

113th Annual Educational Conference of the Township Officials of Illinois



November 16-20, & 23, 2020

www.toi.org



Your Officers and Directors Welcome You to Our 113th Annual Educational Conference

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Huntsville Township, Schuyler County

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Multi-Township Assessor

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Douglas Co.

Schedule At a Glance

Monday, November 16

Supervisors Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Cyber Security: How much of Your Personal Information is Online
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	Transition of Officials After the Election
12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	2020 Township Officials of Illinois Legislative Update
1:15 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Tuesday, November 17

Clerks Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Annual Town Meeting Review Summary
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	Preparing for the Township Caucus and Election
12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	Clerks Duties and Responsibilities
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	AITCOY Program - Drug Free in 2020 Parenting Approaches during COVID
2:30 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Wednesday, November 18

Trustees Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	A Step-by-Step Guide to Township Tax Levies
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	Township Government and Media Relations
12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	Role of Trustee on the Township Board
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	ITAGAC Program - GA and EA in the time of COVID
2:30 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Thursday, November 19

Highway Commissioners Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Joint Purchasing for Road Districts
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	Common Issues Impacting Township Highway Commissioners and Road Districts
12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	Size & Weight Updates for Road Districts
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	Tapping Into Your Passion: Becoming a Leader
2:30 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Friday, November 20

Assessors Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Township Assessment in Illinois: A Deep Dive
11:15 A.M. - 12:15 A.M.	IDES Claim Benefits, Procedures, & Additional Services
12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.	Helpful Tips on OMA & FOIA
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	Supporting Elders through Fall & Fire Prevention
2:30 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Monday, November 23

Attorneys Day

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	Opening Program
10:00 A.M. - 1:15 P.M.	2021 Election: Questions and Answers
1:15 P.M.	Closing Remarks

Tips for a Successful Virtual TOI Annual Conference

What you need:

- Computer, smartphone or tablet with Internet connection and phone connection if you do not have speakers/headphones on computer
- Internet browser – Chrome is recommended
- Strong Internet connection (should be no less than 5 wbps)
- Connect to Internet through hardwire – not WiFi if possible
- Login URL link from TOI (sent in an email to all registrants)
- Session handouts (downloadable from TOI website week prior to event)

Your environment:

- Quiet
- Comfortable
- Clear of distractions
- Snacks/beverages

What to do the day of the sessions:

- Log on to sessions 5 minutes prior to the start
- Close all other open programs on computer
- Check audio connection – can use device audio or phone connection
- Have session handouts readily available (can download from TOI website week prior to conference)
- Take a break in between sessions to avoid fatigue

To ask a question:

Click on Q&A icon at bottom of your screen. Type in the question. Your question will be read and answered during the Q&A portion of each presentation.

Technical Support:

For help with technical questions, click on the Chat icon at the bottom of your screen. Type in question. A moderator will assist you. You may also call 866-897-4688.

General Conference Information

Hosted by the TOI Conference Committee



Sherrill Knorr, *Chair*
Greg Menold, *Vice Chair*

Lisa Hodge

Percy Johnson

Jeanette McWhorter

Mary Rob Clarke

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Township Clerks

Thank you to our continuous Education Program Sponsors

- TOIRMA
- Township Supervisors of Illinois
- Township Clerks of Illinois
- Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois
- Illinois Assessors Association
- Township Trustees of Illinois
- Township Tax Collectors of Illinois

9:30 A.M.

Opening Program

President Danny Hanning

Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President

Executive Director Bryan Smith

Associate Director Jerry Crabtree

Township Supervisors of Illinois President and Conference Chair Sherrill Knorr

10:00 A.M.

Cyber Security: How Much of Your Personal Information is Online

Jeff Thompson, State of Illinois Information Security Team

In the age of social media and cyber bullying, we should evaluate how much is too much information. Have you ever considered how much information you can find on someone with no more than a username or email address? Few people realize the sheer amount of personal information that is stored online, much of it in places you would never imagine. This session provides a demonstration of just how easy it is for others to dig up one's personal information. The discussion will demonstrate how he scrapes information from 70+ sites and finds matches for usernames, emails and more.

11:15 A.M.

Transition of Officials After the Election

Keri-Lyn Krafthefer, Ancel Glink

Each term of office takes on different transitional issues. This session explores what to do if new officials are coming in and others are being replaced. Do you have a plan?

12:15 P.M.

2020 Township Officials of Illinois Legislative Update

Taylor Anderson, TOI Legislative Consultant

TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson reviews recent Legislation that has become law impacting township government in Illinois. Learn more about recent laws passed by the Illinois General Assembly that impact your township and road district.

1:15 P.M.

Closing Remarks

Township Supervisors of Illinois President and Conference Chair Sherrill Knorr



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Medical Assistance Catastrophic Insurance (MACI) Program

The MACI Program is endorsed by TOI

Enrollment is easy, please contact Steve Barrett, toll-free **TODAY** at 1-800-540-6566 or e-mail: s-barrett@comcast.net

When a person qualifies for General Assistance, you become legally liable for paying their medical expenses. This can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Here is your opportunity to do something about it.

This is your chance to make certain that your township does not suffer a financial hardship.

Now is the time to achieve peace of mind by protecting the assets of your township.

How it works... This is a policy covering the medical expenses of your G.A. recipients.

The first \$15,000 or \$25,000 of expense is paid by your township. After that, the insurance company steps in and pays up to one million dollars for each GA recipient that qualifies. There is no limit on the number of recipients that have a claim.

The policy is underwritten by an A- rated company.

9:30 A.M. **Opening Program**
President Danny Hanning
Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President
Executive Director Bryan Smith
Associate Director Jerry Crabtree
Township Clerks of Illinois President Lisa Hodge

10:00 A.M. **Annual Town Meeting Review Summary**
Township Clerks Division
All Township Officials are invited to join us for this session that will discuss the very specific duties of the Township Clerk before, during and after the Annual Town Meeting. The Township Clerk is the ONLY Township Official acting in ANY official capacity at the ATM. There have been some very interesting situations that have occurred at past Annual Town Meetings and this session will share some of those stories with you.

11:15 A.M. **Preparing for the Township Caucus and Election in 2021**
Greg Moredock, Sorling Northrup
The Township Election is quickly approaching, are you ready? This presentation reviews the process of Township Elections. It details what you should be prepared for when running for reelection or as a first-time candidate for office, whether your Township is holding a caucus or primary.

12:15 P.M. **Clerks Duties and Responsibilities**
Township Clerks Division
This session provides a brief overview of the many duties of the Township Clerk. Some responsibilities occur through-out the year (maintaining records, taking/keeping minutes, etc.) while other responsibilities come around once a year (preparing/filing a Levy, etc.) Discussion includes taking & maintaining minutes of regular meeting minutes and recording closed session minutes, preparing Agendas, the Annual Town Meeting, preparing the Statement of Economic Interest list for County to filing the Budget & Appropriation Ordinances.

1:30 P.M. **AITCOY - Drug Free in 2020 Parenting Approaches During COVID**
Aaron Weiner, Bridge Forward Group
Participants learn about coping activities to promote for their children; ways to understand how COVID-19 has negatively impacted emotional health and well-being for teenagers and identifying possible signs that their teenager may be having a problem with alcohol or drugs.

2:30 P.M. **Closing Remarks**
Township Clerks of Illinois President Lisa Hodge





**ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY
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Are your maintenance shops ready for winter?
Look into energy saving offerings and incentives from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program that can help your local township save money and energy!

Ameren Illinois customers can go to
AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Government
to find specific recommendations, incentive levels, and technical assistance for public

Township Buildings Energy Maintenance Tips:

- Service and/or replace HVAC units
- Service and/or replace the furnace/boiler
- Install new ENERGY STAR® appliances in kitchen
- Exhaust fans and/or lighting in restrooms (including occupancy sensors)
- LED retrofits, bulbs in common areas, garages
- Check for proper operation of all GFCI outlets and light switches
- Replace and/or retrofit burnt out interior and exterior light bulbs with LED lamps and reduce maintenance required for lighting
- Replace the HVAC air filters
- Replace old inefficient unit heaters with infrared heaters

For even more ways to save, visit
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Why are we here and what do we offer your township-

We are EFFICIENT

We are Empowering

WE are Innovative

What do we bring to the table?

Increased productivity – reduced absenteeism

Unexpected legal questions and identity theft issues arise every day.

For more information

Please Call: Sue Kelbus 630 605-1029 or Carole Kempf 630 605-7020

9:30 A.M. **Opening Program**
President Danny Hanning
Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President
Executive Director Bryan Smith
Associate Director Jerry Crabtree
Township Trustees of Illinois President Michael Reynolds

10:00 A.M. **A Step-by-Step Guide to Township Tax Levies**
Sheryl Churney, Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins
This presentation reviews tax levies available to townships and road districts and explains how and when to calculate the tax levies, including how a taxing body’s EAV affects tax levy amounts. The procedures to be followed for adopting the township and road district tax levies, including complying with Truth in Taxation Law requirements, are discussed. In addition, strategies for increasing tax levies without angering voters will be reviewed.

11:15 A.M. **Township Government and Media Relations**
Ryan McLaughlin, Mac Strategies Group
Working with the media can play an integral part of being a township official. Having already learned the tools for establishing a proactive media relations strategy in part one of this series via webinar participation, now learn how using these tools can serve you in preparing and distributing reactive communications – often times, the only interaction with media professionals one may have.

12:15 P.M. **Role of Trustee on the Township Board**
Keri-Lynn Krafthefer, Ancel Glink
Have you wondered what your role is as an elected Township Trustee? This session explores the statutory responsibilities assigned to each elected Township Trustee.

1:30 P.M. **ITAGAC Program - General Assistance and Emergency Assistance in the Time in COVID**
Michael Airdo, Mark Kimzey, Kopon Airdo, LLC
This session by Hanover Township’s Legal Counsel is focused on understanding the current legal landscape and providing guidance on changes that we as General Assistance providers can implement to better serve our communities during this crisis. Topics include the Governor’s “Restore Illinois” Plan, federal stimulus payments and benefit eligibility, adjustments to payment levels, poverty levels, and application periods

2:30 P.M. **Closing Remarks**
Township Trustees of Illinois President Michael Reynolds



Thursday, Nov. 19 Highway Commissioners

9:30 A.M. **Opening Program**
President Danny Hanning
Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President
Executive Director Bryan Smith
Associate Director Jerry Crabtree
Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois President Don Goad

10:00 A.M. **Joint Purchasing for Road District**
Tim Peters, Illinois Department of Transportation
In this presentation Tim discusses options and alternatives for joint purchasing. This program talks about the laws that allow townships and road districts to use joint purchasing. Additionally, discusses things to consider when using joint purchasing.

11:15 A.M. **Common Issues Impacting Township Highway Commissioners and Road Districts**
John Redlingshafer, Mescher, Rinehart & Redlingshafer, P.C.
Are you prepared to take a pop quiz on ALL of the statutes you must follow as a Highway Commissioner? Don't worry. This isn't a test (unless you become unruly). Instead, join John Redlingshafer for a look into the most common legal issues facing Highway Commissioners today and how best to navigate your Road District and understand the relevant statutes guiding your way during these uncertain times.

12:15 P.M. **Size & Weight Updates for Road Districts**
Sgt. Lance Bonney, Illinois State Police
Sgt. Bonney provides a presentation on size and weight enforcement focusing on the Illinois State Police/IDOT overweight enforcement program and how it relates to secondary roads. The presentation addresses any new relative laws and enforcement trends and additionally touches on CDLs and proper licensing.

1:30 P.M. **Tapping Into Your Passion: Becoming the Leader You Want to Be**
Jim Dalbec, Assistant Director Ela Township 55+
It often seems like the more responsibilities we have, the further removed we get from our members, programming, and our passions within our role. Now, more than ever, staff are looking to their supervisors for leadership and direction. What better time to focus on YOU for once, and thinking about what kind of leader you want to be? This session will cover several Free Online avenues that help reveal what type of person/leader you are, help you focus on your own happiness, and will allow you to take a moment to really think about what you are passionate about.

2:30 P.M. **Closing Remarks**
Township Highway Commissioners Illinois President Don Goad



- 9:30 A.M. **Opening Program**
President Danny Hanning
Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President
Executive Director Bryan Smith
Associate Director Jerry Crabtree
Township Assessors of Illinois Chris Kain
-
- 10:00 A.M. **Township Assessment in Illinois a Deep Dive Program**
Josh Barnett, Illinois Property Assessment Institute
 The Illinois Property Assessment Institute (IPAI) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Bloomington. It was established to elevate professional standards and provide educational opportunities to property assessment professionals throughout the state. They are the premier credentialing and continuing education provider for the Illinois property assessment industry. This session provides an overview of the Illinois Property Assessment Institute, our role in the education and certification of township assessors, and a summary of the assessment/property tax cycle in Illinois.
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- 11:15 A.M. **IDES Claim Benefits, Procedures & Additional Services**
Illinois Department of Employment Security
 IDES presents on current State and Federal unemployment status as well as claims processing, timing and additional services available.
-
- 12:15 P.M. **Helpful Tips on OMA & FOIA**
Michael T. Juruski, Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd.
 Using an audience-friendly participation format, local government attorney Michael Juruski provides an overview of important compliance aspects of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act using descriptive scenarios that highlight legislative updates, new Illinois Attorney General Office / PAC opinions and new court decisions under the OMA and the FOIA that affect township officers, officials and employees. Handout materials provide helpful guidance and tips, which will be covered during the presentation.
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- 1:30 A.M. **Supporting Older Adults Through Fire & Fall Prevention**
Linda Willets, McHenry Township Fire Protection District
 At 65, older adults are 2x as likely to be killed or injured by fire compared to the population at large. By 75, that risk increases to 3x that of the general population - and to 4x by age 85. An older adult falls every second of every day. Every 20 minutes an older adult dies from a fall, according to CDC stats. In this presentation, you will learn 8 key fire prevention messages and 8 key fall prevention messages to help you support the safety and health of older adults in your community. You will be empowered to share easy interventions that Seniors can employ themselves and be able to offer additional strategies to reduce harm. You will be able to bring concrete, helpful resources to your communities.
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- 2:30 P.M. **Closing Remarks**
Township Assessors of Illinois Chris Kain



9:30 A.M. **Opening Program**
President Danny Hanning
Invocation, TOI Chaplain Reverend Percy Johnson
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, Susan Curtiss TOI 2nd Vice President
Executive Director Bryan Smith
Associate Director Jerry Crabtree
Township Attorneys President James Kelly

10:00 A.M. **2021 Election: Questions and Answers from Attorneys Division**
Chuck Davis, Brown Hay & Stephens; James Kelly, Matuszewich & Kelly; John Nelson, Nelson Laws Offices; Van Schwab, Law Offices of Van Schwab
This session provides an opportunity for attendees to ask general questions relating to the day to day operations of township government and the 2021 election

11:15 A.M. **2021 Election: Continued**

1:15 P.M. **Closing Remarks**
Township Attorneys President James Kelly



Speaker Biographies

Michael Airdo

Michael Airdo is a founding Member of Kopon Airdo, LLC. His practice focuses on the handling of complex civil litigation matters, including local government matters, not-for-profit entities, educational facilities, and trade associations. He is a frequent lecturer on topics related to his legal practice. Michael proudly serves as a legal counsel to Hanover Township and Palatine Township. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Bartlett from 2001 to 2011, and as Mayor of Bartlett from 2011 to 2013.

Taylor Anderson

Taylor, a full time, registered, contractual lobbyist in the State of Illinois, has spent nearly a decade working with the Illinois General Assembly. Anderson became Legislative Consultant in 2017. He has lobbied on behalf of a wide and diverse groups of clients including various COG's and local governments, as well as numerous business entities and corporations. Taylor began his legislative training by interning at several state agencies including Secretary of State Jesse White's Office, the Illinois Senate President Emil Jones – Revenue Committee, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-Legislative Affairs Division and the Dunn Fellowship serving in the Legislative Office of the Governor where he helped design and authored the bill tracking training website for state agency liaisons, as well as worked closely with top State Agency heads and members of the Illinois Senate.

Josh Barnett

Josh has served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Property Assessment Institute (IPAI) since 2018. In that role, he leads the organization's day-to-day operations, as well as strategic planning, marketing, and communication strategy. He has more than a decade of experience in non-profit management, communication strategy, marketing, and training development. Before joining the IPAI, Josh was on staff for several years with Advocate Charitable Foundation, the philanthropy arm of Advocate Health Care. Outside of work, he is active member in the Bloomington/Normal community. Josh and his wife Jenny reside in Bloomington with their son Joseph.

Sgt. Lance Bonney

Lance Bonney is a 25-year veteran with the Illinois State Police and is currently a patrol Sergeant in District 14, Macomb. He has been in this position since 2016. Prior to this assignment, Sgt Bonney was the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Director's Office in Springfield from 2013-2016. Before this, Sgt Bonney was assigned to District 14, Macomb, since 1996. In 2000, Sgt. Bonney became a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer and worked commercial vehicle enforcement details throughout the state. In 2006, Sgt. Bonney became the Lead Instructor at the ISP Academy for size and weight enforcement. From 2011 to 2018, Sgt. Bonney was additionally certified as a Federal North American Standard Truck Inspector instructor, training ISP Troopers and officers from throughout the country in proper truck inspection techniques. He also teaches the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) to ISP Troopers as well as local and county officers.

Sheryl Churney

Sheryl is a frequent speaker at TOI sponsored conferences. She represents numerous cities, villages, townships, road districts, fire protection districts and other government bodies in LaSalle, Grundy, Bureau, Putnam and Marshall Counties. She also represents downstate counties and township road districts with respect to agreements protecting local road infrastructure. Sheryl is a member of the Local Government Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association and has served as the Council's Vice-Chair (2016-17) and Chair (2017-18). She has also served on a variety of local boards and is currently a member of the Illinois Valley Community Hospital Foundation Board and was honored to be selected as a 2016 Woman of Distinction by Illinois Valley Living Magazine. Sheryl graduated from Northern Illinois University. Magna Cum Laude, and received her law degree from the University of Wisconsin. Sheryl is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the LaSalle County Bar Association and the Illinois Township Attorneys Association.

Jim Dalbec

Jim Dalbec is the Assistant Director at Ela 55+ for Ela Township in Lake Zurich, IL. After focusing strictly on Youth Programming at the YMCA, Jim decided for a change of pace and was hired to create Men's Programming for adults 55 and older in 2013. He found the transition surprisingly easy (who knew Men and children had so much in common!), has seen his position grow into additional responsibilities, and has never looked back. He currently lives in Cary, IL with his two toddler boys and wife Kristin.

Chuck Davis

Chuck Davis provides counsel to existing and emerging businesses and associations, primarily on corporate, commercial, and energy matters. He represents privately and publicly owned corporations and financial institutions. Particularly, Chuck has represented entrepreneurs, public utilities, wholesale pharmaceutical companies, healthcare institutions, distributing companies, risk pools, agribusinesses, and governmental entities. While at Brown, Hay + Stephens, Chuck has served his community and profession. He has served on numerous charitable and civic boards, and in April 2012 was elected to the 27-member Board of Governors that oversees the operations and management of the Illinois State Bar Association. Prior to his legal career, Chuck worked and interned in numerous political campaigns and in the United States Senate in Washington, DC.

Michael T. Jurusik

Michael T. Jurusik is a Partner and a Director of the Chicago law firm of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd. His legal practice is concentrated in counseling local governmental entities, special districts, private corporations and individuals in the areas of local government law, municipal law, employment law, economic incentive matters (tax incentive agreements, TIFs, special assessments and special services areas), Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, Local Records Act and State Officials and Employees Ethics Act compliance matters and zoning and real estate development matters. He is the co-author of numerous municipal law publications and is an active guest speaker at various seminars and conferences on a variety of topics relating to municipal law matters. Specific to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Mr. Jurusik is a co-author of the Manual on Illinois "Sunshine Laws" - The Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act published by the Illinois Municipal League and a co-author of What Are Public Bodies and What Are Public Records (Illinois Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings, Practice Handbook) published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Speaker Biographies

James Kelly

Before attending law school, Mr. Kelly served as a United States Army Officer for 12 years. Assistant State's Attorney, McHenry County, Senior Litigation Attorney for 8 years. In that role, Mr. Kelly represented the McHenry County Board, the McHenry County Sheriff, Recorder of Deeds, the McHenry County Clerk, Planning and Development Department, and Transportation Department. He advised the County Board on parliamentary procedures and acted as the Board Parliamentarian.

Partner and founding member of Matuszewich & Kelly, LLP. Mr. Kelly practice focuses on general litigation, commercial litigation, collections, government and township law, bankruptcy, family law, juvenile law, and criminal defense.

Mark Kimzey

Mark Kimzey is an Associate at Kopon Airdo, LLC. His practice focuses on representing both public and private sector clients in litigated and administrative matters, as well as, advising local governments on a broad array of transactional matters. He is also a regular speaker on topics related to his legal practice. Mark received his law degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2015. During that time, he also earned his Master of Public Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business.

Keri-Lyn Krafthefer

Keri-Lyn Krafthefer is a shareholder and partner with the law firm of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C. She has been named by Chicago Magazine as one of the top female attorneys in the State of Illinois, as well as, one of the top attorneys representing public bodies by Illinois Super Lawyers. Ms. Krafthefer is the primary author of the Township Officials of Illinois Laws & Duties Handbook. She has authored several chapters of the Township Clerk's Handbook, and has edited The Illinois Township Supervisor's Guide and the Township Trustees Manual. Ms. Krafthefer also formerly served as a Township Trustee in York Township. She serves as the township attorney or special counsel for many townships.

Ryan McLaughlin

Ryan McLaughlin is president and CEO of Mac Strategies Group. Since launching in 2008, McLaughlin has directed the firm's success into becoming one of the most sought after teams for executing savvy communications and issue advocacy campaigns throughout Illinois. McLaughlin brings over twenty years of political, media, government and public affairs expertise to clients who require effective public policy campaigns. A veteran of several state and federal campaigns, along with governmental roles in the Illinois state legislature and on Capitol Hill, his vast experience translates into a wealth of strategic expertise relied upon to counsel clients no matter what challenge they are facing. Campaigns and Elections magazine has named him one of the "Top Influencers" in Illinois politics and his firm has won nearly two dozen awards for waging successful communications and issue advocacy campaigns.

Mac Strategies Group delivers high-level communications and public affairs results for a diverse set of clients, including Fortune 100 corporations, issue advocacy coalitions, trade associations, units of government, public policy organizations, non-profits and charitable

Speaker Biographies

organizations. The firm's professionals offer a unique set of relationships cultivated over years of public and private sector experiences, including the worlds of politics, journalism and various public affairs roles. With offices in Chicago and Springfield, McLaughlin and his firm provide hands-on counsel for its clients and the results they deserve.

Gregory E. Moredock

Gregory E. Moredock, a Springfield, IL native, graduated cum laude as a John W. Berry Sr. Scholar from the University of Dayton in 2010. He earned his Juris Doctor magna cum laude from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2013. While in law school, Mr. Moredock worked as a fellow with the Ohio Innocence Project where he was awarded the Lois Rosenthal Award for exhibiting the highest level of skill, determination, and passion for justice. Mr. Moredock joined Sorling Northrup upon his graduation and has worked extensively in civil litigation and local government. Mr. Moredock has served as chief counsel to units of local governments ranging in population from 250 to 12,000. He advises these bodies on all issues that confront units of local government, including, board meeting procedures, purchasing practices, zoning matters, the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act. He has also represented units of local government in civil litigation, both as plaintiff and defendant. In addition to civil litigation, Mr. Moredock has extensive litigation experience in election law and has represented objectors, candidates, and electoral boards.

Mr. Moredock is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois, United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, and United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Moredock currently sits as the Chair of the Civil Practice and Procedure section of the Illinois State Bar Association.

John M. Nelson

John Nelson practices law in Rockford, Illinois as a sole practitioner, John M. Nelson Law Offices. He obtained his BA in economics from St. Olaf College in 1973 and graduated from Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1976. He has practiced law in Rockford, Illinois since graduation serving as the City Attorney for the City of Rockford, Illinois from 1976 until 1980. He has been in private practice ever since. Attorney Nelson has litigated numerous cases in local and federal district courts as well as various courts of appeals and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. He has been a member of the Illinois Township Attorneys Association for the last 15 years. He is the appointed attorney for Harlem Township, Winnebago County, Illinois and is active in litigating matters with various governmental entities in the Northern Illinois area.

Tim Peters

Tim Peters is the Local Policy and Technology Engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation. In that role his is responsible for IDOT's Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Manual and IDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Tim has been in this role for approximately 5 years. He has been with IDOT for over 25 years. His prior assignments in IDOT were in the Bureau of Operations. He was IDOT's Winter Operations Engineer, their Equipment Engineer and their Communication Systems Engineer. Tim's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Iowa and a MBA from the University of Northern Colorado.

Speaker Biographies

John Redlingshafer

John Redlingshafer is an attorney with Mescher, Rinehart & Redlingshafer in Washington. He primarily represents units of local government, focusing on the legal needs of townships and road districts, but also offers legal services in residential, commercial, and agricultural contracts, as well as estate work. Previously, John was appointed, then elected to the Tazewell County Board, and served for five years before turning his entire focus to his family, family farm, and the practice of law. He lives in Washington with his wife and four children.

Van Schwab

With more than 28 years of family law practice on the North side of Chicago, attorney Van A. Schwab has handled a multitude of family law cases. He has witnessed the many ways family members can hurt each other physically and emotionally. The Law Offices of Van A. Schwab guides clients through legal challenges including divorce, property division, child custody, parentage, paternity, adoption, child support, divorce mediation, and collaborative law. Chicago child custody and divorce lawyer Van A. Schwab is known among peers and past clients as a knowledgeable, personable, and effective family law attorney. His familiarity with the courts enables him to advise clients on best routes to a favorable outcome in a paternity suit or child custody matter.

Jeff Thompson

Jeff Thompson has over 18 years of experience in performing threat hunting, vulnerability assessments, incident response and computer forensics. He is on the State of Illinois Information Security Team. He has worn many hats including security administrator, server administrator, white hat, and even a jester hat. He enjoys a variety of hobbies including, coding Python, cooking Raspberry Pies, blacksmithing, welding, circus tricks, building tall bikes, and more.

Dr. Aaron Weiner

Dr. Aaron Weiner is a board-certified Psychologist and owner of Bridge Forward Group, a private practice and consulting organization. He earned his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed his fellowship in Addiction Psychology at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Prior to forming Bridge Forward in 2020, Dr. Weiner served as the Director of Addiction Services at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health in Naperville, Illinois, and the founder and clinical director of the Spectrum Health Addiction Rehabilitation Program in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to his work in healthcare systems, Dr. Weiner is adjunct faculty in the Counseling Psychology Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has served on the Board of the Society of Addiction Psychology and won multiple regional awards for his commitment to converting best-practice ideas into real-world change. For more information about Dr. Weiner and his areas of focus, visit his website at weinerphd.com.

Linda Willets

Linda Willets is the Public Education Coordinator at McHenry Township Fire Protection District in McHenry, Illinois. Part of her duties include educating Seniors about preventing falls and preventing fire injuries and fatalities. Before serving the community with the fire department, Linda was a public school teacher for almost 20 years. During that time, Linda taught every grade from 2nd through 12th. Linda attended Indiana University for her undergraduate work, and Indiana State University where she earned a master's degree. She has a son and daughter who are both attending college. In her free time Linda enjoys reading, riding bike trails, hikes with her dog, and Mexican food.

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TOI Staff



Bryan E. Smith, Executive Director
bryan@toi.org

Jerry B. Crabtree, Associate Director/
Educational Coordinator
jerry@toi.org



Pam Butler, Office Manager/
Drug & Alcohol Program
pam@toi.org

Kayla Jeffers, Associate Magazine
Editor
Township Perspective
kayla@toi.org



Taylor Anderson, Legislative Consultant
lobbyillinois@gmail.com

Kim McDonald, Bookkeeper
kim@toi.org



Kristen Ball, Meeting Consultant
kristen@toi.org