona. The Lions logo was definitely on display and our own NWLERC banner was prominently featured!

Thanks from Past Pres. Kerby

As this will be my farewell letter in the *Focus*, I would like to thank everyone associated with the operations at Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. It is hard to believe it has been two years since I became president. Many of you were there when I arrived seven years ago as a Director. How things have changed. It is so hard to believe how many new faces are part of the team.

I look forward in the coming months to seeing a new building rise at LERC. It is much needed, especially for the growth of our organization.

To the Lions clubs that have supported us over the years, with cash donations as well as the many thousands of eyeglasses that have come from far and wide, a big thank you. To Editor Jacqueline who keeps putting out our *Focus* each quarter with lively pieces of information on the many missions, a heartfelt thanks for all your support.



HERE WE GO AGAIN!

THE GREAT NWLERC APPRECIATION PICNIC 2018

AN INVITATION TO ALL LERC VOLUNTEERS
(BOTH LIONS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS)

- * GRAB YOUR GLASSES (OR NOT)
- * BRING YOUR FAVORITE PICNIC DISH
- * WEAR YOUR VERY BEST SMILE (photos)

AND SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018, 12 NOON - 3 P.M.
ON SITE - 9013 MULLEN RD., SE, OLYMPIA

HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, WATER AND SOFT DRINKS
PROVIDED. BRING POTLUCK - SAVORY OR SWEET

COME & BE APPRECIATED
YOU DESERVE IT!

RSVP: Pat - pcardmaker@comcast.net / 360-491-9030

Year-End Numbers

Thank you to our hard-working volunteers for all the eyeglasses they collect and the time they donate to process the high-quality eyeglasses we are known for!

Here are some numbers tabulated for our Lions year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018:



Lions Clubs with over **5,000** eyeglasses donated: Coeur d'Alene, Kent, Lacey Lamplighters, Lakewood First, Medical Lake, Montana Lions Clubs (as a group), Oak Harbor, Spokane Central, Spokane Shadle North, and Spokane Valley.

Leading the pack, with **18,552** this year is Lacey Lamplighters Lions Club.



Volunteers worked **7,051** hours at the LERC.

Lens Techs worked **1,165** hours testing **10,859** pairs of glasses; Cliff Brandsma tops the list with **941**.

Other Lensometer Technicians who tested **500+** glasses: Lynn Christensen, Jan Goebel, Cheri Ingersoll and Peter Ingersoll.



And, of course, we couldn't do any of this without financial donations that pay the monthly bills. We're very appreciative of the great support from **52** Lions Clubs, groups and individuals, many of whom donate every year.

Lions Clubs that donated **\$500** or more: Coupeville, Gig Harbor, Lacey Sunrise, Leavenworth, Port Angeles, Port Orchard, Poulsbo Noon, Spokane Shadle North, Tenino, and Wenatchee Central.

District Directors for 2018-19

Thank you to our eight Lions District Directors for donating their time to help us keep all the Lions Clubs in Multiple District 19 informed about the NWLERC!

Welcome back Directors Jim Knight (19B), Patti Sparks (19D), Joy Otis (19E), Sam Clayton (19F), and Diane Neubert (19I).

Welcome to our new Directors Tim Johnson (19C), Monte Ward (19G), and Carolyn O'Dell (19H).

Thanks for all your help to our past Directors Judy Ann Bergvall, Dick Woods, and Patti Easterling.

Eastern Star Partnership

From a report submitted by Jean Ballard, Past Grand Matron, OES

The Grand Chapter of Washington, Order of Eastern Star is recognized as a fraternal and social organization known for its charitable activities, support of its own members, and its positive involvement in the community.

During this past year, our members were pleased to work on several hands-on service projects, including collecting eyeglasses. With the help of the Lions, who provided the boxes, we were able to place a collection box at each of the Masonic Halls we visited.



At our annual session, we presented the eyeglasses the members collected. They were placed in train cars (see photo). We believe there were close to 1,000 pairs of glasses donated to help others see better.

In Memory of Past Director Sue Campbell



PZC Sue Campbell, from the Renton Lions Club, was our first District 19B Director and served in that role from 2009 to 2014. She was an enthusiastic supporter and promoted our work whenever she got a chance. She also kept us apprised of upcoming missions for VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity), and went on several trips with them.

The photo on the left shows her in action, at her information table at a Lions District B Conference.



She lost her battle with cancer on June 6th. At her memorial service, it was obvious her family knew how important the LERC was to her, placing two of her LERC appreciation awards on display right next to her Melvin Jones and Lion of the Year plaques.

She put her heart into everything she did, and she will be missed by everyone who knew her.

VOICE Award for NWLERC



One of our community outreach programs is with V.O.I.C.E. (Vocational Opportunities for Independent Community Employment), for students in the North Thurston School District.

This program is designed for those students who are 18-21 years old with developmental disabilities, who require instruction in vocational and life skills. The goal is to help them gain a sense of independence and to prepare them to transition to the working world.

NWLERC has been a community job partner for a number of years, and students have enjoyed working at our facility, sorting, weighing and cleaning eyeglasses. It's been a very rewarding program for our staff members as well!

Send me your news for the FOCUS

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

Please send submissions to Jacq-Lion@comcast.net or call me at 360.791.8789.



NWLERC Schedule



Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 28. Join the fun!!

Exec./Staff Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 10:00 am

Holiday Closures: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's,
Memorial Day, Independence Day

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dick Woods
President

Bob Wright
VP-Operations

PDG Ed Taylor
VP-Admin / Stats

Judy Ann Bergvall
VP-Outreach

vacant
VP-Satellite Operations

Hope Ramsdale
Recording Secretary

Lyell Clark
Treasurer / Supplies

Patti Makinen
Chair, Public & Media Affairs

PZC Kerby Kee
Immediate Past President

PZC Bob Pinson
PDG John Kirry
Pat Baron
Don Schmidt
Senior Advisors

STAFF

Cliff Brandsma
PDG Ed Taylor
Volunteer Coordinators

Don Schmidt
Facilities / Maintenance
VOICE Program

Berta Fender
Jody Taylor
Malena Hine
Mission Coordinators

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

Pat Baron
Materials Recycling

Marty Ikari
IT Technician

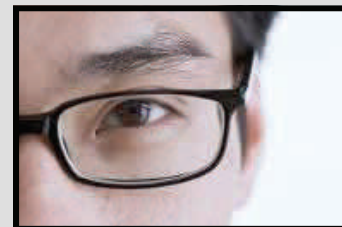
vacant
Homeless Outreach Programs

Mission Shipments, April – June

Romania	450 pair for Project Romania
Costa Rica	200 readers + 90 sunglasses + 100 cases for Youngnak Presbyterian
Nigeria	370 pair + 200 sunglasses + 300 cases for Moses Lake Medical Team
Turks & Caicos	1918 pair + 1000 sunglasses for I Care
Bolivia	444 pair + 200 sunglasses + 200 cases for Marantha Volunteers International
Malawi	1040 pair for Sedona Oak Creek Lions
Jamaica	1692 pair + 1000 suns + 50 kids suns for I Care (S. Stern)

Key Statistics as of 6/30/18	April - June	THIS YEAR	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	100,825	226,083	2,431,872
Eyeglasses to Missions	8,654	16,990	253,504
Volunteer Hours	1,972	7,148	80,138
Missions Supported	8	34	305
Mission-Ready Inventory	10,400		

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One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”**