



The Community Post

Serving our communities since 1896

Published on *The Community Post* (<http://www.minstercommunitypost.com>)

[Home](#) > Local firefighter retires after 35 years of service

Local firefighter retires after 35 years of service

By editor

Created 01/04/2012 - 11:35am

By Michelle Stein

reporter@nktelco.net [1]

[1_5-Fireman.jpg](#) [2]

MINSTER — A local firefighter retired at the end of 2011 after 35 years of service and dedication to his community.

Dec. 31 marked Ed Roetgerman's last day with the Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department, having served as the assistant fire chief for 14 of his 35 years.

Through the years, Roetgerman said he has witnessed a number of changes at the fire department, noting the Minster department was one of the first in the area to have a certain life-saving piece of equipment.

"A lot of things have changed from the time I first joined in '77 until now, that's for sure," he said.

"There have been a lot of changes, a lot of differences with equipment. When I first joined, we were the first department in the whole area to even have the Jaws of Life, and we ran, actually, with New Bremen all of the time and Fort Loramie."

The fire hoses and other fire equipment have also undergone major changes over time, he said.

"The trucks are getting bigger and all of the hoses are getting bigger," he said.

"When I first got on, we had inch-and-half hose and two-and-a-half-inch hose, and now we have inch-and-three-quarter, three-inch and five-inch hose. So there's been a lot of changes, and a lot of it has been for the better."

Another aspect of the fire department that has transformed through the years is the fire prevention program, Roetgerman noted.

"We've done a lot with our fire prevention program in the schools, which I think have helped the community quite a bit," he said.

"It's helped prevent a lot of fires. The children, they learn a more about it and it gets brought home, and I think that's where we're very fortunate in this area."

Roetgerman spoke of the time and dedication that is required of firefighters on a volunteer department.

"It was definitely an experience helping people and I guess trying to be there whenever you can," he said.

"But the thing with a volunteer organization, there is a lot of time that has to be dedicated for training and maintenances and equipment — you have to make sure the equipment is ready to go all of the time, too."

Despite the work hazards and sporadic hours, Roetgerman said he would miss being a part of the department.

"It's a great community to be a part of," he said.

"I'll definitely miss the camaraderie and all of the guys through the years that I've been a part of with the department. Eventually, being on 35 years, you get to know a lot of people even on different area departments that we're mutual aid with — Fort Loramie, New Bremen, Chickasaw — everybody around the area. I'll definitely miss it, that's for sure."

In addition to his volunteer work with the fire department, Roetgerman works full time as a general manager at Hausfeld Motor Sales in Minster. For the first time in nearly 60 years, the dealership does not currently have an employee with the department.

"I think a total of 56 years there's always been somebody here at the dealership that was also a volunteer on the fire department," he said.

With his extra time away from the fire department, Roetgerman said he plans to fish more in addition to sleeping more soundly at night.

"I won't miss the getting up at 4 O'clock in the morning in 10 below zero either," he said, with a laugh.

A life-long Minster native, Roetgerman and his wife, Joyce, have three children: Brad (Laura) Roetgerman of Chicago, Ill., Maria Roetgerman of San Francisco, Calif., and Andy Roetgerman, of Minster. Carrying on the family tradition, Roetgerman's son, Andy, joined the fire department about two years ago.

"The past 35 years — you wonder where it all goes, you know?" Roetgerman said.

"There's been good times and bad times ... it's a commitment that I hope more younger guys come on and want to make the commitment. It's a very unique organization."

Copyright © 2011 The Community Post | 326 N. Main Street | Minster, OH 45865 | (419) 628-2369

All property rights for the entire contents of this publication shall be the property of The Community Post .

No part hereof may be reproduced without prior written consent.

Site Development: Maine Web FX
<\scr"+"ipt">"); //]]>-->

Source URL: <http://www.minstercommunitypost.com/content/local-firefighter-retires-after-35-years-service>

Links:

[1] <mailto:reporter@nktelco.net>

[2] http://www.minstercommunitypost.com/sites/default/files/1_5-Fireman.jpg