

## **William T. Karrow, 55, banking executive**

By G.J. Zemaitis

Special to the Tribune

William T. Karrow, 55, of Glen Ellyn, a banking executive whose skills were admired in the industry and sought by civic organizations throughout DuPage County, died of a heart attack Sunday, August 27, in Edward Hospital in Naperville.

Mrs. Karrow was director of operations and the chief financial officer of Community Bank-Wheaton/Glen Ellyn.

"He played a critical role in our bank and he leaves a big gap in our management" said Don Fischer president of Community Bank. "He had great instincts and was much loved by our patrons."

Mr. Karrow's banking career began in 1971, when he hired on with the Bank of Naperville, working on marketing and community relations. Previously he had taught business courses at Dana College in Blair, Neb.

Born in Appleton, Wis., and educated at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa where he earned an undergraduate degree, Mr. Karrow obtained an MBA from the University of Arkansas.

From 1981 to 1992, he was a senior vice president and cashier at Center Bank in Glen Ellyn and later was a vice president at Villa Park Trust and Savings Bank.

His banking career paralleled commitment to numerous church and civic interests including Community Presbyterian Church, where he was treasurer.

"Bill was multitalented and very disciplined and could take on any management job at the bank," said Fischer.

Mr. Karrow was also a vice president at Ben Franklin Bank in Arlington Heights and earlier had worked for First Security Bank in Chicago.

His skills were recruited by the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce, where he served as treasurer, president and a past director.

He also served on the Citizens Advisory Council in DuPage School District 87 and co-chaired the Strategic Planning Commission in School District 89.

A former member of the Naperville Jaycees, Mr. Karrow also was a past director of the Naperville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Glen Ellyn Kiwanis, Lombard Rotary Club and a vice president and treasurer of the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce.

An avid fisherman with strong ties to his Wisconsin roots, Mr. Karrow headed north to Reedsburg, WI., every November; said his wife Diane. "He was up north hunting deer out of his cabin. That was very important to him," said his wife.

Despite the heavy demands of his career, Mr. Karrow is remembered fondly for his devotion to family.

"He was very supportive of the sporting and music interests of our children," said his wife.

Mr. Karrow was a graduate of the ABA Commercial Lending School in Norman, Okla., and the Bank Marketing Association School in Boulder, Colo.

Mr. Karrow is also survived by two sons, William Jr. and Daniel; a daughter; Rebecca; his father Herbert; two brothers, Thomas and Robert; and a granddaughter.

Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until services at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Community Presbyterian Church, 1111 Madison St., Lombard.