



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson
Founder

2018-2019 Directors

District B
PCC Jim Knight
Arlington Lions Club
j-dknight@comcast.net

District C
Tim Johnson
Olympia West Lions Club
tcjeld@icloud.com

District D
Patti Sparks
Wenatchee Central Lions Club
pjsparkler5652@gmail.com

District E
Joy Otis
Spokane Central Lions Club
joy@frpfinancial.com

District F
PZC Sam Clayton
Pasco Lions Club
sj.kaclayton@gmail.com

District G
Monte Ward
Kalama Lions Club
maward@kalama.com

District H
Carolyn O'Dell
Oak Harbor Lions Club
odie72092@aol.com

District I
Diane Neubert
Sequim Valley Lions Club
diane_neubert@yahoo.com



Focus

A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

"Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time"

WINTER 2018

EDITOR: JACQUELINE NELSON

Welcome, New Pres. Suzanne

We are so happy to announce that PZC Suzanne Gayda, a member of the Spanaway Lions Club, has agreed to lead the NWLERC as our new President!

She has been an active supporter of the LERC over the years, and a regular at Monday work parties, so she's very familiar with our facility. The officers and staff have promised their support, and look forward to working with Suzanne throughout her term.

Pres. Suzanne jumped right in to work, sending out a letter to all presidents of U.S. Lions Clubs in Multiple District 19. She extended our thanks for Lions' support in donating their time, collecting eyeglasses, and also for their financial contributions. She listed the thousands of hours of volunteer time, the tens of thousands of glasses donated, and the thousands of processed eyeglasses sent on missions all over the world. She mentioned the upcoming plans for expansion, a new building addition to give us the space we need to properly store the glasses and use all of our equipment. She ended with a personal note that "It's very important to me that we pull together and support this valuable program."

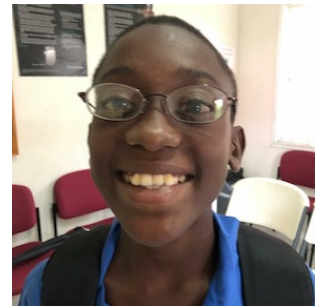
And, with President Suzanne at the helm, we hope to continue to do that!

FUN NOTE: We recently received two large boxes of glasses from the Ishikawa Lions Club in Okinawa!

Mission Feedback — Grenada

From a report provided by Dr. Ingrid A. Carlson (Ophthalmologist)

In Grenada, where 30% of the population is under the age of 15, there are very limited opportunities for children to receive eye care. The Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, together with Saint George's University School of Medicine, has initiated an eye care program. We see approximately 100-150 children per week at our annual visits. The difference this makes in the life of a child here often means the difference between seeing well enough to go to school and get an education versus seeing poorly, failing, and even developing permanent vision loss. It's life changing for them.



Collection Box Locations

We're in the process of updating the list of locations of eyeglasses collection boxes to post on our website. This list is organized by zip code so people can easily find their closest drop-off site. We also get a lot of phone calls asking where to donate eyeglasses, so having an updated list is helpful at the LERC facility as well.

Please email a list of sites where your Lions Club has boxes to your District Director (addresses are on the front page of the *Focus*), who can then forward them to the LERC.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Thank You Mel & Bonnie

Submitted by PP Don Schmidt

Several volunteers from our Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center attended the Celebration of Life for Mel Williamson in December. Mel volunteered on a regular basis, from the days we worked in the plumbing shop until he went to the hospital. Mel was always cheerful, helpful to others, and looking for ways to improve LERC's service to others. His wife Bonnie was one of the first Directors for our organization and gave her support to Mel throughout her life.

I will always remember, *typical Mel*, every time he had a cup of coffee, he was concerned about who was paying for the cream! I usually replied, "Don't worry Mel, it's covered."

Mel and Bonnie Williamson contributed so much to the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center over the years that they must be recognized. A tree will be planted and a plaque installed in the Memorial Garden so that Mel and Bonnie will always be a part of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

Bright Ideas Department



Several Lions Clubs have placed eyeglass collection boxes at their local Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute. There are many Northwest locations; the list is on their website, <https://www.pcli.com>. According to Lion Bill Scholl, the Centralia Lions Club picks up an average of 100 pairs of eyeglasses per month. Bob Wright, Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, also picks up monthly from the Olympia location.



The Everett Central Lions Club is providing free reading glasses at the downtown Everett Public Library. In this experimental project, the library was given a supply of reading glasses and sample glasses in different strengths for recipients to try on. According to Danielle Brend, Circulation Manager, they are excited about the program. Lions member Art Ruben proposed the project and says he hopes this will encourage reading and may help someone find a job or continue their education. If the project is successful, the club plans on expanding the program to other libraries. During the first month the library gave away 6 pair of eyeglasses.

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 or call me at 360.791.8789.



NWLERC Schedule

Exec./Staff Meetings: *** TBD – Changes Coming! *** Next Mtg: Mon, Feb. 11, 12:30 pm

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Gayda
President

Bob Wright
VP-Operations

PDG Ed Taylor
VP-Admin / Stats

Judy Ann Bergvall
VP-Outreach

vacant
VP-Satellite Operations

Hope Ramsdale
Recording Secretary

Lyell Clark
Treasurer / Supplies

Patti Makinen
Chair, Public & Media Affairs

PZC Kerby Kee
Immediate Past President

PZC Bob Pinson
PDG John Kirry

Pat Baron
Don Schmidt
Senior Advisors

STAFF

Cliff Brandsma
PDG Ed Taylor
Volunteer Coordinators

Don Schmidt
Facilities / Maintenance
VOICE Program

Berta Fender
Jody Taylor
Malena Hine
Mission Coordinators

Bob Wright
PDG Ed Taylor
Quality Assurance / Training
Site Manager Training

Pat Baron
Materials Recycling

Marty Ikari
IT technician

vacant
Homeless Outreach Program

Mission Shipments, October – December

Mexico 1250 readers + 500 sunglasses for VOSH, Arizona

El Salvador 1600 pair + 300 sunglasses for Peace Health

Mexico 325 pair for Methodist Men’s Ministries

Key Statistics as of 12/31/18	October - December	THIS YEAR	SINCE 2004
Raw Eyeglasses Received	39,813	75,185	2,507,057
Eyeglasses to Missions	2,225	5,762	259,266
Volunteer Hours	1,636	3,343	83,481
Missions Supported	3	11	314
Mission-Ready Inventory	9,950		

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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