



From Your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

YES, IT IS INCOME TAX MONTH but most importantly it is ANNUAL TOWN MEETING month. By now you are all preparing for the second Tuesday (April 14th) to hold your annual town meeting?

In the February edition of *Perspective*, we provided some tips on the annual town meeting.

Some calls this past few weeks have been on the recent implantation of PA 98-1108 effective Jan. 1, 2015. This provides a choice regarding the financial affairs statement of the townships. The clerk may read aloud or have copies available of such statement.

We are always looking for opportunities to showcase the activities of the annual town meeting. If you have a unique story from your township, please tell us about it. E-mail me at jerry@toi.org or contact the TOI office.

Last year I printed the following tips on creating a township flag. I have to admit that my initial launch of this program back in 2013 has resulted in quite the “flag buzz”. Several townships have contacted me over the past year regarding options to create their own individualized township flag. Additionally, our presentation of the township flags at the annual conference in November continues to grow. I look forward to adding even more this year.

If you want to create a flag or even re-create your flag’s image, the following tips may assist. There are no limits or boundaries to what you can do. Make it a community project!

Tips for creating a flag

Our township doesn’t have a flag. How can we create one?

It’s never too late to create a flag if your township doesn’t have one. The information below will help you get started.

What size should the flag be?

The standard flag size is 3-by-5 feet. However, some townships have banners that work well. Township flag designs cover a wide range of subjects.

What should be on the flag?

Township logos, farms, sheep, bears, Illinois historical markers and our state motto have been seen. The flags commonly include the township name, its incor-

poration date, and a motto or the county name. Choose a design that represents what is unique or outstanding about your township.

You may consider holding a flag design contest for local schoolchildren, as many townships have done. Just remember to limit the number of colors allowed in the contest. The more colors you have in a design, the more expensive the flag may be to produce.

What’s the best way to make a flag?

There’s no one right way to make your flag. Is someone in your township talented in sewing or another craft? Some townships have produced hand-sewn or hand-painted flags. In some cases, townships produce their first flag by hand and then have additional flags made commercially, particularly for outdoor use.

There are two common commercial methods for making flags: appliquéd and screen-printed. Appliquéd flags are sewn together and may include embroidery. Screen-printed flags are printed with inks or dyes. The method you choose may depend on how many flags you plan to make, whether the flag will be used indoors or outdoors, and how complex the design is. If you want a single flag for use in the township hall and the Parade of Flags, an appliquéd flag may be the best choice. If your township wants several flags to use indoors and outdoors, screen-printing may be more economical.

How long does it take to make a flag?

The production method you choose and the complexity of your flag design will dictate the amount of time needed to produce a flag. On average, you should allow one to two months for the actual production.

What’s the average cost of a flag?

The price of a custom flag varies according to the production method, the design complexity and the number of flags you order. The township may wish to ask several flag companies for an estimate, based on your design. Flag accessories often come in sets that include a flag pole, base, tassel and an eagle for the top of the pole.

If you are interested in participating in the 2015 Parade of Township Flags, please complete the form on the following page.

**2015 Educational District event
off to a great start!**

Our first educational district event was held in Springfield on March 11. The event provided the first opportunity for the speakers to launch their programs. The attendees have responded well. The theme this year is going to really bring the goals and objectives of township government to the forefront. We have data and statistics to prove that we are a cost effective and efficient component of the local government structure outlined in our great state. There are some units of government

that have outlived their existence and cost, but township government is NOT one of them.

The 2015 education program has a theme to help attendees realize the importance of providing a positive image in your communities. We are promoting the theme "Learn from Us" because we do operate with balanced budgets and provide the cheapest government services among those managed by the state and/or county structures.

We asked a first-time attendee for feedback on the program experience. This is what she had to say:

Linda McKenna was elected supervisor of Huntsville Township (Schuyler Co.) in 2013, and this was her first TOI workshop.

"I learned so much. Lunch was great because it was a small group of supervisors and it was extremely informative," she said. "I've signed up for Topics Day and I will attend anything else I feel will help me. I just don't know why more officials don't attend these things."

McKenna said she enjoyed Jim Donelan's presentation on the Illinois Capitol building, and also Bill Morris' presentation. North Litchfield Township Supervisor Chris Johnson was helpful to her in



Does your township have a flag?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you need assistance in creating a township flag?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to participate in a flag parade at opening session of our Annual Educational Conference Nov. 9?

Yes _____ No _____

Please contact Jerry at jerry@toi.org, or fax 217-744-7419

Name/Title _____

Township/County _____

Email or phone _____



KALEIGH MOORE talks social media

lunch-time discussions, she added, and has agreed to contact her with more information concerning General Assistance.

Please register for the Educational District event most convenient for you.

May 21 – DoubleTree, Bloomington (Dist. 4 & 6)

July 16 – Giovanni's, Rockford (Dist. 7)

Aug. 14 – Regency Conference Center, O'Fallon (Dist. 2)

June 10 – Southern Spring Conference, Rend Lake Resort (Dist. 1)

TOIPAC ANNOUNCES TWO NEW FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Our TOIPAC fund is working on two fundraising activities that are aimed at surpassing our fundraising goals for 2015.



HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS meet in division breakout

481

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