



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

2017 — What a Year

DECEMBER 2017 IS HERE! That's right, we are in the final month of the year it's getting colder outside, and winter is getting ready to set in.

TOIRMA began the year with recently updated and newly created resources available to our members. One of TOIRMA's goals continues to be to provide our members tools designed to assist in minimizing claims through loss prevention efforts and programs.

Website

One of the key tools made available to TOIRMA members was our newly designed website, www.toirma.org. In addition to helpful information being easier to locate, new services were added to the site. Members are now able to make changes to their coverages, and may report claims through the website. The TOIRMA Toolbox is continually updated, and newsletters and other

helpful information are readily available. The site also responds to the type of device a member is using helping make the experience more user friendly. Feedback from membership has been good in 2017 regarding the updated website, and we are encouraged by its increased usage.

Claims Reporting

In addition to the long-time ability of members to report claims by telephone during business hours, the new year allowed members the opportunity to report claims 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year through our Claims Reporting Hotline (844) 562-2720. As mentioned above, members may also report claims using our website.

Dividend Declared

In February, the TOIRMA Board of Trustees

Serving the legal needs of townships and road districts

HEYL ROYSTER HAS PRACTICED IN THE FIELD OF GOVERNMENTAL LAW FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES, WITH A SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATION.

OUR CLIENTELE IS FOUND IN COUNTIES, LARGE AND SMALL, OVER ROUGHLY 65% OF THE STATE.



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declared a dividend to members that had participated in the Program for the previous five consecutive years. This marked the 26th consecutive year that a dividend has been declared, for a 26-year total of \$39,319,056 returned to townships. This year's dividend totaled \$2,066,770.

Transition Preparation – Human Resources Help Line & Financial Considerations

During the early months of 2017, the TOIRMA Team focused our efforts on the upcoming transition due to a township election. We encouraged veteran officials to assist in a cooperative transition. Among many items addressed during this time-frame, we stressed the importance of members utilizing TOIRMA's Human Resources Help Line. The Help Line is available to members, at no additional charge, assisting with employment related matters such a hiring, disciplining, and terminating employees.

We encouraged our members to keep in-mind that regardless of their revenue amounts, all townships this year are required to have an audit done by a certified public accountant (CPA). This audit must be completed within six months after the close of the fiscal year (Most townships' fiscal years begin on April 1st, so the deadline was September 30th.)

Other important financial considerations stressed included the statutory requirement that all checks must be signed by the supervisor in-order for it to be valid, and the requirement for supervisors to be bonded (TOIRMA offers this bond as a part of our coverages.)

We also focused on the statutory responsibilities of the township boards relating to expenditures/bills presented each month.

Township Election

The Consolidated Election was held on April 4, 2017. All supervisors, clerks, trustees, highway commissioners took office for their new term on May 15, 2017. Assessors and collectors will begin their new terms on January 1, 2018. This year saw an approximately 22% change in officials.

Remembering Rod Beck

On April 26, 2017, TOIRMA lost a dear friend. Rod Beck, former Executive Director, passed away at his home. Rod will always be remembered for his gentlemanly demeanor, leadership, and strong advocacy of TOIRMA and township government.

Cyber Liability Coverage Added

On June 1, 2017, the TOIRMA Board of Trustees added Cyber Liability Coverage to the TOIRMA Program at no additional charge to its members. The cov-

erage is designed to cover claims relating to Information Security and Privacy Liability (damages and expenses resulting from a violation of a privacy law), Privacy Breach Response Services, Regulatory Defense and Penalties, Website Media Content Liability, PCI Fines and Penalties, and Cyber Extortion Loss.

Newly Elected Officials Trainings, Regional Trainings & Summer Seminar

With the new term of office beginning, TOI offered a series of Newly Elected and Returning Township Officials Boot Camp training sessions throughout the State. In addition, the Township Supervisors of Illinois coordinated training sessions for elected officials. These programs provided officials an excellent chance to learn more about their responsibilities, as well as an opportunity to meet and share with their peers.

TOIRMA was also fortunate to participate in the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois Summer Seminar. This educational program is designed specifically for highway commissioners and it was great to see members learning and sharing ideas. TOIRMA also partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation, TOI, and the Illinois Association of County Engineers in 15 regional educational meetings focusing on the general administrative duties of township highway commissioners. These sessions were well attended and we look forward to future training partnerships with these and other organizations.

Annual Educational Conference

TOI's Annual Educational Conference was held in Springfield November 12-14, 2017. There were over 50 educational sessions offered with topics helpful to all township officials and staff. We enjoyed seeing and visiting with both seasoned and newly elected officials. Congratulations to TOI for a job well done!

This are just a few of the highlights from 2017. The TOIRMA Team truly appreciates the opportunity to work with both veteran and new officials throughout the State. We've enjoyed meeting with you one-on-one, at your county association meetings, and at loss control and safety meetings. Thank you for all you do to assist us in making TOIRMA successful.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me, toll free at: (888) 562-7861, or by email: jdonelan@toirma.org.

