

Elmer Grassman



1926-2020

Elmer Grassman was devoted to Rotary. After joining Rotary on April 10, 1969, Elmer had perfect attendance for 48 years. His commitment goes beyond his attendance. He lived and breathed the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self”:

Club President – 2 terms (1977-79)
Club Foundation President (1990-91)
Club Secretary (1988-89; 1991-1992)

Rotary Lights Steering Committee

Club Rotary Lights Chairperson

Four Way Test recipient in 2000

Lifetime Achievement recipient in 2013

Many club committees

Elmer was a Paul Harris Fellow + 3

Besides Rotary, Elmer served the La Crosse community in many ways:

- United Way Director
- La Crosse Public School Foundation
- Advisory Committee for Visiting Nurses
- City Police and Fire Commission
- La Crosse Dive Rescue Team
- Kid's Coulee
- Food pantries
- 400 Foundation Limited
- Outstanding Volunteer of the La Crosse Area Retired Teachers Association
- President of WI Elementary Principal's Association
- UW-L Alumni Board of Directors

Elmer retired as principal of Hintgen Elementary School. He continued to serve children as Santa Claus at Rotary Lights for many years.

Elmer had the natural ability to be liked by everyone he met. His self-deprecating sense of humor, combined with a sincere desire to help others, made him so likeable.

Elmer leaves behind, his wife Lil, their son Mark and daughter Karla, several grandchildren, and hundreds of people whose lives he touched.