

## Don Wight --- Bio

### Home Club - Bellingham Central Lions

Joined the Bellingham Lions in 1996.

Served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president, President of the Bellingham Lions Club and 3 years as a board member.

Zone Chairman 2010-11 for H1—100% award

Chairman of Wheelchair project four years

Chairman of the Lions International Christmas Ship --- 18 years

Member of the Faculty Development Team 2010 – 13

Received a Letter of Commendation from International President Sid L. Scruggs III 2010 - 11

Melvin Jones Fellowship award 2005-06

Certificate of Generosity to Leader Dogs Tribute Brick Program 08 - 09

District Governor Appreciation award 2009 – 10

District Governor Appreciation award 2010 – 11

Bellingham Central Presidential Appreciation award

Graduate of NW Lions Leadership training

Graduate of Lions leadership 101 & 201

Attended two International Conventions

Attended three USA/CANADA Forums (Memphis, Saskatoon, Anchorage)

Has attended most Conferences, Conventions and Council meetings since joining

Holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Education and a Merchant Marine Masters License for the inland waters of Washington and British Columbia.

Favorite Lion's projects are The International Lions Christmas Ship, The Lions Wheelchair Warehouse and Lions Camp Horizon are favorites.

Still drives boats and works 4 days per week as Captain "Don San Juan".

His wife of 52 years, Marilyn and he have one married son and two really wonderful grandchildren. Marilyn worked enough to put him through college and since then has been very busy with household and Church responsibilities.

He was raised on a farm by grandparents while father was in the Pacific during WWII.

He learned a little about boats and piloting upon the return of his father. Got first **real** job after berry and bean picking, which he *hated*, working as a deckhand/engineer on the fish tender FV Marian. After two seasons and graduating High school in 1959 he signed on as deckhand on the Albacore troller F.V. Fenwick. Fishing Albacore provided many Ocean experiences and got him into almost all ports on the west coast of continental USA. Upon graduating from Western Washington University in 1966 he became a teacher / commercial fisherman (Puget Sound and Bristol Bay AK) and retired from in both 1996. Concentrating on his first love as a Charter Boat Captain he is currently working out of Bellingham for Pacific Cruises Northwest.

As far as hobbies go he really does not have a big one to concentrate on but many small ones. "I don't golf very well, but I do like to travel by boat and cruise the inland waters." He enjoys reading history books about Captains Eliza, Vancouver and Commander Wilkes. He also enjoys reading J.R.R. Tolkien and other fantasy stories.

Lions is his religion. It satisfies all needs for giving service to others and those in need. Teaching was his best and favorite career. He enjoy working with high school age young people as they kept him young. It is not possible in this short space the amount of things I have done. He just hopes as Gandhi said "you will be the change you wish to see in the world"