



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson

Founder

2023—2024 Directors

District L

Diane Neubert

Sequim Valley Lions Club

diane_neubert@yahoo.com

District I

Patti Sparks

Wenatchee Central Lions Club

pjsparkler5652@gmail.com

District O

Kris Reinbold

Lake City-Seattle Lions Club

krisreinbold@msn.com

Carolyn O'Dell

Whidbey Island Lions Club

odie72092@aol.com

District N

Tim Johnson

Olympia West Lions Club

tcjeld@icloud.com

Nina Day

Camas Lions

lion.ninaday@gmail.com

District S

PZC Sam Clayton

Pasco Lions Club

sj.kaclayton@gmail.com

Joy Otis

Spokane Central Lions Club

joy@frpfinancial.com



Focus

A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

“Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time”

SPRING 2024

EDITOR: JERRY ENGEBO



March brings another mission trip

LERC provides glasses for PazSalud El Salvador trip

PazSalud (Peace Health) 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 low income 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: OCS screening focusing on optometry services, eye exams delivering distance and reading glasses, and screening patients for cataracts and pterygia.

When: Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Where: Santa Tecia, El Salvador.

Who: PazSalud served economically marginalized seniors living in the area.

Team: PazSalud assembled the following team to carry out the OCS: ► University of Dr. Andres Bello (UNAB), ► Our Lady of Grace Parish, ► Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center ► Wisconsin Lions Foundation Eyeglass Recycling Center.

Stats:

- 232 low-income patients received comprehensive eye exams,
- 253 pairs of distance and/or reading glasses prescribed,
- 29 patients with cataracts identified and given referrals for possible surgery,
- 53 bottles of eye lubricant distributed
- 53 optometrists from the UNAB provided service



NEW SIGNS INSTALLED

Here are some photos of our work party on Monday installing the new signs on the side of the warehouse. John Kirry, Kerby Kee, Steve Staudinger, Lyell Clark and District "N" Director Tim Johnson got out their tools to spray the "green sheen" off the building and then installed the signs.

The signs were generously donated by our District "I" Board Director PDG Patti Sparks and her husband Garry.



The following report and photographs were provided by Milwaukee Lion Charles Brod.

NW LERC provided 1500 pairs of readers for this Peru campaign

To all of you who have supported the work of the Lions here in Peru, my heartfelt thanks. It has been a trip with some challenges and some wonderful successes. The first challenge was simply getting out of Portland and to Peru. After a 36-hour trip, we finally made it. Once in Lima, we had our second challenge when customs impounded four of the five bags of reading glasses and other supplies. They allowed us to travel on with one bag that allowed us to do some vision campaigns over the week. The bags are still in Lima but after a consultation with customs in Chiclayo, my writing a donation letter, and the local Lions working with the Municipality of Lambayeque, it seems there is a way forward to get them out of impound and on to Lambayeque. It has been a learning curve that should point the way to better document preparation in the future.

We were not the only ones with travel difficulties as fellow Lion Tom Carter could not escape his house atop an icy hill. He arrived on Monday afternoon to begin his water quality work with local communities, work he has been pursuing for 20 years in retirement. It was a bit of a homecoming for Tom as he had served in the Peace Corps in the early 60s in the port town of Chimbote.

Though we stumbled out of the blocks, we accomplished a good deal in the week. Beth and I were welcomed by community members of Mocce Antiguo, a community we had supported with the rehabilitation of a preschool. After showing us all the enhancements done on the school, we committed to the installation of a water system, essentially a tank and piping that will provide consistent water as the municipal system only supplies water several hours a day. Tom worked with community members to test the water. On Friday, we returned to the preschool to present results of the water testing along with a water safety presentation, screen school children for eyeglass needs with the new Spot Vision Screener, and a distribution of reading glasses using simple diopter eye charts.

On Saturday we traveled to a rice farming community where Tom Carter presented his water quality program. We also did a small distribution of reading glasses.

The Lions in Lambayeque have already begun identifying school children in need of prescription glasses and supplying them with the necessary exam and glasses. This is a great start to using the Spot for finding those children in need of glasses. I was able to provide some training around the Spot and Lions were able to use it at Mocce.

Again, thank you for your support,

Charles Brod

Attached photos show a reading glasses fitting at Valle Nuevo, the presentation of the Spot screener to the two clubs in Lambayeque, students receiving their eyeglasses provided by Ciudad Evocadora Lions Club, and screening children in Mocce for vision problems.



Pinsons provide LERC information at Lacey Volunteer Fair



The Volunteer Fair was held at Panorama City, a large retirement community in Lacey, WA was held on February 22nd. Dr. Bob Pinson and Roberta Pinson represented the Northwest Lions Recycling Center by setting up an information table to answer questions about who we are and what we do. Residents of Panorama were invited to set up tables to disseminate information about community 501 (c)3 organizations where they volunteer.

Roberta was busy informing residents, who were excited to find a place to take their old glasses and hearing aids, about the NWLERC and encouraging people to volunteer at our Center. We did get a place to put a recycle container box, a new volunteer to service it and stirred up excitement about us. Many of our new brochures were handed out and we are working to place more information in our community publications and on our TV station.

Our District N Past District Governors group had their monthly meeting at NWLERC and had a great time sorting and cleaning glasses as well as helping to organize the warehouse.



Site Managers,

Here are several activities updates for your information:



Washing and polishing glasses is urgent! Please have as many volunteers as possible carry out this activity. You will see a new, large sign at the sign-in desk, a reminder of the need – provide much needed lens tech-ready glasses!



When boxing glasses for recycle, please stack them in rows and layers in the boxes. This method of packing provides a volume of 3 to 5 more pounds per box, a much more efficient use of our recycle boxes - \$ saved!



We will have available the week of April 15 a paper form to be attached to completed boxes of clean/polished glasses, indicating type of glasses (SV, MV, Suns) and date placed on the shelf for lens techs. Forms will be placed on the polishing tables and also in office desk files. Please ensure your volunteers comply – less confusion about contents of boxes!



MD19-0 convention includes hands-on NWLERC eyeglass information

At the 1st MD19-O Spring Convention on Saturday, March 23, 2024, we were honored to have had the opportunity to host a Hands-On Session as part of the Spring Convention of Events.

NWLERC District O-South Director Kris Reinhold and NWLERC Secretary Jacqueline Nelson represented NWLERC by displaying eyeglasses for the participants to the session to sort through. Many learned what to look for in terms of sorting through glasses for their own Lions Club's Eyeglass Collection Programs. There were plenty of eyeglasses to go around and the Lions participants had fun making short order of sorting through the eyeglasses.

We also had a Vendor Booth at the MD19-O Spring Convention with information on the importance of NWLERC in our Lions community as well as other valuable information for Lions Clubs.

Thank you District O Governor Joel Hagen for allowing us to actively participate in your MD19-O Spring Convention.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Carolyn O'Dell
NWLERC District O - North Director

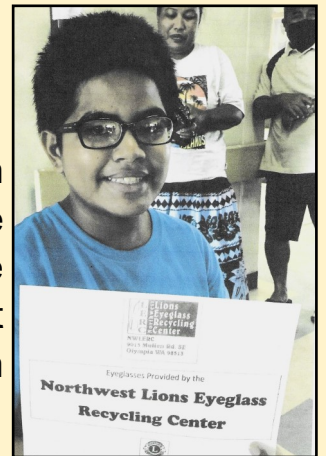
I have a friend Faye with the Los Cabos Ministry for Christ. She just picked up 2,000 glasses to take down to Cabo in June. She works with Pastor Brian down there. These are some of the kids she sees there. She serves lunch to them. She was very happy to connect with me at City Gates Hunger Drive to find out how she could get some glasses for the kids. I told her I volunteer at LERC and would get her a form to request some glasses to take down when she goes. She was thrilled to get the glasses for her mission trip in June. She had no idea of where to get them from. It was great to be able to connect her with LERC as she didn't know about us.

Ruby Mitchell



The smiles tell it all

The photo at the left is from a February 2024 vision clinic in Puerto Valarta Mexico and the one on the right is from a recent clinic in Majuro in the Marshall Islands. It's obvious from their smiles that they are happy with the gift of good vision from clinics provided with eyeglasses from NWLERC.



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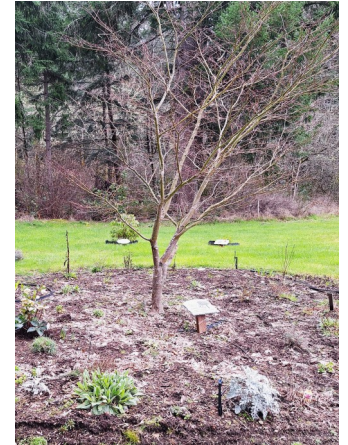
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I lost my friend Marla Collison on February 10th at her home. She loved to help me at LERC especially when we had the girl scouts there. I planted a Helleborus in her honor in our memorial garden. She's going to be missed terribly. There are also some white pansies I planted in the raised bed and in the flower bed as she liked white. I want her to be remembered. This is her plant.. The raised bed at LERC is looking real nice with the blooming flowers. I also planted some white violas in it in remembrance of my friend, Marla.

— Ruby Mitchell

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

9013 Mullen Rd. S.E.

Olympia, WA 98513

360-923-2075

www.lionsnwlerc.org

admin@NorthwestLERC.com castbiz.net



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