



# Focus

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

WINTER 2018

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**  
Founder

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## A Note from President Kerby

I'm hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are doing well at the Recycling Center, with a multitude of glasses coming in. Our biggest problem is getting glasses from the far reaches of the state; if anyone has an idea, please let us know.



We had an excellent meeting at the MD-19 Convention in Surrey B.C. A table was set up outside the convention doors for questions, and we passed out the new flip cards which were well received. On Saturday we held our annual Board of Directors meeting and our District Directors presented their reports. The major piece of business was the passing of updated Bylaws. Hope handed out Trifecta banner patch rockers for the 2016-2017 year (District C received the most). John Kirry gave a report from the building site committee. We were able to resolve the "pocket gopher" problem that has been plaguing us. We now can get permits and hopefully break ground for the new building this upcoming year. Building a new facility at our present location would make our job so much easier. When you are not stepping on each other a lot more can get done. One thing that will help are donations from Lions throughout our Multiple District 19.

We have designated an area for a memorial garden in remembrance of Lions who have passed who were a big part of NWLERC. Pat Phillips has spearheaded this effort, as his wife Jeannie was a past president and one our leading Lions for NWLERC (see p. 5).

(cont. on p. 2)



Got a question for Pres. Kerby? Email him at [kerby912kee@hotmail.com](mailto:kerby912kee@hotmail.com).

# Mission Feedback — Port Angeles

Submitted by Director Diane Neubert, District I

Org: Voices for Veterans Stand Down

Location: Port Angeles, WA

Mission Date: Oct 5, 2017

Total Number of Veterans served: 105

Total number of persons fitted with eyeglasses: 50 readers  
20 sunglasses  
28 eyeglass cases  
10 eyeglass cleaner kits

Total number of applications for prescription glasses: 15



A Stand Down is a one-day operation that is offered three times a year in May, July, and October, and is open to all veterans — homeless veterans, veterans in need, and their immediate family members. It is designed to provide direct services and connect veterans to over 20 different organizations all located in one place ranging from medical, dental, housing, employment, veteran benefits, to counseling, haircuts, food, pet supplies, and clothing. Veterans can ask questions and obtain resources that they may not have known were available to them.

All funding is received through donations and grants, and those moneys are put back in for supplies, equipment, and clothing.

It's a special day for homeless veterans but also a day for volunteers who want to give back and say thank you to our veterans.



## *More from Pres. Kerby (cont. from p. 1)*

It would be great if more Lions and their friends would volunteer at the Center; just one day a month for a few hours would be of great help. If you live too far away, you may get involved in setting up boxes, collecting glasses, or helping at a Satellite Center.

I would like to personally thank all the personnel who work at NWLERC to ensure the glasses that we send on missions are of the highest quality. This also includes our many volunteers that are not Lions members.

# NWLERC Supports Safeplace

*Submitted by IPP Don Schmidt*

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is supporting Safeplace (<https://www.safeplaceolympia.org/>).

Safeplace is the only facility in Thurston County aiding those in domestic violence situations on a 24-hour daily basis. Another service they provide is educating the public about these problems and working to eliminate domestic violence. They have been providing these services since 1981.



One of the services provided to these victims is an emergency cell phone. These are not full-service phones, but allow a person to call 911 if threatened. The NWLERC receives cell phones with our regular donations, and the decision was made to donate these phones to Safeplace. The phones in workable condition can be given to those in need, and others can be recycled to generate some income for Safeplace.

The opinion of the Executive Committee is that although our mission is helping those in need throughout the world, it is also important to support local nonprofits in their missions.

So, here's the deal, when you are boxing up those glasses to send to NWLERC, have your Lions Club members throw in that old cell phone they don't know what to do with. They can get rid of it and it will help others.

Your Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center not only helps people around the world but, through various programs, assists our people in the Pacific Northwest, too.

## *Kudos to LERC Officers*

At the MD-19 Annual Convention in October, several members of our leadership team received awards and special recognition.



The photo at left is of District G Director Dick Woods and Pres. Kerby Kee. Kerby was awarded the International President's Medal at the Saturday lunch. He is truly dedicated to our LERC, so we're not surprised by the recognition.

Dick is wearing a crown gifted to him by Patty Allen just a few moments before at a fun skit at lunch. Patty asked all people in the room who have brought in five or more Lions to stand. Then, by 10's she continued upward. She got to 60 and only Dick and one other were standing. At 70-80-90 and 100, Dick stood alone. She finished at 103, Dick's total over his 50 years as a Lion, and the crown was bestowed!



VCC John Kirry, one of our trusted Senior Advisors (and a Past President) was awarded an International President's Medal at the closing dinner. At the top of a long list of accomplishments cited were his efforts with our NWLERC.

Seen here flanked by International Director Jenny Ware (Michigan) and MD-19 CC Jon Whitman.

# A PR Note from VP Patti — Pass It On!

## **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!!!!!!!!!!**

Have you ever heard of the NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC)?

It is a nonprofit organization staffed completely by volunteers, there is no paid staff. Many volunteers are members of Lions Clubs, and equally, others are “community volunteers”.

The mission for NWLERC is to provide used eyeglasses free of charge to people in remote areas of developing countries, delivered at the hands of volunteer eye care professionals.

The volunteer staff performs all of the tasks required to prepare eyeglasses needed for missions. Many tasks are easily learned such as sorting single and multi-vision lenses and inspecting for defects. The glasses are then washed and inspected again as they are hand dried.

Volunteers also package glasses we can't use for shipment to a company for further reuse/recycling. No eye-glasses go to the land fill.

With further training, volunteers become “lensometer technicians” and use a machine to determine the prescriptions and package the glasses for further shipment to missions.

Where do we get the glasses? They are **DONATED!!!**

Nice folks, like you maybe, donate them through a local Lions Club at convenient drop-off locations. Or they can be mailed to us at NWLERC, 9013 Mullen Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98513.

Used or no longer needed glasses are everywhere. So whether you decide to help out by volunteering or donating, or even both, would you consider talking to your friends and neighbors? Just the people you know yourself could collect a dozen or more unwanted glasses. Remember, we will accept sunglasses and reading glasses as well, and they take on added importance because those are the only types of glasses we can (and do) legally distribute to those in need in the United States.

**Any individual or group interested in volunteering please contact us for more information or to tour our facility. There is even a bus-stop right across from our building. How easy is that!!**

**Email: [northwestlerc@gmail.com](mailto:northwestlerc@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 360-923-2075**

## **\$\$ Nisqually Indian Tribe Grant \$\$**

In December, the NWLERC received a generous grant from the Nisqually Indian Tribe of \$10,000 to be added to our building fund. We have been the recipient of several grants over the years, and we sincerely appreciate their support.



# Our Friends are Remembered

Submitted by IPP Don Schmidt

After Past President Jeannie Phillips passed, her husband Pat asked to plant a tree at the NWLERC in her memory. The Executive Committee heartily approved the request. A rhododendron had been planted earlier at LERC in memory of PDG Jim LaBelle, and the decision was made to establish a memorial garden for our LERC Family. An area was selected, and a plaque erected to designate the area as our Memorial Park.



In the center of the area, a tree was planted for Jeannie with an appropriate plaque.

PDG Jim's rhododendron and memorial plaque were moved to the new area.



Another plant and plaque were added in memory of Jacen Parrish, who was a trainee in the VOICE program supported by LERC. He worked with us for 2 years and contributed many hours performing many tasks. He was an articulate and friendly young man who was known and admired by many of our volunteers and staff.

Although we feel sad when we lose a team member, we can feel good about keeping their memories alive.

## Production Numbers

From a report provided by Ed Taylor

Thanks to all our volunteers for the time they donate to process the quality of eyeglasses we are known for! Here's some numbers tabulated from July to December.

Lens Techs worked **614** hours testing **4725** pairs of glasses; Cliff Brandsma leads the pack with **941**. Other Lens Techs who tested 500+ glasses: Lynn Christensen, Jan Goebel, Peter Ingersoll and Cheri Ingersoll.

Volunteers donated **3129** hours; Ike Ikari was at the top of the list with **331** hours. Other volunteers with over 100 hours: Ed Taylor, Don Schmidt, Cliff Brandsma, Bob Wright, Berta Fender, Bill Miller, and the VOICE students (as a group).

## Send me your news for the FOCUS

Thank you 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



# NWLERC Schedule

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

**Holiday Closures:** Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day,  
Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's

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



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PZC Kerby Kee**  
*President*

**Bob Wright**  
*VP-Operations*

**Patti Makinen**  
*VP-Communications / PR*

**vacant**  
*VP-Outreach*  
*VP-Satellite Operations*

**Hope Ramsdale**  
*VP-Admin.*  
*Recording Secretary / Stats*

**Lyell Clark**  
*Treasurer / Procurement*

**Don Schmidt**  
*Immediate Past President*

**PZC Bob Pinson**  
**PDG John Kirry**  
**Pat Baron**  
*Senior Advisors*

**Pat Baron**  
*Website*

## STAFF

**Cliff Brandsma**  
**PDG Ed Taylor**  
*Volunteer Coord. / QA*

**Don Schmidt**  
*Facilities Manager*  
*VOICE Program*

**Berta Fender**  
**Jody Taylor**  
**Malena Hine**  
*Mission Coordinators*

**Jack Ford**  
**Bob Wright**  
**PDG Ed Taylor**  
*Quality Assurance / Training*  
*Site Manager Training*

**vacant**  
*Homeless Outreach Programs*

## Mission Shipments, Sept. – Dec.

*Port Angeles, WA - 111 pair readers for Veterans' Stand Down*  
*Mexico - 1125 pair + 1000 sunglasses for VOSH*  
*Mexico - 315 pair for Vista Missions*  
*Honduras - 202 pair for Honduras Project*  
*Seattle - 225 pair for Harborview Medical Center Eye Clinic*  
*Peru - 1100 Readers & 700 sunglasses for Sight is Right*

<b>Key Statistics as of 11/30/17</b>	<b>Sept-Nov</b>	<b>THIS YEAR</b>	<b>SINCE 2004</b>
Raw Eyeglasses Received	58,013	79,333	2,285,122
Eyeglasses to Missions	2,978	3,478	239,992
Volunteer Hours	1,766	2,774	75,754
Missions Supported	17	18	289
Mission-Ready Inventory	13,400		

**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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