

SECRETARY

HALLOFFAME

Gloria Milliron has plenty of praise for the supervisors who have made Windham Township in Wyoming County what it is today. Others, however, say Milliron deserves a whole lot of credit for her 40-plus years of dedication to the township, its residents, and its elected officials.

'A people person'

Gloria Milliron
Windham Township,
Wyoming County
42 years of service

BY JENNIFER L. FLORER /
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Some folks used to suburban living might think the secretary-treasurer in a rural community of 841 residents wouldn't have much to do. They would be wrong.

Gloria Milliron has had a full plate since she was first hired to work for Windham Township, Wyoming County, in 1971. Granted, the job is part-time, but she deals with the same paperwork, deadlines, and legislative and regulatory issues as any other secretary-treasurer.

"I started out doing everything: the payroll, annual reports, meeting minutes, and conducting the board meeting — the same as I do today," Milliron says. "The only difference is there's a lot more of everything now."

She names issues that range from emergency management to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling.

Part of the emergency management work stems from the township's location along the Susquehanna River. "Whenever the river floods, we are involved in ensuring the safety of the people," Milliron says. "My first one was the



With more than four decades of public service under her belt, Gloria Milliron has been part of quite a few "firsts," including being the first female secretary for Windham Township, Wyoming County. (Photo courtesy of the township.)

biggie of 1972, and we went down and helped evacuate folks along the river."

And in the last few years, with the arrival of natural gas drillers, Milliron has gained a whole new range of experience that she never expected.

"That's taken a lot," she says. "When we're finished with all this, there's the possibility that we will have 18 to 22 gas wells in our small township."

Helping others

Milliron has been part of quite a few

"firsts" during her career. First female secretary in the township and first female supervisor in the county are two of those. *(She was appointed to fill the remaining six months of a previous board member's six-year term but didn't seek election after that.)*

Those are experiences she probably never anticipated while growing up in Chester County in southeastern Pennsylvania, about 150 miles away. Milliron made the move north to Wyoming County in 1961, and it was about 10 years later when one of the township supervisors approached her about working for the township. He thought her experience as a payroll clerk would come in handy.

Milliron's first township meetings took place in the home of one of the supervisors. From there they moved to a mobile home, and the office is now housed in a business trailer the township purchased about 16 years ago.

Although the population has remained fairly steady over the years, the township has seen plenty of changes and dealt with its share of challenges. For instance, Milliron says, the township is split by two school districts, one she describes as "city" and one "country," and serves two different types of tax bases.

Overall, though, the township is mainly agricultural with an older population, and Milliron says the supervisors

have done right by those residents year after year.

"I think I'm most proud of how the board has worked within their financial means and not had to raise taxes for the senior citizens here," she says. "We've been able to keep the taxes down and still maintain our 24.4 miles of [dirt] roads."

Milliron's concern for her fellow residents comes through loud and clear. It's one of the things that has kept her working for the township and even helping out other townships when the need arises.

"I like working with the people," she says. "I'm a people person."

The part-time position has also allowed her to devote time to plenty of other community activities over the years, as well as to her family.

"It has allowed me to raise eight children and be involved in their activities outside of school and through the church," she says. "I've been able to go out into the community and do other things."

Assistant secretary Ken Johnson, who nominated Milliron for the Secretary Hall of Fame, attests to her willing-

ness to help others. He's new to local government and is grateful that she is there to show him the ropes.

"She's great at her job," Johnson says. "She has taught me a lot — not just the job functions but the patience and everything else that goes with it. She's been a shoulder to lean on."

He adds that other township secretaries in the county have commented on how well-organized Windham Township's office is thanks to Milliron's efforts. That, she says, is because she has learned a thing or two along the way, such as keeping records on every activity, providing board members with detailed reports, and communicating clearly.

Milliron plans to stay with the township a few more years, employing the same philosophy that has served her well so far.

"Whenever a crisis arises, I always say, 'This, too, shall pass,'" she explains. "We have to stop and think and use our common sense. By doing that here, we have not gone backward. We have only moved forward." ♦

coming up

Month of May
Preservation Month

May 1
Statement of Financial
Interest due to township

May 12-18
National Public Works Week

May 21
Municipal Primary Election

May 27
Memorial Day (*observed*)

Month of June
Pennsylvania Rivers Month

MAY & JUNE 2013

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