

NWLERC Report

Submitted by President Kerby Kee

Thanks to the continued support of Lions Clubs throughout Washington and Idaho, this new Lions year finds the NWLERC on solid footing. Our core team of dedicated volunteers is keeping our facility in Olympia busy, processing high-quality used eyeglasses for distribution by optometric missions around the world.

We anticipate that in 2025-26 we will be supporting an average of 1-2 missions per month, some requesting hundreds of glasses and some for thousands. We have both regularly-scheduled work parties during the week, as well as Lions Clubs that visit and work periodically throughout the year. We continue to advertise for more volunteers, including from the local community.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for September 20, and it gives all of our volunteers some time to have a little fun, food, and fellowship. It also gives our officers and staff a chance to thank everyone for making the NWLERC so successful.

Each year we award "Trifecta" banner patches to Lions Clubs that donate in three categories: glasses, volunteer hours, and money. The 2024-25 patches were recently mailed to 35 clubs in MD-19; 1 in District L, 3 in District I, 4 in District O, 24 in District N, and 3 in District S.

This summer saw the introduction of our newly-designed website. It is similar to our previous one and has the same web address, but it was set up using software that makes it much easier to edit and keep up to date.

Our *Focus* newsletter is now produced and distributed every other month. In addition to being provided to Lion presidents and secretaries, it is posted on our website, the MD-19 website, and on Facebook.

We are still dealing with the challenge of filling some officer and key staff positions, including Admin and Ops VPs, QA Manager, and District Directors. Our Directors act as liaisons between the NWLERC and the Lions Clubs in their District. We have been unable to replace two very active Directors in Districts L and O. We would appreciate help from the district leadership for recommendations for new Directors to assist the American clubs in Zone L-I1 (the Canadian clubs support their CLERC), and in the southern portion of District O (formerly District B).

We're looking forward to another successful year of upholding our motto "Saving Lives, One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time".