Welcome, New Pres. Suzanne

We are so happy to announce that PZC Suzanne Gayda, a member of the Spanaway Lions Club, has agreed to lead the NWLERC as our new President!

She has been an active supporter of the LERC over the years, and a regular at Monday work parties, so she’s very familiar with our facility. The officers and staff have promised their support, and look forward to working with Suzanne throughout her term.

Pres. Suzanne jumped right in to work, sending out a letter to all presidents of U.S. Lions Clubs in Multiple District 19. She extended our thanks for Lions’ support in donating their time, collecting eyeglasses, and also for their financial contributions. She listed the thousands of hours of volunteer time, the tens of thousands of glasses donated, and the thousands of processed eyeglasses sent on missions all over the world. She mentioned the upcoming plans for expansion, a new building addition to give us the space we need to properly store the glasses and use all of our equipment. She ended with a personal note that “It’s very important to me that we pull together and support this valuable program.”

And, with President Suzanne at the helm, we hope to continue to do that!

FUN NOTE: We recently received two large boxes of glasses from the Ishikawa Lions Club in Okinawa!
From a report provided by Dr. Ingrid A. Carlson (Ophthalmologist)

In Grenada, where 30% of the population is under the age of 15, there are very limited opportunities for children to receive eye care. The Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, together with Saint George’s University School of Medicine, has initiated an eye care program. We see approximately 100-150 children per week at our annual visits. The difference this makes in the life of a child here often means the difference between seeing well enough to go to school and get an education versus seeing poorly, failing, and even developing permanent vision loss. It’s life changing for them.

Collection Box Locations

We’re in the process of updating the list of locations of eyeglasses collection boxes to post on our website. This list is organized by zip code so people can easily find their closest drop-off site. We also get a lot of phone calls asking where to donate eyeglasses, so having an updated list is helpful at the LERC facility as well.

Please email a list of sites where your Lions Club has boxes to your District Director (addresses are on the front page of the Focus), who can then forward them to the LERC.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!
Thank You Mel & Bonnie

Submitted by PP Don Schmidt

Several volunteers from our Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center attended the Celebration of Life for Mel Williamson in December. Mel volunteered on a regular basis, from the days we worked in the plumbing shop until he went to the hospital. Mel was always cheerful, helpful to others, and looking for ways to improve LERC’s service to others. His wife Bonnie was one of the first Directors for our organization and gave her support to Mel throughout her life.

I will always remember, typical Mel, every time he had a cup of coffee, he was concerned about who was paying for the cream! I usually replied, “Don’t worry Mel, it’s covered.”

Mel and Bonnie Williamson contributed so much to the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center over the years that they must be recognized. A tree will be planted and a plaque installed in the Memorial Garden so that Mel and Bonnie will always be a part of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

Bright Ideas Department

Several Lions Clubs have placed eyeglass collection boxes at their local Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute. There are many Northwest locations; the list is on their website, https://www.pcli.com. According to Lion Bill Scholl, the Centralia Lions Club picks up an average of 100 pairs of eyeglasses per month. Bob Wright, Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, also picks up monthly from the Olympia location.

The Everett Central Lions Club is providing free reading glasses at the downtown Everett Public Library. In this experimental project, the library was given a supply of reading glasses and sample glasses in different strengths for recipients to try on. According to Danielle Brend, Circulation Manager, they are excited about the program. Lions member Art Ruben proposed the project and says he hopes this will encourage reading and may help someone find a job or continue their education. If the project is successful, the club plans on expanding the program to other libraries. During the first month the library gave away 6 pair of eyeglasses.

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 Jean-Lion@comcast.net or call me at 360.791.8789.
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Suzanne Gayda  
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

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

Pat Baron  
Materials Recycling

Marty Ikari  
IT technician

vacant  
Homeless Outreach Program

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**Mission Shipments, October – December**

- **Mexico**  
  1250 readers + 500 sunglasses for VOSH, Arizona

- **El Salvador**  
  1600 pair + 300 sunglasses for Peace Health

- **Mexico**  
  325 pair for Methodist Men’s Ministries

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**Key Statistics as of 12/31/18**

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<th>October - December</th>
<th>THIS YEAR</th>
<th>SINCE 2004</th>
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<tr>
<td>Raw Eyeglasses Received</td>
<td>39,813</td>
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<td>Eyeglasses to Missions</td>
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<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
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<td>Missions Supported</td>
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<td>314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission-Ready Inventory</td>
<td>9,950</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”