

The MASTERS'

Exec. Dir. Elaine Libla Retires

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Change ... It's one of those words that can make you cringe, celebrate, or bring mixed emotions. One of the hallmarks of The MASTERS has always been the continuity of our personnel and the integrity of the process we have in place. The mission and commitment has not changed since we began in 1979. Caring for and about the families we serve has and will be what defines The MASTERS.

The continuity of service in a large part is a result of the dedication and long tenure of our Executive Director Elaine Libla. Elaine always worked in the background helping her husband Senator Doug Libla, who is a The MASTERS charter member and became a director for Troop E in 1999. Elaine was appointed as the secretary for The MASTERS in 1988. Later, she was reclassified as the executive director. Ask any of the directors and they will say, "I don't know what we would ever do without Elaine."

This past spring, Elaine announced her retirement. It was hard to argue with her plans to spend more time with grandkids, travel, and enjoy a little relaxation, and she gave us months to prepare.

Most of those within The MASTERS—and the Patrol as well—cannot remember our organization without her calm voice and the efficient guidance Elaine provided. During the darkest times, when tragedy struck a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Elaine was the heart and soul of how we assisted each of these families. There was never in any doubt that the family's well-being and how we could help was always her first priority.



This photo was taken at the Annual Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet in April 2019. Pictured are: (l to r) retired Col. Jim Keathley, president and director (GHQ) of The MASTERS, Director Jack Pahlmann (G), Director Judy Braschler (E), Director Tom Drury (C), The MASTERS' Executive Director Elaine Libla, and Director Lynn Wallis (I).

The MASTERS Directors are confident with the detailed process Elaine has put in place and the orientation she has provided to our new executive director: Our legacy of caring will continue to flourish. The seeds of kindness, efficiency, and caring that Elaine planted will continue to grow.

One true measure of success is to ask if you've left something better than when you found it. Without question we know Elaine is leaving The MASTERS better than when she found

it. For this, we will be forever grateful. Her gentle caring presence may not be evident in the day-to-day business of The MASTERS, but we are pleased she is a lifetime member and still part of our family.