

Chief James C. Hogsten

Throughout Jim Hogsten's career with the Ashland Fire Department, he continued the tradition and activity of his department with the KFA, started by "Hall of Fame" Chief Burris Hensley, our associations 6th President in 1929.

Jim, following in his father Leonard's footsteps as an Ashland Firefighter, was appointed to the Department in January of 1951. Moving through the ranks of Driver, Captain, and Assistant Chief, Jim was appointed Fire Chief on June 1, 1972, serving until his retirement in 1992.



Chief Hogsten's tenure with Ashland saw progressive leadership and growth within the department. He purchased the first ladder tower apparatus in the Eastern Kentucky area; purchased 5 new pumpers in a 10 year span, and oversaw construction of 2 new fire stations. While Jim was involved in many huge fires and serious incidents, his department was always first to offer neighboring departments, regardless of size or make-up, assistance. He is most proud that his department never suffered a line of duty death under his watch.

Jim Hogsten was extremely active in regional and state activities and associations. A leader of our Eastern Kentucky Firefighters Association, Jim served many offices throughout his career. He was a major proponent and driving force in the construction of the EKFA Fire Training Center, the first in northeastern Kentucky located in Boyd County. He was also heavily involved in the development, and a charter member of the PSCC board which administers the areas 911 and Emergency Communications Center for Fire, Police, and EMS in Boyd and Greenup counties.

Jim has also been active with the International Association of Fire Chief's, serving on the Board of its Southeastern Fire Chief's regional association; and the Fire Department Instructor's Conference through the International Fire Service Training Association. He also served terms on our State's Fire Commission.

While never holding an executive position with the KFA, Jim is the silent type of person who provides the strength behind our organization. He has served on many KFA committees throughout the years including By-Laws, Finance, Fire School, and Legislative. He has supported many legislative initiatives including our incentive and state aid bills. Probably his most important role throughout his time with the KFA is his promotion and support of the association. He has continually supported and encouraged members of his department and the Eastern Kentucky area in their roles as becoming KFA President's, including Chas Riggsby in 1962, William Slone,

Gerald Clark, Eddie Hall, Jack Kelly, Larry Collier, and others. Through his time as Chief, Jim himself served as host department and was the main hub in putting on many KFA conferences.

Today, Jim's interests' include hunting and fishing. Jim has lent his service to many organizations including the Kiwanis Club, American Legion, Elks, Masonic Lodge and the local Chamber of Commerce.

Jim is extremely proud that 2 of his grandchildren have followed his lead into the arena of public service, one as a police officer in Ashland and the other, Ryan Hogsten, a Lieutenant with the Lexington Division of Fire.

Since Jim's retirement in 1992, he still regularly attends KFA conferences with his wife of 61 years, Maggie, and imparts his vast knowledge on the younger generation of KFA members.

It is our great honor to induct Chief James Hogsten into the KFA Hall of Fame.