

Commerce Twp. Fire Department promotes six

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Six firefighters within the [Commerce Township Fire Department](#) were recently promoted to the ranks of captain and lieutenant. Firefighters promoted to captain were [Marcus Leece](#), Stacy Gross and [Thomas Moore](#). Firefighters promoted to lieutenant were [Mark Gall](#), [Anthony Oryszczak](#) and [James Liker](#). They are pictured with Fire Chief Joseph Schornack. During the [Commerce Township Board of Trustees](#) meeting last week, the Commerce Township Fire Department recognized six firefighters who were recently promoted to the ranks of captain and lieutenant.

The promotions were a first for the department, which implemented a new command structure last year. The department previously operated under a horizontal ranking structure consisting of a chief, fire marshal, career firefighters and paid-on-call firefighters. The structure meant firefighters retained the designation of “firefighter” without any opportunity of promotion.

Union members representing the township’s firefighters formally approached the board of trustees in hopes of establishing a ranking system within the department in July 2014.

Under the new agreement, the department will maintain three captain and three lieutenant positions, with one captain and one lieutenant assigned to each shift. To be eligible for the initial promotional process, firefighters were required to have 10 years of full-time seniority, with additional years of seniority required for potential lieutenant candidacy.

Firefighters promoted to captain are Marcus Leece, Stacy Gross and Thomas Moore.

Leece has 19 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. He is a licensed paramedic and instructor-coordinator, a certified fire instructor, State of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and III, hazardous materials technician and team leader. Additionally, he holds two associate degrees in Firefighting Technology and Emergency Medical Technology, is a [CPR](#) instructor, and graduate of Eastern Michigan University Staff & Command class.

Gross has 18 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. She is a licensed paramedic and instructor-coordinator, department EMS coordinator, State of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and II, certified fire instructor, instructor in CPR, and holds an associate degree in Fire Science.

Moore has 25 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. He is a certified fire instructor, state of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and III, certified driver’s training instructor, certified open-water diver and ice rescue technician, and a graduate of the Eastern Michigan Staff & Command class.

Firefighters promoted to lieutenant are Mark Gall, Anthony Oryszczak and James Liker.

Gall has 14 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. He is an emergency medical technician, hazardous materials technician, member of the Communications-Incident Management Team, a State of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and II, holds an associate degree in Fire Technology, and is actively involved in grant writing for the department.

Oryszczak has 17 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. He is an emergency medical technician, department instructor in extrication and vehicle stabilization, is a State of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and III, and is currently working towards his associate degree in Fire Science at [Oakland Community College](#).

Liker has 14 years of seniority with the Commerce Township Fire Department. He is an emergency medical technician, hazardous materials technician, certified fire inspector and plan-review examiner, department instructor in extrication and vehicle stabilization, a State of Michigan Fire Officer I, II and III, and instructor in confined space rescue and rapid intervention crew training.