



# FOCUS Newsletter



A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

9013 Mullen Road SE Olympia, WA 98513  
(360) 923-2075 • <https://www.lionsnwlerc.org>

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**"CHANGING LIVES, ONE PAIR OF EYEGLASSES AT A TIME"**

Fall 2024



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Founder

## 2024-2025 Directors

### District L

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Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of the FOCUS, the newsletter of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, changing lives for twenty years!

First, let me say how much I appreciate the wonderful work done these past four years by our Immediate Past President PZC Suzanne Gayda. She stands out as one of our most active Presidents and has used her leadership skills to guide us through the tough times of Covid 19 as well as exhilarating and challenging times of growth. My sincere thanks to her for her dedication and distinguished leadership.

I hope you were able to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at our Olympia headquarters last month. If not, you missed a great party. We celebrated our year with the picnic sponsorship of Dr. Paul Chung from the Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute who brought along members of his professional team to share some interesting stories of their travels around the world. Many thanks to Dr. Chung and staff for their great presentations.

And I can't complete this edition without mentioning the passing of two significant leaders and volunteers of our great organization, Cliff Brandsma and Jerry Engebo.

Cliff was one of our steadfast volunteers from the Lacey Sunrise Lions who has contributed untold years of time and talent to NWLERC. Cliff was a former site manager, volunteer coordinator and one of our earliest and most thorough lensometer technicians. It was great to have him around as he always had a joke to share.

Jerry Engebo was the long-time editor of this Focus Newsletter and his creative editing enabled us to show the world the essential work that we have been doing around the world. Both Cliff and Jerry will be missed, as each of them have been key people in the overall success of our organization in the past 20 years. We wish their families the best.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I hope our important work will inspire you to visit our center, collect eyeglasses and, where possible, make financial gifts to help keep our center running smoothly and expanding to meet the worldwide need for our eyeglasses! We are dedicated to continuing our mission of "Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time."

PZC Kerby Kee, President

<b>NWLERC Key Statistics</b>			
<b>As of September 30, 2024</b>	<b>September 2024</b>	<b>This Year 2024-25</b>	<b>Since 2004</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>160,162</b>
<b>Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission-Ready Eyeglasses</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>2,816</b> (Since Feb. 2021)
<b>Eyeglasses Processed for Missions</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>27,940</b> (Since Feb. 2021)
<b>Raw Eyeglasses Information</b>			
<b>Raw Eyeglasses Received</b>	<b>26,536</b>	<b>49,910</b>	<b>3,699,075</b>
<b>Raw Eyeglasses Recycled</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>2,246,670</b>
<b>Mission Information</b>			
<b>Eyeglasses to Missions/Events</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>320,195</b>
<b>Missions Supported</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>384</b>
<b>Mission-Ready Inventory</b>	<b>16,800</b>		

**DISTRICT L**

**SEQUIM VALLEY LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Diane Neubert  
diane\_neubert@yahoo.com  
(562) 233-0902

**DISTRICT I**

**MOSES LAKE LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Dennis Foster  
ddfoster@usa.net  
(509) 795-1394

**WENATCHEE CENTRAL SATELLITE**

Chair: PDG Patti Sparks  
pjsparkler5652@gmail.com  
(509) 888-1539



# MD19

## Satellite Locations

**DISTRICT O**

**BELLINGHAM CENTRAL LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Tess Tondi  
tesstondi@gmail.com  
(360) 941-4597

**NORTH KING & SNOHOMISH COUNTY SATELLITE**

Chair: Kris Reinbold  
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(425) 771-4235

**SOUTH KING COUNTY SATELLITE**

Chair: Lyro Downie  
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206-458-1639

**WHIDBEY ISLAND LIONS SATELLITE**

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(360) 679-9468

**DISTRICT N**

**COSMOPOLIS LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Ann Conaway  
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**LONGVIEW LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: PZC Kerby Kee  
kerby912kee@hotmail.com  
(360) 430-1214

**PORT ORCHARD LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: PZC Monte Foust  
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(360) 895-8649

**VANCOUVER, WA SATELLITE**

Chair: Nina Day  
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**DISTRICT S**

**SPOKANE CENTRAL LIONS SATELLITE**

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**ELLENSBURG LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Sara Stores, OD  
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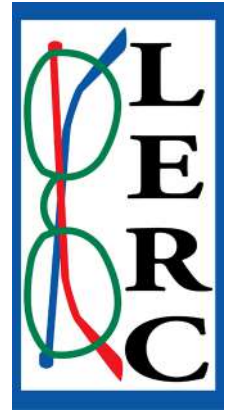
**PASCO LIONS SATELLITE**

Chair: Sam Clayton  
[sj\\_kaclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sj_kaclayton@gmail.com)  
509-531-6835



# NWLERC Inventory & Mission Report

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



## Mission Completed - September 2024

### #384 Vista Missions - Mexico. Carolyn Watson.

Request: 75 pairs of single-vision-. Only 65 pairs available.  
485 pairs of multi-vision+. Only 282 available.  
40 pairs of multi-vision-. Completed.  
Completed on 09/12/2024. In-person pick up on 09/16/2024.

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## Inventory Report

There are 16,800 pairs of eyeglasses that are mission ready.

\*Multi-vision + 1750 eyeglasses (35 boxes)  
+1.50 thru +4.75 not available.  
\*Multi-vision - 1150 eyeglasses (23 boxes)  
-.50 thru -3.25 not available.  
\*Single vision + 2150 eyeglasses (43 boxes)  
+2.00, +2.25, +2.75 through +4.00 & up not available.  
Single vision - 10,450 eyeglasses (209 boxes)  
\*Readers 1300 eyeglasses (26 boxes)  
+.25, +.75, +2.25, +2.75 thru +3.25 & up not available.

(\*Low)

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## Other Activity

### 1. Summer Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

Dr. Paul Chung from the Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute (located on Martin Way, Lacey) and his mission team (7 volunteers) were in attendance. They shared their experiences in the distribution of eyeglasses in various countries they visited. Dr. Chung and team enjoyed the time spent with us, they would like to return next year. He and his wife, Iris, made a personal donation in the amount of \$500.00 to NW LERC.

### 2. Mission #384 Vista Missions - Mexico. Carolyn Watson

Larry Watson came to LERC to pick up the boxes of eyeglasses for their upcoming mission. He shared a recent experience at one of the mission their organization completed. Through an interpreter, one of the patients was a truck driver who made deliveries. This was a big-time concern for Larry because the patient didn't have eyeglasses. So, how was he able to drive? He and his brother were sharing the same pair of eyeglasses. That patient was fitted with his own pair of eyeglasses and was so very grateful. Larry said he will never forget that experience.

### 3. A Mission Report was received from PeaceHealth/PazSalud, El Salvador.

In September, the organization fitted 469 individuals with eyeglasses. Darren Streff sends his thanks to all the Lions for their support. These missions would not be impossible without the Lions help. His report of their mission in Cuyultitan, La Paz, El Salvador is attached on pages 4 and 5.

Cuyulitán, La Paz, El Salvador  
September 28, 2024

Through collaboration with international partners and local entities like the federal government of El Salvador, municipal governments, universities, grassroots organizations, and community leaders, PazSalud continues to serve patients living in poverty by providing Optometry and Cataract Screening (OCS) missions to the most vulnerable senior members of society. An OCS mission provides a rare opportunity for economically marginalized patients to receive an eye exam, prescription glasses, reading glasses, eye lubricating drops, cataract and pterygium screening and as needed, a referral for ophthalmological care in the national healthcare system.



### Quick Facts:

**What:** Optometry and Cataract Screening (OCS) mission focusing on optometry services, eye exams, delivering distance and reading glasses, and screening patients for cataracts and pterygia.

**When:** Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Cuyulitán (town), La Paz (state), El Salvador.

**Who:** PazSalud served economically marginalized seniors living in and around Cuyulitán.

**Team:** PazSalud assembled the following team to carry out the OCS:

1. University of Dr. Andrés Bello (UNAB): UNAB is the largest of the two universities that specialize in optometry in El Salvador.
2. Municipal Government of San Pablo Tacachico
3. Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC): the LERC donates distance and reading glasses essential to carrying out the PazSalud OCS missions.
4. Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF) Eyeglass Recycling Center: the WLF donates distance and reading glasses essential to carrying out the PazSalud OCS missions.

**Stats:**

- 232 low income patients received comprehensive eye exams
- 198 pairs of distance and/or reading eyeglasses prescribed
- 65 patients with cataracts identified and given referrals to Rosales Hospital for possible surgery
- 12 patients with pterygia identified and given referrals to Rosales Hospital for possible surgery
- 51 optometrists from the UNAB

PazSalud (“PeaceHealth” in Spanish) was created in 2000 to share the gifts of the PeaceHealth health system with patients living in poverty in El Salvador. On September 28, 2024 PazSalud conducted its 42<sup>nd</sup> OCS mission providing eye exams and distributing glasses to economically marginalized patients living in Cuyulitán; a rural, agricultural town with a high percentage of low-income seniors. To carry out the mission, PazSalud partnered with international and national organizations, the largest Salvadoran optometry university, and various national and local healthcare entities and local volunteers to combine resources to serve to those who would otherwise be forced to go without optometry care. PazSalud planned and coordinated the event while providing the diagnostic equipment, the supplies, and overall logistics to carry out the mission. The University used the OCS as a teaching and training event for students to get hands-on, practical experience in treating patients, many of whom received eye care for the first time in their lives. The team examined patients, fit them with the necessary glasses, provided them with eye drops to treat common eye dryness, and educated them on self-eye care and the importance of regular exams as they age. All patients were screened for cataracts



and pterygia and when necessary, given a referral to Rosales National Hospital where they will be examined by an ophthalmologist and evaluated for potential cataract surgery at the hospital.

PazSalud is dedicated to the core principle within our mission of striving to do optometry missions in municipalities where we have never worked before. Cuyultitán is a prime example. Not only had PazSalud never before been to Cuyultitán, but we had never before worked in the state of La Paz. After an initial invite from the town and many subsequent meetings to plan the myriad logistics of a large-scale medical event, we were able to spend the Saturday in Cuyultitán and see 232 impoverished patients of the community. An emotional Hector Escobar, the mayor of Cuyultitán, spoke to our group at the conclusion of the mission and expressed his gratitude for our service saying; 'In the history of our village, never before has any group come to give of themselves to serve our seniors. This is the first medical mission the people of Cuyultitán have ever had, we can't thank you enough, and we hope you will return very soon.'

PeaceHealth/PazSalud provides the funding, the resources, and the commitment for the OCS missions which in turn provides a framework for our international and local partners and volunteers to step in and enthusiastically do the rest in caring for our patients. Each component is essential to realizing these optometry missions and bringing help to areas where eye care is rarely found.

### Patients

An estimated 11% of El Salvador's population is over 60 years of age (720,000 people) and an estimated 40% of these seniors are illiterate (275,000). Approximately 86% of rural El Salvador has no access to any type of eye care. Immigration (voluntary and forced) to the U.S., internal displacement and poverty have eroded El Salvador's traditional familial structure of 3-4 generation households, often leaving the elderly behind to fend for themselves with little or no support network, no earning potential, and few resources. Seniors are often referred to as the 'discarded' and thousands live far below the poverty line, relying on charity to survive.



**Volunteers Needed:**

Individual and groups (Lions and non-Lions) are welcome. Volunteers are needed on a daily basis to help process all glasses. Processing glasses includes: sorting, cleaning, and examining lenses for scratches. Further training is available to use the lensometer that reads the prescriptions in the lenses. Training is available and site managers are on hand Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to assist and train. Please contact LERC before arriving about times and days available.

**Vacancies:**

Please contact President PZC Kerby Kee regarding board, committee, site manager vacancies and/or other ways that you can help at LERC.

Please note - all positions are volunteer.

NWLERC President: PZC Kerby Kee  
kerby912kee@hotmail.com



**Congratulations to the following clubs for receiving the 2023-2024 Trifecta Award.**

These clubs supported LERC by donating glasses, volunteering hours and supporting us financially. Banner patches were mailed last month.

**District L:**

- Port Angeles
- Sequim Valley

**District I:**

- Ephrata
- Leavenworth
- Mattawa/Desert Aire
- Wenatchee Central

**District O:**

- Anacortes
- Coupeville
- Renton



**District N:**

- Battleground
- Camas
- Enumclaw
- Federal Way
- Fort Vancouver
- Greater Puyallup
- Gig Harbor
- Hood Canal
- Lacey Lamplighters
- Lacey Sunrise
- Longview-Kelso Earlybird
- Olympia Host
- Olympia West
- Peninsula
- Poulsbo Noon
- Roy
- Salmon Creek
- Shelton Centennial (first timers!)
- Sumner
- Tacoma Centennial
- Tacoma Downtown
- Washougal
- Yelm

**District S:**

- Spokane Central
- Spokane Shadle North
- Walla Walla Downtown

*Thank  
YOU  
for  
SUPPORTING  
LERC!*



## NWLERC UPCOMING 2024-2025 CALENDAR

**Executive Board/Staff Meetings:** 2nd Monday, meetings start at 12:30pm

Future Meetings: November 11th, December 9th, January 13th, February 10th, March 10th, April 14th, May 12th and June 9th

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

In Memory of our dedicated volunteers who passed away, Lion Jerry Engebo with the Longview Kelso Early Bird who served as the Focus editor for a number of years and Lion Cliff Brandsma a very dedicated long-time volunteer from the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PZC Kerby Kee**, Longview Kelso Early Bird  
kerby912kee@hotmail.com  
President

**Vacant**  
VP - Administration

**PCC John Kirry**, Gig Harbor  
VP - Marketing

**Vacant**  
VP - Operations

**Jacqueline Nelson**, Des Monies  
jacq-lion@comcast.net  
Secretary

**PDG Stephen Staudinger**, Battleground  
Treasurer

**PZC Suzanne Gayda**, Spanaway  
Immediate Past President, VP - Outreach

**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson**, Lacey Sunrise  
**PZC Roberta Pinson**, Lacey Sunrise  
**PCC John Kirry**, Gig Harbor  
**Pat Baron**, Lacey Lamplighters  
**Lyell Clark**, Lacey Sunrise  
Senior Advisors

## VOLUNTEER STAFF

**PDG Ed Taylor**, Lacey Sunrise  
Site Manager Trainer  
Quality Assurance

**Pat Baron**, Lacey Lamplighters  
Materials Recycling

**Frankie Sokso**, Lacey Sunrise  
**Malena Hine**, Lacey Sunrise  
Mission Coordinators

**Linda Bennett**, Lacey Sunrise  
Supplies Manager & QA Assistant

**Alan Bennett** (Community Volunteer)  
Building Maintenance Coordinator

**IPDG Lisa Ikeda**, Pierce County Virtual  
Newsletter Editor, Marketing Assistant

**Vacant**  
IT Technician/Webmaster



**WE SERVE**  
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## VOLUNTEER SITE MANAGERS

**Judy Ann Bergvall**, Lacey Sunrise

**PZC Suzanne Gayda**, Spanaway

**Paul Martin**, Lacey Sunrise

**Dave Azeltine**, Lacey Sunrise

**Dir. Tim Johnson**, Olympia West

**Ruby Mitchell**, Olympia Host

**Linda & Gil White**, Lacey Sunrise

## Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center



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[admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net](mailto:admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net)



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## NWLERC Hours of Operation

As we are a volunteer operation, our daily hours of operation vary. Please call (360) 923-2075 to confirm availability and/or

to arrange for other times of visits if the need arises.

Please note: all work parties require a Site Manager present.



## Newsletter Submissions for the Focus

Please submit your newsletter articles, photos and/or updates to newsletter our newsletter editor IPDG Lisa Ikeda at: [lionlisaikeda@aol.com](mailto:lionlisaikeda@aol.com).

