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Township Officials of Illinois Volume 25 • Number 5

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The **Township Officials of Illinois**, organized in 1907, serves as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies, as well as its member townships. The organization's attention to and involvement with the legislative process enables it to exert influence on behalf of its member units, as well as to report to them on decisions which affect their functioning.

In addition to offering information and guidance, **TOI** promotes and supports strong township government in the State of Illinois. To that end, it offers a series of continuing education programs designed to provide a sense of responsibility, assurance, dedication and unity.

TOI recognizes that offering service benefiting the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois requires the representation of diverse constituencies. Its Board of Directors is structured to accommodate that purpose, as are its respective divisions.

The organization provides leadership for the continuation and effectiveness of strong grassroots government in the state. Through education, dedication and unity, **TOI** has achieved and surpassed the goals of its founders and provides leadership for grassroots government in the 21st Century.

Subscription Rates TOI membership automatically provides a subscription for all elected township officials. Subscription rate is \$50.00 per year. Single issues are \$5.00.

Graphic Design Kingery Printing Company, Effingham, IL.

Article Submission Address all article submissions to Kayla Jeffers. Deadline: Copy is due by the first day of the month preceding the issue in which the article will appear. Send all article submissions to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702 or e-mail kayla@toi.org. Telephone 217-744-2212 Fax 217-744-7419.

Advertising Address all display advertising and Professional Directory inquiries to Kayla Jeffers. **Deadline:** Both display and directory ads are due by the first day of the month preceding the issue in which the ad will appear. Send all ads to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702. Telephone 217-744- 2212.

Township Perspective (U.S.P.S. 257–780–ISSN 1523–9055) is published monthly, except January-February and July-August, which are bi-monthly, by the Township Officials of Illinois. Publishing Office: 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702. Periodicals Postage Paid at Springfield, IL 62703 and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702.

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS TOWNSHIP PERSPECTIVE Volume 25 • Number 5 June 2023

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The Township Officials of Illinois

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	Aug. 10	L
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	Aug. 16	E
	Aug. 24	P
	Sept. 4	Т
	Sept. 8	T
	Sept. 13	L
	Sept. 14	E
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<u>June</u>

June 7	WCIHCA Summer Seminar - Macomb
June 8	Education Event - Normal
June 9	Q&A Day - Ask a Township Attorney
June 16	TSI & Trustees Event - Mt. Vernon
June 19	TOI Closed (Juneteenth)
June 22	Professional Development Day 2 - Township HR
	Practices
	<u>July</u>
July 4	TOI Closed (Independence Day)
July 14	TSI & Trustees Event - Rockford
July 19	Lunch & Learn Webinar - Purchasing & Bidding
July 21	TOI Q&A Day - Difference Between AFR & ATR
July 26	Education Event - Rockford
July 28	TSI & Trustees Event - Bloomington
	<u>August</u>
Aug. 10	Lunch & Learn Webinar - Township Social Media
Aug. 11	TOI Q&A Day
Aug. 11	TSI & Trustees Event - Rock Island
Aug. 16	Education District Event - Ina
Aug. 24	Professional Development Day 3
	<u>September</u>
Sept. 4	TOI Closed (Labor Day)
Sept. 8	TOI Q&A Day
Sent 13	Lunch & Learn Webinar - Townshin Investments

ept. 13 Lunch & Learn Webinar - Township Investments ept. 14 Education District Event - Effingham

visit toi.org for more details

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Have You Formed Your Decennial Committee for Your Township?

Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Executive Director

To all Illinois Townships:

As individual townships in Illinois, you are faced again with a requirement of the Illinois General Assembly to meet an unfunded mandate justifying efficiency and effective administration of township government. Effective June 10, 2023, you are required to have initiated the process of meeting with your decennial committee and formalizing a report on the past, present, and future of your township programs and policies. In response to PA 102-1088 and 102-1136, the final report is due within 18 months to the County Board. We have worked with the Association of County Boards to advise the county boards the report will be showing up soon.

Your association, TOI, has provided a step-by-step guide to meeting these new requirements. On behalf of the TOI Board of Directors we are encouraging all townships to comply so that the impact overall is well received. The reason being is that the report is required alongside the census that will next be completed in 2030. Therefore, the next time an efficiency report is required will be 2030 unless otherwise initiated by another review or legislative initiative.

This report is important because it allows a township, regardless of its size, to showcase the programs and services they provide to their local community or those that may be in the planning stages to assist the community in becoming a better place. The report provides an internal and external analysis by the public and board participation creating a detailed analysis of what is most efficient and what may need a bit more attention.

If a township in a particular county does not complete the report the intent of the new law is not met. Remember, these reports are filed and may be obtained for any reason from the county board through a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request. It is important to our goals and objectives as an organization to help each other complete this new requirement. Visit our website at toi.org and locate the tab on the homepage dedicated to the report that includes sample forms and supplemental information to include with your report. Together we can make township government even better!

Please reach out to our office if you have any questions.

Jerry B. Crabtree

jerry@toi.org

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the Fall 2023 Educational Conference. Visit toi.org or this issue of *Perspective* for registration details!



MEMBER SERVICES



Introducing the 2023 TOI Fall Conference Education Program

Brad Ruppert

Director of Member Services

t's almost officially summertime but we are going to take a pause from mowing the grass and watching baseball and jump right ahead to Fall to talk about the 2023 TOI Fall Conference Education Program. Planning never really stops for the Fall Conference here at TOI, and we've been working diligently to schedule the best conference yet for 2023.

While we are always looking for new innovative topics, there are some topics that our members simply keep coming back to and never go out of style. As times change, legislation passes and new laws are introduced; we always try to keep our members up to date and aware of how their jobs may change and how to best navigate those changes. While this list of topics isn't totally set in stone yet and subject to some slight tweaks, below you will find the tentative education topics being presented at the 2023 TOI Fall Conference.

As everyone should be aware at this point, the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act is a popular topic. Judging by the volume of calls we've received, it's on a lot of our members' minds. As of this writing, everyone should have their committees set up and be preparing for their first meeting (by June 10th). We are offering an educational seminar on the Decennial Committee and help with preparing the required report. By Conference time in November, the committees will meet and the writing of the report should be underway. We hope this course offers some assistance with that report and answer any questions members might still have.

Also new in 2023 will be "Local Officials Role in Solar Projects," "Comptroller Reporting Requirements for Township Governments," "Intergovernmental Agreements," and "Building a Relationship with Your County Engineer."

Back by popular demand, we are continuing seminars on "Record Retention," "Township Levy and Ordinance Process," and "Township Cemeteries." These are all topics we receive questions about on a consistent basis. Always popular and returning is a seminar on "Running an Efficient Board Meeting," and "Food Banks and How They Operate."

"Ask the Attorney" is always one of the most talked about and well-attended events of the Fall Conference, and that returns (by popular demand). "Township Budgeting," "IMRF Discussion," and "GATI Program Overview" will be offered. "How to Respond to FOIA," and "Policies and Procedures for Highway Commissioners" round out the Education Program.

As in years before, the Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers (ITAGAC), Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees (ITASCSC), and Association of Illinois Township Committees on Youth (AITCOY) will each be providing great programs.

Although it's only June, the TOI Fall Conference will be action-packed and here before we know it.

List of Education Seminar Topics (please note this list is subject to change as the schedule is confirmed):

Decennial Committee Report

- Record Retention
- Township Levy and Ordinance Process
- Township Cemeteries
- Running an Efficient Board Meeting
- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Food Banks and How They Operate
- Ask a Township Attorney
- Township Budgeting 101
- Local Officials Role in Solar Projects
- IMRF Discussion
- GATI Program Overview
- How to Respond to FOIA
- Policies and Procedures for Highway Commissioners
- Comptroller Reporting Requirements for Township Governments
- Building a Relationship with Your County Engineer

Township Officials of Illinois Annual Educational Conference Advance Registration Form November 12-14, 2023

(Please use one form per delegate, if paying for multiple delegates with one check/credit card, please submit all forms together for accurate processing)

EARLY BIRD Registration Deadline is August 1, 2023 | Advance Registration Deadline is October 27, 2023

SECTION I – REGISTRATION	INFORMATION	Township Position:
		AssessorAttorney
County: Town	ship:	GA Caseworker
Name:		 Highway Commissioner
Iname:		Senior Citizen
Address		Supervisor
Mulcss		L Tax Collector
City: State	: Zip Code:	Township Clerk
	·2.p code:	
Phone:	Email:	□ Youth Committee □ Other
SECTION II – REGISTRATION	I FEES	
MEMBERS		
	A dama a Desistantions associand on an	On site Pasistration
EARLY BIRD Registrations	Advance Registrations received on or	On-site Registration
received on or before August 1, 2023 Full Registration: \$175	before October 27, 2023 Full Registration: \$185	Full Registration: \$225
Monday Registration Only: \$100	Monday Registration Only: \$110	Monday Registration Only: \$135
Tuesday Registration Only: \$85	Tuesday Registration Only: \$95	Tuesday Registration Only: \$125
	aday Only Registration 🗖 Tuesday Or	
NON-MEMBERS		
EARLY BIRD Registrations received Advance Registrations received on o On-site Registrations: \$310 per perso		
registrants MAY NOT attend Sunday o	ance to non-ticketed activities occurring on the r Tuesday events, and Tuesday only registration on may only be picked up on the day you have	ons MAY NOT attended Sunday or
□ Full Registration □ Mon	day Only Registration 🛛 Tuesday Or	nly Registration
GUESTS Does NOT include admission	n to education sessions	
EARLY BIRD Registrations received on or before August 1, 2023 Full Registration: \$85 Monday Registration Only: \$45 Tuesday Registration Only: \$30	Advance Registrations received on or before October 22, 2023 Full Registration: \$95 Monday Registration Only: \$45 Tuesday Registration Only: \$30	On-site Registration Full Registration: \$110 Monday Registration Only: \$55 Tuesday Registration Only: \$40
Guest Registration: Full	Monday Only 🗖 Tuesday Only	
Name of guest as it should appear of	on badge:	
Registration Fees (see all fees ab	ove)	. \$
Tickets must be ordered on o	or before October 28, 2023. Special event ti	ckets will not be sold on-site.
Awards Breakfast ticket: \$35.00) each	\$

continued on next page

SECTION III - PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment must accompany advance registration form and should include Registrations, Banquet, and Award Breakfast tickets. A \$3.50 credit card processing fee is added if using a credit card.			
Check Enclosed Visa MasterCard			
Card Number: Expiration Date:			
Name on Card:			
Billing Address:			
Cardholder's Signature:			

SECTION IV – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please indicate any special requirements (dietary restrictions, handicap accessibility, interpreter, etc.) in this space or contact the TOI office. Special requirements can only be accommodated if requested at least two weeks in advance of Conference:

SECTION V - CANCELLATION POLICY & TICKET ORDER INFORMATION

Cancellations received by **October 13, 2023** will receive full refund. Cancellations received between **October 13 to October 27, 2023** will receive a partial refund (\$20 administrative fee). NO REFUNDS on cancellations received after **October 27, 2023**.

Registrations are transferable.

Advance orders and pre-payment for all Award Breakfast MUST BE RECEIVED by October 27, 2023 in order to meet facility meal guarantee requirements. Special event tickets will not be sold on site.

SECTION VI - HOUSING

Hotel reservations will only be made through the Housing Bureau and only those individuals registered for the Conference by October 6, 2023 will be assigned hotel reservations. Hotel reservations may be made on-line via a link on the TOI website, <u>www.toi.org</u> or by submitting the Housing Form. The Housing Form is available in the *Township Perspective* or on the TOI website, <u>www.toi.org</u>. Reservations must be received by October 6, 2023 and guaranteed with a credit card. Hotel assignment confirmations WILL NOT be emailed until the week of October 16, 2023. Read all of the Hotel Reservation Procedures in the *Township Perspective* or on the TOI website to make certain you comply with all requirements.

> Send this Registration Form to: Township Officials of Illinois 3217 Northfield Dr. Springfield, Illinois 62702

HOUSING FORM TOI Annual Educational Conference November 12-14, 2023

Please complete one form per room reservation and <u>mail to</u>: TOI Housing Bureau 3217 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702

Read Housing Information for all reservation requests policies and procedures. This information is available in the *Township Perspective*, and on the TOI website, <u>toi.org</u>.

Housing forms will only be accepted **when accompanied with credit card information**. Confirmation of hotel assignments will be **emailed** the week of October 16th.

Please type or print all information legibly			
Name in which reservation should be made:			
Number of people in room: Name(s) of additional people in room:			
Township:	County:		
Zip Code: Phone:	Email:		
Date of arrival:	Date of departure:		

EMAIL ADDRESS REQUIRED FOR RESERVATION ASSIGNMENT (CONFIRMATION OF HOTEL INFORMATION)

You will be placed at the Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn Express, or at an overflow hotel if needed. All requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis by date of receipt, and if you are registered for the conference. Hotel assignment will be made based on type and length of reservation and hotel availability. If you need a handicap accessible reservation, please turn in housing form as soon as possible. Preference will be given to those requests for a minimum of two nights. Reservations made for two nights and later changed risk being charged for two nights and/or moved to another hotel. Room rate at the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express is \$106 plus tax per night.

Indicate your preferred room type. This is a request only and cannot be guaranteed.

King: _____Double/Double: _____ Indicate any special requirements: ______

Handicap Accessible: _____ Type of Handicap accessibility needed: _____

Housing forms **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the TOI Housing Bureau by **October 6, 2023**. Housing forms received after October 6th will not be processed.

Confirmation of hotel assignment will be **emailed** after October 16, 2023.

Card Type:	Card #:	
Expiration date:	Name on Credit Card:	
1		

Signature: _____

NATaT UPDATE



Congress Gears Up for the Next Farm Bill

David Hoover

S ince the beginning of the 118th Congress, lawmakers have been preparing for reauthorization of the farm bill, as a September 30 deadline looms later this year. The legislation, which governs agriculture and nutrition policy, is reauthorized roughly every five years. Most programs were last reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334), which had 12 titles, including Nutrition, Crop Insurance, Commodity Support, and Conservation, that collectively represent about 99 percent of farm bill outlays. The other titles make up the remaining one percent and include Trade, Rural Development, Research, Horticulture, Forestry, Energy, Credit, and Miscellaneous programs. Some farm bill programs, like Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance, are permanently authorized.

Since January, the Senate and House Agriculture Committees have held numerous listening sessions around the country to learn about regional concerns and to receive program input. In addition, both committees have held hearings in Washington starting last summer to address numerous topics including broadband, conservation, crop insurance, farm loans, research programs, and rural development. Congressional committees are pushing for action, with varying priorities on the table. Farm bills traditionally have strong bipartisan support, though partisan fights are expected this year on climate and nutrition policies. Republicans are pushing for overall spending cuts as a condition to raise the federal debt ceiling, while Democrats are seeking nutrition and climate program expansions.

The farm bill authorizes programs in two spending categories—mandatory and discretionary—though mandatory spending generally dominates the agriculture budget debate. Mandatory programs are authorized and generally funded by the farm bill. These mandatory programs include Nutrition Assistance; three farm "safety net" programs—Crop Insurance, Commodity Support, and Disaster Assistance; and Conservation. Discretionary programs, such as Rural Development, **National Association of Towns and Townships**

NATaT

Research, and Credit programs, are authorized in farm bills and funded by annual appropriations.

MANDATORY PROGRAMS

Nutrition Assistance Programs

Nutrition Assistance programs historically account for the most spending and provide help for low-income households through programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The nutrition title composed over three-quarters of the 2018 farm bill spending, making it the costliest title by far.

SNAP eligibility is based on income or participation in another means-tested program such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). SNAP beneficiaries, with some exceptions, must meet certain work requirements, which include registering for work, participating in employment and training programs, accepting a suitable job offer, and not voluntarily quitting or reducing hours. The average monthly benefit for a one-person household was \$197 in fiscal year 2023 and funds are deposited monthly on an electronic benefit card for SNAP beneficiaries to purchase certain foods at authorized retailers.

As in past farm bills, there will be significant congressional debate this year focused on the Nutrition programs. Republicans have proposed increasing the age limit from 49 years old to 65 years old on ablebodied adults without dependents that are subject to work requirements. Another proposal would exempt individuals from work requirements if their households include children under the age of seven, instead of the current exemption of 18 years old.

Farm "Safety Net" Programs

The farm "safety net" programs provide risk protection and income support to U.S. farmers. The Crop Insurance program is permanently authorized and insures farmers against financial losses due to

NATAT UPDATE

market conditions or adverse growing conditions. It covers most field crops, certain types of livestock, and animal products. The Commodity Support programs pay farmers "reference prices" if prices fall below certain thresholds. Subsidies are provided under the Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage programs and cover corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and sugar crops. The Disaster Assistance programs help farmers and ranchers recover from the financial effects of natural disasters and include the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). These programs are permanently authorized but generally amended in farm bills.

Conservation Programs

The Conservation programs offer financial and technical assistance to landowners and producers to carry out voluntary practices to protect natural resources. No existing program is specific to climate change, but most programs can address adaptation to changes in climate within their current structure. The programs include Emergency Assistance, Land Retirement, Working Lands, and Watersheds. Certain practices are prioritized in the programs, including land management, soil conservation, water and flood control, and wildlife habitat protection.

DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS

Rural Development Programs

Of the eight discretionary spending titles in the farm bill, the Rural Development (RD) programs have the biggest impact on the wellbeing of our rural communities per dollar spent because they solely benefit rural communities, and they provide the basic building blocks for rural development.

There are three RD programs: Rural Business, Rural Utilities, and Rural Housing. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service administers the Rural Business programs, which promote the expansion and development of rural businesses. The Rural Utilities Service administers the Rural Utilities programs, which construct and modernize utility systems, including water, waste disposal, electrical, telephone, and broadband systems. Finally, the Rural Housing Service administers the Rural Housing programs, which build and improve housing and essential community facilities in rural areas. These three programs provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees to increase the availability of public infrastructure and housing in communities that otherwise lack a sufficient tax base or access to credit to pay for such projects. A top priority for the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) is to advocate for a robust RD Title that promotes economic growth and stability by investing in our nation's rural infrastructure, incentivizes regional collaboration, and ensures the success of our next generation of farmers. NATaT supports efforts to connect rural American communities, homes, farms, businesses, first responders, educational facilities, and healthcare facilities to reliable and affordable high-speed internet services.

David Hoover is the Legislative and Policy Manager for the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT). He is also a Principal at The Ferguson Group (TFG), where he provides strategic counsel on tech and telecom policy issues for local governments, public power, cooperatives, and special districts. TFG specializes in securing policy and regulatory changes, federal funding, grants, and authorizations on behalf of its clients.



LIVE & IN PERSON EXHIBIT HALL ACTION



- 7 exclusive exhibit hours
- Opening Reception & meals in exhibit hall
- Connect with over 700 township officials & employees
- Advertising included in exhibit registration

(f) toi.org for details and registration

🗹 diane@toi.org

2023 Professional Development Course 2

HR Practices in Township Government

The TOI Education Program is pleased to offer several Professional Development Courses in 2023 for township officials and staff. The second program of the year is **Thursday**, **June 22**, **2023**, at the TOI Office in Springfield. The session is limited to 25 attendees. The cost is \$75 and includes lunch. The seminar is scheduled from 10am – 3pm to accommodate travel time.



Having a Township staff, large or small, comes with many HR questions and knowing what the best practices are. Join Rhonda Stuebe from CCMSI to learn more about HR practices, employee handbooks, personnel information, hiring practices, and documenting issues in Township Government.

Deadline to register is Thursday, June 15, 2023 Please fill in all information below and print clearly.

Name:	
Township Position:	
County/Township:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone/Email:	
Registration is \$75/person. Refunds cannot be given for any cancellations received the deadline to register.	after
Payment method: Check or Credit Card. Please make checks payable to Township Officials of Illinois.	

Credit Card (Visa / MasterCard only) Card Number:

_____ Exp:

Signature: _____

Return to the TOI office by fax at 217.744.7419, email to <u>kayla@toi.org</u>, or mail to 3217 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702.

Register online at <u>https://my.toi.org/events/upcoming-events</u>.

2023 Professional Development Course 3

Township Policies and Procedures

The TOI Education Program is pleased to offer several Professional Development Courses in 2023 for township officials and staff. The third program of the year is **Thursday**, **August 24**, **2023**, at the TOI Office in Springfield. The session is limited to 25 attendees. The cost is \$75 and includes lunch. The seminar is scheduled from 10am – 3pm to accommodate travel time.



Join Andrew Jarmer from Sorling Northrup Law to review township policies and procedures. This program goes over best practices for all township officials to follow. Information on township hot topics and the best way to address them is presented by Anthony Schuering from Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP.

Deadline to register is Thursday, August 17, 2023 Please fill in all information below and print clearly.

Name:	
Township Position:	
County/Township:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone/Email:	
Registration is \$75/person. Refunds cannot be given for any cancellations received af the deadline to register.	fter
Payment method: Check or Credit Card. Please make checks payable to Township Officials of Illinois.	
Credit Card (Visa / MasterCard only) Card Number:	
Signature:	

Return to the TOI office by fax at 217.744.7419, email to <u>kayla@toi.org</u>, or mail to 3217 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702.

Register online at <u>https://my.toi.org/events/upcoming-events</u>.

TOIRMA UPDATE



TOIRMA Urges Members to Participate in Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN)

Jim Donelan

Executive Director, TOIRMA

t seems like Illinois is experiencing more severe weather events in recent years. Of course, there are always high winds, tornados, thunderstorms, flooding, and hail during the spring and summer months. I had to learn what a derecho is when a few of our members in northern Illinois had been damaged a few years ago. In early May of this year, an area just south of Springfield experienced a dust storm that resulted in a 72-car pile-up, seven deaths, and shut down Interstate 55. With the unpredictability of our weather here in Illinois, we encourage TOIRMA members to be prepared. We recommend that members join the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN).

IPWMAN is a mutual aid network specifically designed for public works agencies like townships,



RESOURCES YOU CAN COUNT ON!



road districts, county highway departments, and municipal public works. IPWMAN's goal is to assist local governments in being better equipped to respond to natural disasters such as tornados, earthquakes, flooding, other major storm events, infrastructure failures, and terrorism events. IPWMAN's mission is *"in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, to develop and maintain a statewide network of public works related agencies whose principal purpose is to provide mutual aid response and recovery assistance to each other when confronted with natural or man-made emergencies and disasters."*

Common assistance requests during disasters include the need for personnel and equipment. IPWMAN members have helped other members with tornado cleanup, regional flooding, and the loaning of temporary signs and/or barricades. IPWMAN is recognized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. IPWMAN not only provides its members with access to public works assets, but also provides standardized operating procedures for disaster response and tracking. This may be helpful with later disaster reimbursements.

IPWMAN is voluntary. For example, if a local government is a member of IPWMAN and an aid request is put out for equipment and personnel to assist with a flood, participation is NOT mandatory. Members decide whether they can help or not.

TOIRMA has an ongoing commitment and partnership with IPWMAN. In fact, TOIRMA will reimburse the initial (first year) IPWMAN membership fee for TOIRMA members that join IPWMAN. All a TOIRMA member has to do is send us a copy of the cancelled check or paid invoice.

IPWMAN membership dues are inexpensive and based on population served. Townships and road districts with a population under 15,000 annual dues will be \$100 per year, 15,001 to 75,000, \$250 per year, and a population over 75,000, \$500 per year.

To learn more about joining IPWMAN visit ipwman.org.

TOIRMA UPDATE

Please do your part in being prepared for possible disasters. With the unpredictability of the weather and other disaster events, consider joining IPWMAN.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Have a great summer.

By the way, according to the National Weather Service a "derecho is a very long-lived thunderstorm with a wind damage swath exceeding more than 240 miles and has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour or greater along most of the length of the storm's path."

As always, if you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe... Drive Safe... Work Safe

On March 1, 2023, TOIRMA mailed dividend checks to each eligible member's TOIRMA contact. Please remember that according to the Public Funds Deposit Act [30 ILCS 225/1], the dividend check should be deposited within **two working days**.

Members that have not deposited their dividend check by May 31, 2023, will have their township's name published in the *Township Perspective* magazine.

This is the 32nd consecutive year that the TOIRMA Board of Trustees has declared a dividend. This year the amount returned to members is \$2.4 million for a total returned to members of \$51 million.



Sean Richardson presents Georgetown Township (Vermilion Co.) their dividend check.



Mickey Goral, TOIRMA Member Services Associate presenting dividend check to Salem Township (Carroll Co.) Supervisor Ellen Rahn.



Marketing Rep Kris Grier delivering the dividend check to Wethersfield Township (Henry Co.) Supervisor Dan Duckworth.



Mickey Goral, TOIRMA Member Services Associate presenting dividend check to Nelson Township (Lee Co.) Clerk Julie Johnson.



Bill Foppe presents Summit Township (Effingham Co.) with their dividend check.



TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan presents Tower Hill Township (Shelby Co.) Highway Commissioner Donald Hall their dividend check.



Bert Challans presents Rosedale Township (Jersey Co.) Supervisor Brian Kanallakan with their dividend check.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Rainy Day Funds and Carbon Capture

Taylor Anderson

n a recent article published this March, Pew Charitable Trusts reviewed the fiscal reserves of each state across the nation. The data they uncovered contained some interesting and surprising results. The financial cushion that states keep in reserve have soared over the last few years and in many cases are the highest they have been in decades. In fact, a number of states have even set records for the size of their rainy-day funds.

According to the data presented by Pew, 37 states had record highs in their rainy-day funds by the end of FY 22. That number is the most in at least 2 decades. Furthermore, seventeen states had surpassed their previous records for the number of days they could operate governmental services on rainy day funds alone.

On the high end, Wyoming was estimated to be able to operate as a state for more than a year on their reserves, while states like Alaska and New Mexico could cover operational cost for over 100 days. Most states appeared to hover around between the 25-45 day range. The national state median came in at 42.3 days. Illinois, closer to the bottom of the national list, was found to have enough reserves to cover six days. Though it is important to point out that according to the definition used by Pew, Illinois does not have a "rainy day fund." This is because the Illinois Budget Stabilization Fund Act includes a provision that mandates repayment of withdrawn funds within a fiscal year.

Most of these historic gains for states nationwide occurred during the pandemic, where after early pandemic dips in rainy day funds, as states scrambled to deal with COVID-19 issues, surpluses saw growth due to higher-than forecasted revenue returns, historic federal aid packages, and cost cutting measures. However, Pew cautions that most states are preparing for saving growth to slow moving forward as federal aid ends and other fiscal concerns and economic threats mount.

In other state news, during the last week of April, a hearing was held to review a study conducted by the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois in consultation with an intergovernmental advisory committee. The report was presented before a bicameral, four-way joint committee hearing between two House committees and two Senate committees. Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.

The detailed report, completed December 2022, was conducted pursuant to Public Act 102-0341 and looked at the potential and viability of carbon capture, utilization, and storage as climate mitigation technology in Illinois. The report looked at initiatives at both the state and national level and examined the various aspects of carbon capture and storage from both energy production and as a transition to clean energy sources. Many law makers understand that this is a growing technology and are eager to learn more about it, including its positives and negatives to determine if and how the technology might fit into Illinois' future. It was a robust committee hearing with stakeholder presenting lawmakers with testimony both in favor and opposed to the technology. Needless to say, this is an area where a lot of questions remain and that lawmakers will continue to learn more about.

Below are links to both the Pew article and the study on carbon capture, utilization and storage.

https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/ articles/2023/03/16/record-state-budget-reserves-bufferagainst-mounting-fiscal-threats

https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/125493

HB 1465–Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna)/Sen. Neil Anderson (R-Aledo) Passed Both Houses

Increases bid threshold for road districts to \$30,000. Bringing threshold in line with townships, municipalities, and counties. TOI initiative

HB 3424–Rep. Kevin Olickal (D-Skokie)/Sen. Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) Passed Both Houses _____

Modernizes township General Assistance and clarifies the benefits and eligibility requirements. Provides townships with additional flexibility. TOI initiative

SB 895–Sen. Michael Halpin (D-Rock Island)/Rep. Gregg Johnson (D-East Moline) ______

Originally the bill would have increased cost for Intergovernmental Agreements. TOI worked with the sponsor to amend the bill to create guard rails for how and when Intergovernmental Agreements can be used.

A complete legislative report will be included in the August Perspective. The print deadline for this publication prohibited inclusion of the report prior to the scheduled adjournment of the Illinois General Assembly.

Policy Report

Illinois Association of County Board Members • Township Officials of Illinois • Appropriations



The Illinois Association of County Board Members along with the Illinois Association of County Engineers and Township Officials of Illinois are working to increase the state's annual appropriation to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for bridge funds. House Bill 2781, currently held, provides that the General Assembly shall annually appropriate \$60,000,000 (instead of \$15,000,000) for apportionment to counties for the use of road districts for construction of bridges. *Please contact your lawmakers to request an increase to IDOT for the Township Bridge Program in the state budget* (BIMP).

The Illinois Township Bridge Program (TBP) is a legislated (605 ILCS 5/6-901) fund designated for the construction and maintenance of bridges on the Township Highway System. There are 12,165 bridges in Illinois under the jurisdiction of the 1429 Illinois Townships. The program was initiated in 1979 with an annual allocation of \$15 million. This year, 43 years after the program was instituted, the annual allocation from the Illinois Road Fund remains at \$15M per year.

Since the implementation of the program, the number of deficient Township bridges has consistently decreased from a high of 6063 bridges in 1980 to 2021 total of 1624 deficient Township bridges. While significant progress has been made, more than one out of every ten Township bridges is still classified as deficient.

Over the past 43 years, the \$15 million allocation has lost significant purchasing power. Since 1980, the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (CCI) has risen from 3,237 to 13,175, an increase of over 300%. In other words, the TBP appropriation of \$15 million in 1980 would equate to a TBP appropriation of \$3.69 million today. The TBP program has lost nearly 75% of its buying power. Based strictly on the referenced Construction Cost Index, an annual 2023 appropriation of \$60 million to the TBP program would be necessary to meet the original program funding level. However, the 2023 needs of Township Bridges across the state are greater yet.

The two most common revenue sources utilized in the replacement of township bridges are the TBP program and local property taxes. The \$15 million annual TBP program can fund up to 80% of the cost of the bridge replacement and other sources are used to complete the funding. Most counties use local property taxes to match the remaining 20%, while other counties use a combination of local funds and Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds. For many counties, the HBP funds are the only additional source of revenue to replace county bridges so the use of HBP funding for township bridges can be to a detriment to the county bridge system.

Results from a previous Illinois Association of County Engineers TBP survey determined that the average lifespan of township bridges before they become deficient is approximately 55 years. Given this lifespan, 221 township bridges should be replaced across the State of Illinois per annum to prevent even more bridges from becoming deficient. This replacement rate would not decrease the number of existing deficient Township bridges in Illinois, it would only keep the current deficiencies in check.

Using the latest IDOT average cost of bridge construction, and an engineering cost estimate of 15%, the annual cost to replace the 221 Township bridges would be \$97.9 million. Even if you ignore the engineering costs, which are real and substantial, and the local share costs of 20% of construction, the need is still over \$60 million annually. This lifecycle bridge replacement cost greatly exceeds today's investment level in Township bridges.

In addition, it has become increasingly difficult for local agencies to be able to afford the local share of costs of structures as property taxes have not increased at the same rate as the cost of construction. One method of addressing this shortfall is to reduce or eliminate the local match requirement on TBP projects; while we support this change, we recognize this would result in TBP funding not being able to complete as many projects, increasing the TBP need even more. Unfortunately, with many Townships already levying at the maximum rate and most experiencing stagnant growth, it is our opinion that it is necessary in order for Townships to be able to afford to complete these projects.

Finally, it is essential that an increase in TBP funding take place as soon as possible. The program is 43 years old which means that we are going to start to see many bridges that were built during the infancy of the program need to be replaced themselves over the next 10 years. In fact, bridges are already beginning to be replaced that were unable to endure a lifespan of even 43 years. At current funding levels, we can't replace the bridges at the same rate they were constructed at the beginning of the program. If these needs are not adequately addressed, the anticipated increase in deficient bridges could reflect poorly on IDOT to the Federal Government as the administrator of the NBIS program for the State of Illinois.



<u>Lunch & Learn Webinar Series</u>

Review of Purchasing and Bidding Procedures

July 19, 2023 | 12 PM | 60 Minutes | \$25

The Webinar will review the general regulations under Illinois law for the procurement of various goods and services by Townships. The webinar will cover public improvements projects, professional design services, data and software purchases, cooperative purchasing, bulk supplies, and opportunities for local vendor preferences.



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. John was a prior member of the Tazewell County Board, and now uses his free time to cheer on his kids from the bleachers and operate his family farm.

Best Practices for Township Use of Social Media

August 10, 2023 | 12 PM | 60 Minutes | \$25

Townships are increasingly turning to social media as an efficient and effective way to communicate about township meetings, activities, and events. As this practice continues, township officials and employees should be aware of the legal issues that can arise in connection with government use of social media. In this webinar, Julie will discuss best practices for compliance with the Open Meetings Act, FOIA, records retention laws, copyright protections, and the First Amendment, provide guidance on the moderation of comments, and discuss legal issues with township official activities on social media.



Julie Tappendorf is an equity partner with Ancel Glink, P.C. in Chicago, practicing in the area of local government law. Julie has published a number of books and articles on government topics, including co-authoring the book Social Media and Local Governments: Navigating the New Public Square. Julie is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences on government topics, including social media use by governments. She also trains government officials and employees on social media usage, and has prepared numerous social

media policies. Julie is the author and moderator of the local government blog, Municipal Minute, where she writes about social media and other local government issues.

Investment Strategies for Townships

September 13, 2023 | 12 PM | 60 Minutes | \$25

Review ILCS 235, which includes all investment vehicles allowed per IL State Statute. Discuss implementing an individual investment policy for your township. Review revenue and expenditures cycles to understand Township Cash Flow. Identify reserve dollars to invest for additional interest income to be spent on Township initiatives. Understand competitive investment options and navigating the current economic landscape. High interest rates now so great time to review investment strategies and check in with current providers. Navigate inflationary environment.



Lisa Nusko joined PMA Financial Network, LLC in 2017 and is responsible for the sales and marketing efforts in the Illinois municipal space. She has experience working with townships, cities, villages, counties, special districts, insurance cooperatives, K-12 school districts, and other public authorities on their overall investment needs. In her current capacity, she works closely with clients to develop and implement prudent investment strategies for short, intermediate, and long-term funds, reviews and develops investment policies, and provides

economic updates. Lisa is an active member of numerous financial associations presenting and moderating at various conferences and events. She received her MBA with a certificate in Finance from Northern Illinois University and holds Series 7, 63 and 50 securities licenses.

Webinars are convenient, affordable, and interactive.

Visit toi.org for more information and to register!

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The information to be provided at this webinar is provided by the Township Officials of Illinois for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. It is intended to provide timely general information of interest but should not be considered a substitution for legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. Participation in the webinar does not create an attorney-client relationship with any attorneys participating in the webinar and participants.

	2023 Educ	ation Events Registration
	June 8	Activity and Recreation Center 600 E Willow Street • Normal, IL 61761
	July 26	Sponsored by TOIRMA IBEW Hall 6820 Mill Road • Rockford, IL 61108 Support of the TOIRMA
	Sept. 14	Sponsored by TOIRMA Thelma Keller Center 1202 N Keller Drive • Effingham, IL 62401 Sponsored by TOIRMA
	6 pm – 8 pm	Sponsored by DK Tanks
	6 pm – 8 pm Aug. 16	Rend Lake College
		468 North Ken Gray Parkway • Ina, IL 62846 Sponsored by TOIRMA
County	Tow	nship
Address		
		Zip
Contact person name, email,	and phone numb	er:
Names & Email of those who	will attend (plea	ase print clearly):
Supervisor:		
Township Clerk:		
Highway Comm.:		
Assessor:		
Trustee:		
Collector:		
Other/title:		

Registration is \$50 per location, per person or \$400/township for up to nine attendees. On-site registration is \$75 per person. No refunds will be given once TOI has confirmed attendance with venue.

*Please make checks payable to the Township Officials of Illinois; mail to 3217 Northfield Drive., Springfield, IL 62702. Forms may also be emailed to <u>kayla@toi.org</u>. If you are paying by credit card, only Visa and MasterCard are accepted:

Name, as it appears on card: _		
Credit Card Number	Exp.:	

Scenes from 2023 Lobby Day

Township Officials gathered in Springfield to speak face-to-face with state legislators and to gain their support for township issues being addressed by the Illinois General Assembly. Lobby Day, on April 26, presented the opportunity for over 170 township officials to come together to voice their concerns and opinions to legislators about the issues facing township government.

This year marked the 41st annual year for Lobby Day, that included a luncheon held at the State House Inn. The luncheon featured two keynote speakers: State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, who has served in office since 2015, and the newly elected Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias.



TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree greets attendees at the 41st Annual Lobby Day luncheon.

During his talk, Treasurer Frerichs spoke on how the Treasurer's office is working to assist townships throughout the state. He highlighted various programs such as ePay, the Illinois Funds, and the Sustainable Investing Act. Frerichs urged attendees to visit illinoistreasurer.gov to find out how the Treasurer's office can benefit them.

Secretary Giannoulias greeted attendees of Lobby Day enthusiastically in support of the government closest to the people—township government. He spoke of the changes already made and upcoming to the Secretary of State's office in an effort to modernize the office. Giannoulias emphasized the importance of the work that township government does across Illinois.



Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs speaks to attendees at Lobby Day.



TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree and Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias.



Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias speaks to attendees at Lobby Day.



TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert speaks to attendees at the Lobby Day luncheon.



Township Clerk Bryan E. Smith (Long Creek Twp., Macon Co.), Senator Sally Turner (R-44), and Trustee and TOI Board of Directors Michael Reynolds (Long Creek Twp., Macon Co.).



Supervisor John Monino (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Trustee Dan Milinko (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Trustee and TOI Board of Directors Jeff Castle (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Township Clerk Yadav "Nick" Nathwani (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), and Trustee Drew Ellis (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.).



Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, and Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.).



Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Township Clerk Arlene "Sugar" Al-Amin (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Tina Chambers (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), and Kimiya Lewis (Rich Twp., Cook Co).



Highway Commissioner David Schulz (Dundee Twp., Kane Co.), Supervisor Arin Thrower (Dundee Twp., Kane Co.), and Director of Programs and Administration Katie Meyer (Dundee Twp., Kane Co.)



Supervisor Deb Skillrud (City of Bloomington Twp., McLean Co.), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Sue Brokaw (Dorr Twp., McHenry Co.).



Highway Commissioner Gary Wood (Field Twp., Jefferson Co.), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and Highway Commissioner Kenny Hayes (Mt. Vernon Twp., Jefferson Co.).



Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), and Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.).



TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson, TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti (Niles Twp., Cook Co.), Supervisor Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg (New Trier Twp., Cook Co), and Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh (Northfield Twp., Cook Co.).



Trustee Jackie Small (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Trustee Steven Burris (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Administrator Trinette Britte (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Administrator Pam Al-Amin (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), and Dorothy Calhoun (Rich Twp., Cook Co.).



Assistant Republican Leader Sen. Terri Bryant (R-58) and Rep. Dave Severin (R-116).



Deputy Republican Leader Rep. Norine Hammond (R-93) and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Trustee Cheryl Franklin (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), and Trustee and TOI Board of Directors Jacquelene Stewart (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.).



TOI Legislative Consultants Allison Richard, Taylor Anderson, and Leticia DeWith-Anderson.



Trustee Melinda Clark (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Trustee Paul Putnam (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Senator Michael Halpin (D-72), and Township Clerk Karen Wilson (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.).



Deputy Republican Leader Sen. Sue Rezin (R-38), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and Assessor Deb Lane (Meriden-Ophir-Troy Grove Twps., LaSalle Co.).



Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.) and Supervisor John Monino (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.).



Rep. Dave Severin (R-116), Assistant Republican Leader John Cabello (R-90), Deputy Republican Leader Rep. Norine Hammond (R-93), Republican Leader Rep. Tony McCombie (R-89), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and Rep. Patrick Windhorst (R-117).



Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and Supervisor Tiffany Henyard (Thornton Twp., Cook Co).



Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Republican Leader Rep. Tony McCombie (R-89), Supervisor William Catching (Aurora Twp., Kane Co.), Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84), and Assistant Republican Leader John Cabello (R-90).



Rep. Patrick Joyce (D-40) and Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.).



Rep. Suzanne Ness (D-66) and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree and Sen. Jil Tracy (R-50).



Supervisor Cheri Neal (Zion Twp., Lake Co.) and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Rep. Anthony DeLuca (D-80) and Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.).



Front row, left to right: Trustee Jacquelyn Small (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Trustee Steven Burris (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Senator Michael E. Hastings (D-19), General Assistant Kimiya Lewis (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Special Assistant Dorothy Calhoun (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), and Administrator Trinette Britt (Rich Twp., Cook Co.).

Back row, left to right: Assessor Sam Brown (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Senior Services Consultant Tina Chambers (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Administrator Pamela Al-Amin (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Senior Services Director Mayme Buckley (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), and Township Clerk Arlene M. "Sugar" Al-Amin (Rich Twp., Cook Co.).

NATaT Fly-In

Illinois Township Officials traveled to Washington, D.C. May 9-12 for the 2023 Fly-In. This annual National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) event allowed the opportunity for TOI President Chris Kain and 10 member delegates to attended 6 hill meetings among the Illinois Congressional delegation. The event features the White House Staff, ranking Congressional Leaders, and federal agency administrations. Briefing out attendees opportunities for local government in Illinois. Several legislative issues were presented. A full report will be included in the August issue of *Township Perspective*.



Front row, left to right: Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-13), Township Clerk and TOI Second Vice President Sherry Tite (Wood River Twp., Madison Co.), and Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.).

Back row, left to right: Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.), TOIRMA Member Services Associate Mickey Goral, TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan, TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.).

TOI's NATaT Fly-in group at Capitol Hill! Left to right: Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.), Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.), TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan, Township Clerk and TOI Second Vice President Sherry Tite (Wood River Twp., Madison Co.), Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), TOIRMA Member Services Associate Mickey Goral, Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.), Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), TOI *Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, and TOI Director* of Member Services Brad Ruppert.



Stay up to date with TOI's Legislative Emails

Contact TOI at <u>teresa@toi.org</u> or <u>kayla@toi.org</u> to make sure we have your email on file

Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Rep. Jonathan Jackson (D-1), Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.), Township Clerk and TOI Second Vice President Sherry Tite (Wood River Twp., Madison Co.), Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.), TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan, TOIRMA Member Services Associate Mickey Goral, and Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.).





Member Services Associate Mickey Goral, TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-17), Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), and Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.).



Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.), TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.), Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.), Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), Township Clerk and TOI Second Vice President Sherry Tite (Wood River Twp., Madison Co.), Rep. Mary Miller (R-15), TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.), and Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.).



Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa (Bloom Twp., Cook Co.), Assessor and TOI President Christopher Kain (Addison Twp., DuPage Co.), Rep. Robin Kelly (D-2), Supervisor and TOI Treasurer Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.), and Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.).





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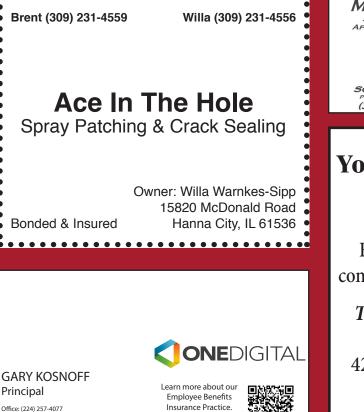
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SCOOP ON SUPERVISORS





Chuck Layer

President, Township Supervisors of Illinois Supervisor, Blackhawk Township, Rock Island County

As I sit and put pen to paper (how many of you remember those days?), we have finished with our second General Assistance Training Institute (GATI) workshop. Both workshops were well attended and seemed to be informative for everyone. It always seems that the open question part of the sessions work very well with all the participants. Remember, supervisors, that you are the one responsible for General Assistance (GA) in your township. Your knowledge of the GA process is very important. With the Bloomington and Rockford workshops completed, the last workshop this year will be in Effingham on September 29th—look for registration in a future magazine and online at toi.org.

Our Lobby Day event for TOI was a success. This year's event went very well. It seemed that everyone who attended was able to see their elected officials. Some folks were able to attend some committee hearings. Our numbers were very good but... we can do SO MUCH better. If you have never attended this event, put it on your calendar for 2024.

Supervisors, this is the time to get your new budget for the fiscal year completed. It needs to be made available for public inspection for 30 days, approved and adopted and filed with your county clerk. This process must be completed by June 30th.

Our Township Supervisors of Illinois Division (TSI) workshops begin this month. As I have already said... this year we will be partnering up with the trustees for our workshops. We have a great agenda this year, so I am hoping to see many of you there.

June 16th	Mt. Vernon
July 14th	Rockford
July 28th	Bloomington
August 11th	Rock Island

The more we understand our own positions/duties the easier it is to work together with everyone else in our township. I truly believe that it is possible to discuss and come up with solutions to problems without screaming, yelling, and finger-pointing. I had the pleasure, after a long day at the capital on Lobby Day, sitting down to relax and have a conversation with Deb Lane. Deb is an Assessor from LaSalle County, a member of the Assessor Division board, and a former TOI Director. By the way, I would like to congratulate Deb on the award she has been presented with. Deb is a very dedicated and passionate elected official (assessor). We talked about knowing our duties and understanding the duties of our fellow officials. So if you are reading this article, because you are a supervisor, when you finish make sure to check out all the articles written by the other divisions. If you are reading this article as any other official, THANK YOU. Also, always make sure to check out the articles by Jerry Crabtree, Jim Donelan, and Brad Rupert—the more we know US, the better we can SERVE.

That's it for now... Thank you for your time.

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- 177 state legislators and 21 U.S. Senators and Congressmen

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CLERK'S CORNER



Pam Bruner

We preserve the history of our Township as it happens.

Well, the Annual Town meetings are done for the year, and we move into the budget time of the year. Remember the important deadline dates:

- May 30th is the last day to publish notice announcing budget hearings and that budgets are available for the public to review.
- June 30th is the last day to conduct a budget hearing and adopt the township and road district budgets. If your township and road district put your budgets together earlier in the first quarter, you should have already filed your budget with the county clerk within 30 days of adoption at your budget hearings. Otherwise, make sure you file those budgets by July 30th.

The Clerks division is busy making plans for upcoming educational sessions. We will cover a variety of topics at our lightning rounds and clerks will have a great opportunity to test their knowledge and if you are a newly appointed clerk a great way to learn the insights of the duties of a clerk. If you have not signed up for one of the training sessions, I would encourage you to sign up for one of the following events:

June 8ARC/NormalJuly 27IBEW Hall/RockfordSeptember 14Thelma Keller Center/Effingham



Vice President, TOI Clerks Division

Rend Lake College/Ina Evening session 6 pm-8 pm

August 16

Look for the clerks table at one of the daytime sessions and if you have not sent in your clerk's dues you can pay your dues that day and get your membership card. We have received quite a few memberships, but we still have a way to go. The dues money collected goes toward training for the clerks division, sponsorship of online education, sponsorship of the TOI annual conference, William Z. Ahrends Award, VTCC materials, and TOI scholarships.

Please make sure you have your calendar marked with the 116th Annual Educational Conference. November 12,13, and 14 are the dates to remember. There are a lot of great things being planned and I don't think anyone walks away without gaining important information that directly affects the positions that we hold or a great idea that you can share in your community.

Remember to take time to appreciate your local community and the trust that they have put in you to be a township official. It is a privilege to serve our communities.

If you have a question or suggestion, please send it to me. Email me at clerk@cordovatownship.com, write me at PO Box 311, Cordova, IL 61242, or call 309-533-1307.



HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S BEAT





Arnold Vegter

President, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois Highway Commissioner, Union Grove Township, Whiteside Co.

As I sit down to write this article, the 41st annual Lobby Day for TOI has just concluded and what a great day it was in Springfield! If you have never attended, I highly recommend that you go to one of these during your time as a Township Official!

It is a great learning experience to see what it takes to get a bill passed through the Illinois General Assembly. We had some very good speakers starting with State Treasurer Michael Frerichs followed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, and then a prerecorded message from Governor J.B. Pritzker. After the luncheon, we adjourned to the capitol building to meet with our legislators.

I have to admit that I only had one meeting lined up beforehand and that was in the late afternoon, and we got to the Capital building at just after lunch, so with the time I had to kill, I went up to the viewing gallery to watch the House of Representatives work. After being in there for a while, I decided to walk around the Capitol Building and see who I would run into. As luck would have it, I ran into a Legislative Consultant that the TOI



Deputy Republican Leader Rep. Ryan Spain (R-73), Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.), and Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-74).

legislative committee has been working with on a bill that we were working together to get the right language.

Because of the nature of this bill, and everything that has been going on with it, the conversation was very interesting to say the least, but in the end, we had a very good understanding of each other and we were able to get the language that we wanted in the bill and it passed out of committee later that day so that was a win for TOI. It was an up close and personal view of amendatory language and its impact on the legislative process.

You never know when you walk around the Capitol who you may run into and what, if any, good may come out of it! I did make my afternoon meeting and that went very well. Then it was off to the State Library for a reception with the legislators to end the day. What I thought was going to be a slow day at the Capitol turned out to be the best Legislative day of all of the Lobby Days that I have been to, and I have been to at least 10! I highly encourage everyone to attend one of these Lobby Days and make a difference for Township Officials of Illinois.



TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson, Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.), and Highway Commissioner and TOI Secretary Arnold Vegter (Union Grove Twp., Whiteside Co.).

AITCOY



A Message from the President

Tina Houdek

President, AITCOY

Summer is around the corner and school is out. Kids are ready for some summer fun. Many townships serving youth have planned for summer activities. Townships across the state provide programs such as summer camps and tutoring programs to keep youth engaged. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss programs and services you can provide.

There is still time to submit applications for the post-secondary scholarship for graduate students with studies in social work, counseling, parks and recreation, human services, and other degrees related to youth and families. The 2023 Sandra Koscielniak Graduate Scholarship Application deadline is September 22, 2023. Please feel free to share this information and our website link with those you know who could benefit from this. The applications and instructions are located on our website at www.aitcoy.org.

Association of Illinois Township Committees on Youth Leadership • Community • Education • Networking

AITCOY continues to offer opportunities for professional development, networking, and resources for program development and evaluation. We are still in the planning process, but our next workshop is scheduled for August 24, 2023 and is hosted by Plainfield Township. We are continuing to offer the workshops in a hybrid style to accommodate all townships. Please continue to view our website for further information.

Have a safe summer! Tina Houdek

Did You Know?

Here are some tips for men's mental health:

- Talk to someone you trust about your feelings. This could be a friend, family member, therapist, or anyone else you feel comfortable talking to.
- Seek professional help if you need it. There is no shame in admitting that you need help. Therapy can be a great way to deal with mental health problems.
- Take care of your physical health. Exercise, eat healthy foods, and get enough sleep. These things can help improve your mental health.
- Connect with other men. Talk to other men about your experiences and how you are feeling. This can help you feel less alone.
- If you are struggling with mental health problems, please reach out for help. There are many resources available, and you are not alone. If you are having thoughts of wanting to harm yourself, please call 911 or go to your local ER.

Did you know that June is Men's Mental Health Month? Men's mental health is just as important as women's mental health. However, there are some unique challenges that men face when it comes to mental health. One challenge is men are often taught to suppress their emotions. This can make it difficult for men to express their feelings, even when they are struggling with mental health problems. Another challenge is men are less likely to seek treatment for mental health reasons. This is partly due to the stigma around mental health, which can make men feel ashamed or embarrassed to admit that they are struggling. It is important for men to know they are not alone, and help is available. If you are struggling with mental health problems, please reach out for help. There are many resources available, including therapy, medication, and support groups.

ITAGAC





Lakeela Jennings

President, ITAGAC

The Caseworkers Division held our second annual Educational Conference on April 20, 2023, at the Par-a-Dice Hotel & Conference Center. We estimated about one hundred people in attendance including caseworkers and supervisors from all over the State of Illinois. Here are some of the topics discussed at our annual conference:

Understanding Immigration for GA Caseworkers— Airdo Werwas, LLC

Attorneys Mark Kimzey and James Jansen presented on General Assistance rules and regulations for migrants and other refugees. Not all Townships are affected by this, but those who are received valuable information on these issues. They concluded their presentation by discussing confidentiality and retention of case files.

TANF and SNAP Changes and Updates—DHS

Torrence Sawyer, John Hahn, and Cari Blodget presented on the changes to SNAP allotments, work requirements, redeterminations, medical program changes, and TANF specifications. General Assistance casework aligns so closely with what DHS does that it's important to stay up-to-date on program details and changes. They are a wealth of knowledge!

Current Social Security Programs—Social Security Administration

Megan Forristall from the Social Security Administration went over the difference in Social Security programs offered and how to apply for them. She spoke about timelines in the process of applying for programs such as SSDI and SSI and the appeal process. She instructed us on how to help our clients navigate the online system and how to watch out for scams.





Medicare/Medicaid Unwinding of the Public Health Emergency—Illinois Department on Aging

Sandy Leith, Director of Senior Health Insurance Program, spoke on several topics ranging from pandemic benefits that have ended or will be ending to the difference in Medicare parts and their changes.

We are incredibly grateful to our speakers and to those who attended this training opportunity. There has been some recent confusion about the training that the Caseworkers Division provides versus the training that GATI provides. GATI is a separate entity intended to keep us well-versed and in compliance with the General Assistance Handbook. GATI is truly the backbone to the General Assistance program. The Caseworkers Division seeks to complement GATI training by taking a closer look into specific issues around the cases we are presented with.

The Caseworkers Division will continue to be a partner to the Supervisor's Division and GATI so that we can help more individuals and families. Please let us know if there are any specific topics you would like to learn more about in the future! In the meantime, save the date for next year's conference: **April 18, 2024, at the Par-a-Dice Hotel & Conference Center**. We look forward to seeing you!

Thank you for working vigorously to assist residents in need!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lakeela Jennings

President, Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers





June/July 2023 | toi.org

ITASCSC



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day—Know the Facts!

Pamela Mahn

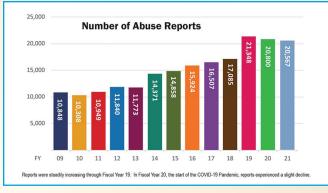
Treasurer, ITASCSC

Director, Senior Services, Oak Park & River Forest Townships

une 15th marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This is a good opportunity to acknowledge the significance of elder abuse, why it occurs, how to prevent it, and what everyone can do to stop it.

Many older adults are subject to more than one type of mistreatment. Throughout the state of Illinois, there are 38 Adult Protective Services (APS) Units. They are designated, trained, and monitored by the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA) and the Regional Area Agency on Aging. Caseworkers conduct investigations and work to resolve situations involving abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation with adults over 60 and persons with disabilities 18-59.

From the Illinois Department on Aging Adult Protective Services FY 2021 Annual Report:



In general, Fiscal Year 2022 statistics remain consistent with Fiscal Year 2021 with no significant variants observed. Abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a person age 60 or older or adults with disabilities age 18-59 is the least recognized form of family violence. *Source: https://ilaging.illinois.gov, Illinois Department on Aging Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports*

What Constitutes Abuse?

The types of abuse investigated by the Adult Protective Services program include:

- Abandonment
- Confinement

- Emotional Abuse
- Financial Exploitation
- Passive Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Willful Deprivation
- Self-Neglect

A special note should be made that these situations are often under-reported as perpetrators may be trusted family members and/or caregivers.

1 in 10 older adults experience some form of elder abuse

Source: National Council on Aging

Causes of Abuse

Abusers may lack knowledge of the older adult's needs, lack support, become stressed with caregiving responsibilities, or experience a financial need. The older adult may suffer from a cognitive or physical impairment, be isolated, or fearful of the abuser, which could prevent them from seeking help.

How Can We Identify and Report It?

It is important to look for changes in the older adult's demeanor, physical appearance, or routine.

- Warning signs of elder abuse may include:
 - Becoming isolated or withdrawn
 - Unexplained trouble sleeping
 - Displaying signs of insufficient care
 - Displaying signs of trauma
 - Unexplained bruises or scars
 - Stops taking part in activities once enjoyed
 - Unpaid bills (despite financial resources)
 - Acting agitated or becoming violent

Adult Protective Services caseworkers are here to help. All workers in the Adult Protective Services Units are specially trained to conduct investigations and work with the victims to mitigate and resolve instances

ITASCSC

of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Caseworkers will also provide linkage to local programs and services for the victims, their family members, or caregivers. Resources in your area may include caregiver training and education, respite care, social activities, counseling, support groups, and more.

Remember, when considering filing a report:

- Anyone can report a suspected case of abuse in good faith.
- All reports are kept confidential.
- Anonymous reports are accepted.

The older adult has the right to self-determination, including the decision to accept or refuse services and interventions. Confidentially is paramount.

Find your local Adult Protective Services Unit by calling 1-800-677-1116.



Reports can be taken 24/7 by contacting 1-866-800-1409

How Each of Us Can Help Today

- Equation : Second S
- ²Ω² Remember the signs of elder abuse and neglect and how to report it.
- Check on older adults who may have few friends and family members.
- $\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}$: Prevent isolation by calling or visiting our older loved ones and ask how they are doing.
- : Q: Learn the available resources in your area

To learn more about Adult Protective Services in Illinois, visit the Illinois Department on Aging at: https:// ilaging.illinois.gov/protectionadvocacy/abuse.html.

For more information about the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees, visit us at www.itascsc.net. If your Township is not a member of ITASCSC, don't hesitate to complete a membership application (available in the Forms section on the website) and submit it with your payment. Get access to memberonly resources and the opportunity to work alongside a great network of professionals serving older adults!



READY FOR THE DEFENSE





Steve Judge

Determination That Drainage Issues Were Not Caused By Defendants Was Not Against The Manifest Weight Of The Evidence

This month's column discusses the recent Fifth District Appellate Court decision in *Brad Furlong and Beth Furlong v. Floyd Boxx and Vickie Boxx*, affirming the judgment of the circuit court, denying Plaintiffs' claim for damages and finding that the defendants were not in violation of the Illinois Drainage Act and the common law on drainage. *Furlong v. Boxx*, 2023 IL App (5th) 220365.

Plaintiffs owned farmland on the west side of Stuber Road in Marion County, Illinois. Defendants' property was located on the east side of Stuber Road. The natural drainage of water travels from the northeast corner of Plaintiffs' property in an easterly/southeasterly direction. *Id.* The surface water then flows from the Plaintiffs' property across Stuber Road easterly, across the Defendants' property, and drains into Horse Creek. *Id.*

Plaintiff filed a two-count complaint seeking damages and injunctive relief. Plaintiffs' complaint alleged that Defendants blocked the east side of a culvert that ran across Stuber Road; created an artificial berm on the east side of Stuber Road; threw rock, wood, debris, and concrete cylinders on the east side of the culvert at Stuber Road; and erected a wall made from concrete cylinders on the east side of Stuber Road. *Id*. Plaintiffs alleged that such actions caused flooding which destroyed crops. Accordingly, Plaintiffs sought damages for crop loss.

Defendants claimed Plaintiffs created a ditch, regraded Plaintiffs' property, and installed a culvert under Stuber Road, altering the terrain which caused an increase in the flow of water onto Defendants' land. Among other defenses, Defendants argued that Plaintiffs' claims were barred under the doctrine of unclean hands and the dictum that "he who seeks equity must do equity". *Id*.

The matter was set for a bench trial, and the circuit court issued its written decision on May 16, 2022, finding that Plaintiffs failed to establish that Defendants had taken any action to block drainage Judge Law, LLC

under the Illinois Drainage Code or common law. *Id.* Additionally, Plaintiffs had failed to present sufficient evidence as to their right to an injunction. *Id.*

Illinois Drainage Code

According to section 2-1 of the Illinois Drainage Code:

"Land may be drained in the general course of natural drainage by either open or covered drains. When such a drain is entirely upon the land of the owner constructing the drain, he shall not be liable in damages therefor." 70 ILCS 605/2-1 (West 2020).

Section 2-12 of the Illinois Drainage Code prohibits the interference with the natural flow of water and states:

"The landowner shall not willfully and intentionally interfere with any ditches or natural drains which cross his land in such manner that such ditches or natural drains shall fill or become obstructed with any matter which shall materially impede or interfere with the flow of water. If the landowner violates the provisions of this Section he commits a petty offense. Each day's violation shall be a separate offense. Provided, this Section does not apply to any ditches or drains which are entirely on the land of the landowner, nor does this Section prohibit the construction of artificial impoundments or the temporary interruption of the flow of water by such impoundments." 70 ILCS 605/2-12 (West 2020).

The Illinois Drainage Code defines "ditch" as "an artificially constructed open drain or a natural drain which has been artificially improved." 70 ILCS 605/1-2(c) (West 2020). The term "drain" includes ditch and is defined as "any water course or conduit, whether open, covered or enclosed, natural or artificial, or partly natural and partly artificial, by which waters coming or falling upon lands are carried away." 70 ILCS 605/1-2(d) (West 2020).

READY FOR THE DEFENSE

Under the common law rule, "[w]here water from one tract of land falls naturally upon the land of another, the owner of the lower land must suffer the water to be discharged upon his land and has no right to stop or impede the natural flow of the surface water." *Gough v. Goble*, 2 Ill. 2d 577, 580 (1954). The owner of the lower or servient land cannot obstruct the natural flow and throw it back upon the upper proprietor. *Dessen v. Jones*, 194 Ill. App. 3d 869, 876 (1990).

Permanent Injunction

In order for Plaintiffs to be entitled to a permanent injunction, they must establish:

- (1) a clear and ascertainable right in need of protection,
- (2) irreparable harm if injunctive relief is not granted, and
- (3) no adequate remedy at law.

Sparks v. Gray, 334 Ill. App. 3d 390, 395 (2002).

Injunctive relief should only be granted where a plaintiff clearly establishes a right to relief. *Bodenschatz v. Parrott*, 153 Ill. App. 3d 1008, 1012 (1987). In *Bossler v. Countryside Gardens, Inc.*, 44 Ill. App. 3d 423 (1976), evidence of a dam constructed on the servient land was not enough to establish that the dominant owner had a right to injunctive relief. *Furlong v. Boxx*, 2023 IL App (5th) 220365. The plaintiff's land was at a higher elevation and there was no evidence of "passing back" of water onto the plaintiffs' dominant land. *Bossler*, 44 Ill. App. 3d at 426. The circuit court may consider other causes of drainage issues. *Bossler*, 44 Ill. App. 3d at 426. Similarly, the plaintiffs here have not established a clear right to relief. *Furlong v. Boxx*, 2023 IL App (5th) 220365.

Even though Defendants had erected a wall of concrete cylinders near the culvert, Plaintiffs failed to present evidence that Defendants interfered with Plaintiffs' drainage rights. *Id.* Plaintiffs' property is higher in elevation, and the concrete cylinder wall is porous, allowing water to flow through and on to Defendants' property. Additionally, Defendants' wall is 23 feet from the edge of the road, where water does not back up onto Plaintiffs' property. *Id.* Plaintiffs failed to present any evidence that the wall caused the water to back up on to Plaintiffs' property, and Defendants, among other witnesses, testified that they had never seen water back up onto Plaintiffs' property. *Id.*

Conclusion

When a question of fact is present, the Appellate Court looks to whether the judgment is against the manifest weight of the evidence. *Vaughn v. City of Carbondale*, 2016 IL 119181. For a determination to be against the manifest weight of the evidence, the opposite conclusion must clearly be evident. *Cunningham v. Schaeflein*, 2012 IL App (1st) 120529. The circuit court is given deference to assess the credibility and conduct of the witnesses and parties as the finder of fact. *Best v. Best*, 223 Ill. 2d 34. The Appellate Court will substitute its judgment as to the credibility and weight of the evidence as determined by the circuit court. *Id*.

Here, the Appellate Court found that the circuit court was in the best position to assess the credibility of the witnesses and evidence presented. Based upon review of the record, there is no clear indication that Defendants caused water backup onto Plaintiffs' property in violation of the Illinois Drainage Act or common law. Therefore, the circuit court's decision was not against the manifest weight of the evidence, and the judgment of the circuit court of Marion County was affirmed by the Appellate Court in favor of Defendants.

Save With LED Streetlights and Traffic Signals

Upgrade your roads this spring with high-efficiency LED streetlights to cut operation costs by as much as 30%-50%! The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program offers financial incentives to lower the out-of-pocket cost of both Municipality-owned and Ameren Illinois-owned LED streetlights and traffic signals.

Benefits of LED Street Lighting:

- Reduces energy usage, resulting in lower energy costs.
- Longer life span and lower maintenance costs.
- Improves quality of light and illumination for enhanced safety and security.

For more information, visit us at *AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Streetlights* or call us at 1.866.800.0747.





Elected Township Officials Must Submit Written Notice to Participate in IMRF

Brigitte Baur, IMRF Communications Department

E lected officials have the option to participate in IMRF when the position meets the applicable hourly standard.

IMRF employer compliance reviews show that township officials often believe they are participating in IMRF when they are not. If this error is not corrected, an official may lose service credit depending on when the error is discovered. A loss of service credit will reduce the value of the member's retirement annuity.

An elected official may choose to participate in IMRF when these two requirements are met:

1. The township must certify that the specific elected position meets the hourly standard of either 600 or 1000 hours per year.

AND

2. The official must complete and submit an "Election to Participate for Qualifying Position" form to IMRF. The qualifying elected official and the IMRF Authorized Agent must sign the form. IMRF also requires this form when a member goes from a non-elected qualifying position to an elected qualifying position. Simply continuing to make member contributions is not sufficient for IMRF participation once a member moves to an elected position.

Failure to properly notify IMRF of the move to a qualifying elected position may result in the loss of service credit and reduce the official's retirement benefit.

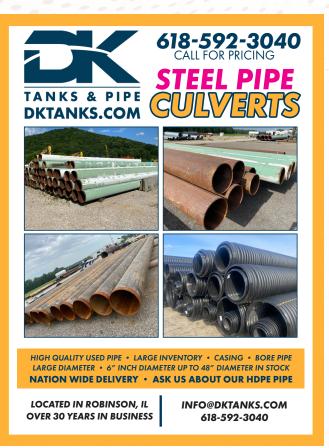
Employers must enroll members using Employer Access. To do so, log in and follow the steps described in Employer Access.

For more information

M&M PUMP CO.

1-800-237-1379

To learn more about IMRF participation, eligibility verification, and more, visit **imrf.org**. For specific questions, call the employer-only number: 1-800-728-7971.



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MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CATASTROPHIC **INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Administered by Allied Benefit Systems, LLC

Visit www.maciprotect.org For additional information and enrollment material.

In Illinois, Townships are liable for the medical care and costs generated by the General Assistance recipients. The early response for renewals has been overwhelming. It only proves that townships are aware of the uncertainty that exists, and through this program they relieve themselves mentally and financially from the burden of what a large claim can cause.

There could still be catastrophic claims!

		July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024					
	\$25,	\$25,000 Deductible			\$15,000 Deductible		
	ADMIN		TOTAL	ADMIN		TOTAL	
POPULATION	FEE	PREMIUM	COST	FEE	PREMIUM	COST	
0 - 499	\$100	\$275	\$375	\$100	\$550	\$650	
500 - 999	\$200	\$385	\$585	\$200	\$770	\$970	
1,000 - 1,999	\$300	\$523	\$823	\$300	\$1,045	\$1,345	
2,000 - 3,499	\$400	\$660	\$1,060	\$400	\$1,320	\$1,720	
3,500 - 4,999	\$500	\$880	\$1,380	\$500	\$1,760	\$2,260	
5,000 - 9,999	\$600	\$1,045	\$1,645	\$600	\$2,090	\$2,690	
10,000 - 24,999	\$750	\$1,265	\$2,015	N/A	N/A	N/A	
25,000 - 49,999	\$875	\$1,485	\$2,360	N/A	N/A	N/A	
50,000 - 74,999	\$1,000	\$1,650	\$2,650	N/A	N/A	N/A	
75,000 - 99,999	\$1,250	\$1,925	\$3,175	N/A	N/A	N/A	
100,000 - 124,999	\$1,500	\$2,750	\$4,250	N/A	N/A	N/A	
125,000 - 149,999	\$1,800	\$3,300	\$5,100	N/A	N/A	N/A	
150,000 - 200,000		Individually Underwritten			N/A	N/A	

Premiums can be paid from GA funds.

The application process is simple and swift. Please contact Steve Barrett, if you require an application or have any questions. Call toll-free TODAY at 1-800-540-6566 or email:maciprotect@gmail.com

Drug and Alcohol Testing Frequently Asked Questions

As syou might imagine, Mid-West Truckers Association receives numerous calls regarding the drug and alcohol testing regulations. We wanted to pass along to our members some of the most frequently asked questions related to drug and alcohol testing. If you have any questions that are not listed here, feel free to give our Drug & Alcohol Testing team a call at (217) 525-0310; Option 2.

RANDOM TESTING

Q: What do I do if my driver was selected for a random drug and/or alcohol test and they haven't worked all month because they are a seasonal worker?

A: Please contact MTA and speak to one of the Drug & Alcohol Testing Coordinators so they can document the excuse for not performing the test. You, as the Employer, must also document the reason on your random selection notice and keep on file for 2 years per the recordkeeping regulations.

Q: Why is my driver getting selected multiple times a year?

A: The regulations require that a driver be put back into the selection pool each selection period. The driver has the same chance of being selected from one selection period to the other. They are never removed from the testing pool once they have been selected.

Q: I told my driver to go to the clinic and get tested and they never went. What can I do?

A: This is an example of a driver refusing to test which is considered the same as a positive drug test per the regulations. The driver must be reported by the Employer or the C/TPA to the FMCSA Clearinghouse, removed from safety-sensitive operation of a CMV, and provided a referral to a Substance Abuse Professional.

Q: Do part-time CDL drivers need to be in an employer's DOT random testing pool?

A: Yes, all CDL drivers of CMVs must be included in the DOT random pool at all times.

Q: A driver was selected in the first quarter but was tested after the quarter ended. Is the motor carrier in violation for not testing the driver in the selection period they were selected, since the first quarter selection runs from January 1 to March 31? Also,

does this random test count towards the first quarter or second quarter?

A: Yes, the motor carrier is in violation because the driver was not tested in the selection period he/she was selected, as is required by 49 CFR 382.305(i)(3). However, the test will count towards the motor carrier meeting their minimum random testing requirements of 50% for DOT random controlled substance testing and 10% for DOT random alcohol testing. Please see 49 CFR 382.305(b)(1)(2).

Q: A driver is selected for a random drug test and the employer directs the driver to be tested when he was (off duty) not performing a safety-sensitive function. The collection site instructs the driver to submit to a random drug test and a random alcohol test. The driver tests positive for the random alcohol test. Is the driver required to undergo the returnto-duty process before performing safety sensitive duties again as a result of the positive alcohol test?

A: No, 49 CFR 382.305(m) states that "A driver shall only be tested for alcohol while the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions, just before the driver is to perform safety-sensitive functions, or just after the driver has ceased performing such functions." As such, the test was improper. The driver does not have to complete the return-to-duty process. The employer must cancel the improper alcohol test, documenting for the record the circumstances resulting in the cancellation.

Q: If an employee performs safety-sensitive functions for two different employers, is the employee subject to each of the employer's DOT drug and alcohol testing programs?

A: Yes, under 49 CFR 382.305 question 8, the driver must be in DOT random for each employer they are employed with.

Q: My driver went to the clinic for their random test and the clinic was not able to complete the test because they didn't have our CCF. Can I send the driver back tomorrow?

A: No. As you are aware, random testing is to be done without notice given to the driver. Now that the driver has been informed, the test cannot be completed. Please document the reason why the test was done on our random notice and notify MTA.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING

Q: If a driver is terminated and returns to safetysensitive functions with the same employer, is the driver subject to a drug and alcohol pre-employment test?

A: If a driver has been removed from a DOT random testing pool for more than 30 days, the employer must give the driver a pre-employment test and a negative test result must be received before the driver may operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). If less than 30 days has passed since the driver was under the DOT random testing program, the employer may re-employ the driver without a pre-employment drug test. This situation only applies to employment with the same employer.

Q: If a driver applicant refuses to take a preemployment test, can I, as the Employer, report that to the FMCSA Clearinghouse?

A: Contrary to popular belief, if an applicant refuses to take a pre-employment test for a prospective employer, it is not considered a refusal to test and therefore cannot be submitted to the FMCSA Clearinghouse.

Q: *A driver applicant failed a pre-employment test. What is the Employer's responsibility in this case?*

A: The Employer that the driver tested for is required to provide a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) referral to the driver. The Employer has no responsibility to order a return-to-duty drug test for the driver once the SAP Assessment and treatment or education is completed.

POST-ACCIDENT TESTING

Q: When does my driver need a post-accident drug and/or alcohol test?

A: If your driver is issued a citation AND a vehicle is towed away from the scene, they will need both a drug and breath alcohol test. If your driver is issued a citation AND anyone receives medical attention away from the scene, they will need both a drug and breath alcohol test. Lastly, if there is a fatality, the driver must undergo a drug and breath alcohol test.

Q: How soon must a driver undergo testing in the case where a post-accident test is required?

A: Drivers must undergo a breath alcohol test within 8 hours of the accident and a drug test must be conducted within 32 hours of the accident.

Q: Is documentation required for a post-accident test?

A: You should always document the chain of events at the time of an accident and keep the information with your Accident Log/Register. Mid-West Truckers Association offers a form in our policy attachments called Attachment C. This is the Employer's Record of Post-Accident Test. This should be completed for every accident.

REASONABLE SUSPICION TESTING

Q: I've heard that a special training is required in order for me to order a Reasonable Suspicion test. Is this true?

A: Yes. The FMCSA requires an Employer (not an owner-operator) to receive at least 60 minutes of training on alcohol misuse and an additional training of 60 minutes on controlled substances use (2 hours total). This training is required in order for a Supervisor to determine whether reasonable suspicion exists to require a driver to undergo testing under 49 CFR § 382.307. Contact us if you or your supervisors need training in your company.

Q: Is an Owner-Operator required to take the Reasonable Suspicion for Supervisors Training?

A: If you are an owner-operator and the ONLY employee, this training is not required. However, if you employ another driver, this training will become a requirement.

RETURN-TO-DUTY TESTING

Q: My driver has seen a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) after failing his drug test. Can I order the return-to-duty test now?

A: Our next question is going to be, have you received the follow-up evaluation letter from the SAP indicating that the driver is eligible for the return-to-duty test? Once a driver has completed the return-to-duty process with the SAP, the Employer will receive a letter from the SAP indicating that the driver has complied with all of the recommendations of the SAP and is eligible for a return-to-duty drug test. This communication will also include a follow-up testing plan, which is NOT to be provided to the driver. If you have received this letter from the SAP, you may schedule the return-to-duty drug test. NOTE: All return-to-duty drug tests must be DIRECTLY OBSERVED by a person of the same gender or the test will not count as a valid return-toduty test.

Q: We ordered a pre-employment drug test for a driver coming back to work after a failed drug test. What's wrong with that? Why does he have to go back and take another test?

A: If a driver is coming back to work after a positive drug test, a pre-employment test will not suffice. A return-to-duty drug test is required, but only after the

SAP has released the driver from the return-to-duty process. The difference is, the pre-employment test is NOT directly observed and the return-to-duty test is.

FOLLOW-UP TESTING

Q: Can a random drug test be done in place of a follow-up test?

A: No. A follow-up drug test must be **DIRECTLY OBSERVED** by a person of the same gender. Follow-up testing is done IN ADDITION to random testing, not in lieu of.

Q: I want to hire a driver that is currently on a follow-up testing program. Do they have to start all over again with their follow-ups if I hire them?

A: No, the follow-up testing program does not need to start over again. You can resume the testing where the driver left off with their previous employer. As the new Employer, you must request all prior follow-up testing results, to include the return-to-duty test result, be sent to you so that you can confirm that all completed tests were directly observed and to determine where the driver is in the process of completing this program.

Q: The SAP ordered 6 tests within one year. Can I just test him every week until the 6 are completed?

A: No. The intent of this type of testing is that the tests should be spread out throughout the 12-month period and not be grouped into a shorter interval.

Q: Who pays for the follow-up tests?

A: Please refer to your drug and alcohol policy. If MTA provided a policy to you, you will find this information under the Disciplinary section at the end of the policy.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: What constitutes a refusal to test?

A: Per the FMCSA regulations, 49 CFR § 382.107, a refusal to test means that a driver:

- 1. Fails to appear for any test (except a preemployment test) within a reasonable time, as determined by the employer, consistent with applicable DOT agency regulations, after being directed to do so by the employer. This includes the failure of an employee (including an owneroperator) to appear for a test when called by a C/TPA (see § 40.61(a) of this title);
- 2. Fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete. Provided, that an employee who leaves the testing site before the testing process commences (see § 40.63(c) of this title) a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;

- 3. Fail to provide a urine specimen for any drug test required by this part or DOT agency regulations. Provided, that an employee who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left the testing site before the testing process commences (see § 40.63(c) of this title) for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;
- 4. In the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test, fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver's provision of a specimen (see §§ 40.67(l) and 40.69(g) of this title);
- Fails to provide a sufficient amount of urine when directed, and it has been determined, through a required medical evaluation, that there was no adequate medical explanation for the failure (see § 40.193(d)(2) of this title;
- 6. Fails or declines to take a second test the employer or collector has directed the driver to take;
- 7. Fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process, or as directed by the DER under § 40.193(d) of this title. In the case of a pre-employment drug test, the employee is deemed to have refused to test on this basis only if the pre-employment test is conducted following a contingent offer of employment;
- 8. Fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuse to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behave in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process); or
- 9. Is reported by the MRO as having a verified adulterated or substituted test result.

Q: What are the rules regarding shy bladder collections?

A: Per 49 CFR § 40.193, when an employee does not provide a sufficient amount of urine for a drug test the following must occur:

- 1. The Collector must discard the insufficient specimen, except where the insufficient specimen was out of temperature range or showed evidence of adulteration or tampering;
- 2. The Collector is to urge the employee to drink up to 40 ounces of fluid, distributed reasonably through a period of up to <u>three hours</u>, or until the individual has provided a sufficient urine specimen, whichever occurs first. It is not a refusal to test if the employee declines to drink;
- 3. If the employee refuses to make the attempt to provide a new urine specimen or leaves the

collection site before the collection process is complete, the Collector must discontinue the collection, note the fact on the "Remarks" line of the CCF (Step 2), and immediately notify the Designated Employer Representative (DER). This is a refusal to test and must be reported to the FMCSA Clearinghouse by the Employer or C/TPA;

4. If the employee has not provided a sufficient specimen within three hours of the first unsuccessful attempt to provide the specimen, the Collector must discontinue the collection, note the fact on the "Remarks" line of the CCF (Step 2), and immediately notify the DER. The Collector must also discard any specimen the employee previously provided to include any specimen that is "out of temperature range" or shows signs of tampering. In the remarks section of the CCF that is distributed to the MRO and DER, the fact that the employee provided an "out of temperature range specimen" or "specimen that shows signs of tampering" must be noted and that it was discarded because the employee did not provide a second sufficient specimen;

5. Copy 2 of the CCF must be sent to the MRO and Copy 4 provided to the DER. The Collector must send or fax these copies to the MRO and DER within 24 hours or the next business day;

As the DER, when the collector informs you that the employee has not provided a sufficient amount of urine, you must, <u>after consulting with the MRO</u>, direct the employee to obtain, <u>within five days</u>, an evaluation from a licensed physician (Occupational Medicine Doctor or Urologist), acceptable to the MRO, who has expertise in the medical issues raised by the employee's failure to provide a sufficient specimen.

MTA DOT Consortium Random Testing Compliance

The table below shows how many random drug and alcohol tests were selected and completed through the month of March for the <u>Monthly</u> pool. Results were still coming in at the time of publication.

Pool Date	Pool Size	Drug Tests Selected/Completed	Alcohol Tests Selected/Completed
3/1/23	14,778	900/469	250/100

The average pool size through the month of March was 14,685. There have been a total of 1,801/12.26% drug tests and 398/2.71% alcohol tests completed monthly pool year-to-date.

The table below shows how many random drug and alcohol tests were selected and completed through the 1st Quarter for the <u>Quarterly</u> pool. Results were still coming in at the time of publication.

Pool Date	Pool Size	Drug Tests Selected/Completed	Alcohol Tests Selected/Completed
1/1/23-3/31/23	2,401	400/519	100/97

The average pool size year to date is 2,401. There have been 519/20.78% drug tests and 97/3.88% alcohol tests completed year-to-date.

MSC Drug & Alcohol-Free Random Testing Compliance

The table below shows how many random drug and alcohol tests were selected and completed through March 2023 in the drug and alcohol-free workplace pool.

Pool Date	Pool Size	Drug Tests Selected/Completed
3/1/23	1,161	58/28
Pool Date	Pool Size	Alcohol Tests Selected/Completed
3/1/23	1,082	15/11

The average pool size year-to-date is 1,159. There have been 119/10.28% drug tests and 30/2.78% alcohol tests completed year-to-date. Not all Consortium members conduct random alcohol testing.

TOWNSHIP CLASSIFIEDS

toi.org/Township-Perspective/Township-Classifieds

FOR SALE



Rock Creek Lima is taking sealed bids on a 2009 872G, 6 wheel drive John Deere Grader with less than 5900 hours Bids will be opened August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM Minimum Bid \$120,000.00 This is a well-maintained Grader. For information call 815-493 6201 You may inspect at the Township Rock Creek Lima reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids Rock Creek Lima 25123 Locust Rd Lanark, II 61046 Telephone (815) 493-6201 Township equipment sells from our website, toi.org/Township-Perspective/ Township-Classifieds, and from *Township Perspective*. List your surplus equipment now for results! For \$75 (copy w/photo) or \$25 (copy only), your township ad will be on our website and in the next available issue of *Township Perspective*. Email kayla@toi.org to advertise or for more information.



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Township and Road District Checklist

2023 Township Calendar

All dates re: Public Hearings for BUDGET and APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES are dates often used by many townships and road districts. Many townships and road districts adopt their budgets in February or March before their fiscal year begins. You do, however, have until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year to hold your hearings and adopt the budget.

06/30/23	Budget Hearing & Adoption*	50 ILCS 330/3 605 ILCS 5/6-501	Last day to conduct budget hearings and adopt township and road district budgets. Budgets may be adopted before or during the first quarter of the fiscal year. (Do not adopt at the annual town meeting.) The township budget may be adopted at the public hearing. The road district budget shall be adopted at the public hearing.
07/30/23	Budget Filing*	35 ILCS 200/18-50	Last day to file certify budget and revenue sources with county clerk if budget is adopted at end of June. Must be filed with county clerk within 30 days of adoption. Therefore, filing deadline varies with the date of adoption. Clerk certifies the budget and supervisor certifies the revenue sources.
09/27/23	Fiscal Responsibility Report Card*	35 ILCS 200/30-30	Last day to file Fiscal Responsibility Report Card; shall submit within 180 days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. The Annual Financial Report meets this requirement. See reference above.
09/27/23	Comptroller's Report*	50 ILCS 310/3 50 ILCS 310/6	Last day to file Annual Financial Report with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Must be filed within 6 months from end of fiscal year. The report also serves as the Fiscal Responsibility Report Card.
09/30/23	Annual Treasurer's Report Completed*	30 ILCS 15/1	Last day for the supervisor to prepare combined Annual Treasurer's Report for township and road district. Report must be completed within 6 months from end of fiscal year, sworn to and filed with county clerk.

Checklist dates are now available on the Events Calendar at toi.org

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09/30/23	Annual Treasurer's Report Published*	30 ILCS 15/2 60 ILCS 1/70-30	Last day to publish Annual Treasurer's Report in an English language newspaper. Must be published within 6 months from end of fiscal year and filed with county clerk's office. Supervisor must provide each board member with copy of report as soon as possible after filing. However, such publication requirement shall not apply to any county funds or county offices or funds or offices of other units of local government when an audit of such funds or offices has been made by a certified public accountant and a report of such audit has been filed with the appropriate county board or county clerk and a notice of the availability of the audit report has been published one time in an English language newspaper published in the town, district, or municipality in which that public officer holds his or her office, or, if no newspaper is published in such town, district, or municipality, then in a newspaper printed in the English language published in the county in which that public officer holds his or her office. The notice of availability shall include, at a minimum, the time period covered by the audit, the name of the firm conducting the audit, and the address and business hours of the location where the audit report may be publicly inspected.
09/30/23	Audit	50 ILCS 310/6 60 ILCS 1/80-20	Last day for townships to file CPA audit with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Townships receiving revenues of \$850,000 or more for a fiscal year, exclusive of road district funds, must have CPA audit within 6 months from end of fiscal year. Townships receiving revenues of less than \$850,000 for a fiscal year, exclusive of road district funds, may have a 3-member independent audit committee instead of CPA audit. Committee audit must be filed with county clerk within 6 months from end of fiscal year. CPA audit required at end of supervisor's term or if vacancy occurs anytime in the position of supervisor.
09/30/23	Audit	50 ILCS 310/6	Last day for road districts to file CPA audit with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Road districts receiving revenues of \$850,000 or more for a fiscal year must have a CPA audit within 6 months from end of fiscal year.
12/05/23	Last Day to Determine Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation	35 ILCS 200/18-60 35 ILCS 200/18-70	Last day for board of trustees to determine (estimate) property tax levy to comply with Truth in Taxation law. Highway commissioner determines levy for road district. Must determine levies at least 20 days before adoption. Basis for 5% computation and whether notices and hearings are necessary.
12/19/23	Last Day for Truth in Taxation Notice	35 ILCS 200/18-80	Last day notice of Truth in Taxation hearing can appear in newspaper. Notice must be in newspaper not more than 14 days or less than seven days prior to date of hearings.
12/26/23	Last Day to Hold Truth in Taxation Hearing, Adopt & File Tax Levies	35 ILCS 200/18-90	Last day to hold Truth in Taxation hearing, adopt and file township and road district certificates of levy, tax levies, and Certificate of Compliance for Truth in Taxation law with county clerk.

*Assumes fiscal year begins April 1

IN MEMORIUM

Ledora Alinger, 86, of Springfield died April 5. She was currently serving as a Township Clerk of Gardner Township (Sangamon Co.)

Gordon Bauer, 93, of Topeka died April 12. He was a former Trustee for Quiver Township (Mason Co.)

Virgil Becker, 90, of Smithton died April 1. He was former Trustee for Smithton Township (St. Clair Co.)

Gerald Benge, 86, of Manteno, died March 20. He was a former Trustee and Supervisor of Rockville Township (Kankakee Co.)

Milo Boyer, 87, of Stockton died April 6. He was a former Trustee of Nora Township (JoDaviess Co.)

James Bradley, 42, of Timewell died March 31. He was currently serving as Trustee for Lee Township (Brown Co.)

Richard Chambers, 75, of Lewistown died April 12. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Lewistown Township (Fulton Co.) **Donald Harshbarger,** 60, of Secor died April 12. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Palestine Township (Woodford Co.)

James Krause, 79, of Bartonville died March 28. He was a former Supervisor and Trustee of Hollis Township (Peoria Co.)

Norman Miller, 80, of Fairview Heights died April 6. He was a former Trustee and current Supervisor of Canteen Township (St. Clair Co.)

Daniel Spotanski, 72, of Mt. Vernon died April 2. He was a former Supervisor of Blissville Township (Jefferson Co.)

Samuel Williamson, 89, of Woodland died April 11. He was a former Assessor for Belmont Township (Iroquois Co.)





Rep. Kevin Schmidt (R-114) and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Assessor Deb Lane (Meriden-Ophir-Troy Grove Twps., LaSalle Co.), Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-74), and Deputy Republican Leader Norine Hammond (R-94).



TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Senator Michael Halpin (D-72), and Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Chuck Layer (Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.).



Trustee Drew Ellis (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Trustee Dan Milinko (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Supervisor and TOI Board of Directors Sherrill Knorr (Reed Twp., Will Co.), Supervisor John Monino (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), Trustee and TOI Board of Directors Jeff Castle (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.), and Township Clerk Yadav "Nick" Nathwani (Milton Twp., DuPage Co.).



Trustee Steven Burris (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), Highway Commissioner Danijela Sandberg (Algonquin Twp., McHenry Co.), Township Clerk Arlene "Sugar" Al-Amin (Rich Twp., Cook Co.), and Assessor Sam Brown (Rich Twp., Cook Co.).



Supervisor Calvin Jordan (Rich Twp., Cook Co.) and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Senator Jil Tracy (R-47) and Highway Commissioner and TOI Immediate Past President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp., Schuyler Co.).



Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh (Northfield Twp., Cook Co.), Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti (Niles Twp., Cook Co.), TOI Executive Director Jerry B Crabtree, and Township Clerk Bryan Smith (Long Creek Twp., Macon Co.).



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