

SECRETARY

HALLOFFAME

A fixture in Londonderry Township, Bedford County, for more than four decades, **Ron Scritchfield** hasn't tired of public service. It's like the Fountain of Youth, the 79-year-old says. "It keeps me young."

'The Best Guy Around'

Ron Scritchfield
Londonderry Township,
Bedford County
46 years

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

Londonderry Township in Bedford County has been through some changes over the past four decades, but there has been one constant: secretary-treasurer Ron Scritchfield.

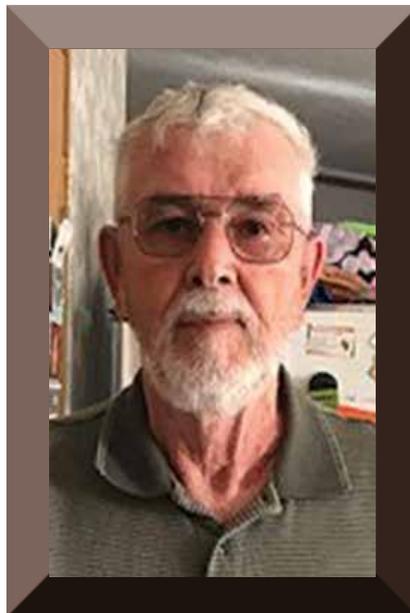
"He's the glue that holds everything together," supervisor Steve Emerick says. "He's the best secretary and the best guy around. Ron puts everything into it. It's his life."

Born and raised in the community, Scritchfield, 79, was working for a coal company when his wife's uncle asked him if he'd be interested in doing some part-time administrative work for the township.

The year was 1972.

"I've always had an interest in numbers so I thought, 'Why not?'" he says. "It was natural to make the shift to bookkeeping. Back in those days, everything was handwritten. Now, it's all computerized."

For many years, he worked at the coal company during the day and tackled his township duties at night after



After more than four decades as secretary-treasurer of Londonderry Township in Bedford County, Ron Scritchfield says he's not ready to hang up his hat just yet. The 79-year-old says his job keeps him young.

his wife of 60 years and four children went to bed.

"When I started, the township office was in my house so that made it convenient," Scritchfield says. "We even held the township supervisors' meetings here."

The supervisors soon realized, though, that they needed a place to call

their own, a place where they could accommodate the public for meetings and store municipal equipment. When a local car dealership went up for sale, Londonderry Township bought the property and converted it into a municipal complex.

They also began to build the township's financial reserves, which allowed them to pave miles of dirt road and upgrade and expand their equipment fleet.

"We've had good supervisors who made good investments," the secretary-treasurer says, "and we've been able to improve everything."

'He puts everything into this job'

The supervisors are just as quick to give Scritchfield a pat on the back.

"He puts everything into this job, even on his days off," Emerick says. "He's always there if you need something. We just appreciate him so much."

Scritchfield says his dedication comes from a desire to help. A student of local government, he likes answering the public's questions.

"I stay on top of things because people look to me for information," he says.

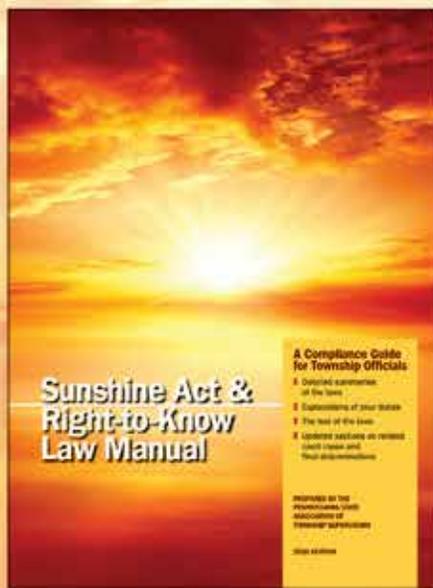
And if he doesn't know the answer, he'll reach out to PSATS or Karen

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NEWSWORTHY

“He puts everything into this job, even on his days off.
He’s always there if you need something.
We just appreciate him so much.”

Cregger, the secretary for Southampton Township.

“Part of being a good secretary is learning all you can or knowing where you can get the information,” Scritchfield says.

Cregger agrees: “Although we’re on opposite ends of the county, we’re there for each other all the time.”

Scritchfield is at an age where most folks decide to take it easy, but he isn’t interested.

“As long as I’m in good health and the supervisors keep me around, I’m going to stay,” he says. “I look forward to it. It keeps me young. ♦

How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

Ron Scritchfield may have 40-plus years under his belt as the secretary-treasurer for Londonderry Township, Bedford County, but he’s still learning.

And when he needs information, he knows where to turn: PSATS.

“Any time I have a question about a new procedure or law, I’ll call PSATS,” he says. “They’re always there to help and explain things so I understand.”

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