

## **Lake Nebagamon Member of the Month: Sheri Fuller**

### **How long have you been part of the department?**

- I started in May of 2013, so I'm going on 8 years this year.

### **What positions and/or certifications do you hold?**

- Captain/Training Officer for about 6 years
- 2014- Wisconsin DNR Introduction to Wildland Fire Suppression
- 2015- Emergency Medical Responder (National Registered Emergency Medical Technician), Entry Level Firefighter, Haz Mat Awareness, Live Burn Simulator, attended various classes on Infectious diseases, Motor Vehicle Crash injuries, caring for geriatric patients, traumatic injuries, pelvic and hip fractures, and documenting reports correctly, Wisconsin DNR Structural Protection in Wildland Firefighting (Zone Leader), Incident Command System (ICS) 100, 700, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder awareness training (Critical Incident Stress Debriefing)
- 2016- Certified Firefighter 1 & Hazmat Ops, modern fire attack SLICE-RS and RECEO-VS, Incident Safety Officer (NFA)
- 2016- Certified Firefighter II, Certified Fire Officer 1,
- 2017- LifeLink III Helicopter Landing Zone training, SEPSIS recognition, Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge, Child Abduction Response Team, Missing Person Search Tactics, Advanced Search Concepts
- 2018- Wisconsin DNR Structural Protection in Wildland Firefighting (Zone Leader) 1 & 2, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Traffic Incident Management Enhancement Program, Fire Investigation
- 2019- Entry Level Driver/Operator, Certified Emergency Service Instructor I, The First 5 Minutes (Wisconsin Fire Chief's Association conference), Fire Inspector 1
- 2020- Ice Rescue Technician
- 2021- Incident Command System Skills Refresher

Many of these classes are current for 2 years and I refresh on them every 2 years. Keeping current on these skills ensures that I am able to protect my community and perform with the highest of standards

### **Why did you join?**

- My dad was a volunteer firefighter and fire chief for 20 years before he passed away. I heard the pager go off all times of the day and night, I watched him leave in the middle of dinner, get up in the middle of the night to fight a fire, be gone for hours, and come home to his family, go to work tired in the morning because of a long night, spend hours writing grants to get better equipment and trucks for his fire department. I had so much respect for what he did to keep our township safe.
- Being a volunteer firefighter/EMR is a calling, and I felt that tug at me even back then. There is nothing better than being able to be there to make a difference in someone's life

even on their worst day. I believe it is a great way to give back to my community, and be someone that the younger generation can look up to.

### **What are you doing when not volunteering for the department? (job, hobbies, family, etc.)**

- As a "real job" I am a Critical Care Nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. I work in the Medical Intensive Care Unit, which has also been the COVID ICU since last year, and studying to get my Critical Care RN certification and working towards my Master's Degree. I am also an Emergency Services Instructor for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. I am now teaching firefighting and sharing my passion with others who want to become firefighters.
- As a training officer, I also do group and 1:1 fire and EMS training with the members of our fire department, and ensure that they are keeping in compliance with the state requirements. I also have been tasked with orienting the new members and helping them on the path they want to go down in the fire department.
- I have been married since 2019, and we have 2 dogs and 2 cats. We enjoy traveling, camping and fire training together
- I love to do anything outdoors, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, kayaking, canoeing, reading, spending time with my husband, 10 year old nephew, my sister, and my fire family. I also do a lot of weight training and cardio to make sure I'm able to perform the physically demanding tasks on a fire ground.

### **What would you tell someone who is considering joining the department?**

- Being a volunteer firefighter/EMR is more than just the T-shirt. It is a huge commitment, being present for your community, yourself, and your family. It's a fine balancing act, but at the end of the day, it's the feeling of peace and accomplishment that you have served and done everything you can. It's getting up early to train, or staying up late to complete a task. It is joining your brothers and sisters to fight fire in the subzero temps to save a house, leaving the holiday meal to save a life, or spend a week hiking in the woods and swamp to perform a search and rescue. And, after all of that be able to talk, laugh or cry together.
- It's an unbreakable bond and friendships that last a lifetime. We walk in, put our differences aside and work together for a common goal: to get the job done, protect our community, and create awareness for others. If you think you can do that, I strongly urge you to consider joining our family.

