



Arnold Wolgast

Nomination for Distinguished Kiwanian
Arnold E. Wolgast
May 23, 1995

The Kiwanis Club of Petoskey is both pleased and honored to nominate a long-time member, Arnold E. Wolgast, as a Distinguished Kiwanian.

Arnie joined the Kiwanis Club of Petoskey on February 23, 1943. During his 52 years as an active Kiwanian, Arnie has amassed 26 years of perfect attendance and has served as the chairman of most of the club's committees, even after distinguishing himself as president in 1945.

Rarely is there a major club activity that Arnie is not in the forefront, and no one in the club has traveled to more interclubs than Arnie. Many are the stories he has told to young Kiwanians about activities sponsored by the club to help the community's youth and/or aging citizens. Whether it was building ball diamonds on the waterfront or at the Washington Street Park, assisting at the annual Klondike Derby for Boy Scouts, or helping with the club's White Elephant Sale, Arnie was there to lend his muscle and support to his Kiwanis Club.

Sports have always been a major interest for Arnie. After starring as an all-conference end for the University of Illinois' national championship football team, he taught history and coached football and basketball at Petoskey High School for six years, and later for Saginaw Arthur Hill High School. Both schools had dominant teams in Michigan athletics during Arnie's coaching era. In 1943 he returned to Petoskey and started a successful loan and insurance business called, Parks and Wolgast. It was during this era that he became a familiar local sports announcer as the voice for Petoskey High School basketball and football games.

Among his many community activities, Arnie has served as president of the Petoskey Little League, chairman of the Red Cross for many years, chairman of the Scenic Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Community Chest chairman, Director of Camp Daggett, and a member of the board of directors for the Emmet County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Helping others has characterized much of Arnie's life, as evidenced by his long list of civic service and his long-time position as the Kiwanis Club of Petoskey's chairman of vocational guidance.

Arnie's wife, Louise, has been a constant source of encouragement to him during his many years of service to the youth of the Petoskey community; they have two children, Pete and Judy.

The Kiwanis Club of Petoskey is proud and grateful for the selfless services rendered by Arnold E. Wolgast to help others during his 52 years as a Kiwanian. We, therefore, respectfully submit his name for your consideration as a Distinguished Kiwanian.