

Chief Charles Trodglen

Charles Trodglen began his life of public service with a four year stint in the Army. Working as a teletype operator with the army's security agency, Charlie was stationed in various locations around the United States and oversea's in East Africa. Upon his discharge in 1965, he joined the Henderson Fire Department and embarked on a distinguished fire service career.



Being promoted to Engineer and then Lieutenant in a span of four years, he was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1972 and ultimately Chief in 1979. He served as Henderson Fire Chief for 17 years until his retirement in 1996.

Chief Trodglen was pro-active in all aspects of the fire service, but especially distinguished himself through promoting his department's effort in the field of public fire education. The Henderson Fire Department developed a live "puppet show" which was used as a unique tool to teach children from Kindergarten through 6th grade the lessons of fire safety. This nationally renowned instructional tool was a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of Chief Trodglen. The Chief also oversaw the production of the "inspector detector" video. This fire safety video was distributed to departments throughout the Commonwealth with the assistance of State Fire Marshal Bill Martin and his office.

Chief Trodglen was instrumental in the establishment of our Green River Firefighter Association in 1984. Charlie served the association as its first vice-president and as President in 1985 and '86. He also served as the association's secretary. He saw Green River grow from humble beginnings to become one of our most active and powerful regional associations.

Charlie served the KFA for a number of years through committee assignments that included legislative, public relations, and Chairman of our membership committee. In 1982 at our conference in London, he was elected 5th Vice-President and served under KFA Hall of Fame Presidents James Moore and Sie Jewell. The Chief worked to see many legislative initiatives become law including the landmark legislation HB 525.

Concluding his term as President in 1987-88, he and the Green River Association hosted our annual conference in Owensboro.

After Chief Trodglen's retirement from the Henderson Fire Department, he went to work at Methodist Hospital where he oversaw mechanical projects. Charlie, a member of Masonic Lodge # 9, enjoys NASCAR and of course, UK Basketball.

He and his wife Joyce has been married for 43 years and has raised 3 daughters and a son. Chief Charles Trodglen has been a vital part in the growth and success of the KFA and it is our honor to induct him into the 2007 class of the KFA Hall of Fame.