

## Pat Waitkus Sheboygan Falls F.D.

By Jennifer Krueger  
WFJ Staff writer

A solid leader within his department, Pat Waitkus has spent the last 18 years in fire service acting as Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, a member of the Technical Rescue Team, Dive Support Team, and the department training committee. Nominated by the City of Sheboygan Falls department, his dedication to fire service earned him the honor of 1st Runner up for 2020 WSFA Firefighter of the Year.

Pat joined the City of Sheboygan Falls Fire Department in August of 2007.

“He has a steady, calm influence on our members and is looked at as a solid leader,” said Chief Chris Wesendorf.

Previously with the Cleveland Fire Department, he had the experience serving as not only a firefighter but also the department treasurer. He jumped right in when a new department treasurer was needed.

Pat was appointed to Captain in June of 2017, giving him the responsibility for a group of 10 firefighters and their day to day activities: including training, inventory, and truck maintenance.

In 2018 Pat was involved from start to finish with writing referendum specifications on a new engine. This referendum took many hours of going door to door within the community and garnered 78% of the vote to move ahead with the purchase. The finished product is a direct reflection of his leadership.



He is currently a very active member of the department training committee. Building training props, researching training techniques or running fire drills, he is a hands-on instructor who members look up to and appreciate his approach.

Pat works with the local Home Safety Program where community members can reach out and ask for help to make their homes safer. This program has been a big hit and has received many positive reviews.

When not at the department, he keeps busy volunteering with his church and has also been very involved with the Boy Scouts since his son was 6. His guidance and mentorship has been invaluable. Over the years he has held many different leadership roles with Troop 885, one of the strongest

troops in the district. Even after his son was no longer a scout, he took on the role of Troop Committee Chair for three years.

“Pat is the definition of what you want in a volunteer. Someone not just willing to do the job, but someone who is “all in” and gives it their best effort.” said Brian Jacoby Committee Chair Troop 885.

Pat works full time in technical sales for Plenco, in Sheboygan. A true family man, he and his wife Mary make a great team. Together they are raising two kids; Katie in high school and Charlie attending Marquette University.

“As a testament to Pat, his kids are also among some of the most tireless, hard working people. He has embedded a culture of service in his family” Jacoby continued.

Chief Wesendorf stated, “The biggest thing that we as a department appreciate is that he is a great family man and someone that we can model after. He truly cares about his family, his fire family, and the city that he serves.”



*Pat is joined by several family members at his award presentation.*