



# Focus

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

MARCH 2015

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**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**  
Founder

## 2014-2015 Directors

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## A Note from President Don

We all must express our thanks to the Nisqually Tribe for their generous grant of ten thousand dollars to the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. The Tribe's financial support of many organizations in our community greatly contributes to the wellbeing of all. Their generosity will allow us to replace the funds we used from our emergency account to install our much-needed heating system. We value our volunteers and their comfort is very important.

When I accepted my present position I said we had to have glasses and volunteers. Thanks to our satellites and all of our MD-19 Lions Clubs, our current inventory of glasses is good. With your continued efforts we can maintain this inventory.

We are getting requests for collection boxes and working to ensure efficient supervision of these boxes. It is very frustrating to receive a call from a business that has an overflowing box. Our Directors are working with their Zones and Clubs to ensure that clubs know where members have placed boxes and that they are checked regularly. This not only guarantees a constant flow of glasses to the LERC, but maintains a good relationship with businesses that support us.

We have gained volunteers from Lions Clubs and our community. Jack Ford is training new lensometer technicians and that is one crucial position for our continued success. All of our volunteer positions are critical to delivering a quality product to those doing the missions.

I think we are on track to continue delivering a quality product to those in need.



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.

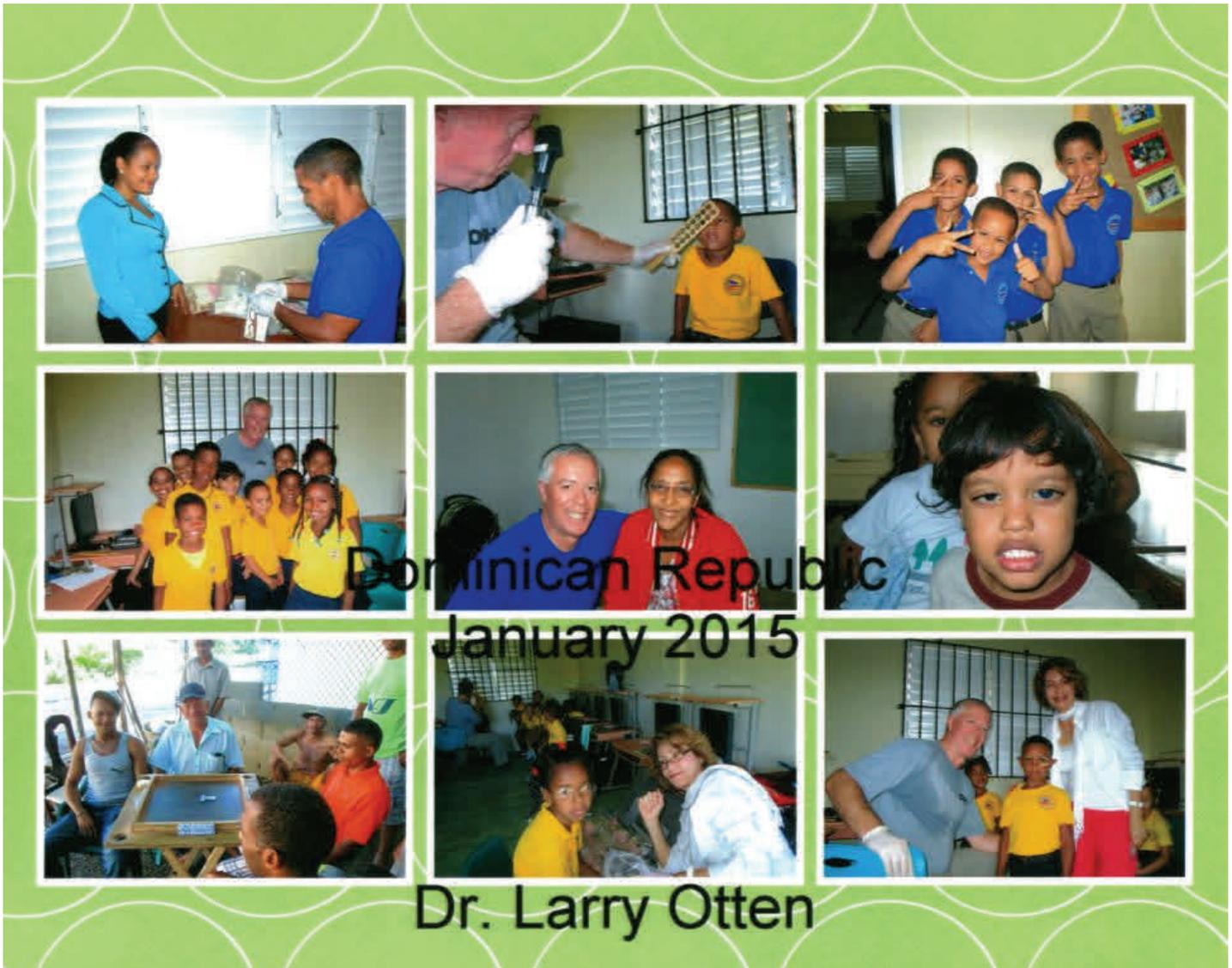
Inventory



Holding Steady

# Mission Feedback — Dominican Republic

Excerpts from a report by Dr. Larry Otten, Optometrist



*Mira Hacia Afeura* "look outside" became my newly learned phrase of Español. I spent my first two days of eye clinic at two schools performing my eye examinations on a total of 375 students and 10 staff members. I became very efficient examining about 30 people per hour. Each patient received a pupil exam, eye motility, and cover testing to determine if the eyes were straight. I also performed an inside look into the eye with my ophthalmoscope, and an objective refraction with my retinoscope and lens bars.

I joined the rest of the medical/dental team on days 3, 4 and 5. As was the situation last year, I was in a comfortable ventilated classroom above the chaos and confusion of the clinic downstairs. Here we set up visual acuity testing, an examination area for me, and an optical dispensing area.

My official patient count for the week was 657.

# District B Update

*Submitted by Director Bert Caoili*

- ◆ **Zone Meeting** - Attended the 19-B5 Zone Meeting held at the Merrills Garden in Renton on Feb. 10.  
Reminded the Lions Clubs to make an inventory of the locations of their eyeglass collection boxes
- ◆ **Cabinet Meeting** – Attended the 19B Cabinet meeting held on February 14 in Bothell.  
Requested all the Lions Clubs make an inventory of the locations of their glasses collection boxes  
First club to respond to my request was the Des Moines Lions Club!
- ◆ **King County Satellite** – Attended the eyeglass sorting party at Rainier Lions Club building on Feb. 21.  
It was “B-hive” of activities as many volunteers from various clubs participated.  
NWLERC Director Bill Miller (District C) was also present. *See photos below.*
- ◆ **iCARE 2015**  
My application is approved: Will volunteer & travel to Negril, Jamaica on October 9-19.  
I will need a NWLERC Banner.

## KCECC Satellite Work Party



Members from 13 Lions Clubs  
Plus Boy Scouts from Troop 423  
Donated a total of 131.5 hours  
To process 7,998 pairs of glasses!



# The folks who get it done!

Submitted by President Don Schmidt

It takes a lot of people to keep the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center operating and running smoothly.

It is quite an operation when you have a full house of **volunteers** performing all of the tasks needed to deliver first-class eyeglasses for our mission requests. People are sorting through cruddy old dirty glasses; others are washing and further examining the glasses; while still others are manning the lensometers to determine prescriptions.

Someone you may or may not notice while all of this going on is the **site manager**. The site manager decides what needs to be done and works with the volunteers who will do it. The site manager also keeps track of volunteer hours, glasses received and shipped, and all issues involved with operations during their shift.

Another position people may not be aware of, or don't realize the importance of, is our **Directors**. Although these people are not involved in the daily operations, they are what links our operations center to the Lions throughout the Multiple District who are so crucial to our success. When information needs to get to the clubs, it is sent to our Directors who send it via their zones to the clubs. The Directors are the vital link between the daily operations of the LERC and the Lions of MD 19 without whom LERC would not exist.

There are others who are vital to our operation who receive little or no recognition:

Our **treasurer Lyell**, who makes sure all of our money is in the proper account and ensures all expenditures are properly documented and dispersed. He also has the monumental task of managing the taxes and other financial issues of a nonprofit.

**Pat Bucknell** wears many hats in maintenance, operations and pretty much anything that needs attention or repair. Pat supervises the shipments to our recycler and all work done by our landscapers and mole catcher. He is able to repair things as fast as we can break them.

Finally, **Berta and Jean, our mission coordinators**, manage to make sense of all the glasses after we have sorted, washed and sealed them into neat little bags. These are categorized, packed, and ready to go when a mission request comes in.

This is what it is all about. We gather glasses, sort them, clean them, determine prescriptions and bag them up to be delivered to needy people throughout the world. It takes a lot of people to make the NWLERC what it is today. Some are less conspicuous than others, but everyone pulling together makes it work and every contribution is essential.

## Send me your news for the FOCUS



Since the local computer geeks could not fix my recent email issues, I now have a new email address. It's a very subtle change — from a “.” to a “-” between Jacq and Lion.

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

*Editor Jacqueline*



# Upcoming Events



Wednesday, March 11 NWLERC Exec./Staff Meeting, 10:00 am

5th Week Closures: Mon, Tue - March 30, 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, February 2015:

*Moldova - 388 pairs for Oberlin/Crossover*

*Kitsap County homeless event - 31 pairs*

Key Statistics, Jan. 31, 2015	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	PRIOR YEARS	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	13,291	125,593	1,618,930	1,744,523
Eyeglasses to Missions	0	8,117	183,585	191,702
Volunteer Hours	412	3,157	48,546	51,703
Missions Supported	0	11	217	228
Mission-Ready Inventory	10,950			

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**One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”**