



William D. Van Arsdalen

William D. Van Arsdalen
Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
Frank O. Staiger - Distinguished Kiwanian

I am proud to pay tribute to Past Governor William Van Arsdalen. Not only were we friends, we were fellow Educators, fellow Curmudgeons, and most of all Kiwanians. Throughout our Kiwanis Friendship.....Governor Bill taught me a lot.

As Governor, Bill taught us how to support our schools, children, and childhood literacy by providing third graders their very own new dictionary. Eleven years later, my Kiwanis Club, still provides over 900 dictionaries to third-graders in three area School Districts.

As Governor, Bill supported First Lady Joan, as she encouraged Michigan District Kiwanis Clubs to hold showers in support of Child and Family Life at the four hospitals supported by the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation. Wednesday, May 9, 2018, my Club will hold it's eleventh such shower. In 2017, we had 280 guests and raised \$11,996.00 for the Child and Family Life Department at C. S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Shortly after that, Kiwanis International, revised the method for counting members. Unfortunately, the new method, left both Bill's Hillsdale Club and my Woodhaven Club in the hole. It was then, Bill taught me, we count our Kiwanis successes, in children served and not in banner patches and awards. My Club no longer displays awards from yesterday, but develops new ways to serve our community tomorrow.

During my leadership, as President of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation, Trustee Bill taught me, it was more important to vote NO on principle and conviction, than YES, and go with the flow.

Bill's commitment to the Foundation, was so great, he annually hosted the Max Drake Golf Outing. This annual event, not only provided for Kiwanis fellowship but provided Kiwanis Clubs the opportunity to raise funds to meet their annual per member contribution to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation.

Paul J. Elsey
President of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
Saturday, April 28, 2018

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