



# TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

## *May is Transition Month*

IT'S BEEN A BUSY 2017 THUS FAR. Since the turn of the New Year, we've had a new president sworn in, a consolidated primary election, general election, and the annual township meeting. This, coupled with the ups and downs of the Illinois weather, (which have included 60-degree temperature swings, snow, rain, and tornados) makes one ask what's next? But before we get into that topic, we wanted to say "thank you" to those officials who are retiring and will no longer be a formal part of township government. Your service to your constituents and your communities is appreciated. For those of you who will remain a part of township government, we appreciate your continued dedication, and for your assistance in the upcoming transition.

Supervisors, clerks, trustees, and highway commissioners take office on May 15, 2017. The new term of office for assessors, and collectors elected on April 4, 2017, will begin on January 1, 2018 (this coincides with the new tax year cycle).

### **How you can help.**

Veteran officials, please continue to "stay involved," but just as important, encourage your new officials to "get involved." Read your *Township Perspective* magazine monthly, and your TOIRMA newsletter quarterly. Attend upcoming TOIRMA county loss control meetings and safety trainings, and TOI Boot Camps and educational sessions. Please share with the new officials the items that are available to assist them in doing their jobs better.

### **TOIRMA Resources Available**

There are numerous resources that are on-hand for township officials related to TOIRMA and risk management. The following list provides a few to keep handy.

#### **Human Resources Help Line (888) 472-6785, ext. 1172**

When contemplating hiring, firing, or disciplining employees, or having to deal with other employment related matters, please call TOIRMA first. The TOIRMA Human Resources Help Line is available to all TOIRMA members at no additional charge. The Help Line provides township officials access to human resource professionals specializing in employment rules, regulations and practices. This of course, is helping to make township officials' lives easier, and will continue in assisting in the reduction

of employment-related claims and headaches.

#### **TOIRMA Website – [www.toirma.org](http://www.toirma.org)**

The TOIRMA website was recently updated in October 2016. There are countless resources available to township officials on the site whether the site is accessed by a PC, Mac, or mobile device. Members may report claims and changes to coverages through the website. Other items available include our staff directory, "toolbox," past newsletters, and upcoming events to name a few.

#### **TOIRMA Newsletter – *TOIRMA News***

TOIRMA publishes a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to all township officials. New officials will begin receiving the newsletter with the summer edition in June. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide officials with useful information related to risk management and township government. This is just one of the tools designed to "*help townships solve problems and operate in the most fiscally efficient way.*"

#### **TOIRMA Loss Control & Safety Meetings**

In addition to attending regional meetings throughout the state, TOIRMA representatives are continually meeting with individual townships. TOIRMA also coordinates periodic loss control and safety meetings on a county-wide or multi-county basis. If you have an upcoming township association meeting and would like TOIRMA to assist, please call Beth Eyrich at (217) 444-1139.

#### **Claim Reporting Hotline – (844) 562-2720**

TOIRMA members may report claims 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year with this toll-free number. Once reported, your claim will be assigned to a member of our claims staff who will continue working with your township.

In addition to the Hotline, TOIRMA members may report claims online as well at [www.toirma.org](http://www.toirma.org).

Again, all the best and thank you again to those of you who are retiring. Enjoy your next chapter, and who knows, maybe our paths will cross again someday.

Please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at [jdonelan@toirma.org](mailto:jdonelan@toirma.org) with any questions you may have.