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”
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


**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.

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**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.
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

Mission Shipments, April – June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>450 pair for Project Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>200 readers + 90 sunglasses + 100 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for Youngnak Presbyterian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>370 pair + 200 sunglasses + 300 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for Moses Lake Medical Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turks &amp; Caicos</td>
<td>1918 pair + 1000 sunglasses for I Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>444 pair + 200 sunglasses + 200 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for Marantha Volunteers International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1040 pair for Sedona Oak Creek Lions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>1692 pair + 1000 suns + 50 kids suns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for I Care (S. Stern)</td>
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Key Statistics as of 6/30/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>April - June</th>
<th>THIS YEAR</th>
<th>SINCE 2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw Eyeglasses Received</td>
<td>100,825</td>
<td>226,083</td>
<td>2,431,872</td>
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<td>Eyeglasses to Missions</td>
<td>8,654</td>
<td>16,990</td>
<td>253,504</td>
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<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>7,148</td>
<td>80,138</td>
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<td>Missions Supported</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission-Ready Inventory</td>
<td>10,400</td>
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</table>

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

“Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”