



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

Annual Educational Conference

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YET, please plan to do so soon! The 2019 Annual Educational Conference is scheduled for November 10-12 and we hope that you bring your entire township board. Registration is open on online at toi.org. You may also mail, e-mail or fax the printable form included in this edition of *Perspective*. We have a complete educational program line up designed to help all township elected officials and their staffs perform their duties with an improved efficient and innovative approach.

We have secured many vendors for the Exhibit hall that provide essential services to township government. This is a great opportunity to look toward ways to improve or even offer for the first-time services to your residents (constituents) that promote the significance and importance of the government closest to the people – Township Government.

The single day registration is available as an option for attendees that cannot attend the entire conference. We hope that if you are unable to attend the entire conference that you take full advantage of a single day attendance. See our website for more details.

What is a Townships RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) for attending the conference?

Networking: The conference provides an excellent opportunity for elected officials and attendees to network with townships of a similar size. Additionally, discuss common issues and solutions that have worked from experience. Friendships are developed at these events that last a lifetime.

Education: The conference provides numerous educational opportunities for attendees to explore new changes to statutory authority governing their roles as elected township officials. Additionally, programs on common practices and procedures to assist in the daily responsibilities all townships are required to operate under.

Collaboration: Many township officials and staff are available to discuss programs and services that have contributed to their township success.

The association is confident that the **ROI** each attendee receives far exceeds the cost of attending the three-day conference. We hope these and other experiences help achieve continued success in your role as elected township officials. **Register TODAY!**

NEW DATABASE IMPLEMENTED at the Association

This year, we have taken on a major responsibility/innovation of upgrading our membership database to provide more efficient services and member experiences to all of our members at the **Township Officials of Illinois**.

The goal ultimately is to enhance the member experience in all of our association activities. Additionally, to incrementally enhance our electronic and web presence in an effort to streamline what is provided to **YOU** the members of the Township Officials of Illinois.

This new member database provides an incremental approach to the opportunity of technology. Although we realize not all of our townships have direct access to online environments, we are hoping to initiate the thought of moving in this direction to improve services and constituent involvement in this level of local government. Online involvement by township government is imperative for its survival in an electronic world.

I would like to thank Pam Butler of the TOI staff for her dedication in providing the data and training needed to make the transfer seamless and an improved efficient product to our members. Pam continues to go above and beyond to make sure that the services provided are efficiently and effectively managed. Pam was part of the initial database creation back in the early 2000's when we made the first transition from paper member files to electronic. Her attention to detail to ensure that all of the correct information is included is unmeasurable.

This new program has a few attributes that we will need your attention to ensure that they are implemented to their fullest potential. Most important so that you have access to the many benefits provided.

We need to have a single point of contact for each township in the database. A letter to all of the townships in our records that do NOT have an email address on file was mailed to the Supervisor in these townships the last week of July. Please respond to this request to establish a single point of contact for your township.

You may also send an email to the office for us to verify that we have the correct email address in our database. You may send this to Pam@toi.org or Jerry@toi.org.

Correspondence was also distributed to the townships in the database where duplicate email addresses

were on file. Some officials are utilizing one email address for all of their contacts. This will not work with our new system. We need either an individual email for each elected official or a single address to be utilized for the Supervisor in the township as the Point of Contact. The letters were distributed again to the Supervisors in these identified townships. Please respond as soon as you can to ensure that we are keeping up with the data conversion.

Watch the TOI website for updates on the conversion process. In 2020, all programs offered by the association will be available for purchase and tracking on this new system. We are making every effort to ensure that this conversion is seamless. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

COUNTY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

TOI has been participating in several county association meetings this summer. Remember that only about 50 percent of the counties Illinois participate in county association of townships. This is an effective way to collaborate the township message in your county and further promote township government from a combined approach. If your association has not met recently, we encourage you to schedule meeting. If you would like

assistance in locating a speaker or program, please contact the TOI office.

TOI WEB PROGRAM

Please take a second look at the cover story in this month's edition of *Perspective* magazine. We are promoting the use of the TOI web program as an opportunity for townships to promote what they do and develop a positive online presence with their constituents. 

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