



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"

September/October 2025



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

Nina Day
Camas Lions Club
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

Congratulations, Malena Hine!

When Bob and Roberta Pinson founded the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, they also created a special way to honor those who go above and beyond in service — the Founders Fellowship Award.

At our Annual Picnic last month, Co-founder Roberta Pinson had the joy of presenting this year's Founders Fellowship Award to Malena Hine, our outstanding Mission Coordinator!

The Mission Coordinator role is one of the most vital volunteer positions in our organization. Malena oversees requests for eyeglass missions from around the world, working tirelessly to fulfill them so our mission partners can bring the gift of sight to those who need it most. She and Mission Specialist Frankie Sokso make a dynamic team, managing our mission annex to organize, ship, and track orders across the globe.

Our upcoming missions span the world — from Nigeria to Guatemala, Malawi, Uganda, and even our own local Senior Center. And we're thrilled to share that we're nearing a major milestone: our 400th mission since our founding in 2004!

Please join us in celebrating Malena Hine for her dedication, compassion, and excellence in service.

Congratulations on receiving your Founders Fellowship, Malena — a well-deserved honor from PZC Roberta Pinson and all of us at the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center!

Kerby Kee
President, NWLERC



Get Ready for “Kitsap Project Connect” — Coming This January to Bremerton!

The Lions Clubs of Kitsap County are once again teaming up for the annual Kitsap Project Connect event in Bremerton, scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026. This meaningful community outreach brings together volunteers, eye care professionals, and partner organizations like NWLERC and VOSH to provide free vision screening and eyeglasses to individuals in need.



Since 2010, Lions in Kitsap County have proudly supported Project Connect, and since 2011, our collaboration with NWLERC and VOSH has allowed us to provide more than 1,100 pairs of glasses to local residents who might otherwise go without.

Last year's event served 59 individuals, distributing 53 prescription glasses and 6 readers donated by LensCrafters — and the gratitude from those receiving them was truly heart-warming.

This year, we're excited to continue that tradition and hope to expand our reach with more volunteers, eye care professionals, and bilingual helpers to ensure everyone in our community can access the care they deserve.

If you or your club would like to help — whether by volunteering your time, spreading the word, or assisting with logistics — please reach out to Lion Roland Arper, Project Connect Coordinator, jarper@wavecable.com to volunteer.

Even if Project Connect serves a relatively small community, its impact is enormous — and it's a model that other clubs or zones could easily replicate in their own communities. Every pair of glasses, every smile, and every act of service brings us closer to our shared mission of sight.

19N Director Tim Johnson and Q/A Ted Wilson will coordinate on behalf of NWLERC. Stay tuned for confirmed dates and volunteer sign-up details coming soon!

Lion Roland Arper
Project Connect Coordinator
Port Orchard Lions Club

July – September 2025 Lions Club Eyeglass Donations

A big roar of appreciation to all the Lions clubs who stepped up this quarter! From July through September, your eyeglass donations continue to power our mission of restoring sight and changing lives—one pair at a time.

District L: Clallam Bay Sekiu and Sequim Valley

District I: Leavenworth, Mansfield, Moses Lake, Waterville, Wenatchee Central and Wenatchee Valley

District O: Bellingham Central, Coupeville, Coupeville Central Whidbey, Des Moines, Everett Central, Lake Stevens, Mount Vernon, Orcas Island, Renton, San Juan Island, Seattle University Ballard, Mill Creek and Woodinville

District N: Battleground, Bonney Lake, Camas, Castle Rock, Enumclaw, Fife, Fort Vancouver, Gig Harbor, Greater Puyallup, Hazel Dell, Kelso, La Center, Lacey Lamplighters, Lacey Sunrise, Longview Kelso Earlybirds, North Clark, Olympia Host, Olympia West, Poulsbo, Ridgefield, Sumner, Tacoma Southeast, Tumwater, Winlock and Yelm

District S: (none listed by club, but shipment received from Airway Heights)

NWLERC Mission Report

Report by: Malena Hine, Mission Coordinator



Request for Readers

1. During Paul Martin's absence, Laurel Strong continues to fill the eyeglass carousel with readers at the Virgil Clarkson Lacey Senior Center. For September, we provided 84 pairs of readers and 5 eyeglass cases.
2. Mukilteo Lions Club. Their club branch is asking about starting a project. They would like to provide reading glasses for their local library. A Request for Eyeglasses order form was emailed to Art Ruben for completion and returned. No response to date.

Mission Requests - Completed

07/03/25 - Mission Dates: Oct / 20 thru 24 /2025 Mission #395. Nigeria, Africa - Alaro Lawson of Amaibima Foundation Request: 3045 pairs of adult eyeglasses and 50 pairs of sunglasses and 50 soft cases. Provided 2642 eyeglasses including 50 pairs of sunglasses and at least 140 soft cases.09/20/25 - In person pick up - (7) large mission shipping boxes.

09/08/25 - Mission Dates: Oct /1st thru 24 / 2025 Mission #397. Malawi, Africa - Living Hope Church, Vancouver, WA Steve & Nancy Murry Request: 160 pairs of adult reader glasses. Provided 100 pairs of eyeglasses. 09/22/25 - Shipped UPS.

09/11/25 - Mission Dates: Oct 31 thru Nov 9 / 2025 Mission #398. Guatemala - WIND. Rich Rice Request: Follow-up request from August Mission. 50 pairs of single vision (-) without astigmatism correction. Provided 27 pairs.09/22/25 - Shipped UPS.

Mission Request - Pending

08/30/25 - Mission Dates: Jan / 6th thru 22 / 2026 Mission #396. Called to Love Uganda.

PCC Patty Allen-White Request: 200 pairs of adult reader glasses. 50 pairs of +3.00 readers - inventory slowly building. Patty pick up in person in January.



NWLERC Key Statistics			
As of September 30, 2025	This Month	This Year 2025-26	Since 2004
Volunteer Hours	303	1,046	165,505
Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission-Ready Eyeglasses	40	135	3,645 (Since Feb. 2021)
Eyeglasses Processed for Missions	779	2,371	42,328 (Since Feb. 2021)
Raw Eyeglasses Information			
Raw Eyeglasses Received	9,198	30,522	3,878,792
Raw Eyeglasses Recycled	0	0	2,436,670
Mission Information			
Eyeglasses to Missions/Events	2,853	3,373	331,678
Missions Supported	3	5	397
Mission-Ready Inventory	18,700		

Retirement of PDG Ed Taylor

Lacey Sunrise Lions Club

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center extends sincere appreciation to Past District Governor Ed Taylor of the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club as he retires from his volunteer service.

Ed has served as our Quality Assurance and Lensometer Trainer, meticulously verifying each pair of eyeglasses after the lensometer technicians read the prescription. His precision and dedication ensured every pair met our high standards before being sent on to future missions.

We thank PDG Ed Taylor for his outstanding service and lasting contributions to the work of NWLERC and the Lions' mission of bringing the gift of sight to others.



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

Site Managers help oversee 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. Site Manager Training is required.

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 helps oversee 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



VOLUNTEER SITE MANAGERS

1st/2nd Monday 9am to Noon	Laurel Strong, Lacey Sunrise
3rd Monday 9am to Noon	Judy Ann Bergvall, Lacey Sunrise
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



Volunteer Appreciation BBQ — A Wonderful Afternoon Together!

Last month, NWLERC hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck & BBQ to celebrate the amazing people who keep our mission running strong. It was a relaxed gathering filled with good food, laughter, and heartfelt gratitude for all the hard work our volunteers contribute throughout the year.

A special thank-you goes to Lion Lyell Clark, who purchased the meat and supplies, and to PCC John Kirry, who fired up the grill and cooked up a fantastic BBQ feast — everything was delicious! Founding member Roberta Pinson proudly presented the Founder's Fellow Award to Lion Malena Hine of the Lacey Sunrise Lions, (who serves as our mission coordinator) honoring her commitment, compassion, and countless volunteer hours given in service to NWLERC's mission of sight.

It was a lovely afternoon of fellowship and appreciation, reminding us all why this work matters — and how much stronger we are together. Thank you to everyone who attended, brought a dish to share, and continues to make NWLERC a shining example of service through teamwork and heart.



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

Quality Assurance/Lensometer Trainer:
Ted Wilson, 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
murphymax2@yahoo.com

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

Join our Team, Volunteer Today!

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!





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





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2025 NWLERC UPCOMING CALENDAR

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

Executive Board/Staff Meetings:

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