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, Illinois, 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
• 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’re 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.

They, along with IMRF Executive Director Louis Kosiba, who also serves 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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“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/en/news/yotv-celebration
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 like you:

- **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 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.

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**2016 Workshop Dates and Locations**

**April**

- **DATE** (Tues) 4/26
- **LOCATION** Naperville
- **START TIME** 6 PM
- **DATE** (Wed) 4/27
- **LOCATION** Peoria
- **START TIME** 6 PM

**May**

- **DATE** (Thurs) 5/26
- **LOCATION** Rockford
- **START TIME** 6 PM

**June**

- **DATE** (Tues) 6/21
- **LOCATION** Effingham
- **START TIME** 4 PM
- **DATE** (Thurs) 6/30
- **LOCATION** Bolingbrook
- **START TIME** 6 PM

**July**

- **DATE** (Thurs) 7/14
- **LOCATION** Grayslake
- **START TIME** 5 PM
- **DATE** (Tues) 7/19
- **LOCATION** Mt. Vernon
- **START TIME** 5 PM

**August**

- **DATE** (Thurs) 8/11
- **LOCATION** Springfield
- **START TIME** 5:30 PM
- **DATE** (Thurs) 8/11
- **LOCATION** Tinley Park
- **START TIME** 6 PM
- **DATE** (Tues) 8/16
- **LOCATION** Bloomington
- **START TIME** 6 PM
- **DATE** (Wed) 8/17
- **LOCATION** Galesburg
- **START TIME** 6 PM
- **DATE** (Thurs) 8/18
- **LOCATION** Aurora
- **START TIME** 6 PM

**October**

- **DATE** (Wed) 10/26
- **LOCATION** Mt. Prospect
- **START TIME** 5 PM

Check back at [www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org) for additional dates and locations as they are added throughout the year.
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 benefits available to you as an active IMRF member—retirement, disability, and survivor benefits. It includes your IMRF account activity for 2015 as well as an overview of past earnings, contributions, and employers.

When are statements sent?
You should generally receive your 2015 statement in February or 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.