



## Awards

### PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

# Township Officials Recognized for Dedication, Service to Their Communities

While many benefit from the behind-the-scenes efforts of local leaders, these public servants don't often get the praise they deserve. That changed 28 years ago when PSATS started recognizing those who have truly made a difference in their communities. Every year since, PSATS has presented the President's Leadership Award to two hard-working township officials whose accomplishments have made their townships better places to live and work.

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

**W**illiam Garbrick, a supervisor for Lamar Township in Clinton County, and William M.

Michael Sr., secretary-treasurer of Delaware Township in Northumberland County, were honored with PSATS' 28<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Leadership Award at the Annual Educational Conference in Hershey.

PSATS established the award in 1990 to recognize township officials who have achieved outstanding accomplishments through projects or programs that benefited their community and whose service to township government exhibits the highest standards of dedication, leadership, and creativity.

Each year, PSATS presents the award,

one of its highest honors, to a township supervisor and an administrator.

#### **William Garbrick, Supervisor, Lamar Township, Clinton County**

Garbrick, the first Clinton County official to receive the award, has been a supervisor for more than 33 years. The board's vice chairman, he also is the township's roadmaster and emergency management coordinator.

A model of leadership and public service, the supervisor has been the driving force behind a number of public safety, recreation, historic preservation, and infrastructure projects that have enhanced the community.

"Bill Garbrick personifies the definition of township supervisor, and I can say without hesitation that he is a keystone for Lamar Township," Rep. Mike Hanna

said. "All elected officials, including myself, should strive to serve the community like Bill has done for so many years."

"Bill always takes a hands-on approach to community development, working with and welcoming new businesses while continuing to ensure that the best interests of the township are protected," Michael Flanagan, president and CEO of the Clinton County Economic Partnership added. "We are grateful for his knowledge, his leadership, and his partnership."

In addition to being a founding member and long-time chief of the local volunteer fire company, Garbrick has worked with the state to fix a deadly intersection; secured \$130,000 in grants to improve the township's dirt and gravel roads; returned a forgotten two-

room school to its former use, giving generations of Amish children a place to learn and grow; and spearheaded the development of Long Run Park, which Hanna called “the recreational jewel of the township.”

The supervisor’s dedication to the township where he was born and raised is evident in his many selfless acts.

“Bill helped to build the Lamar Township Volunteer Fire Company from the ground up, from preparing the site to pouring the concrete and laying the bricks,” township secretary Amy Yost said. “He even mortgaged his home to purchase the first fire engine for the fire company.”

During the development of Long Run Park, Garbrick donated many hours to run water lines, install the septic system, pour concrete for pavilions, and put playground equipment together — by hand, Yost said. Currently, he is overseeing the celebration of the township’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Garbrick and his wife, Judy, have been married 56 years and have two children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**William M. Michael Sr.,  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
Delaware Township,  
Northumberland County**

Honored for being a proactive leader, Michael, who has worked for the township for 42 years, has overseen and secured millions of dollars in grants for two major infrastructure projects.

His efforts have improved the lives of residents in this rural community, some of whom had failing septic systems while others lacked a basic necessity, clean drinking water. For years, in fact, water had to be hauled into a housing development and mobile home park after a plant owned by a private water company malfunctioned.

Michael, who also is the township’s zoning officer, subdivision and land development administrator, and municipal authority administrator, spearheaded the reconstruction of the township’s busiest road, a narrow and dilapidated stretch that was widened thanks to a \$300,000 state grant.

“The one thing that can definitely be said about Bill is that he is a true



**Leadership Award winner William Garbrick, right, a supervisor for Lamar Township in Clinton County, has been the driving force behind a number of public safety, recreation, historic preservation, and infrastructure projects. He is shown with PSATS President Shirl Barnhart.**



**William Michael Sr., right, secretary-treasurer for Delaware Township in Northumberland County, received the Leadership Award for securing millions of dollars in grants for two major infrastructure projects. He is also shown with PSATS President Shirl Barnhart.**

consensus builder,” Rep. John Gordner said. “He has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of life for the citizens of his township. He is top-notch.”

Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver agreed: “I have known and worked with Bill for many years. If anyone is worthy of this award, it’s Bill for the countless things

he has done for his township and the surrounding communities.”

In addition to his work for Delaware Township, Michael is active in several other community organizations, including the Warrior Run Fire Department. He and his wife, Shirley, have three children and 10 grandchildren. ♦