



# from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

**A**N UNPRECEDENTED FEELING; the feeling of looking forward to the end of a year (2020). Yes, I said it. I, like many of you, are looking forward to seeing 2020 in the rear-view mirror. We have embraced the challenges before us, but the invitation to move past and beyond is well received by everyone.

This has been a historical month for the association (November 16-20, and 23, 2020). I am proud to have been part of the first ever TOI Virtual Educational Conference. What a success. Just under 400 registrations and the participation rate daily was maintained by you — our members. The program content was amazing, and the speakers provided outstanding programs. Thank you to all of our panelists, speakers, board members, staff, and sponsors that contributed to the success of the event. The support of everyone is greatly appreciated.

We continue to evaluate the survey results and appreciate everyone who took the time to complete the virtual program survey.

A special thank you to the TOI staff for meeting the cause and thinking outside of the box to allow a virtual program like this to take place. I know that we have learned quite a few new things when it comes to virtual programming and offering. There is nothing that replaces the face to face interaction of an in-person meeting. I like so many of you look forward to returning to meeting in person soon. However, as we follow direction from federal, state, and local leaders to stay safe from the pandemic, we will continue to work within the parameters of what we can. The 2021 program plan is under review and planning will be completed soon. Watch future editions of *Perspective* for an update on the schedule and what type of programs are available. The January 2021 *Perspective* edition is normally dedicated to the upcoming program year highlighting the education programs, webinars, and conference theme. This may be delayed a bit to calculate our meeting options as we move into the first quarter of 2021.

## 2021 PROGRAM IDEAS

Again, I am calling on all members for ideas and recommendations to assist in finalizing the 2021 program

agenda. If you have a recommendation or referral for a great program to benefit our members via webinar or virtual zoom event, please forward the information to me. We will be planning our 2021 calendar soon and would welcome assistance.

## HOLDING TOWNSHIP MEETINGS NOW

In response to recent news about the impact of the virus it seems that we will not be returning to business as usual for some time. We are encouraging townships to develop a plan to move forward within the guidelines and processes that we have in place and know are acceptable meeting practices to avoid delays and attempt to get done what we can.

In response to my November 2020 article in *Perspective*, I did receive a few phone calls and emails asking for clarification on having the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) as well as, regular monthly meetings of the Township. We are suggesting that you go ahead and have your 2020 ATM if you have not already so that you may close out the calendar year with no outstanding meetings. The directions to hold such a meeting are outlined on our website under the COVID-19 page. This, of course, is up to each individual township.

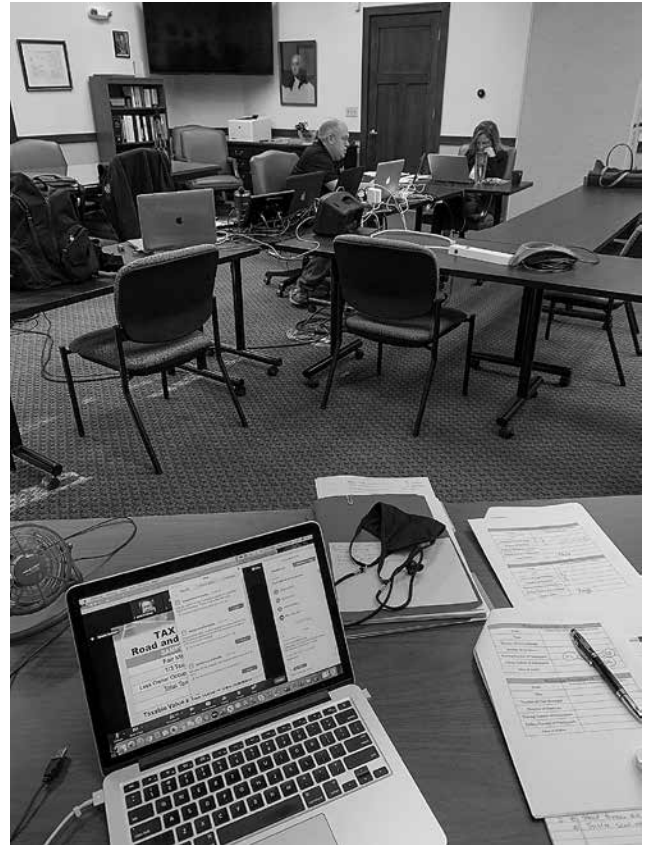
Regarding regular meetings, I would refer you to Public Act 101-0640 and you may access the language to this act from our website [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org) or from the ILGA website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). This Act is known as the Government Emergency Administration Act outlines Sections 2.01 and 7 of the Open Meetings Act are amended to provide procedures to hold meetings, establish quorums, record votes and normalize activities of public boards in times of a declared public health crisis. This process impacts township government holding meetings virtually and telephonically. As long as social distance guidelines are followed, you are permitted to meet in person. If the board wants to meet virtually or by phone you may as well.

Your association is encouraging you to hold regular township board meetings to conduct the normal business of the township to avoid any negative impact on your community. This legislative measure provided the means to accomplish just this.

We encourage public health strategies to promote

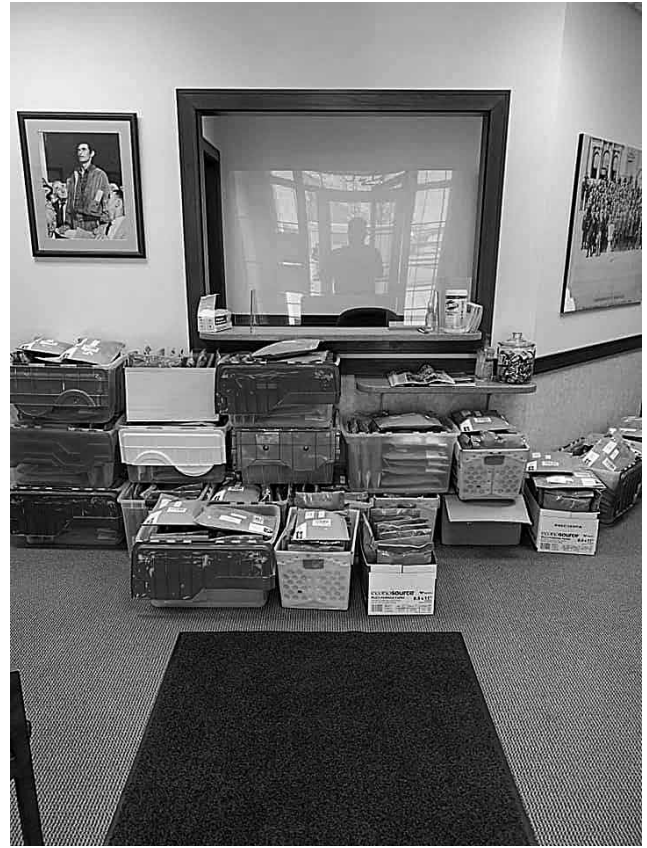


**INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM** for the virtually held 113th Annual Educational Conference.



public safety and maintain health and wellness for all township boards and their residents. If you have any questions, we recommend that you review the literature references provided on our website ([www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org)) as well as the information provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH has a page dedicated to COID-19 and the departments suggested compliance provisions.





**THE FIRST 250** registered attendees for the 113th Annual Educational Conference received exclusive TOI Swag Bags, filled with items from vendors, TOI, and TOI divisions.

I wish you continued health and wellness in the remainder of 2020 and the best wishes for success and health in 2021. We are on a new frontier as we start a new year with open eyes and renewed expectations. It is my wish for everyone that we offer pause in our holiday celebrations for the less fortunate and for an open mind toward health and peace for everyone. From my family to yours — Happy Holidays! 📖



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