



05/22/2006

## **KVFD earns Sertoma service award second time**

By **KATRINA CAMPUZANO** , Hub Staff Writer

**KEARNEY — The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department is the 2006 winner of Sertoma’s Service to Mankind Award.**

Members will accept their award at 6:30 p.m. today at Kearney Country Club.

KVFD, which has 73 volunteer firefighters and eight paid firefighters, also won the award in 1970, making it the only organization or individual to win the award twice.

Chief Jerry Thompson said the diversity of Kearney’s department makes it unique.

“When we go to fire calls we bring a lot of people with a lot of different backgrounds,” Thompson, who works for the city water department, said. “If we have an electrical fire, we have electricians that show up, and they’re also firefighters. We have mechanics that show up for car fires.

“We bring people who are professionals in other fields to the fire scene and use them both to fight fire and as professionals in those fields. That’s a real plus.”

Thompson, who has been on the department for 15 years and became chief two years ago, said the decision to volunteer for KVFD was based on several factors, the main one being the opportunity to help the community.

He added that while 95 percent of the job is spent preparing and training for fires and other activities, only 5 percent is actually spent on calls.

Among the other services the department provides to the community are sponsoring Little League baseball, softball and hockey teams and making appearances at community events.

Thompson said that’s part of what makes his job special.

“You don’t expect your fire department to sponsor a Little League, but it makes us feel even more a part of the community,” he said. “I think the thing that surprised me the most about this is the amount of support the community has for the fire department. I didn’t expect awards — you don’t expect that stuff when you volunteer and you’re just one of 78 people. The big thrill when you first start is just climbing on the big red trucks when you go out.

“We are not a paid group, most of our members are volunteers, so to be recognized is a positive thing for us, because we realize that the things we do for fun are things that other people appreciate,” he said.

e-mail to:  
[katrina.campuzano@kearneyhub.com](mailto:katrina.campuzano@kearneyhub.com)

Who’s Won in the Past  
Past Sertoma Service to Mankind Award Winners  
Verna Ritterbush 1965  
Bob Van Tine 1966  
Sam Forney 1967  
Lloyd Frank 1968



**Kearney’s Volunteer Fire Department is receiving the 2006 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award. Its 73 volunteer firefighters answer calls ranging from fires to car accidents.**

Kearney Volunteer Fire Department 1970  
Bill Richardson 1971  
Dr. Lee Smith 1972  
Mrs. Merle Richards 1973  
Charlie Keliher 1974  
Gary Blanchard 1975  
Dr. Robert Rosenlof 1976  
Mrs. Truxton Routh 1977  
Dr. Ken and Bev Kimball 1978  
Bill and Marilyn Schnuerle 1979  
Donna Cousins Smith 1980  
Bernie Dineen 1981  
Orvel and Agnes Woodward 1982  
Ellen W. Baldwin 1983  
Ed and Lois Tollefsen  
and Joyce Cottrell and Keith Cottrell 1984  
Suzanne Morrissey 1985  
Janet Yost 1986  
Dave and Lorma Wiebe 1987  
Jim and Evelyn Ross 1988  
Ron and Carol Cope 1989  
Evelyn Brown 1990  
Norma Ramsay 1991  
Alice Howell 1992  
Kearney Goodfellows 1993  
Dr. F.M. 'Mike' Shada 1994  
Dr. Myron and Eva Osterberg 1995  
Marcia Welch 1996  
Dr. Philip Holmgren 1997  
Carl Spelts 1998  
Charles and Judy Messbarger 1999  
Jerry and Edith Marlatt 2000  
Ben Homan 2001  
Mary Ruth Steffens 2002  
Jim Wilson 2003  
Audrey and Bill Nelson 2004  
Jim Fudge 2005  
Kearney Volunteer Fire Department 2006

©Kearney Hub 2007