



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>

Editor: IPDG Lisa Ikeda

lionlisaikeda@aol.com



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

May/June 2025



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Founder

2024-2025 Directors

District L

Vacant

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District O

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Spokane Central Lions Club
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Meet Our Mission Fulfillment Volunteers!

It takes a lot of volunteers to help us accomplish our vital Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center mission of "Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time. In our twenty-one years of operation, we have received and processed over 3.8 million pairs of glasses through our facility. Of these, only 327,000 selected pairs have met our rigorous optical standards and been deemed good enough to be sent on 391 missions.

For many years, our mission fulfillment was done by Berta Fender, who has handed off this important responsibility on to other volunteers to complete. Meet Malena Hine and Frankie Sokso, our mission fulfillment volunteers!

If you go into the back room of our facility you will see neatly arranged boxes containing hundreds and hundreds of pairs of mission-ready eyeglasses, waiting for customers. And you will often find Malena and Frankie there, working to fulfill the orders that come in from around the world. Mission providers send us a request for certain numbers of eyeglasses in certain prescription strengths. They may also want reading glasses and non-prescription sunglasses in their order. Malena and Frankie do their best to accommodate these orders, select the appropriate glasses and arrange shipping that is paid for by the mission providers.

Malena and Frankie are doing a great job and I am pleased to spotlight them this month!

Keep up the good work, ladies!

Kerby Kee
NWLERC President



VOLUNTEER SITE MANAGERS

1st Monday 9am to Noon	Laurel Strong, Lacey Sunrise
3rd Monday 9am to Noon	Judy Ann Bergvall, Lacey Sunrise
2nd/4th Monday 9am to Noon	Vacant
Tuesdays 9am to Noon	Paul Martin, Lacey Sunrise Dave Azeltine, Lacey Sunrise
Wednesdays 9am to Noon	Jeanne Gallo, Community Volunteer
3rd Wednesday Noon to 2pm	Tim Johnson, Olympia West George Spencer, Olympia West
Thursdays 9am to Noon	Vacant
Fridays 1pm to 4pm	Ruby Mitchell, Olympia Host
Saturdays (By Appt.)	Varies by Site Manager's availability
Sundays (By Appt.)	Linda & Gil White, Lacey Sunrise

Please call to confirm days, times and availability before arriving
(360) 923-2075

Gratitude Corner:



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lion Iris Young for her many years of unwavering dedication and exceptional service to NWLERC. As a dedicated and dependable volunteer, Iris's recent retirement has left a significant void, and her presence will be deeply missed.



Photo above: Lion Iris examining, glasses, using the lensometer to read the prescription.

In Memoriam – Lion Rogers Wisniewski

We are saddened to share the passing of Lion Rogers Wisniewski, a devoted and longtime Satellite Chairperson of the Whidbey Island Lions Club. For many years, Lion Rogers faithfully served the Lions of District 190-7 by collecting eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cellphones—helping extend the gift of sight and sound to countless individuals in need. His dedication and service leave a lasting legacy within our Lions community. Rogers will be deeply missed.



Rogers examining and polishing glasses prior to being sent to the lensometer.

Additionally, NWLERC would like to recognize and express our gratitude to Diane Neubert who served as NWLERC 19L Director, Linda Bennett, who served as our Supplies Manager, Quality Assurance Assistant and Site Manager and her husband Alan Bennett, who served as our Building Maintenance Coordinator.

Although they have stepped away to focus on other endeavors, their impact remains deeply appreciated.



Thank you
Volunteers

We want to thank all of our volunteers at NWLERC, Lions Clubs Members, and Community Members, we couldn't have achieved our commitment to those with vision impairments without all of you. Thank you for making a difference!

NWLERC Mission Report

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



Mission Requests

04/20/25 - Mission Dates: May 17 - 23, 2025

Mission #391: Havana, Cuba. David Johnson

Johnson Small Group with Filter of Hope

Request: 195 pairs of reading glasses. 15 pairs each of +0.25 thru +3.25 & up.

185 pairs available in "open inventory".

05/02/25 - In person pick up

Inventory Report: 19,650 pairs of eyeglasses that are mission ready.

***Multi vision +** 2650 eyeglasses (53 boxes) +2.00 thru +4.75 not available

***Multi vision -** 1900 eyeglasses (38 boxes) -1.25 thru -2.75, -3.25 not available

***Single vision +** 2100 eyeglasses (42 boxes) +1.00, +1.75 thru +2.25, +3.00 thru +4.00 & up not available

Single vision - 9300 eyeglasses (204 boxes)

*** Readers** 3,700 eyeglasses (74 boxes) +.25, +.75, +2.25, +3.25 & up not available

Other Activity

Late April, Larry Stewart from Texas LERC called and confirmed they will accept our excess supply of single vision (-) eyeglasses. We're in agreement that once per month we will be sending them 1000 pairs of eyeglasses following the USPS Publication 347 guidelines. Mid - June another express shipment of 1,000 single vision eyeglasses will be sent to Texas LERC.

In April, Peace Health / Paz Salud fitted 600 individuals with eyeglasses during their missions in San Julian and Izalco, El Salvador. Darren Streff sends his thanks and appreciation to all the Lions for their continued support.

In May, iCARE Director Steven Stern thanked Northwest LERC for the donation of the lenometer and Lisa Ikeda for transporting it to and from the Bahamas and in June delivered it to him once back in Washington.

NWLERC Key Statistics			
As of May 31, 2025	This Month	This Year 2024-25	Since 2004
Volunteer Hours	453	5,437	164,055
Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission-Ready Eyeglasses	81	795	3,416 <small>(Since Feb. 2021)</small>
Eyeglasses Processed for Missions	1,134	13,415	38,707 <small>(Since Feb. 2021)</small>
Raw Eyeglasses Information			
Raw Eyeglasses Received	16,101	183,505	3,832,670
Raw Eyeglasses Recycled	0	188,000	2,386,670
Mission Information			
Eyeglasses to Missions/Events	0	7,774	327,380
Missions Supported	0	9	391
Mission-Ready Inventory	19,650		

All Clubs - A Friendly Reminder - Eyeglass Drop-off/Collection Box Maintenance

- Please ensure your club's full name is listed on the box or bag when dropping off eyeglasses to NWLERC to receive proper credit, as other clubs may have similar names.
- Regularly check and maintain your club's eyeglass collection boxes within your community to prevent overfilling and potential damage to the glasses.
- Clearly label each collection box with your club's contact information for pickup. NWLERC receives numerous calls and emails requesting pickup, and it's often difficult to determine which club is responsible for each location.
- Additionally, please email us at nwlercmedia@gmail.com with an updated list of your club's collection box locations. We continue to receive frequent requests for drop-off sites, and our website list has not been updated since before COVID.



Your continued support helps keep this vital program running smoothly. Thank you!

On-site Site Managers and Lensometer Technicians are currently in high demand at NWLERC.

Site Managers helps with the day-to-day operations of NWLERC, ensuring everything runs smoothly for our volunteers and the community we serve. Volunteers can request their schedules, and we currently have shifts available on Thursdays from 9am to noon, as well as afternoon shifts.

Lensometer Technicians play a key role in our eyeglass recycling process by reading prescriptions after the glasses have been sorted, washed, and polished.



If you can spare 4 or more hours a month, we would be incredibly grateful for your time and energy. Training is available for both positions — no experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and a heart to serve.

Other key positions needing dedicated volunteers at NWLERC

VP - Administration: Help keep our office organized by managing operations and handling correspondence. Help ensure everything runs efficiently.

VP - Operations: Help oversee daily activities, manage resources, and help oversee coordinate work with others to keep things running smoothly.

VP - Outreach: Help spread the word about NWLERC! Help develop outreach programs, visit clubs, build community relationships, and help promote our mission.

Building Maintenance Coordinator: Help maintain our facilities, help coordinate routine maintenance, and repairs. Help keep our space in top shape.

We hold monthly executive committee meetings where we come together to support each other as a team. A full description of each position is available.

These volunteer positions are essential to NWLERC's continued success. If you are interested, please contact us to learn more about how to get involved. Your support will help us continue our mission "Changing Lives - One Pair Of Eyeglasses At A Time." Email us at: missionsupport@NWLERC.org

Bringing Vision and Hope to the Bahamas:

PDG Lisa Ikeda, VP-Marketing Chair for NWLERC, recently participated in a Vision Mission with iCARE in the Bahamas, traveling between Nassau and Exuma islands.



Before her departure, Lisa trained over 40 hours to use a lensometer. NWLERC voted to donate a discontinued lensometer for her to take on the mission. While iCARE has previously requested used glasses from NWLERC, they have shifted in recent years to using only new glasses.

The mission team was composed of 21 dedicated volunteers, including (retired/practicing) ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, a nurse, 2 recent medical graduates, and other support personnel from the US. Lisa was the only volunteer affiliated with Lions and/or LERC. The scope of the mission was exceptional: 12 clinics were set up and dismantled, including visits to 10 different school locations, with 11 schools served on Exuma Island alone. Over four clinic days, the team provided care to over 1,384 patients across the two islands. The team dispensed 329 prescription glasses (303 to be custom made) distributed and donated 760 reading glasses and 700 sunglasses. The optical team has placed custom orders, and a smaller team will return this September to the Bahamas to provide the custom glasses.

Lisa expresses her deep appreciation to NWLERC for their support in training and donating a lensometer to iCARE, and also to the Camas Lions Club for organizing a GoFundMe, and to those donating to support her in this life-changing journey.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

VP - Administration: **Vacant**

VP - Outreach: **Vacant**

VP - Marketing: **PDG Lisa Ikeda**,
Pierce County Virtual
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

VP: Operations: **Vacant**

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

Treasurer: **PDG Stephen Staudinger**,
Battleground

Senior Advisors:

PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Lacey Sunrise

PZC Roberta Pinson, Lacey Sunrise

PCC John Kirry, Gig Harbor

Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters

Lyell Clark, Lacey Sunrise

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Site Manager Trainer and
Quality Assurance:
PDG Ed Taylor, Lacey Sunrise

Materials Recycling:
Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters

Mission Coordinators:
Malena Hine, Lacey Sunrise
Frankie Sokso, Lacey Sunrise
missionsupport@nwlerc.com

Supplies Manager:
Lyell Clark, Lacey Sunrise

Volunteer Coordinator:
Ruby Mitchell, Olympia Host
rockynoly@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
PDG Lisa Ikeda, Pierce County Virtual
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

Join our Team, Volunteer Today!



NWLERC Website / FOCUS Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your website/newsletter articles, photos and/or updates to our
VP - Marketing Chair PDG Lisa Ikeda
nwlercmedia@gmail.com



NWLERC Hours of Operation

As NWLERC is a volunteer-run operation, our daily hours may vary.

We kindly ask that you call ahead at (360) 923-2075 to confirm availability or to arrange an alternate time to visit, if needed.

Please Note: All work parties require a Site Manager to be present.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!



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2025 NWLERC UPCOMING CALENDAR

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

Executive Board/Staff Meetings:

Held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 12:30 PM