



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

An Educated Township Official is a Key Component to Risk Management

AS WE ENTER THE FALL SEASON, baseball is winding down, football is beginning, school is starting, and for my family we are entering a new chapter. My son, our oldest, is beginning college. It's funny how a new chapter causes us to look back at where we have been. We remember the good times just as we prepare for what the future brings. Not only is this true with our personal lives, it's also the case in township government. The new term of office is four months old already and we are entering the levy cycle and preparing for the winter season.

The TOIRMA Program provides coverages designed to meet our members' needs in the most fiscally efficient manner. The coverages are diverse and include: general liability, auto liability, bridge coverage, cyber liability coverage, employee benefits liability, equipment breakdown coverage (boiler and machinery), public official's liability, property, auto physical damage, inland marine, workers' compensation, treasurer's bond, and accidental death and dismemberment. TOIRMA also offers its members access to a Human Resources Help Line. Human resource professionals are available to assist townships by addressing employment-related questions and issues at no cost, (888) 472-6785, Extension 1172. Members of the TOIRMA Team interact with our members in meetings throughout the State. Whether it's a loss control meeting, a county association meeting, or a one-on-one meeting, TOIRMA is a partner in making your township better. In addition to TOIRMA coordinated meetings, a key component in our risk management program is our partnership with our sister association the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI).

This summer, TOI offered township officials a series of Newly Elected and Returning Township Officials Boot Camp training sessions. The programs provided officials an opportunity to learn more about their responsibilities and expectations. Another benefit of such trainings is for officials to interact and learn from each other.

Also, the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois recently completed a successful Summer Seminar. Highway commissioners from all over the state invested time in a worthwhile program designed to educate offi-

cials on their duties. It was great to see so many members eager to learn and share ideas regarding their jobs.

Please take the time to read upcoming issues of TOIRMA's newsletter: *TOIRMA News*, TOIRMA's website: toirma.org, this publication, and TOI's website: toi.org to learn about upcoming risk management and general educational options. In addition, TOI's Annual Educational Conference in Springfield in November is a great chance for officials to improve and polish their skills and knowledge of township government.

From a risk management perspective, programs and opportunities such as the ones described above serve township government and TOIRMA well. After all, an educated township official is a better township official.

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



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