Patty Allen, Zone Chairperson H-1

We lived in Yakima, WA just long enough for me to join the family. When I was about a year old, we moved to Bellingham, WA where we lived in my grandparent's cottage on Lake Samish, while my dad built us a house in town. The roots go deep and I lived right there until I graduated from Western up on the hill. After graduating with a degree in elementary education, I married my high school sweetheart. We stayed in Bellingham where I taught 3rd and 4th grades until I went to work for my Dad who was the MD19 Executive Secretary-Treasurer! I've been working for the Lions ever since – 42 years. We have had a great team in the MD19 Office. Some have come and gone, but Michele and I have worked together for almost 15 years. It is my privilege to be the mother of three handsome sons and to their credit, the grandmother of 4 amazing grandchildren – 2 girls and 2 boys.

I joined the Lions in 1990 as a Charter Member of the Bellingham-Harborview Lions, which makes me a 23 year Lion. Later I transferred into the Bellingham-Central Lions Club, which was my dad's club. I've been President twice, in 1998-1999 for Harborview and in 2012-2013 for Central. And now, Zone Chairperson with a great District Team!

Good things have happened over the years: a 5 Member Key; Melvin Jones Fellow; Life Member of the Lions Foundation of Canada; Gordon F. Smith CARE Fellow; Progressive Camp Horizon Fellow; One of 1000 Vanguards for the Melvin Jones Memorial, 4 International President's Certificates of Appreciation, Lion of the Year, and lots of traveling.

My education background has served me well as a presenter at USA/ Canada Forums, a Senior Lions Leadership Institute, Regional Lions Leadership Institutes; seminars at MD19 Conventions and District Conferences; and MD19 Zone and District Officer Schools.

It's fun to travel, work in the garden, read to my grandkids, visit with friends, go on long walks, and sell hotdogs at Central's Concession Stand! Disneyland with my family – that's number one on my bucket list!