

# Focus

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

JULY 2015

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**  
Founder

### 2014-2015 Directors

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

District C  
**PZC Bill Miller**  
Lacey Sunrise Lions Club  
[bmiller4133@comcast.net](mailto:bmiller4133@comcast.net)

District D  
**PZC Carl Montgomery**  
Wenatchee Central Lions Club  
[cmontgomery48@yahoo.com](mailto:cmontgomery48@yahoo.com)

District E  
**PZC John Wilson**  
Spokane Central Lions Club  
[lion.jwilson@gmail.com](mailto:lion.jwilson@gmail.com)

District F  
**PZC Sam Clayton**  
Pasco Lions Club  
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District G  
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Longview-Kelso Earlybirds  
[kerby912kee@hotmail.com](mailto:kerby912kee@hotmail.com)

District H  
**Paul Whelan**  
Central Whidbey Lions Club  
[kapaws@comcast.net](mailto:kapaws@comcast.net)

District I  
**Diane Neubert**  
Sequim Valley Lions Club  
[diane\\_neubert@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_neubert@yahoo.com)

## A Note from President Don

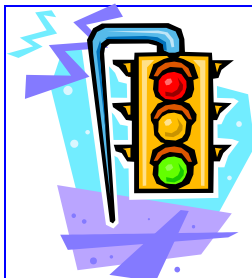
We are starting our new year and things look pretty promising. I have said we need two things to continue, eyeglasses and volunteers.

Our inventory of unprocessed glasses is good thanks to all of our MD19 Lions Clubs and also donations from out of our area. We have received glasses from many parts of the United States, but also donations from Japan, Canada and other foreign countries.

My favorite is a recent shipment received from *La Ceiba de Moca*, a Leo Club in Moca, Puerto Rico. It is very gratifying to realize people around the world (and many are not Lions) are willing to contribute their time and the expense to support our Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

We have welcomed new volunteers. Some like Jody Taylor, who stepped up to replace long-time community volunteer Jean Cook. Some of our new volunteers responded to our notices in local papers, most from *The Senior News*. Other volunteers have joined us by being invited by current volunteers, who may be friends, neighbors or volunteers from other organizations. We still have plenty of open time, so please consider giving us a few hours a month. We of course recruit Lions Clubs to give us a day a month, but we encourage people to consider other sources. Church groups and other service or social groups may be looking for service projects and we welcome them. Those of you who have joined us know that it is not much work and a good time to take it easy and socialize while contributing to a very satisfying project. Please come join us.

(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



Thanks for your help!

# A Visit to District D's Wenatchee Central Lions

*Submitted by VP Ron Reiersen*

On Friday, June 5th, newly re-appointed VP/Outreach Ron Reiersen visited Wenatchee, WA, having breakfast with the new District Director, Carl Montgomery, then lunching with the Wenatchee Central Lions Club.



Director Carl

"Carl's a great asset to Lionism and NWLERC and is glad that we're moving forward in eyeglass donation efforts", Ron said. "And the Wenatchee Central Club: what can I say? 'Dynamic' comes to mind. They were able to squeeze me in for a few minutes, but this was 'sign-up' week, with over FORTY-FIVE committee assignments, plus they installed three new members!"

Ron says that this club, about 125 members strong, had 44 members attend their luncheon that day and the level of excitement was palpable. They discussed expanding the eyeglass collection efforts, and wanted additional boxes and the "panels" for the sides, both of which Ron provided to Carl. Ron expects to be able to visit each district several times in the next year and hopes to find ways to significantly increase eyeglass donations throughout Multiple District 19.

## Director Kerby In Action in District G

*Submitted by VP Ron Reiersen*

Ron Reiersen (VP—Outreach) visited District G Director Kerby Kee on Thursday, June 18th, in Longview, WA.

After a brief update over lunch, Kerby showed Ron the Longview Satellite location and operation. Two other satellites in District G provide eyeglasses as well: Central Park (near Aberdeen) and Vancouver, WA.

Kerby has a good handle on his district's operations. Here's a picture of Kerby sorting eyeglasses.



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

Our valued editor Lion Jacqueline's job would be much easier if she were bombarded with input. We would like your ideas. Clubs, writing something up about how your club collects glasses may give others some ideas to start or improve their program. Satellites, tell us how you gather glasses and how you get together to process them.

***Thank you to everyone for your continued support,  
and here's to another successful year!***



## *VOICE Certificate of Appreciation*

NWLERC has a very successful partnership with a special program of the North Thurston Public Schools. Their Vocational Opportunities for Independent Community Employment (VOICE) program is designed for students aged 18-21 who, due to developmental disabilities, require instruction in vocational and life skills.

At our facility, the students sort and clean eyeglasses, and prepare boxes of unusable glasses for shipping to the recycling company. They learn to follow instructions and work as a team, which helps them transition to the working world.

In the photo at right, VOICE coordinator Bill Miller shows off the certificate recently presented to the NWLERC in recognition of our valued partnership in this program.

There was also a great article about the VOICE program posted on ThurstonTalk.com on June 11th.



## *VP - Outreach Back on the Job!*

### **VP - OUTREACH Re-assigned; voted in for the next FY**

Ron Reiersen has once again offered his services for this important post on the Executive Committee for the balance of this FY, and was voted in by the District Directors for the next two (2) years. Ron recently lost his wife of nearly 38 years, Patricia, in mid April, and finds himself with lots of time. "Couldn't think of a more worthy undertaking than VP/Outreach", Ron says.

Ron has delivered his goals and plans for the coming year to the Executive Committee during the June meeting, which is aggressive and positive. "I am hopeful that, with the help of the DGE's, DD's, Satellites and clubs, we can significantly improve eyeglass donations. I will be working closely with the DD's, and will follow their suggestions for visits to key clubs within each of their districts to champion NWLERC and re-stimulate donations" Ron says. "Visibility and purpose are keys to our success. Some of the luster of eyeglass collection has dimmed, and we need to bring it back into a priority position within all clubs. Besides our strong volunteer core of workers at headquarters in Lacey, we have the availability of the Washington State Prison Program, to expand our processing needs". Ron continues, "First however, we must significantly increase our donations to the satellites, so we can sustain enough raw stock for our volunteers, allowing overage to go the prisons in both western and eastern Washington. With my travels to each district more frequently, even to Eastern Washington districts, I'll be able to bring back up to fifteen boxes of eyeglasses with me to deliver either to NWLERC or perhaps consolidate at a prison in E. Washington, to save transport and time in processing. The increasing need of more missions with greater volume requests are challenging us to meet an increasing demand".

Ron welcomes input from EVERYONE...Lions, volunteers, satellite managers, District Directors, DG's...EVERYONE. [ronusnrret@q.com](mailto:ronusnrret@q.com) or (253) 209-2329 (either voice or text) will get you to him.

# Save the Date: Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

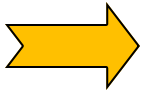
**LET LERC CHEER FOR YOU!**  
Eat, drink, and let us tell you how great you are...

Attention, all LERC volunteers!  
That means ALL volunteers - community volunteers, Lions,  
and miscellaneous species

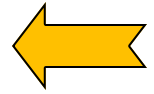


**Here's a heads-up:**

A summer picnic, at which our wonderful volunteers are to be recognized for their many and varied services to LERC, will be held on



**Saturday, August 8, 2015, 12:00 Noon**



at the LERC facility grounds at 9013 Mullen Road SE

*Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided*  
*Please bring your favorite potluck dish, savory or sweet, to delight everyone*



Picnic attire, of course, and bring your camera-ready smiles. See you there!

Questions? Contact Pat Baron, [pcardmaker@comcast.net](mailto:pcardmaker@comcast.net)

**Yes - you may well be singled out for recognition...**  
**Don't be shy - you deserve it!**

## Work-from-Home Opportunity



Here's a job that doesn't require a trip to the LERC building! Our new website was designed for easy maintenance and updating, to keep everyone informed of all the good work we do, plus how to contact us for mission requests. Jean Cook accepted the job, got some training on the software, and has been posting updates as well as the *Focus* news each month. We need someone to take on these duties (and you really don't need to be a "Techie"). See what we've got on the website at [www.lionsnwlerc.org](http://www.lionsnwlerc.org).

If you have some time you could dedicate to the NWLERC, this might be the perfect fit to work from home. Please contact President Don at [northwestlerc@gmail.com](mailto:northwestlerc@gmail.com) to volunteer or to get more information.

## 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*



# Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 8

**Saturday, Aug. 8**

5th Week Closures:

NWLERC Exec./Staff Meeting, 10:00 am

**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, 12:00 Noon**

Wed-Thur, July 29-30



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Don Schmidt**  
*President*

**PZC 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**  
**PDG John Kirry**  
*Senior Advisors*

**Pat Baron**  
*Immediate Past President*

## STAFF

**Cliff Brandsma**  
*Volunteer Coord. / QA*

**PZC 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, June 2015:**

**Romania - 334 pair for Romania Project**

<b>Key Statistics, May 30, 2015</b>	<b>THIS MONTH</b>	<b>THIS YEAR</b>	<b>PRIOR YEARS</b>	<b>SINCE 2004</b>
Raw Eyeglasses Received	16,294	174,062	1,618,930	1,792,992
Eyeglasses to Missions	0	10,074	183,585	193,659
Volunteer Hours	574	5,303	48,546	53,867
Missions Supported	0	16	217	233
Mission-Ready Inventory	12,550			

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



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