



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

HARD TO BELIEVE that December is here, and we are closing in on the end of another great year (2018) at the Township Officials of Illinois. The 2018 year was great and the Township Government Education Network provided great learning opportunities for our elected officials and employees of township government. We are already planning for next year.

If you have a program you would like to have considered please forward any information that you have to our office and we will look at providing it either as a webinar, district program or as part of our professional development series.


I encourage everyone to make note of the January 2019 *Perspective* magazine. The complete calendar year for the Township Government Education Network will be provided in this edition. It is our hope that you have an opportunity to share this calendar for the entire year with your township boards and agree to register early and attend the many events provided by TOI to help you be the best elected township official you can be. We hope to see all of you at the events scheduled in the upcoming year.

The 2018 annual educational conference this year was great in many ways. Initial feedback indicates that attendees liked the educational program lineup and networking opportunities. The exhibit hall vendors commented on the great traffic they received as well. Plans for the 2019 conference are already underway. We appreciate any feedback you have on the conference. Please complete the survey and return it to us. You are welcome to email any comments you may have to us at jerry@toi.org.

On a personal note, I was completely surprised and humbled by being recognized by the **Township Supervisors of Illinois as the 2018 recipient of the Robert L. "Bob" Turner Award**. This award has a personal meaning to me because Supervisor Turner was one of the first officials I met when I started working for the association in 2006. He was a great leader and dedicated township official both to his township, constituents and to our association. It is an honor to be awarded this recognition among such a great group of Supervisors serving township government across Illinois.

As an additional humbling event, I was recognized by the **Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois as their 2018 Roadie Warrior recipient**. Again, I was completely surprised and grateful to be recognized for just doing what I enjoy and that is providing programs and learning opportunities for our elected officials. Personally, I was involved in helping the division president organize this award and it was completely unexpected to be even considered as a 2018 recipient among such talented officials. Again, to be recognized among such great individuals serving the road district needs of our great state is an honor.

To both awards, I thank the divisions for the recognition, appreciation and most of all friendships. One of the greatest attributes of this job is the lifelong friendships that are formed among individuals with a common desire to serve the constituents of the government closest to the people—Township Government. I am grateful and thankful for these awards and appreciate the recognition for doing one of the greatest jobs I have had working with our great board of directors and division boards.

To all of our members and friends of the Township Officials of Illinois I would to wish you all a Happy Holidays. Enjoy this time with family and friends. 

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