

“From the Foundation Onward”:

Sheboygan Falls’ Mayors

By Zachary J. Vis

The City of Sheboygan Falls has a fascinating history. Since the grassroots of becoming a town in 1835, the town has expanded into becoming a city in 1913 and has grown to over 7,500 inhabitants in 2009. Col. Silas Stedman founded Sheboygan Falls. It was purchased through a public land sale in Green Bay in 1835. Stedman, along with other numerous families, traversed from the east in search of growth and prosperity. Falls had a multiplicity of businesses that have contributed to its long history. The Stedman mill, the Mattoon Chair and Spindle Company, the Taylor Brothers sash, Prentice Woolen Mills, Bemis, Curt Joa, Rochester Lumber, Richardson’s Lumber, and numerous others have made Sheboygan Falls into the city that it is today. The many pioneers of the town and their children have created many opportunities for families to come and settle in Sheboygan Falls over the past 174 years. Along with the families came the responsibility to lead a growing community forward.

The men and women who enabled government to take place in Sheboygan Falls must be admired. These public servants put others before themselves and took up the difficult task to lead a growing community. Sheboygan Falls currently has its 19th mayor, but the previous eighteen mayors have made significant contributions both to the city and state as you can read from their biographies listed below. As a leader in the community, civic virtue and working for the good of community is the top priority of these leaders in office. Please take time now and read below the biographies and accomplishments of these mayoral office holders.

Special thanks go out to the Sheboygan Falls Historical Research Center, Scott and Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library, Joel Tauschek the City Administrator, and anyone who provided information for making this project possible.

A little about the author Zach Vis...

Thank you for taking time to look at the biographies of Sheboygan Falls’ past and present leaders. I grew up on the outskirts of Sheboygan Falls. I attended Sheboygan County Christian High School (graduated in 2006) and Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois (graduated 2010). I have a degree in history education and also a minor in Political Science. This project of the mayors came about when I asked Joel Tauschek if he would be willing to take me on as an unpaid intern for school credit for the summer of 2009. He graciously accepted and I completed this extensive project for him. I would like to thank him and his staff for making me feel welcome every time I came in and helped out.



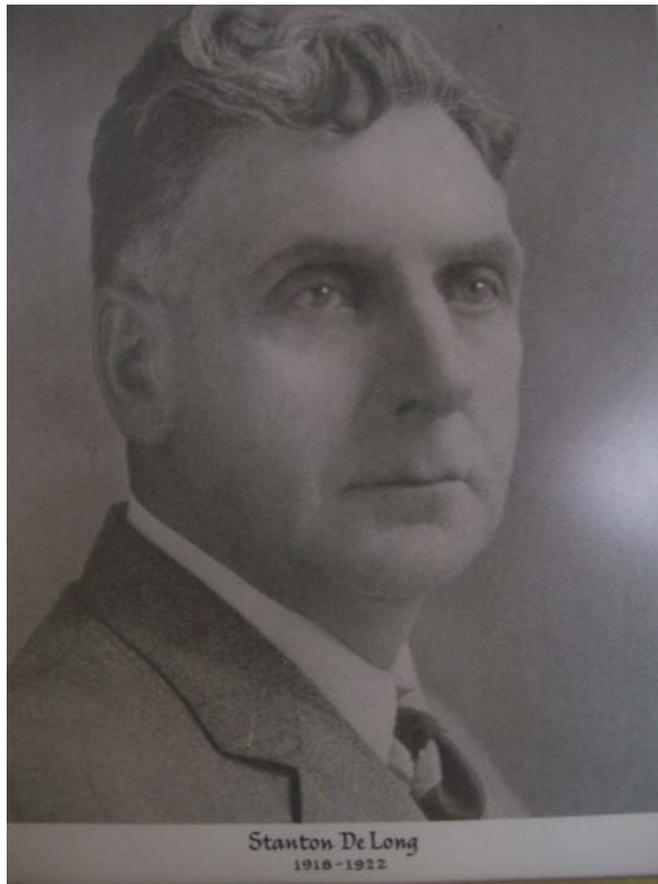
Herman E. Boldt
Mayor 1913-1918

The first mayor of Sheboygan Falls, Herman E. Boldt was born in the town of Sheboygan Falls on May 13, 1865. His parents were John H. D. Boldt and Sophia Danckward. Herman went to public school district no. 8 and the Lutheran parochial school in the town of Falls. After school, he became a carpenter and building contractor in 1881. On September 21, 1895, he married Minnie Arnoldi of Sheboygan Falls. They had seven children.

Boldt was a very active role player in Sheboygan Falls. He was elected a justice of the peace in his first venture of politics and held that position for a number of years. He was the president of the Sheboygan Falls board of education from 1909 to 1922. He was elected village trustee in 1894 and was a village assessor in 1897, 98, and 1906. He became village president in 1913 and became the first mayor of the city of Sheboygan Falls from 1913 to 1918. Mayor Boldt was also the chief of the fire department for many years prior to becoming a mayor. He was the chairman for four years of the public utilities commission. Mayor Boldt was elected a state senator in November 1924 with a margin of 6,172 votes over his closest opponent. Boldt had always held the most important positions on committees in the Senate from 1924 to 1932. He was a close friend with Walter Kohler, a former governor of Wisconsin.

Boldt was a lifelong Republican, and he always took an active part in local and country affairs. He represented the betterment of his community, state, and nation to the best of his ability. He was one of the organizers of five different clubs: the first Boy Scout Troop and served as the chairman of the first troop committee, the Sheboygan Falls Business and Advancement Association, the Sheboygan Fall's Men's club, the General Land company, and the Sheboygan County Safe Drivers' club. Boldt was one of the organizers of Sheboygan Falls Mutual Insurance Company on May 3, 1899 and was the director of it for over thirty years. He was the director and president of the Sheboygan Falls Stanchion company in 1903. In 1919, he was the director of the River Park Improvement Company and also of the Wood, Tire, and Silo Company until

1920. He was a director of the Sheboygan Trust company and for a number of years was director of the Sheboygan Falls bank. He also was one of the organizers of the Falls Building and Loan association on Oct. 10, 1916. Mayor Boldt passed away at Memorial Hospital on April 5, 1941. Mayor Herman E. Boldt was a man with an outstanding business and public service record of nearly half a century. He made a major impact on the city of Sheboygan Falls.



Stanton De Long
Mayor 1918-1922

Mayor De Long was born in the town of Lima on May 22, 1873. He was the son of Conrad and Ann De Long. He lived in Sheboygan Falls most of his life at 126 Brown Court. Stanton was best known for his dealing in horses from 1912 to 1925. Prior to this he owned a hardware store along with Henry Grohs. Their store was known as the De Long and Grohs Hardware store. In 1935, De Long entered the hardware business and opened up his own store at 506 Broadway Avenue. He was very active in fraternal affairs, as he was a member of the Masonic order, St. John's Lodge No. 24, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He married Mattie Hackett in 1900. She passed away in 1927. De Long was elected mayor in 1918 and served two terms. He was also a member of the utility commission for two years from 1933 to 1935. Mayor De Long passed away on Thursday, April 2, 1942. Mayor De Long was an active member of the community in Sheboygan Falls and worked for the good of the community.



Edward H. Blust
Mayor 1922-1926

Sheboygan Falls' third mayor, Edward H. Blust, was born on June 16, 1881 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Xavier Blust. The family moved to Falls three years after his birth, and Ed started his schooling at the public schools in Falls. He attended the Sheboygan Business College after high school. He married Emma Herring on January 14, 1910 at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Sheboygan Falls, and the couple resided at 607 Buffalo Street. The couple had two sons, Henry and Robert, and a daughter, Dorothy. In 1908, Mr. Blust partnered with G. J. TerMaat on August 26, 1908 and established Pine Street Meat Market at 203 Pine Street. The business operated for more than forty-one years. Blust was long active in the community. He served two terms as mayor from 1922-1926, during which he commenced a major street construction program. He also was a member of the park board, secretary and treasurer of the Sheboygan Falls school board, a member of the utility commission, and for more than thirty years, was an active member of the Falls Volunteer Fire Department. He served as a director of the Building and Loan Association and the Falls' branch of the Citizens Bank of Sheboygan. Blust was a member of the Masonic lodge for more than forty years, which included the Blue Lodge, Shriners, Eastern Star, Commandery, and Harmony chapter and the council. On November 21, 1926, Blust became ill while deer hunting near Hayward, WI. He was hospitalized at Ashland before being moved to Memorial hospital in Sheboygan where he passed away December 24 at the age of 68. Blust served his community well both in business and civic virtue in politics.



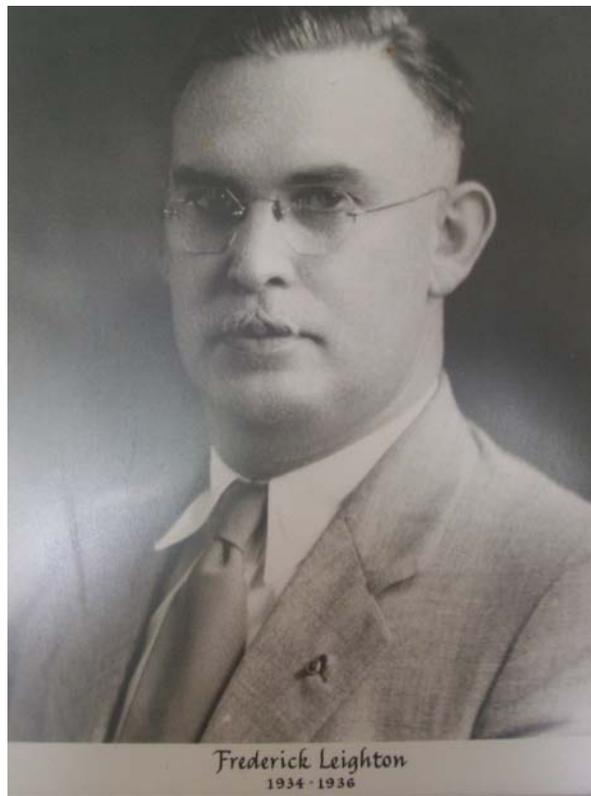
William O. Dassow
Mayor 1926-1928

William O. Dassow was born on November 2, 1872, in the town of Sheboygan Falls to Mr. and Mrs. John Dassow. He attended school in the town of Falls and was a member of the St. Lucas Lutheran Church. In 1901, he married Emma Rickmeier and had three children: two girls, Vernie and Claribel, and a son, Roman. Dassow was involved in the milling business in both the town and city of Falls for over 29 years. After retiring, he built and rebuilt 29 homes in the community. In the realm of politics, he served as city assessor for a number of years, and then he was elected to mayor in 1926-1928. He also served for 14 years as a member of the school board, being president of it for many years. In early 1947, Dassow became ill, and he later passed away at St. Nicholas hospital, April 28, 1947. Dassow was known as a prominent member of the community.



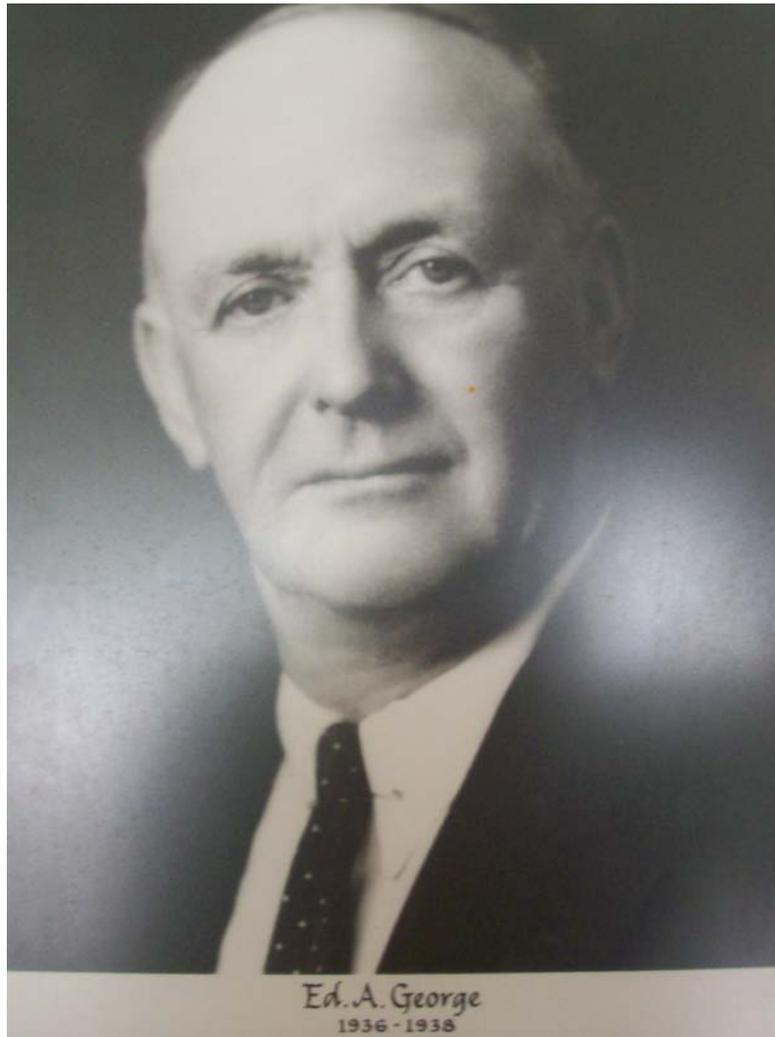
Oscar A. Damrow
Mayor 1928-1934

Oscar Damrow was born September 24, 1880 in the Town of Sheboygan Falls. He was the son of Gottfried and Marie Logemann Damrow. Oscar received his education through the rural schools of Falls. He married Helen Dassow on March 25, 1905, from which they had one son Milfred, who passed away in 1941. They resided in the town of Mohrsville, just north of Sheboygan Falls. Eighteen years later, in 1923, they moved back to Sheboygan Falls to 735 Buffalo Street, where Damrow was very active in the dairy business and operated in cheese factories like the Mohrsville Cheese Factory from 1905-1913, Sheboygan Falls Creamery for 26 years, and helped organize the Clover Cream Dairy in Marshfield in 1926, which he served as president for eight years. In 1910, Damrow was elected president of the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association, the first working cheesemaker to be elected president of that organization. From a political standpoint, Damrow served as mayor of Falls from 1928-1934. From 1946 until his death in 1964, he was a member of the Sheboygan Falls Utility Commission. He was also on the advisory board of Citizens Bank (later became Norwest Bank and eventually became Wells Fargo) in Falls and was a member of the Sheboygan Falls Association of Commerce, the Sheboygan County League of Municipalities, and the Advancement Association of Sheboygan Falls. Oscar was a major contributor in the establishing of Sunny Ridge Nursing Center and Rocky Knoll, county highway shops, and the courthouse annex. Damrow was a member of the Sheboygan County board of Supervisors for 35 years, of which he was board chairman for 18 of those years. Mayor Oscar Damrow passed away at Memorial Hospital on May 20, 1964 at the age of 83. His wife had died a year earlier. Damrow was a strong supporter of public service and did his utmost to serve the Sheboygan Falls' community the best he could.



Frederick Leighton
Mayor 1934-1936

Mayor Frederick Leighton was a man of many trades and abilities. He was born March 8, 1893 in Waukesha, WI, to August and Welhelmina Munz Leighton. After a few years, the family moved to Milwaukee, WI. Leighton went to high school in Milwaukee at Milwaukee West High. After high school, he went to Northern Illinois State Teachers College at DeKalb, IL in 1915 and then attended the University of Wisconsin from 1916-17 and from 1920-21. He then received his bachelor of science, bachelor of medicine, and his M.D. degrees in 1926 from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Leighton came to Sheboygan Falls in November, 1927, and established his doctoral practice which he did for over 38 years. Leighton lived in Falls at 608 Detroit St. until his retirement in 1965. He then moved to 1820 N. 7th St. until his death. Throughout his lifetime Leighton had many occupations. Mr. Leighton served in the US army medical corps during World War I and then he was a justice of the peace and health officer for Sheboygan Falls from 1930-33. After this, he was elected mayor from 1934-36, along with serving as the clerk of the Sheboygan Falls Board of Education from 1942-49 and president of the school board from 1949-53. Leighton also had memberships at several places: the Sheboygan County Medical Society, the Wisconsin Medical Society, the American Medical Association, a 50 year member of St. John's Masonic Lodge at Sheboygan Falls, past commander of the Sheboygan Falls American Legion Post, past commander of the American Legion's Second District, and a past state commander of the 40 et 8. Leighton was a member of the First Methodist Church in Sheboygan Falls. At the age of 75, Dr. Leighton passed at St. Nicholas hospital on October 15, 1968. Mayor Frederick Leighton was a person who served for the betterment of the community and put others before himself.



Edgar A. George
Mayor 1936-1938

Edgar George was born October 14, 1874 in the town of Sheboygan Falls to Mr. and Mrs. Charley George. On April 23, 1896 in Sheboygan, Edgar married Pearl Dunn. They had one daughter, Mrs. John Koskamp. From September 19, 1911 to November 6, 1913 George was the last village Marshall of Sheboygan Falls. After Sheboygan Falls became a city in 1913, he became the first policeman and its first chief a few months later. He retired from this position June 1, 1934, and he then served as mayor from 1936-38. In 1939 George and his wife moved to the Grand Army Home in King, Wisconsin. He and his wife marked their 65th wedding anniversary on April 23, 1961. They were the longest married couple in King. George passed away at the age of 87 on October 20, 1961 at his home, where he had resided over 22 years. Mr. George was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. Mayor Edgar A. George served his community well during his leadership in the departments he worked in.



John Houwers Jr.
Mayor 1938-48

Mayor John Houwers Jr. was born in Sheboygan Falls January 14, 1883. He attended the public schools in Falls and then attended the Milwaukee Business Institute. He was married to Harriet Van de Bogart on Sept. 30, 1908. They had a son Andrew, three daughters, Harriet, Eleanor, and Jeanette. Before becoming married, Houwers worked with his father as a building contractor in 1900. He did this for over 53 years. He passed down the business to his son Andrew in 1953. Houwers was a member of the First Methodist Church where he was treasurer and a member of the board of trustees. He also sang in the choir and was the Sunday School superintendent of the church for 28 years. Houwers had various civic duties, which included being a member of the committee that built the recent annex to the courthouse, and he also served as one of two County Board representatives on the county school committee. In addition, Houwers served as president of the Sheboygan Falls Advancement Association and the Falls Building Association, and the City Planning Commission. He was chairman of the board of directors of the Falls Savings and Loan Association and a member of the citizen's advisory committee for the Falls public school system. Before becoming mayor in 1938, Houwers was an alderman. During the 10 years as head of the city government, he initiated planning for the recently built Falls Municipal Building and also that the Falls Memorial Library was received as a gift to the city and dedicated. Mr. John Houwers Jr., in 1950, was elected as First Ward supervisor and held that position until he passed away. Houwers died due to a heart attack on April 28, 1961 at the age of 78. Mayor Andrew Kohlhagen, at the time of Houwers death, stated that "he was a man who served his community well and whose loss will be deeply felt here."



Gustave Holmgren Mayor 1948-1950

Gustave Holmgren was born in 1911 in New Jersey. He married Hilda Pongratz of Sheboygan Falls in Chicago about 1941. They had four children, John, Jeffrey, Kim, and Lisa. Holmgren was a former sales and research engineer for Midwest Molding and Mfg. Co., of Gurney, Ill. He also worked for a paraplegic institute near Chicago. In 1948, Holmgren unseated Houwers in his bid for re-election as mayor. During his two-year term, he played a leading role in providing the city with a new athletic field, worked hard for construction of a new school, and laid early plans for the Falls Municipal Building. He also pushed a stream anti-pollution program and instituted town hall-type meetings to increase public participation in and understanding of local government. Holmgren was an active leader in state and county Leagues of Municipalities, heading the county organization for a time and serving on the legislative committee of the state league. He was defeated in a possible re-election in April 1950. He then moved back to the Chicago area in the early 1950s. An accidental stray bullet fired from a neighbor's gun shattered his spine as he was repairing a swing for his daughter in the yard of their Richmond, IL, home. He was paralyzed from the waist down for the rest of his days until he unfortunately took his own life on January 12, 1962. During his short term time as mayor, Holmgren worked diligently for the good of the community.



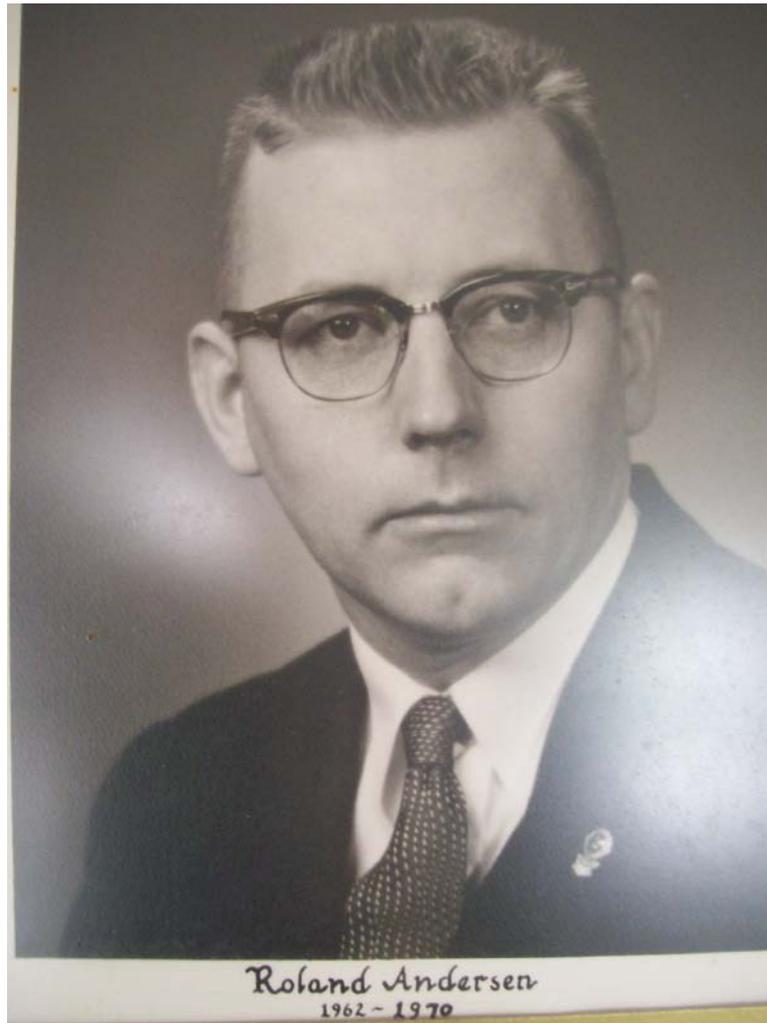
Andrew Kohlhagen
Mayor 1950-1962

Andrew “Andy” was born in Sheboygan Falls on July 16, 1910. He was the son of Luis and Elsie Boeckmann Kohlhagen. Andrew was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and graduated from Sheboygan Falls elementary and high school. He married Molly Schaefer on December 31, 1928 in Waukegan, Illinois. The couple lived in Falls and had three children, one daughter and two sons. Andrew Kohlhagen worked for Sheboygan Falls Creamery and Lake to Lakes Dairy and after this job he started his own appliance business. During his job at the Creamery, he slipped and fell during a milk run on his back. He did not go in for treatment right away, but soon his back became very problematic and required surgery. This may have ended his Creamery career. After running his appliance business for fifteen years, he started his own restaurant at 500 Water Street. Andrew was very active in the community. Kohlhagen served as an alderman for seven years before he became mayor in 1950. During his six terms as mayor he promoted community progress like attracting new businesses to Falls, co-operation, and youth programs such as the Boy Scouts. The new City Hall and Municipal building was completed during his time and he also pushed the city council to carry out an extensive three year street improvement program. During his last term, Mayor Kohlhagen advocated for a new post office and dedicated the new facility in January 28, 1962. One of his major accomplishments as mayor was seeing the city’s tax rate decrease despite the growth of many public programs. One interesting fact is that Mayor Kohlhagen made the first phone call of the Direct Distance Dialing (DDD) program which allowed Sheboygan Falls’ telephone users to contact anyone in the United States and Canada. Andrew Kohlhagen past away on Friday, February 16, 1962 at the age of fifty-one. He past away two months before a possible seventh re-election for mayor. His health had been failing for several months before his re-entering St. Nicholas hospital on February 8, 1962. According to Reverend Edward W. Albertin, who officiated the funeral, “Mayor Kohlhagen merited our respect. He acquitted himself honorably, heading an administration of conservative government which was efficient and progressive.”



Donald E. Koehn
Mayor 1962

Mayor Donald Koehn was born December 9, 1924 to Leroy and Wilma Koehn. He graduated from Central High School in 1943 and then served in the army during the middle of World War II from 1943 to 1946 as a Field Officer in Europe with the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. When he returned home, he married Mary Jane Leick in 1949 at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Sheboygan. They had two sons, Donald Jr. and Jon, during their marriage. Koehn then continued his schooling at UW Madison, where he graduated in 1952 with a law degree. After graduating he started a law practice in Sheboygan Falls. In addition, he was a member and president for a number of years of the Sheboygan Bar Association. He also served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Sheboygan Falls Mutual Insurance Company and a Adjutant and Commander of the American Legion Post 0149, a member of the Elk's Lodge #299, and a part of the Faithful Navigator of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. In 1962, he became the interim mayor for a couple of months when Andrew Kohlhagen passed away during office. After serving these few months, Koehn then was elected City Attorney for Sheboygan Falls in 1963. He held this position until 1979. Koehn passed away November 2, 2005. Even though Mayor Koehn only served a few months as mayor, his numerous other positions in public office, showed that he tried to serve the community the best he knew how.



Roland Ivan Anderson
Mayor 1962-1970

Mayor Roland Ivan Anderson was born on November 21, 1923 in Denmark, Wisconsin to Jens and Esther Andersen. He completed his schooling in Denmark, WI, and graduated from Denmark High School. He then married Bernice Thompson in 1944. They had one daughter, Janet, during their marriage. Anderson was an active member in his community. He was a longtime member and president of the Sheboygan Falls Lions Club, president of the Sheboygan Falls Business Association, a member of the Outboard Club, and a member of the Sheboygan Yacht Club. Anderson also owned Ye Olde Korner Tavern in Sheboygan Falls for 24 years and previously owned and operated Ronsen Hardware Store in Sheboygan Falls. He was elected mayor of Sheboygan Falls in 1962 and held this position until 1970. Anderson passed away at Sunny Ridge Nursing home on August 27, 2005. He had been a resident there for the last 11 years of his life.



Ronald A. Born
Mayor 1970-1976

Mayor Ronald A. Born was born on April 6, 1933 in Sheboygan to Edgar and Elva (Marx) Born. He completed his schooling in the Sheboygan Falls School District and graduated in 1951 from Sheboygan Falls High School. He then attended Sheboygan Business College. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954. On August 23, 1958, Mr. Born married Mary Ellen Friedrichs in Sheboygan. They had one daughter, Karen, and one son, William. Born worked for Born Fuel & Marine for 13 years with his brother Bob and his father from 1958 to 1971. He also was the Business Manager for the Sheboygan Falls School District and was Credit Manager at Richardson Brothers and later for Richardson Industries before his retirement in 1997. Born was also a strong believer in civic virtue and he served in his community in a multiplicity of ways. He was a member of Bay Lake Planning Commission and a president of the Sheboygan Falls Lions Club. He also served as an Alderman for Falls in 1969. He was an executive producer and host on Channel 8 in Sheboygan for the program "Feeling Great". Born was also a gate guard at Road America. Born was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where he was a Sunday School teacher, Bible Class teacher, council president, and part of the men's choir. Born was elected Mayor in 1970 and remained here until 1976. As mayor, Born worked for the good of the community. He passed away unexpectedly on Monday, November 14, 2005. He was 72 years old and lived at 171 Valley Rd, Sheboygan Falls.



Gladys Morken Bohenstengel
Mayor 1976-1980

The first woman mayor of Sheboygan Falls, Gladys Morken Bohenstengel, was the mayor of Sheboygan Falls from 1976 to 1980. Her years in office were filled with some memorable accomplishments. She tried her hardest to make decisions for the betterment of the community. She emphasized that “she was never seeking any personal gains” while in office. She influenced many future decisions for the city. Bohenstengel had many accomplishments during her time in office, which included: the starting of YMCA fund building drive for Falls, several sanitary sewer improvements, the completion of the wastewater pump station for the regional treatment plant, several new hard-surfaced streets, new business buildings in the city and the industrial park, the River park shelter house, continuing work in Rochester park, annexations and the rapid development of the residential area around Sheboygan Falls High School. There also were some disappointments and hardships during her time in office. The construction of Hwy. 23 was at a standstill along with the city’s incinerator were two major problems Bohenstengel had to face. Another way that Bohenstengel believed she gave back to her community in a great way was through her appointments to different committees and commissions. Her approach was to find people who were willing to serve for the greater good. As she left office in 1980, she hoped that the public interest in government would grow. She believed that it was very low and should grow. When she first began as mayor in 1976, the lack of visitors during her office hours caused Bohenstengel to become disappointed in the concerns that the community had for its public servants. During Bohenstengel’s four years as mayor of the city of Sheboygan Falls, she pushed the city forward in the different areas of the community that needed advancement and helped lead the way towards a bright future.



Robert E. Born
Mayor 1980-1988

“I want to be in Sheboygan Falls for the rest of my life, to take a part in making it what it will become, and in keeping what it already has.” (Sheboygan Falls News, March 26, 1980)

Robert Born has been a lifelong Sheboygan Falls resident along with his wife, Nancy, who worked at Bemis. They had three sons Ken, Jeff, and Steve. Before having political aspirations, Born was the owner/operator of Signs & Designs R Born, a company which makes plastic and wooden engraved signs. He also was associated with Born Fuel and Marine, Robert’s Fashions, and with WHBL radio as a salesman. Robert has been a member of the chamber of commerce for over 20 years, serving two years as president. He has been the chairman of the chamber/city relations, parking, retail promotions and doctor recruitment committees of the chamber. Born was a 21 year member of the city fire department, was the chief engineer for six years, and was the training coordinator for four years. He was a member of the Salvation Army advisory committee and was a past member of Rotary West and the YMCA board. As mayor, Born pushed to work continuously with the committees and the council to make sure that as much as possible was done for the community. He also pushed for more preservation of old streets that give the city a great deal of history. Born always wanted to put “fresh” ideas into government and that is what he did during his 8 years as mayor. He did not pursue re-election after his fourth term. Born’s last common council meeting ended with him thanking everyone for “a very exciting eight years. I have a treasure of new friends. I’ll have a lifetime of memories, most of them good. I’m glad I did it and I feel we did good. All I can say now is I’m history.” Born’s 8 years were not in vain, as he pushed for keeping taxes low, revitalizing business, and helped in many other areas. After stepping down in office, Born looked forward to building a new home on his 14 acre plot of land in rural Sheboygan Falls. He still continues to be supportive of the Sheboygan Falls community.



Richard M. Micoliczuk
Mayor 1988-1992

Richard Micoliczuk was born September 27, 1946 in Milwaukee to Mitchell and Lucille Micoliczuk. During high school, Richard worked at Richardson Brothers. After graduating he served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was employed at Gateway Trucking for six months along with working six years at Gilson Brothers. Richard's other place of employment was at Bemis Mfg., where he was Vice President and Director of the Demand Management Proprietary Group for 25 years. On August 27, 1966, he married Diane Berg of Sheboygan Falls. They had a daughter, Mandy, and two sons, Mark and Mike. As for the political realm, Micoliczuk served on the city council for 14 years and was alderman from 1984 to 1988. He then became mayor from 1988 to 1992. After serving as mayor he returned to being an alderman from 1992 to 1998. Other areas of civic virtue included being president of the Area Sheboygan Traffic Club from 1985 to 1987, and he was an active coach for the United Football League. He was a member of the Blessed Trinity Parish in Sheboygan Falls, where he was an usher and lay distributor. Mayor Richard Micoliczuk passed away at St. Nicholas Hospital, Wednesday, October 2, 2002 after battling cancer. Micoliczuk served his community in a very diligent and hardworking manner.



Joseph V. Heidemann
Mayor 1992-1994

Joseph V. Heidemann was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and moved to Sheboygan Falls when he was in 4th grade. He attended St Mary's Catholic School. His father purchased a small farm outside of Sheboygan Falls. Heidemann's father cash cropped 72 acres. Over the years, Heidemann was in 4H along with working for various farmers as soon as he could drive a tractor. Heidemann attended Sheboygan Falls High School, played football, and worked for the Recreation Department and also for Austin's Super Market in Sheboygan Falls. After attending the Sheboygan Teacher's College for one year, Heidemann joined and proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. Once his service was completed, he attended the University of Wisconsin -Sheboygan and Lakeland College. While studying at the University, Heidemann enrolled in a political science class. This was the beginning of Heidemann's political aspirations.

He was elected as Alderman three different times. His first term was only two years because he had run for mayor but lost. The second term ended when he won the Mayoral election and served for two years from 1992 to 1994. He ran for Alderman again after he was mayor and was elected for a third term and was into a fourth when Heidemann gave up his seat after moving to Sheboygan. He is currently a 2009 Alderman in Sheboygan and is in his second term. Heidemann stated that his first responsibility as mayor was to see that what had started under Mayor Micoliczkyk was completed. Heidemann's goal was to work as a team with the common council to keep the tax rate down while making Sheboygan Falls a better community. Heidemann believed that he accomplished this during his term as mayor. He has worked under four different Mayors, and according to him, he has learned a new perspective from each of them. His advice for future politicians is to have a well rounded agenda and to not spend all their time on one issue. They should also support and respect the individuals that are the department heads because they are their administration. They need to look backwards and forward at the same time. History repeats itself so the guidelines are already in place to help direct them.

Mayor Joe Heidemann spends his time now golfing and is a proud representative of the local Lions Club. He told me during his interview that being mayor of Sheboygan Falls was one of his proudest moments of his life. He is thankful for all the support he received during those years as mayor and still as a Sheboygan Alderman.



David O. Specht
Mayor 1994-2004

David O. Specht grew up in Sheboygan Falls. He went to school in the Sheboygan Falls School District. He has served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1969 to 1978, during which he served as a mortar platoon leader in the Co. C1/127th Infantry. Specht has been involved in the American Legion and the Sheboygan Falls Fire Dept. of which he served twenty years. David Specht was the mayor of Sheboygan Falls for ten years. He also was on the city council from 1993 to 1994. During his years as mayor, he increased the police department and increased staffing in the Department of Public Works. Specht also invested over a million dollars to upgrade the Hwy. 32 electric substation to improve power supply and reliability. Another major investment was for street repaving, water main replacement, new storm sewers, and sewer lines. David also maintained a low tax rate while increasing staffing to provide better service to the taxpayers. He also annexed over four hundred acres south of Hwy. 28 for a new 18 hole golf course, The Bull, the only Jack Nicklaus signature golf course in Wisconsin. Mayor Specht also resolved funding issues to allow for the Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library expansion along with Municipal building remodeling and addition to the Fire Department. He worked with numerous developers and planned commission to develop numerous new subdivisions. Specht worked to keep the community safe along with bringing new resolve to situations. He has spent hours working to expand the city into new areas and bring more business into Sheboygan Falls. Mayor Specht's advice for future public servants is that they need to remain focused on the needs of the city as a whole. Also, a leader must remember that they represent everyone in the city and not just those who agree or who have voted for them.



Randy J. Meyer
Mayor 2004-Present

Mayor Randy Meyer was born and raised in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. At the age of three, he lost his eyesight due to cancer of the retina. Growing up, Meyer's blindness taught him to come up with unique solutions to problems. Mayor Meyer does not view his blindness as a handicap, and he does not let it slow him down in life. Randy went to school in Sheboygan Falls and then pursued higher education at UW-Whitewater. During his schooling, Meyer was actively involved in wrestling. At Whitewater, Meyer earned All American and Academic All American honors by placing in the top eight wrestlers in the nation. In 2006, Meyer was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as a Medal of Courage winner. In 2005, Meyer was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans by the United States Jaycees, a very prestigious award, also awarded to Bart Starr, Elvis Presley, and John F. Kennedy. He is a graduate of the Leadership in Life Institute. Meyer holds the distinguished designations of Chartered Financial Consultant and Certified College Planning Specialist. Meyer began his own company, RM Financial Resources, with his wife Tammy in 2002 after working in the financial planning industry for 10 years. He provides financial and college planning services for his clients.

Meyer became intrigued by politics after observing a Council session and thinking to himself that he could possibly do a better job than some of the people that were on the council at the time. He served for five years (1999 to 2004) as Alderman on the Sheboygan Falls City Council. In 2004, he was elected to the office of Mayor, of which he currently holds. His campaign slogan was "it doesn't take sight to run a community, it takes a vision." Mayor Meyer works with the city administrator Joel Tauschek, the Police Department, and the Council, to keep Sheboygan Falls a city where visitors can come and enjoy what the city has to offer. He believes that spending the taxpayer's money on things that are not frivolous but worthy for the community will enable growth and development. Mayor Meyer attributes his successes to his family, Tammy and daughter Natasha, and setting goals. Meyer continues in civic virtue to enhance Sheboygan Falls the best way he knows how to do.