



Gerald Page

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Gerald Paige

Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation

Frank O. Staiger - Distinguished Kiwanian

Gerald Paige has been a member of the Grosse Ile Kiwanis Club (the "Club") since December 14, 2013. During that time, he had devoted many hours of service to the Club. Some of his work was performed as an Officer of the Club. (President, Secretary and handling routine financial matters in the absence of the Treasurer.) But these paper work duties have been the least of his contribution to the Club and Community. Gerry has a wide range of practical physical abilities for which Gerry maintain not just skills for necessary equipment at his own expense.

Gerry has led the Club by example even for tasks which were drudgery. Art and Clare Koester, former spark plugs of the Club, were enthusiastic gardeners and maintained the Memorial Garden near the Township offices. When illness and infirmity took them out of the picture, Gerry tried to lead us in performing the up keep of the Garden despite the fact that there were no other enthusiastic gardeners. Fortunately, the Club was eventually able to hand off that project to someone else. Gerry's presence in the Club gives it staying power in the performance of projects.

For many years Gerry and one other Kiwanian have performed most of the maintenance necessary for the safe operation of the playscape which is a public playground with elaborate recreational structures for the children of Grosse Ile.

The township of Grosse Ile acquired public ownership of shore land on the Detroit River overlooking Canada and the "long ships" passing laden with freight. Funds were donated to Kiwanis which enabled Gerry to build a viewing bench on this property which gives a special scenic advantage to Grosse Ile residents.

A number of years ago the Club began to lose membership and began to have less projects income from its traditional sources. The Club President at the time demanded that members look for ideas for projects that would produce more revenue. A helpful member of the Hillsdale Club came out and explained their version of the Flag Subscription project which was very successful for them. The Grosse Ile Club is a much smaller club with few members who work with tools. However, Gerry realized that he could provide the necessary resources and skills to make the Flag project work. Following his practical leadership, the Flag Project was adopted. The Club became enthusiastic and developed a unique embellishment (Affixing laminate dedication cards to the flagstaff as a sale incentive) not used by other clubs with the Flag Project. Ultimately the Flag Project has become far more successful than anyone anticipated, and not just financially, but it has proved to spur new membership, recruiting and generally boosted the Club's image in the community. On at least one occasion, another downriver Club requested a visit from members of Grosse Ile Club to show them how to do the Project. Unfortunately, that Club was daunted by the work and complexity of the Project and chose not to pursue it. They did not have a Gerald Paige when they needed one.