



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson
Founder

2014-2015 Directors

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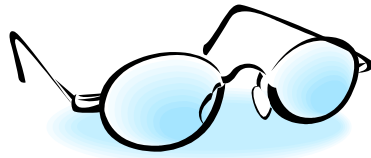
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Focus

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

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

E D I T O R : J A C Q U E L I N E N E L S O N

A Note from President Don

Holiday Greetings! We are halfway through our year and going strong.

Although I was unable to attend the MD-19 annual convention in Pasco, the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center was well represented. Our board of directors and executive committee members got to meet and exchange ideas in person, and I believe that is the best way. It was a good experience for our new Directors and we were able to get our message out. Thanks to all of the clubs, we collected many glasses and now our current inventory of both un-processed and ready-to-ship eyeglasses is good.

We are again encouraging clubs to donate some time, and actively recruiting volunteers from our local community. We gained several community volunteers last year, but many have moved from inspecting and cleaning to become lens techs, so we are back to filling those gaps.

In September we resumed our partnership with the North Thurston Public Schools V.O.I.C.E (Vocational Opportunities for Independent Community Employment) program. This program is for special needs students who have graduated high school. These trainees go to LERC and several businesses and learn job skills like promptness, taking directions, and working with others. At age 21 they "age out" of the program and move to a local organization, Morningside, which assists them in finding employment. This is a successful program and we are glad we can participate.

We are currently fulfilling our main mission of supplying eyeglasses to those in need and our secondary mission of providing a very satisfying venue for people to volunteer their time.

We do not want our Northwest LERC to stagnate, so we are estimating future needs and goals to keep our organization strong, efficient, and exploring ways to better serve those in need.

Here is to a safe, productive and happy coming year!



Got a question for Pres. Don? Email him at northwestlerc@gmail.com.

Mission Feedback — Bolivia



October 15, 2015

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
9013 Mullen Rd. SE
Olympia WA 98513

Dear NWLERC and Berta,

Thank you for the extraordinary gift of glasses for our Vision/Dental trip to Bolivia. We would like to share the latest experience that our volunteers had with Etta Projects and your gift of glasses.

We just got back from Bolivia with 13 amazing volunteers on a dental/vision care trip!!

Now;

Imagine the grandmothers who can see to repair that pair of jeans one more time and the young woman who sees her baby clearly for the first time and that 98 year old man who may not live much longer but the colors around him are clearer and brighter and he can see the face of his wife a little better. They all are so grateful to NELERC!

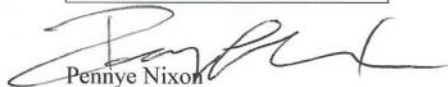
Imagine the teenage girl who is not embarrassed to smile because her front teeth are repaired, the old woman who may be only able to eat mush but for the first time in a long time she is not in pain, and let's hope and cross our fingers and pray to the god of teeth that we have encouraged a few folks to stop eating and drinking so much sugar!

6 days of vision clinic resulted in approximately 636 people receiving improved eyesight.

6 days of dental clinic resulted in the extraction of 128 painful and infected teeth and 45 teeth restored.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough and we cannot thank LERC for making this whole trip possible.




Penny Nixon

Etta Projects, Director of Operations



Offices: 13624 Vintage Drive SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367 tel 360-876-7487 email info@ettaprojects.org
909 No. J St., Tacoma, WA 98403 cell 360-620-7677 web www.EttaProjects.org

Volunteer Spotlight: Spanapark Lions



SPANAPARK LIONS WORK PARTY

Many of our readers will recognize folks in this photo: PCC Mike Gayda and Lions Suzanne Gayda, Diana Andrews, and Bob McLean.

This was Diana's first visit to LERC, while the others are regular volunteers. We love and depend on our club work parties, and hope Diana will be a regular, too.

NWLERC at MD-19 Annual Convention

Submitted by VP Ron Reiersen

Yours Truly journeyed across the Cascades to Pasco early on Friday morning, October 16th, to the Red Lion Hotel for the MD-19 Fall Convention. Already in place was the NWLERC trailer, delivered by Dr. Bob Pinson, in the parking lot for all to see...and deliver...various donations from the districts. Several THOUSAND eyeglasses were donated from various districts, with much appreciation. Seems we're in a vast surplus of donations this year! Nice to see that our Districts seem to be devoting more time to collection and sorting.

Thursday about noon, District C Director Bill Miller arrived and set up our table in the lobby. NWLERC hosted a Hospitality Room for both Friday and Saturday. Several District Directors and others came by to share some of their time and enjoy the social event. I was host for these times, and it was a pleasure to be able to share some time with our members.

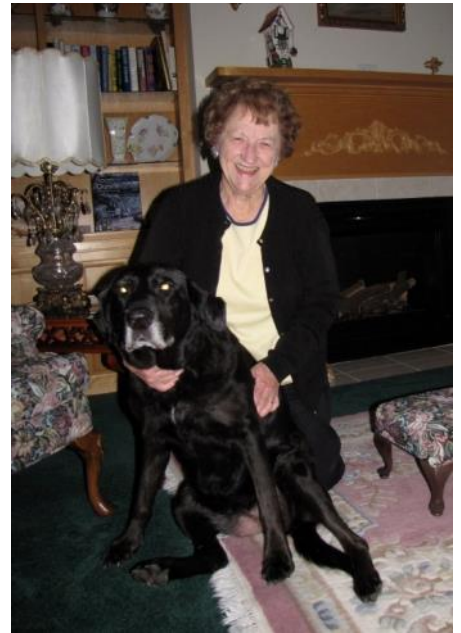
Saturday dawned with a variety of seminars plus the NWLERC annual Board of Directors meeting, which was wonderful. Most of our District Directors were able to attend, and those who couldn't had surrogates to present their reports. We also had some Satellite Managers and three District Governors attend! NWLERC Operations VP Pat Bucknell, along with NWLERC Recording Secretary Hope Ramsdale, oversaw the meeting and did a great job. A friendly exchange of ideas by members and guests ensued. Some District Governors told me that they were very impressed with our meeting.

District I's Inspirational Irma

Submitted by Director Diane Neubert-Dooley

I would like everyone to meet Lion Irma Stennes, from the Port Angeles Lions Club. At 91, she is the club's oldest member. When she joined 10 years ago, there was a need for someone to take on the job of collecting and sorting used eyeglasses. She promptly volunteered for this job, and without much guidance, quickly developed her action plan, and has been in charge ever since.

Port Angeles has 13 collection sites throughout the city as of now, thanks in part to Lion Irma's dedication to the task. Once a month she collects the glasses, does a count for every site, keeping track of the number of glasses received at each, and sorts them when she returns to her home. Periodically Lion Irma boxes up her precious cargo and makes a trip down to the NWLERC recycling center in Lacey. Twice yearly, she places an ad in the local paper, listing all of the Port Angeles collection sites. At the end of each year, letters are sent to each site, letting the businesses know how many glasses they contributed, and thanking them for their participation in the recycling program.



To say that Lion Irma is passionate about eyeglass recycling is vastly understating the reality. Her face lights up and her eyes shine as she talks about helping those who are not as fortunate as most of us, to have the gift of sight. She is full of ambition to do more, and to learn more about the process, and to share it with others. She would like more opportunities to hear and see firsthand from the volunteer doctors and Lions who have gone on missions, about the people they are helping, and what more can be done. She has asked if there are videos available to show to the clubs.

When Lion Irma is not busy recycling eyeglasses, she is helping with other Lions Club projects. These include the sight and hearing van, food donation drives - including guest spots on KONP, the local radio station urging everyone to donate food, helping out the Crescent Bay Lions Club on Sundays with their club's pancake breakfast program, and just about any other project her club is involved with. She is usually accompanied by her faithful companion, Lucy the black lab, who has her own Lions Club vest to wear at events.

Lion Irma Stennes is an inspiration for all of us, embodying the spirit of Lionism at its finest, and deserving of our recognition for her invaluable contributions to her club, the community, and to Lions everywhere.

Traveling Readers Display in District G

Lions in Cowlitz County have been passing around a revolving display of nonprescription reading glasses, and so far have given away over 200 pair!

The display has already visited the Longview Senior Center, Kelso Senior Center, and the food bank in Castle Rock.

Another great way for local Lions Clubs to serve their communities!

District B's Director on Jamaica Mission

Submitted by Director Bert Caoili

This year, Great Shape's "iCARE" Mission was held in Negril, Jamaica. Every year volunteers from the USA and Canada come to Jamaica to become not only the "Ambassadors of Goodwill" but also to serve the needy Jamaican youth and elderly. This of course is made possible by the generosity and support of many organizations like Sandals Foundation, VOSH, the Jamaican Ministry of Health, Lions and the Northwest Lions Eye-glass Recycling Center!

This year there were 39 volunteers, many of whom were returning volunteers. This was in fact my 4th year of service. The leader of the group is Steven Stern and the Executive Director of Great Shape is "Papa" Joe, whose organization is based in California. All the volunteers are hosted by Sandals, and this year, we stayed at "Beaches, Negril". The site for the clinic was at the "Christian Fellowship Center" in the town of Lucea, in the District of Hanover. It took 45 minutes of driving time from the resort to the site.

The first day of work was on Saturday, October 10, where we met all the volunteers during the briefing held by Steven. The following day, Sunday, we all went to the site to arrange the equipment, boxes, tables, benches, etc., to suit the "flow" of the clinic. We basically turned the inside of the church into a work area. The Pastor, Rev. George, was very kind and supportive. The church volunteers were very helpful and assisted in every way possible.



At the clinic, there was nursing and medical service where blood pressure and blood sugar were tested. In the Vision area, tests for glaucoma were done, followed by acuity and vision testing. Persons who had good vision were either given sunglasses or readers. Others were fitted with either recycled or new prescription glasses. Everyone was given sunglasses. It is worthy to note that many, if not all, of the used eyeglasses, readers and sunglasses were supplied by the NWLERC!

There were so many people, young and old, who came to the free clinic for the next five days, Monday to Friday. We served a total of 1726 people this time.

There was also a surgical team headed by ophthalmologist Dan Brown, who performed free cataract surgeries at the local hospital in Montego Bay. For the week, they were able to do 37 surgeries – equivalent to a year's surgeries performed at this hospital.

It was indeed another wonderful week of volunteering in Great Shape's "iCARE" mission. Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who made this possible! Since its inception, 21,397 Jamaicans have been helped.

As the NWLERC Director for District 19-B, I was proud to see how NWLERC has been able to help in the yearly "iCARE" mission. Truly, as Lions, "WE SERVE!"

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



Update from VP Ron

Submitted by Ron Reiersen, VP - Outreach & Satellite Ops

(253) 209-2329 ronusrret@q.com

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

These words, from a Town Cryer, were to gather folks for proclamation in days of yore. Thank God for emails and electronic media! Thought I'd share some ideas and thoughts as to the status of our eyeglass collection program.

Seems we're blessed at NWLERC with plentiful donations of eyeglasses. Our volunteers are busy processing them for missions around the world. Thank you for your diligence in following through with this most necessary program. However, only about *half of the clubs* in Washington and Northern Idaho are doing so. Why not all the clubs? Is it lack of interest? Is it some concern we don't know about? Is it logistics? Collection boxes? Please consider getting on board in some way, if you're not already actively collecting eyeglasses. Since our Lions "cause" is eye care, this should be a primary effort, don't you think?

Satellites: We seem to have lost "that lovin' feeling" regarding satellite operations in the past year. Being a satellite manager is not a big investment of time or talent...really. It requires less than you might think, and minimal paperwork. Even I...a Norwegian...could do it! So, if you feel that one should be started in your area, talk to your Zone Chair and District Governor about your proposal. If you're unsure how to proceed, call me. I can walk you through it. Satellites can increase local interest and commitment by nearby clubs, resulting in greater donations. Think about it.

Lastly, we'll be working on our Long-Range Plan in February. Some of you have expressed concern that, although we're in a positive cash-flow, we're continuing to ask for financial donations. Our expansion plans will address the accumulation of our cash "reserve" and the need for steady growth in our bank balance. Please continue to make NWLERC a budget line item in your club's planning and giving. We DO have a concrete reason for asking.

Holiday Closure

LERC

WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 18 FOR THE HOLIDAYS

NORMAL HOURS RESUME

JANUARY 4



NWLERC Schedule

Exec./Staff Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 10:00 am



Holiday Closure: Friday, Dec. 18 - Sunday, Jan. 3



Weekly Closures: Friday - Sunday, Weekdays on 5th week of the month

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Don Schmidt
President

PZC Pat Bucknell
VP-Operations

Ron Reiersen
VP-Outreach
VP-Satellite Operations

vacant
VP-Admin.

Hope Ramsdale
Recording Secretary / Stats

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

Pat Baron
Website

Berta Fender, Jody Taylor
Mission Coordinators

Jack Ford, Bob Wright
Quality Assurance / Training
Site Manager Training

PZC Bill Miller
Homeless Outreach Programs
VOICE Program
Youth Volunteer Coordinator

Mission shipment, Oct-Nov 2015:
EL Salvador – 1712 pair for VOSH

Key Statistics, Nov. 30, 2015	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	PRIOR YEARS	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	7,748	60,387	1,671,569	1,860,094
Eyeglasses to Missions	1,712	10,327	200,815	204,320
Volunteer Hours	786.5	3044.5	50,822	57,485
Missions Supported	1	10	226	249
Mission-Ready Inventory	13,450			

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



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One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.”