

2025 Winter Council of Governors Committee Report

Multiple District 19 Environment Committee

District Environment Chairs

L-David Haynes **I**-Bernie Jensen **O**-Enoch Rowland **N**-Barak Gale **S**-Judy Riggers

MD 19 Environment Team Lions Year 2024-2025. Representing all 5 districts, District Environment Chairs & Zone Environment Chairs and Club Environment Chairs work closely with four Lions serving as MD 19 Environment Co-Chairs. We are an Environment Team that meets monthly on Zoom, hosted by Council Chair Patty Allen-White. **We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2p.m. and invite interested Lions to join us.** Write to able@olympen.com. Our team increases in size and scope as we are joined by Lions from throughout our MD and from across the continent.



Lions International Website and Facebook provide ideas, images, resources for Lions around the world. When you post a Club Environmental Service project, use the hashtag #LionsGoGreen.

Read toolkit. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/lions-advocacy-toolkit>

District N Environment Chair, Barak Gale Responds to concerns from Lions that Advocacy is “political” and thus not acceptable service for Lions. He argues for the importance of non-political advocacy: Lions Are Environmental Leaders: "The earth sustains human life. Our environment is more than a background: it's our home. And we're committed to caring for it." (Lions Global Causes). **Advocacy is Part of Lions' Mission:** "Advocacy is an essential tool to ensure good public policy." (Lions International) Speaking up for better waste management or recycling is responsible leadership and good stewardship. **Making It Political by Naming It Political:** Calling good public policy "political" seems to make it political when it wasn't in the first place. **Bipartisan Successes Exist:** House Bill 1085, a 2023 bipartisan law in Washington, tackled plastic pollution with support from both sides. Good environmental policy is not partisan—it's common sense. **Keeping the Conversation Open:** Instead of seeing advocacy as divisive, let's ask: How can we work together on practical solutions? If we stay silent, we leave others to shape policies without us.

Summary of 19N Projects. Some Advocacy in Action. Winter 2024-25. Barak Gale.

1) Lion President Roland Adler, Port Orchard WA Lions, composed and presented to Zone N1 a letter addressed to Kitsap County Commissioners. The letter urges them to amend their County Plan regarding recycling, to make it more effective, and ultimately to help **protect the Boreal Forest of Canada** from massive deforestation for our tissue and other paper products. The proposal was directed to the clubs for consideration. 2) A proposal is submitted for a **card writing session at the April Convention**, advocating for sewage spill transparency and reform of recycling in WA. 3) Zone N2 (Olympia) and N7 (Lacey) have **collected 11,000 lbs of plastic wrappings** for Trex recycling in 2023-24. 4) 19N Environmental Director Barak Gale **has restarted visits to clubs**. He visited Longview Pioneer Lions recently for a presentation titled: "Carrying the Albatross: Environmental Challenges and How Lions Are Making a Difference".



As the Environment Chairs circulate through our districts, speaking to Lions, scanning Facebook pages & websites, these are some of the Lions Environmental Service projects we see.



Yakima Lions Helped Build Bridge in Randall Park. Recently installed sign.



DG Tammy Allan assisted with tree planting in Brazil on Youth Exchange Trip.

Protection Island Lions collected 40 large bags of winter Clothes and over \$4000. Clothes & Cash Drive for Unhoused and vulnerable folks in Nanaimo area.



The Earl Marriott Leo Club has set a target of conducting a park clean up in the South Surrey / White Rock area each month. So far, they have held a clean up of Alderwood Park in September, Bakerview Park in October and Maccaud Park in November.



Spanaway Lions Dianne Whittlesey & Mike Exley. Bremerton Central Iris Young is a lensometer reader. Volunteering at NWLERC



Thanks to Vancouver East Lions Club, Vancouver Pacific Lions Club, Richmond Lahoo Lions Club and Vancouver Lahoo Leo Club. Volunteering at TWECS Eye Glass Warehouse



Kamloops Brock Central Lions use wooden cutlery and compostable plates at their BBQ's & Pancake Breakfasts...Leos clean beaches.... create and maintain parks...Lions do watershed restoration....grow and distribute food...work with partners to advocate for a global plastics treaty.

MD 19 Environment Chairs. Call or Email. We can assist you with ideas and resources.

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