



From Your Associate Director

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE! I wish you and your families many blessings!

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2009 Township Officials of Illinois Annual Educational Conference November 8-10th in Springfield. We had more than 900 conference attendees and are very pleased with the evaluation comments received from delegates. Again the event was a success and it is because of our dedicated membership that we are able to have such a successful conference.



The Township Officials of Illinois staff is committed to providing a well rounded conference experience for all township officials. This being said, the TOI staff reviews critically all evaluations, e-mails and any information related to evaluating the programs and services that are provided. In summary, we want to hear from you.

Each conference attendee received a copy of the evaluation included in your registration/meeting materials. You are asked to return those either via mail or fax to the TOI office. Additionally, we have made it even easier for you to submit your evaluation by going to our website at www.toi.org and clicking on the link labeled "Conference 2009 Survey".



Please take a few minutes and complete the survey. Your comments provide valuable information as we are already planning for the conference in 2010. You are always welcome to submit your conference ideas and suggestions to me via e-mail at jerry@toi.org.



2009 in review

December of each year brings with it the "reflection issue" I like to call "what I thought I was going to do and how much of it I accomplished". It is where we review what we have set out and achieved in the past 11 months and determine if we have met our intended goals and objectives for the year. Also, we start looking at new goals for the upcoming year. I

think that it is important to start every year with new goals. Setting goals both professional and personal is a very effective strategy to healthy productive living. We must all strive to be innovative and progressive in all aspects of life.

2009 has brought many rewarding experiences for me. I have visited with many township county associations and individual townships on numerous issues. With the 2009 election, we experienced a 20 percent turnover in our elected office holders and are seeing the result of nurturing change from townships across the great state of Illinois, which results to more than 200 newly-elected officials who have not attended an educational event. TOI's education program is working to educate and promote efficient and effective township officials across our great state. The economic shortfalls experienced by many in 2009 help make everyone more efficient in the delivery of services. Townships have room to grow and change. Most importantly, the new and returning township officials have the responsibility to meet the challenges of 2010 and work toward improving their township and all the services delivered, whether new or existing. I encourage all of you to meet the challenge of making your township the best it can be. My request to you is that you attend your scheduled education district event in 2010. Especially if you have not attended an event in the past. If you have before, I challenge you to bring someone from your own or a neighboring township that has not attended an educational program in the past. I am asking you to "pass it on". Help us provide an up-close and personal insight into the value of attending an education program.

TOIPAC Success Update!!

Thank you to all of our donors who helped make the 2009 silent auction a success. With only 18 items, TOIPAC generated more than \$3,500 from the silent auction. The silent auction combined with the Las Vegas/Magnificent Mile raffle contributions helped generate just under \$10,000 for TOIPAC. This is great! These donations are needed to help secure our place among the other levels of local government with

members of the Illinois General Assembly. TOIPAC looks forward to future successful events. Thank you to all of our TOIPAC supporters who purchased items and raffle tickets. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

2009 Raffle Winners:

Judy Poffenbarger (South Rock Island) won the Chicago Mile weekend Trip

Amy Carlson (South Rock Island) won the 4 days and 3 nights in Las Vegas Trip

TOI's own Susie Carpentier (Rock Island County/South Rock Island Township) sold the winning raffle tickets! Congratulations to the 2009 winners!

TOI Exhibit Booth FUN!

Thanks to TOI President Richard Ralston and Bill Valentine (spouse of TOI's Associate Editor Erin Valentine) for helping add some fun to the TOI booth. This year in honor of "ole Abe's" 200th Birthday, we had a bean bag game created as an activity for conference attendees. The game drew quite the audience with the help of TOI President Richard Ralston. Participants in the game were given some prizes all in fun. We will need to come up with a new idea for 2010.



Education Program Update

The 2009 TOI Annual Conference provided more than 35 educational opportunities. Feedback received thus far has been very positive. I look forward to reviewing all of the evaluation forms and session attendance totals. If you have educational session ideas for the 2010 conference, please forward your recommendations to me via e-mail at jerry@toi.org.

As we enter 2010, I want to call upon all of you, EVERY ILLINOIS TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL, to help generate support for the summer education district 2010 program. Like the fall conference, the education committee is scheduling events in each of the eight districts that will benefit your participation in your

relative divisions to provide you with an opportunity to experience valuable educational opportunities.

Each elected official and administrative staff are asked to convey to your township boards the following information regarding the 2010 education district program.

You can plan early! The education district dates are scheduled. Ask your township board for approval at the next available township meeting.

It is affordable. The registration fee is \$40 per registration and is a reimbursable legal township expense. This is much less than programs in the past and includes lunch. An entire township can register for \$360.00 (*9 individuals*).

Car pooling is an option. With the affordable registration fee, township boards and staff can car pool to a designated district event and further reduce required travel expenses.

Division Participation is included. In previous years, you were asked to participate in the activities sponsored by your respective divisions. These zone meetings in addition to the regular education programs sponsored by TOI totaled more than 17 different educational opportunities.

The Supporting Divisions of TOI have agreed to combine programs with the district events and hold their component of what was considered a zone meeting in the past. Each division is represented at all eight education district events. This opportunity will aid in generating division identity and support throughout the state regarding division recognition.

The 2010 program is a joint program with the individual sponsoring divisions of TOI. Division meetings are presented at all eight (8) district events. Specifically in (Mt. Vernon, Fairview Heights, Bloomington, East Peoria, and Rockford) divisions will be holding division meetings as previously held in 2009.

Eight (8) opportunities. Although the districts are designed to eliminate the need for extensive travel by bringing educational programs out into the field, if you cannot make the scheduled date you are welcome to attend a neighboring district event. You have eight opportunities and we welcome you at all of them.

Concurrent Sessions make for options in education seminars. Although we are not pre-registering for the sessions, you have three opportunities to pick from at two different time slots. The intent with con-

current sessions is to provide options.

Helps generate innovation in your elected position. Networking with other township officials from neighboring townships helps create a sense of networking. Talk to new people, find out new programs and apply strategies learned to your own township.

Coming in January 2010!

Remember to save the date of your education district event. Registration for all eight district events will be available on-line at www.toi.org and by mail starting in January 2010. The January 2010 *Perspective* is scheduled to provide a complete program and registration details. Together the divisions and your association are providing an outstanding educational opportunity. I look forward to seeing all of you out in the field. Help us break all attendance records in 2010. Our goal is 1000 registrations across all eight districts. This is approximately 10 percent of the elected officials located in the established eight education districts.

Highway Commissioners Introduce Voluntary Certification Program

At the request of the Highway Commissioners Division, the 2009 re-introduction of the Highway Commissioners Voluntary Certification Program is off to a great start. The program which originally started in 2005 was designed to provide elected highway commissioners and their staffs the opportunity to attend programs designed specifically to their duties and responsibilities as a highway commissioner. The program was introduced at the Highway Commissioners summer seminar in August 2009. The program is divided into three separate 90 minute educational sessions. Part I covers Statutory Responsibilities; Basic Duties and Responsibilities; Personal Issues and the relationship of the road district to the township board. Part II covers the budget responsibilities of the road district; the responsibilities of equipment; and an overview of road district funds. Part III covers the Requirements administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding Motor Fuel Tax.

It is important to note that the program is VOLUNTARY. Highway Commissioners are not required to attend or complete any of the designed educational components. This voluntary program is part of the continuing education efforts of the Highway Commissioners Division to aid new and returning highway commissioners in understanding their statutory responsibilities to the road district.

The program is provided by the Highway Commissioners Division. They are looking at providing it at

the Summer Seminar, scheduled regional events and the TOI fall conference on an annual basis.

The following individuals have completed all three educational components and will be mailed a certificate of completion. Congratulations to you all!

| Name | County | Township |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Bob Miller | McHenry | Algonquin |
| Marty Crawford | St. Clair | Centreville |
| William Peach | St. Clair | O'Fallon |
| Jerry Davis | DeKalb | Sandwich |
| David Deutsche | Will | Monee |
| Jack Freund | McHenry | Grafton |
| Tom Reynolds | DeKalb | Sycamore |
| Jeff Armstrong | DeKalb | Sycamore |
| Leon VanEvery | McHenry | McHenry |
| John Adamson | McHenry | Marengo |
| Joe Rodawold | Will | Wesley |
| Darrell Maxheimer | Sangamon | Rochester |
| Gary Muehlfelt | DuPage | Milton |
| Joe Stanfa | Cook | Bloom |
| Anna May Miller | McHenry | Algonquin |
| David Weaver | Tazewell | Washington |
| Stuart Anderson | LaSalle | Miller |
| Charles Montgomery | Piatt | Monticello |
| Robert Provenzano | Cook | Maine |
| Barry Painter | Kankakee | Otto |
| James Tierney | Kankakee | Kankakee |
| Everett Johnston | Macoupin | Carlinville |
| Damien Penrod | Macoupin | Carlinville |

