

Sally Purcell: 50th President of the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary

Raising her hand has become a reflex action. Whenever a group needs volunteers, Sally's hand automatically goes up.

Sally Northway was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan. Her father was a general surgeon and her mother was a stay-at-home mom. Growing up as the only girl among three brothers was an adventure, and if she wasn't breaking up a fight, she was trying to change the channel of the TV so she didn't have to watch another sporting event. She learned at a young age to fight her own battles and hold her own.

While in the tenth grade, Sally met a skinny guy with glasses and a full head of hair. They got into trouble for talking in math class and had to stay after school and wash chalkboards. Somehow, she fell for this guy, and Sally and I started dating. We were married seven years later in 1970 after graduating from Central Michigan University.

We moved to Monroe, Michigan where Sally secured a third-grade teaching position while I attended law school at the Detroit College of Law. Following my graduation from DCL, we returned to Saginaw, where I had a job in the City Attorney's Office. I later joined my father and brother in the law firm of Heilman, Purcell, Tunison & Cline. Sally joined the Saginaw County Lawyers Auxiliary in 1973 and has been very involved ever since. She was president in 1989. In addition to the law auxiliary, Sally's other volunteer activities include the Saginaw General Hospital Auxiliary, now Covenant Auxiliary; St. Stephen Parish and Elementary School; Nouvel Catholic Central High School; Hospital Hospitality House; Assistance League of Saginaw; Junior League of Saginaw; and the National Farm & Garden Association.

Lots of volunteer hours and fundraising monies have been earned under Sally's stew-



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ardship. She is a specialist at running fundraisers. She has been seen unloading cookie dough at two in the morning and lining up flowers in the hallway of the hospital before the morning shift change. Her hospital commitment is very special to her and she tells me she "does it for the patients." She holds

that same fondness for St. Stephen Parish and Elementary School, where she became involved as a substitute teacher, parent volunteer, bingo worker, and fundraiser chair for a number of events for the Home and School parent group and the athletic association. The same held true at Nouvel Catholic Central, where our children attended high school and where Sally still works in the kitchen—that is, if it isn't her bowling day or gardening time. Sally feels fortunate to be able to be involved in so many areas of her community, and she derives great satisfaction from the contacts and associations she has had with people from all walks of life.

We have three children. Our youngest, Peter, is 26. After graduating from Albion College, he went into auditing and has worked for Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse Cooper. He now lives in Chicago and works for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. This fall, he will begin working on his M.B.A. at the University of Chicago. Our daughter, Amy, is 28 and received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan. She also lives in Chicago. She is in the commercial litigation department at Foley & Lardner. Our oldest child, Andrew, would be 30. At the age of six he developed cancer, which took his life at the age of seven. Andy is with us always.

Membership in the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary includes spouses of attorneys and friends of the law. The \$10 dues help continue ongoing projects. For information, please contact MLA President Sally Purcell at (989) 799-8541.



A serious picture turned comical at the last minute. Uncle Tom pulled a fast one!

After 36 years of marriage, I have never been able to tell my wife what to do. I asked her to stop raising her hand, but her latest

commitment is to be president of the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary (MLA). I am very proud of her. She claims the group is a very

fun, active group of hard-working women, and she is looking forward to her presidency. The MLA has created some spectacular youth programs throughout the state, and it is important to keep these projects going. It takes *lots* of very dedicated volunteers to do so, and this group has had that commitment. Membership is always vital to any organization, and the MLA is no exception. The MLA has been working hard to establish new groups in Michigan.

Sally feels strongly about the need to build a strong rapport between the MLA and the State Bar of Michigan. The State Bar has allowed the president of the MLA to be in on its board meetings. This will be beneficial in building good communications. I know Sally feels it is a privilege to be able to play such an active role in the MLA, and I know that she will do an excellent job. ♦

Paul Purcell is Sally's husband of 36 years.