

# Sterling Fire District



Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

November 1, 2013

## A Legacy Never Forgotten

by Jodi Conrow



Retired Chief Dick Glessner (center) is pictured with a few of his former officers during his tenure: L to R: Jim Bischoff, Tom King, Fred Shepard, and Dick Farber.

Hopefully by now you have heard that Dick Glessner has retired as chief of the Sterling Fire District. Do not fear though, he has not left the department completely. He is still an active EMT and firefighter with the department. The following is a brief recap of his 42-year career so far with the department:

Following in his family's footsteps, Dick joined the fire department in August of 1971 as a firefighter. In 1973, he became certified as an EMT-Basic. In early 1980 he and a few other members attended a week long state fire school at Bowling Green State University and became certified as a Fire Instructor allowing him to teach firefighter classes as well as classes for

continuing education.

Maintaining all three of those certificates has required him to take many hours of continuing education himself, which he has done. As training requirements have increased on the fire side, Dick has increased his training levels as well becoming certified in Firefighter level 1 in 2000 and Firefighter level 2 in 2009. As if that wasn't enough instructing, he also became certified as an instructor for the VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driver Class in 2007. This driving class is required of all members on the department before driving a fire truck or ambulance.

In 1980, Dick was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief taking over for his Uncle Ed Maibach. Four years later he became Fire Chief following Bill Greene. When he stepped down in June 2013 after 29 years as Fire Chief, Dick was one of the longest serving chiefs in Wayne County.

With less "administrative responsibilities" at the fire station, Dick is able to help with daytime trainings at the Wayne County Regional

Training Facility in Apple Creek; something he enjoys very much.

Dick would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our outstanding community for their overwhelming support of the fire levies we have had in the past. The money generated from these levies allows us to purchase and maintain state of the art equipment and vehicles for the department which in turn allows us to provide the best care and response for the community. He would also like to thank the Milton Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer, both past and present for their support of him as Fire Chief and the wonderful partnership they have all been able to maintain between the Fire District and the Township. He hopes to see it continue into the future as well.

Dick has spent countless hours ensuring the department has been run successfully.

This is by no means the end of Dick's "story" with the department. We look forward to having Dick and all of his experience around for many more calls.

### Mark your calendar:

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, STERLING FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FISH FRY, SERVING 4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, STERLING FIRE DISTRICT RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

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# Sterling Fire District

## Donation of Detectors Received

by Jeff Stump



Carbon Monoxide detectors and combination smoke and CO detectors that were donated by Kidde.

The Sterling Fire District recently received a grant from Kidde. Through Kidde's ongoing mission to prevent deaths due to fire and Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning, we were able to secure a grant of smoke detectors and CO detectors to distribute to our community members who need them.

The approaching Winter season brings one of the deadliest seasons of the year: heating season. Chimney fires and CO poisoning are common winter time issues. Make sure your detectors are in working order!

As you prepare your home for the upcoming winter months, please keep the following in mind:

- Check that your smoke

and CO detectors are functioning properly.

- Replace your batteries
- Have your furnace checked for proper functioning
- Check smaller heaters to make sure that they are safe to use
- Clear any wood burning fire places and stove chimneys of any left over build up from last season
- Have your chimney inspected by a trained professional
- Review your family's Emergency Escape Plan in the event there is a fire inside of your home

The detectors will be available during the Sterling Fire & Rescue Association's

fundraisers throughout the year while the supply lasts. If you need assistance with installation of one of these new units, or one you have purchased, please contact us.

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Kidde Corporation for their donation and ongoing commitment to make our homes safer by providing safety warning devices that save lives.

We also want to thank you, the community we serve, for your continued support over the years. Your never-ending generosity makes it possible for us to give back through services such as these. We will forever be grateful!

## Member Spotlight: Pam & Erik Hartzler

by Jeff Stump



Pam and Erik Hartzler have been serving the Sterling Fire District since 2012 and 2010, respectively. Thank you for your service!

The Sterling Fire District is blessed with family members, some of which are married couples that are serving the community. Pam and Erik Hartzler are one of the married couples we have serving with us. Erik has been serving the department since 2010 and Pam since 2012.

Pam initially earned her certification as a Basic EMT, but is now currently enrolled in the Akron General Paramedic Program. Erik is a level 1 firefighter and recently completed his Basic EMT

certification. Both Pam and Erik are Hazardous Material Technicians.

Erik is employed by the J.M. Smucker Company in Orrville. Pam has taken many opportunities to volunteer time at the station while studying. Both Erik and Pam enjoy riding motorcycles and working together on restoring their home, which is centered around an old log cabin.

Pam and Erik came to serve our community partly through the encouragement of Erik's father, Dennis, who

is currently one of the Milton Township Trustees. They both have been involved in different activities serving the department throughout the past year few years. Thank you to both Erik and Pam for your commitment and service to the community.

Erik and Pam both recently completed a two-day Haz-Mat Railcar Specialist training in Ashland County and are active members of the Wayne County Haz-Mat Team based out of the Orrville Fire Department.

## Recipe Corner

### Old Fashioned Sugar Cookies Submitted by Dana Dysinger

#### Ingredients:

1/2 C. Crisco    1 t. Vanilla    1 C. Sugar  
2 1/2 C Flour    1 Egg            1/2 t. Cream of Tarter  
1/3 C. Milk       1/2 t. Baking Soda    1/2 t. Salt

- Blend Crisco, sugar, egg, milk, vanilla with mixer. Gradually add dry ingredients.
- Flour surface to pat dough out on with 1 part flour to 1/2 part sugar.
- Pat dough to desired thickness (about 3/4" to 1/2"). Cut with cookie cutters and bake at 400° for 5-7 min. Cool, frost, and decorate.

By Jessica Musser

#### Frosting:

Cream 1/4 C. Soft Butter (Margarine)  
1/4 t. Salt    3 C. Confectioner Sugar  
Alternate with 4-6 T. of Boiled Milk  
1 t. Vanilla  
Beat well until creamy & add coloring if desired

This recipe always brings back memories for Dana Dysinger, of the time she spent with her grandmother. They made these for every holiday, family get-togethers and sometimes for a carry in lunch when they would go quilting in River Styx. This has also given her special times with her niece as they have made them since she was big enough to stand on a stool to help. They are easy and fun. Enjoy!

### Sterling Fire District Officers

Josh Glessner—Chief  
Jeff Stump—Captain  
Dale Glessner—Captain

### Sterling Fire & Rescue Association Officers

President—Josh Bischoff  
Vice President—Dale Glessner  
Secretary—Jodi Conrow  
Treasurer—Jim Bischoff  
Asst. Treasurer—Josh Glessner

### Sterling Fire District Board

Rex Gasser  
Dennis Hartzler  
Ben Imhoff  
Lisa Rupp—Fiscal Officer

## Recruitment Campaign Under Way

by Josh Glessner

Recently members Jessica Musser, Josh Bischoff, Dick Glessner, Jeff Stump, and myself attended Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Workshops sponsored by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA). The OFCA has been awarded a 4-year Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant through the Federal Emergency Management Association in the amount of \$1,195,700. The SAFER grant aims to retain and recruit additional volunteer firefighters throughout Ohio communities. This grant was awarded to help departments like ours increase the number of total volunteers in our department.

The Sterling Fire District faces many tough challenges ahead. Like many departments, we continue to have

the number of available, active volunteers decline. In order to continue our current service levels, we will need to recruit additional volunteers living in our district to help serve our community. If we are unsuccessful in our recruitment efforts, a plan will need to be developed, in time, to have paid staffing for the fire district. With paid staffing, we will also need to determine how to best fund the staffing on hand. Currently there are not enough funds in our budget for paid staffing.

Since completing the workshops we have been working very diligently with the Redden Group located in Iowa, who the OFCA has hired as the consultant to administer the grant funds. Through the Redden Group and the SAFER grant, we have been able

to secure funds for recruitment aids and receive great support as we put together a recruitment and retention plan custom to our department.

On November 9, from 2-4 p.m., we invite you to stop by our station for our "Recruitment Open House." During your visit you will be able to tour our station, view various fire and EMS equipment, and learn about upcoming training opportunities. It is one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities you could ever imagine!

If you are unable to stop by on November 9, we train on Tuesday evenings starting around 7p.m., and we encourage you to stop by and see us then also. We hope to see you soon as a part of our team!



Sterling Fire District firefighters and EMTs on scene of a brush fire.

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~~ Smoke Detectors Save Lives ~~

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[www.miltonsterling.org](http://www.miltonsterling.org)

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## Chief's Corner: Josh Glessner, Fire Chief



Sterling Fire District  
Chief, Josh Glessner.

Welcome friends! With great pride, I have accepted the position of Fire Chief effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Former Chief Dick Glessner retired as chief on June 30<sup>th</sup>, however, he is going to continue to serve with the department.

Without a doubt, Dick is one of the most dedicated members the fire district and Wayne County will ever see. He truly has cared about the department and the community in which he grew up.

Dick has done great things for the department over the years, most importantly, gaining the trust of the community.

On Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Election Day, I am asking for your continued support of the

Sterling Fire District with a "YES" vote for the renewal of our fire and EMS levy.

The passage of this levy is vital to the success of the Sterling Fire District. Tax dollars from our levies are used to purchase equipment, train new and existing members, in addition to paying for insurance, utilities, contractual agreements, and other capital improvements. It also provides funding for the day-to-day operations of our fire department.

Without your continued support, we will not be able to maintain our current level of care and service. While funding is important, I must stress how vital our dedicated volunteers are to our oper-

ation. Our members put in countless hours in training, both on and off site, making calls and doing other work projects around the fire station. With the exception of receiving payment each year to service test all of our hose, no member of our department receives any pay for attending training, making calls, etc. We are proud to serve and be true volunteers.

I simply cannot thank our community members enough or say enough great things about our fine group of volunteers and our fire district board. I hope to be successful just as Dick has and continue to experience the terrific community support. This is truly an honor for me.