

Minerva Vol. Fire Dept & Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary

For almost forty years, the Minerva Fire Department Auxiliary actively pursued fulfilling the goals set in 1960 when the group was formed. Those goals were to support the Minerva Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in their work and to aid in any worthwhile project agreed upon by the members. This included raising money for the purchase of equipment for the fire house and contributing towards the purchase of the ambulance and fire trucks, as well as additional equipment for the vehicles. Additionally, the auxiliary regularly served coffee, ect. for the firefighters as they battled fires, packed lunches for Search and Rescue Team, assisted at the annual Spring Dance, and helped whenever needed.

Early on, the auxiliary provided a small scholarship for a graduating senior, which later came together with other community groups known as the Community Scholarship. By 1995, their annual sponsorship contribution was gifted to the Minerva Chapter of Dollars for Scholars. Also, in 1995, the group formed the Minerva Community Decorations Committee, which planned decorations for the town for holidays and special events.

For many years, the Minerva Fire Department Auxiliary assisted with fundraising for the Fire Company, especially at the annual ClamBake. Several ladies manned the clam bake line and others ran games, which brought in a substantial amount of money. Starting in the late morning and continuing right up until the fireworks, participants could enjoy darts, milk bottles, duck pond, glass pitch, animal fair, ring toss, and basketball. After this event, members could be found at Donnelly's camp at Minerva Lake, counting the money until late in the evening, usually missing the fireworks.

Some other events the Auxiliary participated in were the Minerva Community Bazaar, fundraisers at Jenkins' Mockingbird Hill, and the Minerva Day parade.

The first lady Auxiliary Member of the Year announced by the Fire Company was Lucy (Wilcox) Mullan.

In 1999, the Auxiliary was asked to disband by the Board of Directors of the Fire Company, which led to the formation of the Minerva Service Organization. It was the consensus of the members in attendance that the MVFD Auxiliary had served the Fire Company, Rescue Squad, and the Town of Minerva well over 39 years.

The last officers to serve the Fire Company were Anne Allen (Dunkley), President; Helen Sylvester, Vice-President; Nancy w. Shaw, Secretary; and Edna Dubay; treasurer.