



Focus

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

JANUARY 2015

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Founder

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A Note from President Don

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

It was a short month at LERC, with the Vocational Ed students and most shifts taking the last couple of weeks off.

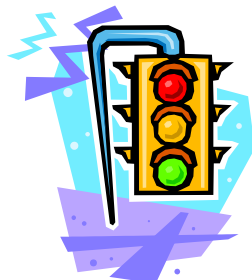
We have plenty of glasses and are still recruiting volunteers. Plus we have a couple of new lensometer techs; thank you, Trainer Jack Ford. Pass the word to all you know — Lions and community volunteers — we need your help. I am encouraging all of the Lions Clubs in the South Sound area to consider giving us 3 hours a month, evening or daytime.

For us locals the big news is the installation of heat. The construction of the Annex required moving the gas line to our not-very-efficient heating system. The old system was OK for fire trucks, but not great for people. The gas line was removed because it was felt the quote to move it was unacceptable (*exorbitant!*)

I know some of you will laugh at us "wet siders" complaining about temperatures in the 30's, but our evening crews were pretty uncomfortable with no heat when it was 20° outside.

Pat Bucknell, our VP of Operations and maintenance guru, met with several contractors. He recommended Pacific Air, a highly respected local contractor who presented a very competitive proposal. The contractor said he could install the system the last week of December or it might not get scheduled until February.

(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



Holding Steady

Mission Feedback — Jamaica

Excerpts from a report by Steven Stern, iCARE Program Director, October 2014 mission

The iCARE program has completed its sixth year of free eye care and nursing services for the people of Jamaica. In 2014 we operated two week-long clinics – the first in Seaford Town (Westmoreland) and the second in Mafoota (St. James). Both clinics were in rural locales, but this did not have a major effect on our number of patients. Significantly, not a single patient was turned away either week.



This is a milestone year for the program with the introduction of cataract surgery performed at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay. Our surgical team of 5 included two ophthalmologists, one optometrist, and two surgical assistants. In just four days, we were able to perform 33 cataract surgeries, free of charge, with all supplies generously donated by SEE International and Alcon. It is noteworthy that as one of our ophthalmologists was reviewing a particular patient's medical folder prior to surgery, he found his own notes in the file. This patient was one he referred for cataract surgery at the 2010 iCARE clinic in Savannah La Mar, bringing our services full circle.

Week One (Seaford Town / Sacred Heart Church / Westmoreland – 10/6-10)

- 1,735 vision exams; ~3,806 pairs of glasses, with 25 orders for custom glasses to be made in the U.S. and returned
- Multiple referrals to Cornwall Regional Hospital for sight-saving surgery

Week Two (Mafoota / Mafoota Community Center / Cornwall Regional Hospital / St. James – 10/13-17)

- 1,385 vision exams; ~3,039 pairs of glasses with 20 orders for custom glasses to be made in the U.S. and returned
- 33 cataract surgeries; multiple referrals to Cornwall Regional Hospital for sight-saving surgery



This work is also accomplished with the support and partnership of VOSH International, LERC, SEE International, Alcon, the Jamaican Ministry of Health, and all of our volunteers and supporters.

With this incredible team, we look forward to providing healthcare in Jamaica for many years to come.

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

The lack of heat was becoming a significant issue for our valued volunteers, so at the December 10th meeting the Executive Committee decided to ask the Board of Directors for approval of this expenditure. Thanks to the rapid authorization of our Directors, a contract was signed the next day. The new system should be 100% up and running on Friday, January 2nd.

Wishing you all a happy, prosperous *and warm* 2015.

Busy Bert in District B

Submitted by Director Bert Caoili

On October 23 & 24, I volunteered at the Remote Area Medicine homeless event held at the Key Arena. I was assigned to do acuity tests. It was quite an experience as we checked the eyesight of many of the homeless people who waited from as early as 12:00 midnight to get their admission tickets. It was also great to see a few of my iCARE Jamaica mission friends who also signed up to volunteer at this RAM project.

On November 12, at the 19-B5 zone meeting, I suggested that we hold an eyeglass collection contest by clubs. It can possibly start as a Zone project and perhaps can become a District project if it goes well.

I attended the 19-B cabinet meeting on November 15 held at the Talentwise Office in Bothell. I reported on the iCARE mission, and also gave away LERC eyeglass collection boxes.

On November 24, it was announced that the 2015 Project Homeless Connect will be held on Thursday, July 9, at Evergreen Middle School. Michelle Morris, United Way of Snohomish County's Senior Manager of Community Engagement, will be taking over as the event lead, replacing Megan Farwell. The first group meeting for the Project Homeless Connect will be on Thursday, January 15, 4-5 pm at the City of Everett's Public Hearing Room located at 2930 Wetmore Ave, 8th floor.

UPCOMING EVENT: Eyeglass Sorting Party for the KCECC satellite to be held Saturday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Seattle-Rainier Lions Club, 37112 S. Ferdinand Street, Seattle, 98118.

Delivery from District I

Submitted by Director Jeannie Phillips

Director Jeannie and husband Pat delivered glasses to LERC from Lions Clubs in Quilcene, Port Angeles and Sequim. While there, they checked out the new Annex. It sure doesn't look like an add-on but rather looks like it's always been a part of the original building. Congratulations to all involved.

I wish you all a prosperous New Year with eyeglass collection boxes brimming over!



No wonder Director Jeannie was impressed!

Photo by Bob Pinson

WANTED: Lensometer Technicians!!

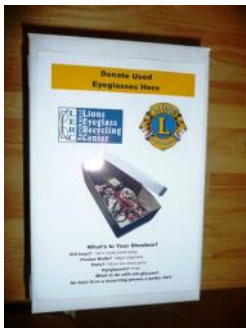
It seems like it's either FEAST or FAMINE at our lensometer stations — and right now we have a backlog of glasses waiting to be read and packed up for shipment. In fact, some mission requests have been turned away for lack of sufficient “finished product”.

So, if you're an experienced Lens Tech, can you please check your calendar and see if you can find a few more hours to donate at the LERC?

And if you're ready to learn a new skill — please contact Jack Ford at 360-456-4078 or lynjac@att.net so he can schedule you for a training session.

Many thanks from Mission Coordinators Berta & Jean!

Collection Box Info



No matter where your eyeglass collection boxes are located or what they look like, whether large or small, fancy or plain, indoor or outdoor, it's very important to post up-to-date contact information on them. If they fill up sooner than expected, someone can call for a pickup. Regularly scheduled pickups are also very helpful to keep boxes from overflowing. And please make sure they are on LERC's collection box list, so when people call we can steer them to the most convenient location.



Send me your news for the FOCUS



Thanks to everyone who makes my job easier by sending me information, articles, and photos for the monthly *Focus*.

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

Editor Jacqueline

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 14 NWLERC Exec./Staff Meeting, 10:00 am



5th Week Closures: Thurs – Sat, Jan 29-31



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, December 2014:

Dominican Republic - 730 pairs for Island Light Ministries

Mexico - 535 pairs for Men's Ministries

<i>Key Statistics, Dec. 27, 2014</i>	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	PRIOR YEARS	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	8,316	112,302	1,618,930	1,731,232
Eyeglasses to Missions	1,265	8,117	183,585	191,702
Volunteer Hours	304.5	2,745	48,546	51,291
Missions Supported	2	11	217	228
Mission-Ready Inventory	9,200			

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