



A Publication of the
Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
September, 2009

WSRA 2009 "Non-Profit Recycler of the Year"

United Way Day of Caring—9/11 at Qwest Field

John Kirry, President, NWLERC

It was just before 7am on this sunny September day and already a hundred or more people were lined up around the entrance to Qwest Field. Some had been sleeping on cardboard, some were talking among themselves, but most were just waiting. Many clutched their possessions in backpacks, boxes or trash bags. The doors would not open until 9am, yet they waited patiently as service providers like our crew from NWLERC filed in to set up.

What they were waiting for was the United Way's Day of Caring King County Resource Exchange where hundreds of volunteers were preparing to connect thousands of area homeless to services and resources. We were there from the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center to help with vision services, and I have never been more proud of our volunteers.

We brought reading glasses and sunglasses and a lensometer to test the eyeglasses of our customers. **Jim Labelle** and **Rena Larson** did most of the greeting, intake and lensometer work. **Pat Baron** and **Jeannie Phillips** helped with the eye testing and **Pat Phillips** and I kept the traffic moving. We were joined by **Joe Miller** and **Woodrow Davis** from the Seattle Rainier Lions, and they graciously filled in wherever they were needed.

From the time we opened for business at 9am, the people never stopped coming. By the end, we had screened 212 people with vision concerns. Working alongside us in the vision area were our partners from VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) and Lenscrafters. Through our combined efforts, we distributed over 400 pairs of sunglasses and hundreds of pairs reading glasses. Lenscrafters gave vouchers for nearly 300 pairs of prescription glasses.

This was a very worthwhile event for everybody, and our little group of eight Lions seemed much larger. In a bigger way, we were joined in spirit by the hundreds of volunteers from all over MD-19 who diligently collect, sort, clean and process eyeglasses. All of those volunteers were right alongside us that day, helping to give the gift of clear vision to those in need.

Thanks for all you do as volunteers for NWLERC. Your efforts helped a lot of homeless individuals and families that day. I hope you can join us at the Tacoma Dome for the Mid-October 2009 Project Homeless Connect. It's a rewarding experience indeed.

John

NWLERC Staff

John Kirry
President/
Focus Editor

PZC Jeannie Phillips
Secretary/Satellite Mgr

PZC Mel Williamson
Vice President-
Fundraising

PDG Emerson Bishop
Vice President-
Outreach

Lyell Clark
Treasurer

Ed Kane
Public Relations/
Website

PZC Bob Pinson
Founder

Terry Wright
Co-Founder and
Prison Partnership
Coordinator

Cliff Brandsma
Pat Baron
Jim & Carol Bartley
Jean Cook
Lyell Clark
Jack Ford
Michael Petty
Pat Phillips
Bob Pinson
Operations Group



Our Leader...

Contact Us
Northwest Lions
Eyeglass Recycling
Center
9013 Mullen Rd
Olympia WA 98513
360-923-2075
www.lionsnwlerc.org

A 501(c)3 Foundation

Things You Should Know About

September, 2009.

Volunteer Picnic Set for September 26. Our annual volunteer picnic will be held on Saturday, September 26. This year's picnic has a twist: we'll have a work party and THEN a potluck. Don't you all feel, well, *honored*? Details: Saturday, September 26 at the LERC. We'll be doing some recycling and processing from 10-12, then we'll have a potluck after. We'll provide plates, utensils, napkins and drinks. You bring something to share for the potluck. Contact Jeannie Phillips snipn@aol.com or Pat Baron pcardmaker@comcast.net. All volunteers and their families are welcome.

Also, we're honoring our **Site Managers** at this picnic for all their hard work keeping things running and dreaming up new "recipes" to make our glasses come out clean from the dishwashers. (a 50-50 proposition lately) We hope you'll join us in September 26!

Our New Water Softener Arrives! Perhaps the days of wondering which recipe will actually work in our dishwashers is coming to a blissful end. Digits crossed for now. The device has been purchased (it looks a little like a very blue R2-D2) and we'll get it installed shortly. Once again our thanks go out to the **Olympia Host Lions Club** and **Kent Lions Club** for their generous donation of funds to make this purchase happen.

Ed Kane Does it again. At our last Executive Committee meeting, we asked our talented PR guy, Ed Kane, to create a new NWLEC brochure. Not only does he keep our website humming, he's taken on the brochure as well. He'll present the almost-finished product at our next meeting.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday September 22. We meet at 6:30 at the NWLERC building in Lacey. While space is somewhat limited, anyone with an interest is welcome to attend to see what we're up to. President John likes to get the meetings done in under ~~four~~ two hours.

District G Works to Send Glasses to Afghanistan

Kerby Kee, the hard worker at the center of our Longview-area Satellite has come up with a great idea. Responding to a request from a church, he's working with **Bob Pinson** to develop a mission for Afghani civilians. We'll keep you posted on this exciting and worthwhile project that will bring vision services to needy Afghan through our US Military. Thanks to **Kerby and Bob**, Project Afghanistan is underway.

DG Virginia Edgelow Visits NWLERC. We were very pleased to host DG Virginia Edgelow and husband PDG Grev at the Lacey center in late August. Photos and full story below. These nice folks traveled all the way from Canada just to see us. Thanks, Virginia and Grev!

**NWLERC volunteers help at the
United Way Day of Caring
King County Community Resource
Exchange
September 11, 2009**



**Pat Phillips, Jeannie Phillips, John Kirry and Jim LaBelle
at the King County Community Resource Exchange at
Qwest Field on 9/11. Rena Larson also attended (not
pictured)**



**Pat Baron helps a customer while
Jeannie Philips points to the visual
acuity chart.**



**Jim LaBelle, Jeannie Phillips, Pat Phillips and Rena
Larson at the patient intake table. Our NWLERC
team screened over 200 people in the five hours we
were there.**



**Intake screening before the customers
move on to the visual acuity and then in
to see the Optometrists from VOSH.**

NW LERC Key Statistics

August 31, 2009

Eyeglasses

Eyeglasses	This month	Previous	Lions Year to Date	Previous	NWLERC Total
Received	7,835	8,046	15,881	829,692	837,527
to Missions	400	1,045	1,445	75,006	76,451
Transferred/Recycled	31,220	434	31,654	169,574	200,794
Volunteer Hours	374	393	767	18,565	18,939
Mission-ready Inventory					13,800



District Governor (H) Virginia Edgelow and husband PDG Grev visited NWLERC and received a full briefing on our mission and facilities. What nice people they are!

On August 21, **DG-H Virginia Edgelow** and husband **PDG Grev** made the trek from Canada all the way to Lacey. They were accompanied by Director **Dr Ken Henderson** and Border Crossing Editor **Chaz Nelson** from Bellingham Central. **President John Kirry** gave a Power Point presentation on our mission and a large NWLERC staff was gathered to answer questions. Thanks, DG Virginia, for traveling such a long way to see us! Grev and Virginia were hosted to a lunch after with **DG-C Dave and Jacqueline Pratt**.



Site Manager Roberta Pinson chats with PDG Grev and DG Virginia. Michael Petty on right.



**Our wonderful volunteers give new meaning to the term “work party!”
Just another beautiful Wednesday in September.....**

