



*Nelson E. Haan*



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## Nelson E. Haan, Kiwanian

As a Distinguished Kiwanian, an honor not easily achieved, the credits behind Nelson E. Haan number more than sufficient to deserve the honor. After joining in April of '77 with the Grand Rapids East Kiwanis Club, his occupations and movements took him to Wyoming South Kent, and later, Grand Rapids Golden K. He has served as a District Chairman under at least thirteen Governors, \*while even being a trustee of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation as well. Twelve times,-- even president.

Such distinction might be expected of one who served clubs and the District by being Secretary, President, Lt. Governor and Governor, and "Distinguished" in each of those capacities. As he climbed the ladders of advancement, he served as "Chairman of Road Runners", a relatively newly formed council of Past Lt. Governors and supported the concepts of the organization to render assistance to any clubs or presidents who ask.

The variety of his expertise has included Chairmanships in *Education, Education and Training, Finance and Fund-raising, Special Club Services and District Convention*. Other chairmanships were *Membership Growth, Membership Retention, District Convention (more than once)*, three years in supervision as *Chairman of The New District Office Committee* through its completion under the appointment by Phil Rutledge and later Chairman of Past Governors' Council.

Not to be limited only to the Michigan District, he also served Kiwanis International as Chairman of Spiritual Aims, served two terms on Education Committees, and was on various subcommittees for Kiwanis International Foundation. He has attended numerous International Conventions, here and abroad, and has not missed a District Convention from 1978 in Traverse City to the present.

Nels, as Michigan District Governor, led this District in a *Pilot Program*, one of only five throughout the world for Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD), to an outstanding point for other Districts in Kiwanis to follow. As an added responsibility, he took on the creation of the AKtion clubs in the District, and created two, one in Mason, our District Headquarters city, and one in Montcalm, Michigan. His slogan, "Something to Crow About" accurately reflects his activities. [Even his name means, "rooster".]

Meanwhile, "back at the ranch" he maintained a solid marriage with his wife Janet who has been his loyal partner since they wed in October of 1962, 51 years ago. Children, his and others have commanded his attention. "Child Haven" a house for displaced kids, and "Parents Helping Parents", an organization for assisting parents to help with their concerns have been a major objectives for him. The spiritual part of his existence is neither neglected nor is it sidelined, as he has served his church, Covenant Christian Reformed Church as an elder and as President of the church council. He serves as President of the Concerned Christians for Mental Illness, a support group.

Could one ask more of a "Distinguished Kiwanian" ?

\* Rather than quote a long "laundry list" of positions and Governors that Nels has served with, such a list is included, but hidden, beneath this Bio.

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Nelson E. Haan, the fifth man from the Grand Rapids area to serve as Governor of the Michigan District, became a Kiwanian in April of 1977, maintaining his service to communities in clubs in Grand Rapids East, Wyoming-SouthKent, and Grand Rapids Golden K. Among his means of service, he has been selected as a District Chairman under fourteen Governors, from the administrations of Ed Walters through Robert Page, and Denny Kiroff, as well as serving his own Governorship in 93-94.

Other services include that of Chairman of the Past Lt. Governors Council, 12 years Trustee of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation.

Ed Walters	86-87	Ch. Membership Growth
James Heymes	87-88	Ch. Special Club Services
Dennis Dimoff	88-89	Ch. Membership Retention
Roy Klay	89-90	Ch. Kiwanis Education +
Clifford Clack	90-91	Ch. Kiwanis Education +
Robert Snider	91-92	Ch. Kiwanis Education & Training
		Ch. District Convention +
Joseph Medrano	92-93	Governor-Elect
Nelson E. Haan	93-94	Governor
Alan Hoxie	94-95	Ch. Finance & Fundraising
Philip Rutledge	95-96	Ch. Past Governors Council
Harry White	96-97	Ch. District New Office Building
Ray McDonald	97-98	Ch. District New Office Building
Mark Rabaut	98-99	Ch. District New Office Building
Robert Page	99-00	Co-Ch. District Convention
Charles Kincaid	04-05	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Fred Model	05-06	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Bill Van Arsdalen	06-07	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Clare Burns	07-08	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Denny Kiroff	08-09	Ch. District Convention +
Joan Van Arsdalen	09-10	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Bill Gohier	10-11	Michigan Foundation Trustee
Elizabeth Lutrell-		
Wilson	11-12	Michigan Foundation President +
David Babbage	12-13	Michigan Foundation President +

" + " Michigan Foundation Trustee as well as District Chairman