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Founder

2014-2015 Directors

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Focus

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

JUNE 2015

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

A Year-end Note from Prez Don

We are approaching the end of our Lions year and it looks like I've made it so far. It has been a pretty interesting and challenging year.

Due to some changes in their lives, Pat Baron stepped down as president and Sue Madsen made some changes in her duties. I accepted President and Hope Ramsdale accepted recording secretary, and the changes seem to be going OK. Pat and Sue are still key members of the team and their contributions are valued.

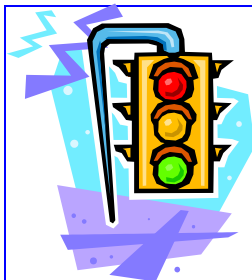
Bert Caoili became Director of District B at the beginning of the year. We lost long-time team members and friends District D Director Russ Fineman and District I Director Jeannie Phillips and they will be missed by all. Carl Montgomery has taken over for Russ and Diane Neubert for Jeannie. Both are welcomed and I am sure will be enthusiastic contributors to our program.

Longtime community volunteer Jean Cook resigned as Berta Fender's partner in mission support. She also will be missed, but is currently assisting us with web site and email support. Jody Taylor has stepped up and is doing well learning the intricacies of shipping glasses all over the world.

We are also pleased to welcome Ron Reiersen back as our Vice President of Outreach. Ron took some time off, but we are happy to have his experience and enthusiasm back.

(Cont. on Page 2)

Got a question for Pres. Don? Email him at 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!

Mission Feedback — Nicaragua

A brief note of thanks from Autumn Ulschmid

I made it back from Nicaragua and had an amazing time fitting reading glasses for the people there.

Mostly, the children didn't need reading glasses. Usually just the elderly folks did. What an impact it had for their daily life!

Thank you again for your efforts!



Farewell to Jean Cook

We bid a fond farewell and offer a **HUGE THANK-YOU** to an outstanding community volunteer! After many years, Jean recently “retired” from her staff position at the NWLERC.

When the call went out for a Mission Coordinator, Jean accepted the job. She was the NWLERC liaison to the mission support groups — receiving and reviewing mission requests, gathering the necessary eyeglasses, making sure they were packed and delivered in a timely manner, and then handling the follow-up reports. She also provided regular articles for the *Focus*, ensuring that readers could see what an impact our recycling efforts have across the world.

She worked cheerfully behind the scenes, maintaining the high standards that the NWLERC is known for, and making sure we were able to continue “Changing Lives, One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time”.

We will certainly miss her dedication and hard work, and we all wish her a happy retirement!

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

Aside from assuming the Vice President of Operations hat, Pat Bucknell has been busy as our maintenance and construction guru. I am sure you have all heard the tales of our new annex, which even with challenges was completed in reasonable time, and we simply adjusted the budget to fit the project! The garage doors were removed and the spaces aesthetically filled in. It looks nice and we have fewer critters inside.

Thanks to the support of our clubs and satellites, our inventory of unprocessed glasses is good. We have gained volunteers in all positions, so our ready-to-ship inventory is also good.

As our year ends, I think we are doing OK. We have glasses and we have volunteers to process them, so I think we can keep the doors open.

Thank you to all of our onsite volunteers who sort, clean and get the glasses ready to ship and **special** thanks to all of you who may have never seen the center but expend the time and energy to keep us supplied with eyeglasses.

We are the **Northwest Lions** Eyeglass Recycling Center and are successful because so many contribute!

This has been a challenging year for me. Thank you all for your support.

Eyeglasses from Clarkston Lions, 19-F

Submitted by VP Ron Reiersen, Photo by Pres. Don Schmidt



Newly re-appointed Vice President for Operations Ron Reiersen delivers one of ten boxes of eyeglasses donated by the Clarkston, WA Lions Club.

Ron was in Tri-Cities recently and District F Director Sam Clayton was able, on short notice, to get these boxes to Ron, who brought them back in his car and delivered them to NWLERC.



Both Ron and President Don Schmidt were happy to see that each box had the exact count and type of eyewear written on the boxes. Way to go, Clarkston! Makes our job easier.

District C's Senior Center Project Update

Submitted by Lacey Sunrise Lion Paul Martin

While dining at a restaurant, Dr. Bob Pinson noticed several senior citizens passing a pair of eyeglasses around in order to be able to read the menu. This led to the idea to find a way to help senior citizens meet their eyeglass needs.



We now have an eyeglass rack at the Lacey Senior Center. The rack holds 36 pairs of glasses in a variety of strengths from +1 to +4.5. Each week we take an inventory of all the glasses on the rack and then replace those that have been taken. The most needed strengths are the +2.5 and above.

We do not charge for these glasses, but do request that the seniors sign a log for each pair of glasses taken. When the program began back in December, 20 or more pairs of glasses were provided to the seniors weekly. It appears that it is now leveling off to 10-15 per week.

It is very gratifying to go into the Senior Center and to be thanked by several people on each visit. Once, while I was servicing the rack, a lady came up to the counter to ask if she could borrow a pair so that she could play cards that day, "I left my glasses home and I need a pair to be able to play".

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 or call me at 360.791.8789.

Editor Jacqueline

Upcoming Events

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



5th Week Closures: Mon-Tue, June 29-30



Executive Committee

Don Schmidt
President

ZC Pat Bucknell
VP-Operations

Ron Reiersen
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

Staff

Cliff Brandsma
Volunteer Coord. / QA

ZC Pat Bucknell
Facilities Manager

Jean Cook
Website

Berta Fender, Jody Taylor
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 shipment, May 2015:

Malawi - 925 pair for Sedona Oak Creek Lions

<i>Key Statistics, March 31, 2015</i>	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	12,200			

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