

SUPERVISOR



# HALLOFFAME

**Clyde Glossner** will retire as Woodward Township supervisor at the end of 2017. His five-plus decades of service on behalf of his rural township could fill a book.

## An Encyclopedia of Experience and Knowledge

**Clyde Glossner**

Woodward Township, Clinton County  
50+ years of service

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When it comes to the comings and goings of Woodward Township in Clinton County over the last half-century or so, Clyde Glossner says he could write a book, but that's what you would expect from someone who has spent more than five decades in service to the township and its residents.

Glossner, who turned 85 last month, is the third generation of his family to live and raise a family in Woodward Township, and over the past 56 years of service (*except for one term*), he has filled just about every imaginable position, including chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer, police commissioner, roadmaster, and snowplow operator.

"I could write a book on my knowledge of the township, our farming community, and our forefathers in history who have passed on," he admits. "My wife tells me I should write down these things about what it's like living in a rural area and what's involved in running a township."

Glossner has been front and center during many of the township's changes,



**Clyde Glossner will retire as Woodward Township supervisor at the end of the year. After 50-plus years of service to the township, he is looking forward to having more hours for traveling, fishing, cheering on his beloved Penn State Nittany Lions, and spending time with his wife, three sons, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.**

and as he nears retirement at the end of this year, he is proud of what has been accomplished.

"The township is in a good place and is well-run," he says. "I hate to leave, but it's time for me to move on and do some other things I've been wanting to do."

## Guiding into a modern era

Woodward Township today is a quiet, bucolic community filled with farm fields, rolling hills, and woodlands, but in the early 1960s when Glossner became a supervisor, it was even more rural and isolated. All but a mile or two of the roads were dirt and mud, he recalls. Most of the residents were farmers or made a living at the railroad, the brickyards, or nearby factories. The township supervisors who served as roadmasters would plow snow and repair roads in the mornings before their regular jobs started or on their days off. It was not unusual for several days to pass before the roads were cleared of snow.

In 1961, Glossner was 29 years old and had just started what would be a 30-year career with the state Department of Agriculture when he decided to run for township supervisor. He wanted to get involved and give back to the community where he grew up and where he and his wife, Wilda, were raising their three boys.

"I had a good, sharp mind that I figured could be put to good use," he says.

As the township grew and developed, he helped to guide it into a new, modern era. Over the last half-century, the township's 28 miles of dirt and mud roads have been paved, and roads are now plowed at the first sign of snow. Six housing developments have replaced several pastures and brought in new

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residents, who have increased the township population to nearly 2,400 today.

Such progress, of course, was not without its share of controversy. Glossner recalls some of the conflicts when he first took office, including sewer issues, the loss of homes and land along the Susquehanna River to make room for a federal flood-control project in 1992, and legal problems surrounding an unpopular hog operation in 2015.

No matter what the conflict or issue that arises, however, he has made it a point to meet it head on, usually with a smile and a sense of humor.

“Clyde Glossner is a household name in Woodward Township,” secretary-treasurer Jackie Bartlett says. “He is admired and valued for his honesty and integrity. He’s always happy and has a joyful disposition, combining professionalism with great wit.

“But while he’s relaxed and laid back, he gets the job done,” she says. “He gets along well with everyone and is known for being a fair and honest mediator.”

Take that hog farmer who sued the township after the supervisors initially denied the farm’s operation.

“We’re still friends,” Glossner says. “Just because I’m enforcing an ordinance doesn’t mean we can’t be friends.”

As supervisor, he makes decisions based on what residents want, but he also keeps an open mind to other possibilities. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed a dike and levy system that would prevent flooding but also remove houses and small villages along the river, Glossner did not favor the project at first because his residents opposed it.

“But since then, I have changed my attitude and have grown to appreciate what was done there,” he says.

The land along the river was eventually deeded to the township, which developed it into a large park that has become the crown jewel of the community. Riverview Park hosts a popular river festival each summer and features a playground, pavilions, walking trails, a

boat ramp, and boat slip and lot rentals, the income of which helps to pay for the park maintenance.

“The park has been well-received and is heavily used,” Glossner says, noting that the pavilions at the park are usually reserved for use every weekend throughout the warm months.

### Committed to Woodward

Growing up in Woodward Township, Bartlett had always known of Glossner — “He was a staple of the township,” she says — but she didn’t get to really know him until she went to work as the township secretary almost five years ago.

“He’s awesome,” she says. “He’s always there, and you can count on him to take care of business the right way. From the time he gets up in the morning until he goes to bed, he is doing for the township, and he doesn’t stop.”

His day begins at 6:30 at the township building, where he meets with the road crew and helps to prioritize projects for the day. By 8 a.m., he is usually on the phone with Bartlett to discuss township business and issues that need to be ad-

dressed. He calls or stops by throughout the day, she says, and his presence helps to make her workday more enjoyable.

“He’s very people-oriented,” she says. “He makes it a point to meet residents and resolve issues.”

Until recently, when age has slowed him down, he made sure to go around the township and introduce himself to new residents.

“What I like most about being a supervisor is interacting with the people and helping them when I can,” he says. “I’ve established a lot of friends over the years, and even those whom I’ve had controversies or arguments with at various times are still my friends. I must have done a good enough job because I kept getting re-elected.”

As someone who has dedicated a majority of his life to Woodward Township, Glossner is living proof of the joy and satisfaction that comes from giving back to one’s community.

“I’ve always enjoyed the work,” he says. “When the day comes to an end, I like to sit back and reflect and think of all that I accomplished for my community.”

And now, as his public service career winds down, Glossner is confident in the people, including Bartlett and his fellow supervisors, who will be running the township after he retires.

“I have no doubt that I’m leaving the township in very good hands,” he says. ♦

## How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

Clyde Glossner has been involved in township government for so many decades that he can remember some of the earliest names associated with PSATS, including Milt DeLancey, who was named executive director of the association in 1962, the same year that Glossner first took office as supervisor.

“I remember attending my first county association meeting and was really impressed when Milt DeLancey spoke to us,” Glossner says. “I’ll never forget what he told me when I explained a problem we were having with our sewer authority. He said when you form an authority, you form a monster that can’t be controlled.”

In the 50-some years since then, Glossner says he has continued to rely on PSATS for practical advice on issues he encounters or things he has read about in the *Township News*.

“If I run into an extensive problem, I know I can call PSATS and get good advice from them,” he says.