



# TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

## Highway Commissioners – Summer Seminar

EVERY YEAR IT SEEMS LIKE Independence Day arrives, and then summer is over. Maybe it's just me, but this year, the period between July 4th and September seemed to fly by even more quickly. The kids are back in school, and summer is almost over. Although I do like autumn, it sure would be nice to have a few more weeks of summer, or at least slow things down a bit. Even though 2018 still has a few months to go, the fact that September is here causes me to reflect on recent happenings. There have been numerous educational opportunities for township officials throughout the state. At TOIRMA, we believe that an educated township official is a better township official, and therefore a better risk.

The TOIRMA Team recently attended the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois (THCOI) Summer Seminar in Peoria. This is always a great event that provides Illinois highway commissioners worthwhile educational and networking opportunities. Mark Kelly, highway commissioner from Saint Marys Township, Hancock County said it best: "the education sessions are great, and I have learned a lot over the years from speaking with other highway commissioners." The breakout sessions were well attended and very pertinent to road districts in Illinois.

The TOIRMA Team enjoys the interactions with highway commissioners both on a one-on-one basis and with the entire group. This year, THCOI offered highway commissioners the chance to participate in a newly revised voluntary certification program. The new certification program has been divided into four courses, with the first two being offered during the Summer Seminar. The other two courses will be offered during the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Annual Educational Conference in Springfield, November 11-13, 2018.

Kudos to THCOI President Charlie Montgomery and the entire board of directors for putting on this program, and for allowing TOIRMA to be a part of it. Specifically, we appreciate participating in the "personnel issues" session. In addition to statutory requirements I reviewed during the meeting, Rhonda Stuebe from the TOIRMA Human Resources Help Line provided insight into personnel manuals, employee personnel files, job descriptions, job applications, fitness for duty, and the Human Resources Help Line. From the feedback, it

seems like the sessions were all well received. We look forward to working with THCOI and TOI on the risk management educational programming for highway commissioners this fall.

Loss Control Consultants Matt Knight and Sean Richardson provided a safety presentation during the "Loss Control Preventing Injury Liabilities" session. This hands-on demonstration is designed specifically for highway commissioners and employees. The goal of the program is for a safer injury free work environment.

Whether it's an educational meeting coordinated by TOIRMA, TOI, or one of the TOI Divisions, thank you for your past and future participation. Remember, 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](mailto:jdonelan@toirma.org).

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As of August 27, 2018, the following TOIRMA members have not deposited their 2018 dividend check. If your township/road district is on this list below, please deposit your dividend as soon as possible. Thank you!

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| ATLAS                 | PIKE       |
| BRUSHY                | SALINE     |
| CLYDE                 | WHITESIDE  |
| COLUMBUS              | ADAMS      |
| FILLMORE CONS RD DIST | MONTGOMERY |
| GENEVA                | KANE       |
| KASKASKIA             | FAYETTE    |
| MARENGO               | MCHENRY    |
| MORGAN RD DIST 11     | MORGAN     |
| NEWTOWN               | LIVINGSTON |
| SERENA                | LASALLE    |
| SIGEL                 | SHELBY     |
| STONEFORT             | SALINE     |
| UNION                 | CUMBERLAND |
| WEBBER                | JEFFERSON  |

