

Mike Vinson Retiring as Executive Director of TMEPA

Yes it's true, I have decided to retire. Last Friday, I sent the following email to the Member System Managers.

“As a few of you may have heard by that notable muni grapevine, I will be retiring from TMEPA on July 28, 2017. At that time I will have served as your Executive Director for a little over 14 years. I have greatly enjoyed working with each of you, your staff and many of your employees and board members over these years. Your support has been remarkable and a true blessing. It's been a great 14 years for myself and my wife. We made a home in Tennessee and many wonderful friends that we hope to continue to see after retirement. While we're leaving TMEPA with some sadness, Christine and I are excited about spending more time with family, especially our 7 grandchildren. Your Board of Directors will begin the process shortly of seeking a new Executive Director and we'll keep you informed of that process. In the meantime, we'll continue to serve TMEPA and the members to the best of our ability. We hope to see each of you at the Annual Meeting in Memphis in July. Thank you for this opportunity. We've been blessed by each of you.”



Of course, we've been blessed by many people who are not system managers. Associate Members, a long list of vendors, other associations and their employees are just a few. I couldn't begin to tell you how this position has made us reach goals we questioned were possible, but succeeded because of the remarkable spirit of cooperation and encouragement that is so wonderful in this state. My list of mentors is long and started in 2003 upon our arrival. It hasn't stopped and it's a rare week that someone doesn't teach me something new about our industry or even just how to be a better person.

We'll truly miss each of you and pray that your blessings far exceed those we've been granted. I have no doubt that the Board will choose wisely and my successor will takeover, leading TMEPA further than my wife and I ever dreamed possible. We will be starting our retirement home soon, on top of Jasper Mountain, Jasper, TN. Another dream come true....