

Lyle Windsor Hughart

I was born in Tomah, WI in 1935 in the middle of the depression. I was actually born at home. During WWII I lived near Milwaukee, WI.

In 1946 we moved to Streator, IL. By that time I had attended 5 different grade schools. I graduated from Streator High in 1953. My first semester in college was at DeKalb State Teachers College. The next year the name was changed to Northern Illinois University. I transferred to the University of Illinois (GO ILLINI) and graduated in 1960 with a BS in Civil Engineering. I had several semesters where I had to drop out to earn sufficient funds to pay for college. I also got a Dear John form from the US Army drafting me for 6 months of active duty. My discharge was held up until a decision was made on the Bay of Pigs involvement. So you can see I am of the OLDER generation, but still kicking.

I am married to a terrific woman and have 3 busy children. BUT, as that bumper sticker says, "If I had known how much fun grandchildren are I would have had them first".

I worked for the Mississippi Valley Fabricating Co. as an engineer. In 1962 I went into business for myself, Hughart Buildings, Inc., planning and constructing grain drying and handling systems for farmers and grain elevators.

In 1973 I was invited to take over management of a family owned steel fabricating plant. I worked there for almost 30 years, retiring on Leap Day, Feb 29, 2000.

About that time I met Deb Condotti at a Joliet Rotary meeting. She asked what I was going to do in retirement. Guess what? Ever since I have been on the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Joliet. I have served as the Treasurer, the Chairman Finance Committee and Chairman of the Building Committee and a donor (put your money where your mouth is).

I am also active in Rotary, U of I Foundation, my church and my family. One reason for retiring was to spend time with my 7 grandchildren, which I have done putting many miles on a car going & coming from their activities. I played tennis and golf for years, after retiring, but had to decide between tennis and golf at some point – golf won out and now I walk the golf course twice a week, in Florida, when it gets too cold to play in Illinois.

This will be my last year as a Board member. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and I want to point out that the success of ES-Joliet is to a large degree due to the superb leadership of Debbie Condotti.

GO ILLINI

LYLE W. HUGHART