

# HALLOFFAME

When your community and neighbors need help, you stop what you're doing, roll up your sleeves, and get to work. **Robin Farrington** has been doing just that for more than three decades.

## Above and Beyond

**Robin Farrington**

**Allegheny Township, Butler County  
30-plus years of service**

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

When Chuck Stowe, a supervisor for Allegheny Township in Butler County, knocked on her door 30 years ago and asked for help after the municipality's secretary suddenly quit, Robin Farrington couldn't say no.

After all, it was an opportunity to help her community and neighbors, and that's something Farrington would never turn down.

"I thought about it for a minute," she says, "and said, 'Oh, why not?' I love people, and taking this job got me more involved in the community.

"So Chuck sat down on my living room floor right then and there, and we went through the books. And that's the way it was for a while. I relied on him a lot that first year to figure out the accounts."

### The definition of dedication

Stowe, a member of PSATS' Executive Board, says that Farrington, a former legal secretary, was the right choice to pick up the pieces after her predecessor left. He knew her family and her strong work ethic. The supervisor says she's also as compassionate as she is straightforward.



**Robin Farrington has gone above and beyond in her role as secretary for Allegheny Township for more than three decades. She has served both the board of supervisors and the community with dedication and compassion.**

"Robin goes above and beyond," Stowe says. "In all these years, she's never missed a meeting — that's quite a feat. She's very dedicated to the township and very community-minded."

"During the early years," the secretary adds, "I remember staying up to 1

or 2 in the morning to make sure I had everything just right."

And much like the supervisors, residents of this small township, population 500, depend on Farrington, too.

Not long ago, for instance, a local couple and their five children were in a bind. They were ready to move into their new home, but a paperwork glitch was holding up the sale. To the family, the problem seemed insurmountable and threatened to ruin the holidays for the kids.

They turned to Farrington for advice but wound up getting an advocate instead.

"I couldn't let something like this happen to those kids so I made a call to the state Department of Environmental Protection and got things straightened out," the secretary says. "Someone just needed to break down the barrier of the paperwork and solve the problem."

While Farrington has given a lot while working for the township, she's received quite a bit in return. The job, she says, has taught her to be more kind, flexible, and courteous. She's a better listener now, too, and is proud of the strides the township has made.

Thanks to conservative budgeting and state funding from the natural gas impact fee, the supervisors have

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been able to upgrade the community’s equipment fleet. A new industrial park with six successful businesses has also increased tax revenues and created jobs for locals.

“Over the years, the township has changed, but it’s changed in a good way,” Farrington says. “We’ve been able to accomplish a lot.”

Of course, you might think that after 30-plus years in local government, this secretary would be ready to move on. Not so. In fact, Farrington plans to put in at least another five years.

“I love it,” she says. “I love the people, and I love solving problems to make their lives easier.” ♦

## How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

Although she’s worked for Allegheny Township in Butler County for more than three decades, Robin Farrington had never attended PSATS’ Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show until last year.

“It was great — I can’t believe I never went,” the township secretary says. “I attended as many workshops as I could fit in.”

The experience opened Farrington’s eyes to what she had been missing. “If you didn’t take something home,” she says, “you weren’t paying attention.”



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