Making a Life in the Country
Susan Liuzza
Moreland Twp., Lycoming Co.
29 years of service

BY AMY BOBB / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Susan Liuzza and her family moved to Moreland Township in Lycoming County 32 years ago in search of rural life. “We wanted to live in the country,” she says.

In 1988, she and her late husband joined with her parents and her sister’s family to purchase a farm, which they subdivided to build and create homes for themselves. Not only did Liuzza find a wide, welcoming place to have animals, enjoy the outdoors, and raise two children, but she soon discovered her vocational calling as well.

“I was pumping gas at the local station when I ran into one of the supervisors who knew I took care of the books for my husband’s car shop,” she recalls. “He asked if I would be interested in the township secretary job.”

Three years after settling into the agricultural community, she became the township’s secretary-treasurer, a job that has perfectly suited her skills and needs over the past three decades.

Learning the job

When Liuzza started with the township in 1991, she soon discovered the job of secretary-treasurer was very different from what she did for her family business. “There are different rules and regulations and so many accounts to manage,” she says. “There are also various reports, some monthly and some annual. You have to be on your toes.”

To better understand her new responsibilities, she attended a variety of secretary-treasurer training offered by the state Department of Community and Economic Development and PSATS, including the Annual Conference, and sought advice from a nearby township secretary.

Rural life in Moreland Township suits Susan Liuzza quite well. “I live in the kind of place where if there’s a problem, all you have to do is call a neighbor and someone will be there to help,” she says.

“I learned a lot that way, but I was basically self-taught, even on the computer,” she says.

The work, at first, was done by hand, but it soon transitioned to the computer, and Liuzza developed efficient processes to keep things humming along. “Anyone who knows me understands that that’s just the kind of person I am,” she says. “Everything has to be organized, prepared, and perfect.”

She believes most people do not really understand the important role a secretary-treasurer plays in a township. “They think we are a clerk or just answer phones,” she says, “but without me, we wouldn’t get one penny into the township.”

While the job’s demands have increased over the years, Liuzza’s organization and attention to detail have ensured that the township never skips a beat. “I love doing paperwork, and I have the job down to a routine,” she says.

‘Like family’

Throughout her township career,
How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

Whenever Susan Liuzza has a question, PSATS is one of the first places she turns.

“I will go to the website or call in,” she says. “Robin [Haring], the receptionist, is so great and efficient. She always directs me to the right place, and I find Melissa [Morgan] and Holly [Fishel] to always be so helpful when I have questions.”