

FUNDAMENTALS

IMRF

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IMRF recognizes those who give back

On December 10, 2015, IMRF held its “Year of the Volunteer” Awards Ceremony, honoring seven individuals among its membership for outstanding service in their community.

It was the culmination of a year-long event in which IMRF celebrated its volunteers, encouraged volunteerism among its membership, and highlighted the ways in which the security of an IMRF pension allows its retirees to give back to their community.

The honorees

Our winning volunteer, **Hilda Marshall** of Matteson, took home a \$1,000 donation from IMRF staff for her organization, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

Our other honorees each received a \$100 staff donation to the organization they represent:

- **Marilyn Campbell** of Georgetown—Danville VA Hospital

“It’s not necessarily about your house, the size of your car, the size of your bank account—those are all transitory things. What will be remembered is what you’ve done, the relationships you’ve built, the people you helped,” said IMRF Executive Director Louis Kosiba.

- **Scott Garrison** of Lake Zurich—Lake Zurich Ancient Oaks Foundation
- **Shelly Kellums** of South Elgin—Concerns of Police Survivors, Illinois Chapter (ILCOPS)
- **Marianne Marlow** of Rockford—United Way of Rock River Valley, I-READ Program
- **Domingo and Blanca Mata** of Carpentersville—Friend, I Shall Help (F.I.S.H.) Food Pantry
- **Sherron Nance** of Carterville—Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

The ceremony

Along with our honored volunteers, IMRF welcomed several special guests who have been involved with the “Year of the Volunteer” since the beginning:

- Jane Angelis, Director, Generations Serving Generations
- Scott McFarland, Director, Serve Illinois Commission (serve.illinois.gov)
- Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Superintendent of Schools, DuPage County Regional Schools

They, along with IMRF Executive Director Louis Kosiba, who also serves

\$1,000 Honoree



Hilda Marshall

Mentor to at-risk children

“It was just an hour a week, a one-year commitment; that’s what it started off as. The young lady that I had was six years old at that time; I mentored her until she went to Northern Illinois University.”

with Generations Serving Generations, congratulated the honorees and thanked them for their service.

“I have taught history, civics, political science, and government much of my life, and I do believe this country was founded on that spirit of volunteerism. We are as

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\$100 Honorees



Shelly Kellums

Aiding survivors of fallen officers

"Throughout my life, I was encouraged early on by my parents to volunteer at a number of organizations, but after the loss of my brother this is where I spend most of my time volunteering."



Scott Garrison

Restoring natural beauty

"You can see the result of all the work we've done now when you go and walk through the nature park in the summertime and see all the natural wildflowers and fauna that grow now."



Marianne Marlow

Reading with children

"There's a little girl from Syria who's a refugee. She had to struggle with learning our language. We read books. We play games to learn the letters. She's looking for me when I come in, smiling."



Sherron Nance

Helping hospital patients

"At one veteran's home, they brought a veteran in and he was almost lying flat in his chair, and he didn't have his eyes open. But when we started singing 'God Bless America,' his eyes opened up."



Domingo Mata

Helping the hungry

"[A food pantry volunteer] said, 'We need people there that are bilingual, so come over and see what you think about it.' We decided to go, and we've been there ever since."



Marilyn Campbell

Bringing pet therapy to patients

"I always wanted to work with people in need and my dog Hannah gave me the perfect outlet to do so. If Hannah's visit can brighten someone's day, I know that I have done my job right."

good as we are in this country because of the people who give of themselves on behalf of those who need it most," Ruscitti said.

Kosiba added, "It's not necessarily about your house, the size of your car, the size of your bank account—those are all transitory things. What will be remembered is what you've done, the relationships you've built, the people you helped."

The volunteers spoke about their service and expressed appreciation for IMRF's recognition of their efforts.

"I thank IMRF for providing the opportunity," Marshall said through tears. "I've been reading about all the volunteers, who have been doing wonderful work, and I don't know how you all could've made a choice."

The spirit of volunteerism continues

Generations Serving Generations and Serve Illinois hope to use the momentum built by the "Year of the Volunteer" to promote volunteerism and build up infrastructure.

"First, the good news. Illinois is the top volunteering state among the five largest states in the country. The other good news is, we have 2.51 million volunteers, and they give \$6.8 billion of impact in terms of their hours of service every year. The bad news is, that's only a quarter of us—25% of us volunteer," McFarland told the honorees. "So imagine if we can get other people to come and join us in our work—the billions of dollars of impact that we could have on our communities. The lives that we could save on a daily basis, which is what you all do."

McFarland continued, "You're already there—you've bought into it. Now we're going to take your stories and get other people interested in doing this."

Over the course of 2016 and beyond, IMRF will continue to find ways to highlight volunteerism and non-profit organizations. ■

Read more about IMRF's outstanding volunteers and the service they have given to our state: www.imrf.org/volunteer-celebration

Board of Trustees

IMRF Board certifies 2015 election results

New Employee Trustee Trudy Williams joins Board; Employee Trustee John Piechocinski, Annuitant Trustee Sharon U. Thompson, and Executive Trustee Gwen Henry return.

At their December meeting, the IMRF Board of Trustees certified the results of the 2015 Board elections.

Employee Trustees

Two Employee Trustees were elected by active members:

- **Trudy Williams** of Canton. An administrative assistant for the Fulton County State's Attorney's Office, Williams is new to the IMRF Board.
- **John Piechocinski** of Plainfield was re-elected to the Board. Head custodian for the Plainfield Community Consolidated School District, Piechocinski has been a Trustee since January 2011.

Other Trustees

Two other Trustees have returned to the Board after the 2015 elections:

- Annuitant Trustee **Sharon U. Thompson** of Dixon was re-elected by IMRF retirees. Thompson served as Lee County Treasurer before her retirement.
- Executive Trustee **Gwen Henry** of Wheaton, current DuPage County Treasurer, ran unopposed in the 2015 Board election. She was certified as the winner in September 2015.

Outgoing Trustee

At the end of his term in 2015, Jeffrey A. Stulir left the Board of Trustees

2016 Board Officers

President

Tom Kuehne
(Executive Trustee)

Vice President

Sue Stanish
(Executive Trustee)

Secretary

Natalie Copper
(Employee Trustee)

after almost four years of service as an Employee Trustee.

During his tenure, Stulir served on multiple committees, served as Board Secretary for 2015, and played a key role in developing and approving IMRF's 2014-2016 Strategic Plan. IMRF is proud to thank him for his service. ■

2016 IMRF Legislative Agenda

The Board of Trustees has approved IMRF's Legislative Agenda for 2016. This includes four proposals that IMRF will pursue through the Illinois General Assembly over the course of the year:



- Allowing more members to opt to receive a refund of contributions in place of a relatively small monthly pension.
- Allowing the IMRF Board of Trustees to assess a penalty on employers for certain retiree return-to-work violations.
- Clarifying that IMRF will accept one past service purchase payment after a member's termination, as long as it receives a valid application while the member is still active.
- Removing the one-year limitation for the retroactive payment of surviving spouse annuities.

These agenda items must be introduced by a legislator as a House or Senate bill before they are considered by the Illinois legislature. ■



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is published twice a year for inactive members of IMRF.

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Coming soon...

Your Personal Statement of Benefits

When you receive your 2015 Personal Statement of Benefits, **please take a moment to look it over for accuracy.** If there are any problems, resolving them now could save you time and trouble when you're ready to retire. Please make especially sure to review the front and back pages of your statement, along with your beneficiary information.

What's on your statement?

Your annual Personal Statement of Benefits provides detailed information about the IMRF benefits that may be available to you, such as retirement and survivor benefits, as well as whether you are eligible for a separation refund. It includes an overview of past earnings, contributions, and employers.

When are statements sent?

You should generally receive your 2015 statement in March. If you already received your statement but didn't have a chance to look at it then, you can find a copy in your Member Access account. Click "My Account," then "Documents," then "Member Statements."

Your Member ID

Your Personal Statement of Benefits also includes your Member Identification Number. To protect your information, you can use this number in place of your Social Security Number when calling or completing paperwork for IMRF. ■