



# Focus

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

MAY 2015

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**  
Founder

### 2014-2015 Directors

District B  
**PDG Bert Caoili**  
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[kuyabert@comcast.net](mailto:kuyabert@comcast.net)

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District I  
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## A Note from President Don

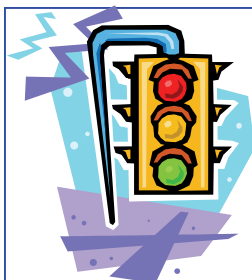
For those who may not have heard, I have to report the passing of our District I Director Jeannie Phillips. A few years ago when I became involved in the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Jeannie and Pat made me feel welcomed and helped me understand our mission and what we did to make it happen. Personally, I say **Thank You** to Jeannie and Pat for your input that encouraged my involvement in the program. They both were involved with the NWLERC since its early days and contributed significantly, and we are very appreciative of that dedication.

We have received many requests for club programs about LERC, what we do, and how we operate. I am encouraged by the interest these clubs are showing in our program. It is important that all clubs realize we are the *Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center*. Without the support of all of the American clubs in our Multiple District 19, our LERC would not exist. District C Director Bill Miller is developing new PowerPoint presentations for all of our directors. With new directors and staff members we are not responding to these requests as quickly as we should. I apologize and efforts are being made meet these requests promptly.

I invite all of our Lions to visit our facility. When you know you are going to be in our neighborhood, please let me know if you would like to tour our facility. A day or two of notice is appreciated, but we are pretty flexible and enjoy showing people what happens to those glasses you package up and ship off. We really do exist!

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Got a question for Pres. Don? Email him at [northwestlerc@gmail.com](mailto:northwestlerc@gmail.com).



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



Still Holding Steady!

# District G's Ongoing Support

*Submitted by Director Kerby Kee*

Greetings to everyone from District G, in southwest Washington. District G encompasses the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade mountains, the Columbia River to the city of Centralia. Lions throughout our district have been involved with NWLERC since the beginning in 2004.

We have three satellites, one at Central Park, one in Longview, and a third in Vancouver. These three satellites provide facilities for storage and sorting of glasses in our district.

Making the rounds to zone meetings and clubs throughout the year and keeping the clubs updated is the best part of my job. I ensure that zone chairpersons receive the *Focus* so they can pass the news on to the individual clubs.

## Welcome to Director Diane, District I

**Diane Neubert of the Sequim Valley Lions Club has been named to succeed Jeannie Phillips as Director of District I. She says, "I am so excited to be part of your team. I look forward to meeting all of you, and to continue the fabulous work everyone is doing. It is an honor to carry on for Jeannie, who is a dear friend that left too soon. I hope that I can live up to her standards, which were very high. I will give it my best shot. Thanks for the opportunity."**

## May is Recycle for Sight Month



It's time to empty all those collection boxes, check your garage and basement, and get those donated eyeglasses on their way to providing someone with the gift of sight!

If the NWLERC facility is too far away for a delivery run, just contact your District Director for the closest Satellite collection center. Their contact info is right up front, on Page 1.

# We Like Ike!

*Submitted by IPP Pat Baron*



Meet Lawrence “Ike” Ikari, one of LERC’s faithful volunteers. Ike is a member of the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, and discovered our hands-on operation through his club two years ago. He comes twice a week to sort, wash, and polish eyeglasses.

Born in Hawaii, Ike is a US Army veteran and likes the idea of volunteering in his community. Besides his weekly duties at LERC, he volunteers at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge several times a week, in Aquatics Studies.

Watching Ike at LERC, it’s obvious that he enjoys the work and the other volunteers working with him.

Thanks, Ike. We’re glad you’re here!

## *Send me your news for the FOCUS*



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

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

*Editor Jacqueline*

# We'll Miss You, Jeannie

Jeannie Phillips, a mainstay at the NWLERC, passed away on Sunday, April 12, losing her battle with cancer. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 2:00 pm in Sequim at the Parkwood Community Clubhouse (41 Green Meadow Drive).

Jeannie often said the NWLERC was her Lions' "passion", and she certainly showed that with all her hard work over the years. She served as C-1 "Zone Director" in 2005, a VP for 2006-08, Secretary for 2008-10, and President for 2010-13. She was instrumental in setting up our Satellite program, tracking statistics, and producing our Policies and Procedures Manual; she acted as Mission Coordinator; and she led the charge for the Building Campaign that resulted in purchasing the facility in only 1-year's time.

She also volunteered for a mission to Jamaica to see first-hand how much difference our recycled eyeglasses made to those in need. She cheerfully manned our information booths, led seminars and "Open House" events at various Lions conventions, and she attended a LERC conference in 2012 at Lions Clubs International headquarters. In short, she was always ready to spread the word about the successes of the NWLERC.

Her passing leaves an empty space in all our hearts. She was a significant part of our NWLERC Family, and the direct impact she has had on our foundation will be felt for years to come. Our hearts are with her husband Pat and their families at this difficult time. We will miss her very much.

Some shared memories:

John Kirry: *I have a favorite photo of my dear friend Jeannie. It was taken in 2009, just as my year as NWLERC President was coming to a close, and Jeannie's time as President was about to begin. We were at a summer "clean-up" work party at the Lacey NWLERC center, and I snapped a photo of Jeannie carrying a box of glasses to an outdoor work table for processing. She is smiling broadly and happy to be a volunteer. The photo shows her energy, enthusiasm and heart for service.*



Pat Baron: *One of my dear memories of Jeannie is, of course, our trip to Jamaica on the mission. We shared a room and had tons of fun. Jeannie was one of our hardest workers. I can share that she got ready each morning in half the time I did and always looked great! It was a memorable experience and is treasured.*

Jacqueline Nelson: *I have so many wonderful memories from all the years of working with Jeannie at the LERC, and I'm so sad to lose such a caring, supportive friend as well. Looking through photos, I also found some that truly depict her personality.*



*Both of these pictures show her brimming with joy at our volunteer appreciation dinner — she's smiling just as broadly as she presents an award to Bob Pinson as she is while accepting an award from Pat Baron!*



Jack Ford: *I believe Jeannie was already a volunteer when I first visited in November 2006. As we sat at the lensometers, I remember her dedication resulted in far fewer nasty notes from Michael Petty, QA, than I. She served as a shining example of "Zero Defect" for all of us using the lensometers. She accepted the daunting task of Mission Coordinator and performed with her quiet, smiling personality to insure NWLERC was recognized for the high quality of support provided to missions worldwide. Jeannie identified a need for tracking throughput statistics, and working with me the Status Reports now serve as record of real time effectiveness and quality of the operations vital to supporting missions. Jeannie will be missed, not only for her vital contributions to NWLERC, but also for her pleasant personality. May she enjoy fair winds and following seas in her "retirement".*



# Upcoming Events

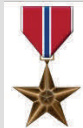
Wednesday, May 13

NWLERC Exec./Staff Meeting, 10:00 am



Holiday Closure:

Monday, May 25th, Memorial Day



## 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*

**Berta Fender**  
*Mission Coordinator*

**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 shipment, April 2015:

Jamaica - 7,400 pairs (plus 2,000+ sunglasses)  
for Great Shape Inc./iCare

Key Statistics, March 31, 2015	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	PRIOR YEARS	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	12,364	142,259	1,618,930	1,761,189
Eyeglasses to Missions	1,538	10,074	183,585	193,659
Volunteer Hours	593	4,339	48,546	52,885
Missions Supported	3	16	217	233
Mission-Ready Inventory	11,200			

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[admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net](mailto:admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net)



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One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”**