

NWLERC Report to the MD-19 Council of Governors for their meeting on 2/7/26.
Submitted by President Kerby Kee

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In the early 2000's, Dr. Bob Pinson, a dedicated Lion and retired optometrist, began thinking about starting an eyeglass recycling center in the Pacific Northwest. Fellow Lions rallied behind him, and in 2004 the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center became one of only 20 LERCs sanctioned by Lions International. It is with deep sorrow that we report that Bob passed away peacefully on February 1st. Our founder may be gone, but his legacy will continue.

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The NWLERC is still thriving as we enter the second half of the 2025-26 Lions year. Our treasurer reports we're in excellent financial shape as we continue to process recycled glasses for missions around the world, thanks to the support we receive from the Lions Clubs of MD-19.

The officers and staff are very proud to announce that the NWLERC recently fulfilled a request for glasses for our **400th** mission! It's a great milestone to celebrate and we're so appreciative of all the volunteers that have made that possible.

We have also welcomed several new key staff members: Ted Wilson, from the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, as our new QA Manager; and Ken Hash, from the Longview Kelso Early Birds Lions Club, as a new Director for District N.

On January 29th, several of our staff will take part in the annual Kitsap Project Connect in Bremerton, which assists the homeless population with multiple services. It's one way the NWLERC supports local people with eyecare needs; we also provide reading glasses to senior centers.

As for our dedicated volunteers, some Lions Clubs help out on a regular basis, and other clubs schedule special work parties – either way, it's a great hands-on service project. We're also getting more community members coming in, and they get to meet and learn about Lions as well.

Due to several instances of illegal dumping on the property, as well as some suspicious people showing up at odd hours, we recently installed a new security camera system to better protect our facility and make sure our volunteers feel safe.

We are so thankful for all the volunteers who work at the NWLERC, everyone who collects and delivers eyeglasses, and the Lions Clubs that provide financial support so that we can continue to uphold our motto "Saving Lives, One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time".