



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Highway Commissioners meet in Peoria for Summer Seminar

IN EARLY AUGUST, the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois held its 33rd Annual Summer Seminar in Peoria. This event is a tremendous opportunity for highway commissioners throughout the State of Illinois to attend education sessions relevant to their jobs, as well as network with other elected officials. In addition to some well-done presentations to the group as a whole, there were several education breakout sessions. Topics included: "Budgets and Levies," "Emerald Ash Borer," "Establishing a Pavement Rating System," "Weight Limits," "Noxious Weeds in the Right-of-Way," "Pavement Preservation," "Drainage Law," "IDOT Specs," "More Economical Cement Based Solutions for Townships," and "Electric/Natural Gas Safety – Damage Prevention." TOIRMA was also asked to provide a breakout presentation to the group. Each and every year I attend this meeting, I pick up on something useful.

Account Manager Simphi Lenover, Loss Control Consultant Matt Knight, Loss Control Representative Sean Richardson, and I gave the TOIRMA presentation titled "Am I Liable?" Our presentation, which lasted an hour, was designed to give highway commissioners a brief history of TOIRMA, our mission, claims history, types of coverage provided, when to call regarding borrowing or renting equipment, signage safety and issues, the importance of the *Highway Commissioner's Diary*, avoidable risks and exposures, towing and windshield claims, other risks and exposures, TOIRMA's Human Resources Help Line, and other resources available such as: TOIRMA safety stickers, *TOIRMA News*, contacts, helpful information to have ready when reporting a claim, and the TOIRMA website. We also provided commissioners an opportunity to participate in a question/answer session.

The presentation went well, with numerous questions from highway commissioners in attendance. Below, I have highlighted a few of the items discussed during the question and answer period.

Question: When there is an accident on a township roadway that does not involve a township vehicle, does TOIRMA want to know about it?

Answer: YES! Even though a township vehicle may not be involved in the accident, it is critical that you report to us all accidents that occur on your roadways as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we live in a very litigious society. The sooner TOIRMA knows of an incident, the sooner claims personnel can address the issue to help ensure that your township is better protected.

Question: What is the cost of using TOIRMA's Human Resources Help Line?

Answer: There is no charge to TOIRMA members to

As of August 24, 2015, the following TOIRMA members have not deposited their 2015 Dividend check. If your township/road district is on this list below, please deposit your dividend as soon as possible. Thank you!

Atlas Township	Pike County
Farrington Township	Jefferson County
Fidelity Township	Jersey County
Indiantown Township	Bureau County
New Haven Township	Gallatin County

utilize the Help Line. TOIRMA has human resource professionals with extensive knowledge in employment rules, regulations and practices. We recommend using the Help Line any time you have questions relating to hiring, disciplining, terminating, or discrimination. The Human Resources Help Line is (888) 472-6785, Extension 1172 or Extension 1146.

Question: Should a highway commissioner notify TOIRMA when entering into an intergovernmental agreement with another road district or other local government?

Answer: YES! First, we recommend working with your township attorney on the drafting of your intergovernmental agreement. Second, please forward a copy of the draft agreement to TOIRMA and our staff will review to ensure there is proper coverage, and provide feedback from a risk perspective.

Question: When renting equipment, does TOIRMA want to know about it?

Answer: Yes. In fact, most equipment companies will request a "proof of insurance" document. TOIRMA will provide such proof. Notifying TOIRMA also helps make sure we are aware of the work that is being done and with what equipment, and that the township is properly covered.

As you can see from above, there are no bad questions. We all learn from questions like these and others asked at educational events such as the Summer Seminar. TOIRMA is in the risk management business, and part of a sound risk management program is having well educated members. A special word of thanks to the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois for including TOIRMA as a part of their program. We are proud to be your township partner.

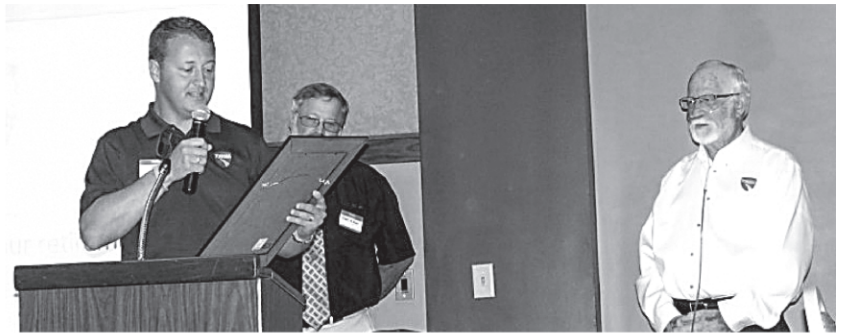
As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.



TOIRMA's retiring Executive Director Rod Beck ended each article he wrote for this magazine in the same way: *As always, please call if I can be of assistance.* His signature closing line exemplifies his approach towards township government; it's an attitude he has kept, even looking toward retirement.

An open house was hosted on July 12 to honor Beck's retirement after 35 years with township government. The open house, which was held at the Inn at 835 in Springfield, included a presentation by incoming TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan and TOIRMA Board of Directors Chairman Olen Kibler, who presented Beck with a plaque for his work with TOIRMA. Donelan read a proclamation by Springfield Mayor James O. Langfelder recounting Beck's many accomplishments and contributions to township government over his career and bestowing the office's highest honor possible, declaring July 12, 2015 as "Rod Beck Day".

Beck has a long history of supporting and serving township government, beginning in 1987, when he became Eldorado Township Clerk. He later served as highway commissioner for the township until 2004. Beck also served as president of the West Central IL Highway Commissioners Association, the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois and on the TOI Board of Directors. He was a TOIRMA Trustee and field representative before being named TOIRMA Associate Director in 2004 and TOIRMA Executive Director in 2006. Although retired from his role as association director, Rod will continue to be involved and available for assistance in township government, taking on a new role for TOIRMA, as Risk Management Advisor.



TOIRMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Donelan (left) reads from a proclamation by Springfield Mayor James O. Langfelder naming July 12, 2015 as "Rod Beck Day"
Photos by Barbara Coker, daughter of Rod Beck



ROD BECK and TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith.

OUTGOING TOIRMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rod Beck, with wife Delores, receives a plaque from TOIRMA in recognition of his years of outstanding work and many accomplishments with the association.



ROD AND DELORES BECK (center) celebrate with their children and grandchildren at Beck's retirement party. Pictured (left to right): Hayley, Barb, Macy, Delores, Lizzie, Hannah, Scott, Sydney, Rod, Jacob, and Stephanie.