



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: PDG Lisa Ikeda

lionsliakeda@aol.com



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

Winter 2025/2026



PZC Dr. Bob Pinson, Founder

2024-2025 Directors

District L

Vacant

District I

PDG Patti Sparks
Wenatchee Central Lions Club
pjsparkler5652@gmail.com

District O

VDG Carolyn O'Dell
Whidbey Island Lions Club
odie72092@aol.com

District N

Tim Johnson
Olympia West Lions Club
tcjeld@icloud.com

Ken Hash
Early Bird Longview Lions Club
kenhash@comcast.net

District S

Joy Otis
Spokane Central Lions Club
joy@frpfinancial.com

In Memory of Colonel Dr. Robert "Bob" Pinson, Founder Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

We honor the life and legacy of Colonel Dr. Robert "Bob" Pinson (February 1, 2026), visionary founder of NWLERC.

A retired U.S. Army optometrist and proud Lacey Sunrise Lion, Bob and his wife Roberta founded NWLERC in 2004 with a simple belief: the gift of sight is a fundamental right.

Over 22 years and 400 missions, his leadership helped more than 350,000 people worldwide see more clearly — restoring dignity, independence, and hope.

His legacy lives on in every pair of glasses we prepare and every life we help change.



400 Missions of Service — A Milestone Worth Celebrating

At the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, we believe everyone deserves the gift of sight. This year, we proudly completed our 400th distribution mission — a milestone reflecting two decades of dedication.

Since 2004, our volunteers have processed more than 3 million pairs of donated glasses. Each pair is carefully screened, cleaned, and verified with lensometers to ensure the highest quality before reaching those in need.

Quality care. Zero waste. Total volunteer dedication.

As we enter our third decade of service, we invite Lions and community members to join us in "Changing Lives — One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time."

NWLERC President Kerby Kee

Lions Club Eyeglass Donations October 2025 – December 2025

District L: Port Angeles

District I: Lake Chelan, Wenatchee Central

District O: Anacortes, Bellingham Central, Burien, Coupeville, Des Moines, Edmonds, Everett Central, Everett South, Fairwood, Mill Creek Woodinville, Mount Vernon, Mukilteo, Orcas Island, Redmond, Seattle University Ballard, Sedro Woolley, West Seattle, Whidbey Central, Whidbey South

District N: Battle Ground, Bonney Lake, Bremerton Central, Camas, Castle Rock, Fort Vancouver, Gig Harbor, Greater Puyallup, Hazel Dell, Kalama, Kelso, La Center, Lacey Lamplighters, Lacey Sunrise, Longview Kelso Earlybirds, Longview Pioneer, North Clark, Olympia Host, Olympia West, Peninsula, Poulsbo, Ridgefield, Salmon Creek, Tumwater, Vancouver, Vancouver Dawn, Washougal, Yelm

District S: Chewelah Valley, Grand Coulee Dam, Lewiston, Liberty Lake, Post Falls, Spokane Central, Spokane Shadle North, Toppenish, Yakima Terrace Heights

Inside the NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

Behind every pair of glasses we distribute is a dedicated team of Lions and community volunteers who take pride in doing the job right. At the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Olympia, Washington, volunteers carefully clean, inspect, and measure each donation to ensure it can truly help someone in need.

This past year, our work improved even more with the replacement of some of our outdated lens-measuring equipment. These new lensometers allow prescriptions to be read more accurately and efficiently, helping volunteers process glasses faster while improving the quality of every shipment we send around the world. It has been a valuable asset to our center and to those we ultimately serve. Not every pair of glasses can be reused, but even unusable ones are responsibly recycled. The usable pairs are sorted, labeled, and prepared for distribution to clinics and mission teams. It's careful, behind-the-scenes work — but it's exactly what turns donations into clear vision.



NWLERC Mission Report - January 2026

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



Request for Readers: Virgil Clarkson Lacey Senior Center – Laurel Strong filled the eyeglass carousel with 45 readers and 18 eyeglass cases.

Mission Request – Completed: #396 Called to Love Uganda, PCC Patty Allen-White Completed on 01/09/2026

New Mission Request: 01/28/2026 - Mission Dates: 06/22 thru 07/05 2026 Mission #401. Nebbi District, Uganda – Lance C. Almond of Ridgefield United Methodist Church. Request: 57 pairs of women and children eyeglasses, 20 soft cases, and 36 hard cases.

Partner Donations: Kitsap Project Connect – Several boxes of new readers were donated to NWLERC. Glasses ranged in strength from +1.50 to +2.50.

Inventory:

There are 20,700 eyeglasses that are mission ready.

*Multi-vision (+) 3150 eyeglasses (63 boxes). +2.25 thru +4.75 not available.

*Multi-vision (-) 2500 eyeglasses (50 boxes). -1.75, -2.25 thru -2.75, -3.25 not available.

*Single vision (+) 2200 eyeglasses (44 boxes). +1.00, +1.50, +2.00 thru +2.50, +3.00 thru +3.75 not available.

Single vision (-) 9950 eyeglasses (199 boxes).

*Readers 2900 eyeglasses (58 boxes). +.25, +.75, +2.25, +2.75, +3.00, +3.25 & up not available.

Other Activity: Congratulations to the incredible volunteers of the NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center—we’ve reached another milestone! In November 2025, Mission #400, coordinated by David Johnson of Johnson Small Group alongside Filter of Hope, was completed and delivered to Havana, Cuba.

This achievement belongs to each of you. We thank all of you for your continued commitment to service and for helping bring clearer vision to communities in need.



| NWLERC Key Statistics | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|--|
| As of January 31, 2026 | This Month | This Year 2025-26 | Since 2004 |
| Volunteer Hours | 530 | 2,651 | 167,110 |
| Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission-Ready Eyeglasses | 63 | 322 | 3,832 <small>(Since Feb. 2021)</small> |
| Eyeglasses Processed for Missions | 1194 | 6,078 | 46,035 <small>(Since Feb. 2021)</small> |
| Raw Eyeglasses Information | | | |
| Raw Eyeglasses Received | 15,429 | 119,126 | 3,967,396 |
| Raw Eyeglasses Recycled | 0 | 101,100 | 2,537,770 |
| Mission information | | | |
| Eyeglasses to Missions/Events | 45 | 4,912 | 333,217 |
| Missions Supported | 0 | 8 | 400 |
| Mission-Ready Inventory | 20,700 | | |

NWLERC Is Seeking Dedicated Volunteers for Key Roles

NWLERC is currently looking for committed individuals to join our team as **On-site Site Managers** and **Lensometer Technicians**. These roles are vital to keeping our operations running efficiently and ensuring we can continue serving our community.

Site Managers support the day-to-day flow of activity at NWLERC. They help coordinate volunteers, maintain smooth operations, and serve as an on-site resource. Thursday morning shifts (9 a.m.–12 p.m.) are available, along with afternoon options. Training is provided and required.

Lensometer Technicians are an essential part of our eyeglass recycling process. Once donated glasses are sorted, cleaned, and polished, these volunteers read and record prescriptions so the glasses can be matched to someone in need. No prior experience is necessary — we'll teach you everything you need to know.

If you're able to volunteer 4 or more hours a month, your contribution would make a tremendous difference. Both positions offer training, support, and the chance to help transform lives through improved vision.

Additional Volunteer Leadership Roles

NWLERC is also seeking individuals for several important leadership and support positions:

VP – Administration: Maintain office organization, coordinate correspondence, and help keep administrative operations running smoothly.

VP – Operations: Oversee daily functions, manage resources, and collaborate with volunteers to ensure efficient workflow.

VP – Outreach: Strengthen community connections, visit clubs, help build awareness, and promote the mission of NWLERC.

Building Maintenance Coordinator: Oversee facility upkeep, schedule maintenance, and coordinate repairs to keep our building functioning and welcoming.

Our executive committee meets monthly to collaborate, plan, and support one another. Full role descriptions are available upon request.

Volunteers Wanted



sign up today!

Help Us Help More – Pre-Sorting Glasses Makes a Difference!

At the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC), every donated pair of glasses helps restore someone's sight. With our small volunteer team — now reduced due to retirements and moves — we're asking our fellow Lions Clubs for a little extra help.

Before sending donations in, please inspect and pre-sort glasses at the club or zone level (wearing gloves is recommended). This simple step saves many hours for our limited crew, who process thousands of pairs each month, and allows pre-sorted glasses to move more quickly through quality control and prescription testing — ensuring more pairs reach vision missions faster.

When sorting, please remove and set aside broken, scratched, heavily damaged glasses and loose lenses. Separate by type: single vision, bifocal, multi-focal, and progressives (best estimate is fine). Keep children's glasses and sunglasses separate. Do not send hard cases, as they are difficult to sanitize, unless included with designated Special Collections.

We maintain several "Special Collections" that should be kept separate and clearly labeled. For these collections, please keep cases and accessories that maybe included together with their name-brand eyewear to help preserve the condition of the frames and accessories.

Special Collections include:

Aviator, Maui Jim & Gold Frame Project
Attention: Lion John

Magnetic Pair Eyewear / Topper
Collection Attention: Lion Lisa

Your care in pre-sorting allows us to focus on preparing mission-ready glasses efficiently and ensures every donation — even those outside mission parameters — is recycled or reused to support sight-saving work. Thank you for helping us keep sight alive!

NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center Trifecta Award

2025–2026 Lions Year — It’s Not Too Late!

It’s not too late for your club to earn the NWLERC Trifecta Award for the 2025–2026 Lions year. Clubs have until June 30, 2026 to complete all three Trifecta components, and every contribution made between now and then counts.



The Trifecta Award recognizes Lions Clubs that support sight preservation by participating in all three essential areas that keep the NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center strong and effective:

Glasses – Donate used eyeglasses to NWLERC or to a satellite collection site.

Hours – Volunteer time by collecting or delivering eyeglasses and/or working at NWLERC or one of our satellite locations.

Money – Provide financial support to help sustain NWLERC operations and future growth.

It’s that simple: **Glasses, Hours, and Money.**

Whether your club has already started or is just getting underway, there is still plenty of time to complete all three and qualify for this year’s Trifecta Award. Every pair of glasses collected, every volunteer hour given, and every dollar donated helps restore sight and change lives.

We invite all clubs to take part and make Trifecta a meaningful part of your service this Lions year — together, we can continue delivering the gift of vision to those who need it most.

VOLUNTEER SITE MANAGERS

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

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

VP - Marketing: **PDG Lisa Ikeda**,
Cascadia Virtual Lions
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: **PDG Stephen Staudinger**,
Battleground Lions

SENIOR ADVISORS:

Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters Lions

Lyell Clark, Lacey Sunrise Lions

PCC John Kirry, Gig Harbor Lions

PZC Roberta Pinson, Lacey Sunrise Lions

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Lensometer Trainer, Quality Assurance:
Lion Ted Wilson, Lacey Sunrise Lions

Materials Recycling:
Pat Baron, Lacey Lamplighters Lions

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

Supplies Manager:
Lyell Clark, Lacey Sunrise Lions

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

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
PDG Lisa Ikeda, Cascadia Virtual Lions
nwlercmedia@gmail.com

Join our Team, Volunteer Today!

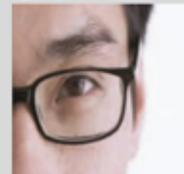
Vacancies:

VP - Administration, VP: Operations
and VP - Outreach

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center



9013 Mullen Road S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513
360-923-2075
www.lionsnwlerc.org



admin@NorthwestLERC.comcastbiz.net

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

NWLERC Hours of Operation

As NWLERC is a volunteer-run operation,
our daily hours 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 of NWLERC!



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



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