



TOIRMA Update

By Rod Beck

TOIRMA Executive Director

THERE IS AN OLD ADAGE that says “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” That is true for TOIRMA currently. Please allow me a personal column:

I have submitted to the TOIRMA Board a notice of my intention to retire on June 30, 2015. Having never been in this position before, it was not an easy decision for Delores and me to make but decided to go ahead anyway.

Upon the acceptance of my intent to retire letter, the Board unanimously decided to employ Jim Donelan as the next Executive Director. Most of you already know Jim from his years of working with township officials. He has been with TOIRMA since 2011 and has been a terrific addition to our small staff. He brings a great history of working with townships and understands how and why they work as well as they do. Effectively and efficiently seems to be the motto of most all townships. If only other forms of government could follow the example.

When I was first appointed to the TOIRMA Board of Trustees in 1997 by Bryan Smith, there was a wonderful group to work with, all of which served as mentors to the new members. I learned to think the TOIRMA way, which is really quite different than the insurance industry thinks, and I don't mind if my prejudice shows, but I am thoroughly convinced “different” in a good way.

I had the good fortune to be re-elected to the Board of Trustees before Jerry Kats offered me employment as the TOIRMA representative to the west central territory. Therefore, I resigned and became an employee of TOIRMA. The more I became involved, the more I have grown to really appreciate how well this program has worked in the past and continues to work for our members.

Jerry offered me a position as Associate Director and



TOIRMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Rod Beck (right) turns over the reins to new Executive Director Jim Donelan

I began that employment on Feb. 1, 2004 after relocating from McDonough County to Peoria. Jerry retired and the Board of Trustees offered me a contract to be Executive Director effective July 1, 2006.

Following much discussion with the Board, the office was moved back to Springfield, making it necessary for us to relocate again. It has been a wonderful move for everyone.

In February 2011, TOIRMA was most fortunate to hire Jim Donelan and his wealth of knowledge about

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townships. That has helped make his learning curve much shorter and prepared him for this next phase in the life of TOIRMA. He will be an outstanding Executive Director.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank some folks who made this possible. Those would include:

The electors of Eldorado Township who started me down a path which concludes June 30, 2015.

Jerry Kats who provided me an opportunity to join TOIRMA.

The various Board of Trustees who had shared my visions and allowed me to work for them and you the

gone as well as we would have desired, our family has been blessed throughout the process. Jim shouldered much of the responsibility of TOIRMA and the CCMST Team in Danville as well as D. H. O’Keefe also contributed greatly. Everything went along as planned with the program.

There is no doubt that the outcome could have been better or worse, but I am convinced it is better because of the care and love of a family who knows the power in prayer, as well as my “girlfriend” Delores holding my hand each step of the way. There were many calls, cards, emails, etc. that indicated there were numerous individ-

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The many loyal members who also realize what a terrific program TOIRMA is and have remained a part.

The TOIRMA team in Danville who share a desire to keep TOIRMA working as it is supposed to for our members.

Dwight O’Keefe for the countless hours of conversations about TOIRMA. His history of TOIRMA is unparalleled. Some day he might even write a book about TOIRMA.

Jim Donelan for taking a job offered to become a part of TOIRMA.

Finally, as many of you know, I had a lung transplant one year ago on May 8. While things have not always

uals and, in some cases, the entire church praying for me. I’m convinced it all worked and would ask for it to continue.

Thanks again for the opportunity to occupy the position of Executive Director. It has truly been a most rewarding experience that I will miss. However, it is also time for a change for Delores and me. Hopefully the “stay the same” will be the TOIRMA program basics that have worked so well.

— Rod

P.S. Please let me encourage you as an individual to become an organ donor. You can make a life changing difference for someone.

