



# from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

## Celebrating 10 years!

**T**HIS MONTH I would like to start with some reflection on my 10 years working for the association. I started working for TOI in November of 2006, with my talents in check and my eyes wide open. The journey thus far—yes, I used the overstated word “journey”—has proven to be so much more than I originally expected. The decision to leave a secure government job with the State of Illinois to enter the association management world was one that I took seriously and can honestly say never regretted. What a great decision that was in October of 2006. The professional and personal friendships I have made in this position have contributed to my character a great deal. The people in local government (township government) are genuine, personable and most of all compassionate about their communities. Thank you for the celebration of 10 years and I look forward to many more.

Mr. Bryan Smith, TOI Executive Director, encouraged me to remain open-minded and wait for the full interpretation of township government officials. He encouraged me to think outside the box and work at developing ways to make the association better. Bryan has and continues to allow me the opportunity to try new things. He is my biggest supporter in celebrating the “good tries” and dissecting and figuring out why the not so good ones failed our expectations. By far one of the most encouraging and innovative directors I have worked for in my career. Bryan, thank you!

### 108th Annual Education Conference wraps up

What a great CONFERENCE! 2015 is over and I could not be more satisfied with the outcome. Now we move on to analyzing the evaluations, notes and conversations our staff has had, to start working toward making the 109th Educational Conference (2016) even better than this year.

Your contribution through the evaluation is appreciated. If you have comments, we encourage everyone to send them to the TOI office as we review all input we receive. Our mission is to provide a conference filled with opportunities to learn and explore, to make the job of elected township official better.

Thank you to all of the many volunteers that helped us make the event a success. Remember to contact the vendors and suppliers that contribute to the conference. It is their donation and time that make the event a success.

### LAUNCH OF 2016 Program Year

This October and November have been very busy months at the association headquarters. We have not only been working on the conference, but the continuation of the education district program as well. The next issue of the *Perspective* will launch the 2016 education program. We have new learning opportunities and cost-effective ways for township officials and their staffs to learn and access general resources.

Specifically, we are launching the **Township Govern-**

### It's time to renew your subscription to the TOI Legislative Reports for 2016!

These reports are sent to subscribers regularly and offer detailed information on legislation introduced and acted on by the Illinois General Assembly. Subscribers also receive an End of Session report that provides easy-to-read information on legislation passed by the General Assembly affecting township officials and their duties.

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For more information, call TOI toll free 1-866-897-4688.



# 2016 Professional Development Course I

## Intergovernmental Agreements/ Township Record Keeping Boot Camp

The TOI Education Program is pleased to announce the first Professional Development Course of 2016 for township officials and staff. The program is **Friday, January 22, 2016** at the TOI Office in Springfield. Registration deadline is Friday, January 15 and is limited to 25 attendees. Cost is \$75 and includes lunch. The seminar is scheduled from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. to accommodate travel time. Six hours of education credit will be given for workshop completion.

Are you looking to build (or demolish) a township hall, road district garage, or other project? The first part of the session covers Intergovernmental Agreements, “Building Your Community’s Future: Best Practices for Local Government Construction Projects,” presented by John Redlingshafer, Attorney, of Heyl Royster law firm in Peoria, who will walk participants through a construction project, including financing options, design, bidding and construction. He will also talk about those times where there are problems during and after construction, and if an intergovernmental agreement could help you during your project.

The second portion of this session will feature a “Township Record Keeping Boot Camp” presented by Greg Moredock, Esq of Sorling Northrup. **Deadline to register is Friday, January 15, 2016.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Township Position: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to TOI, 3217 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702**

**ment Education Network.** This network will provide webinars and video opportunities for legislative updates, interviews and many topics of discussion on the issues impacting township government.

Our webinar programs in 2016 are aimed at providing affordable programs to officials that are unable or cannot attend the educational division programs or the annual educational conference. I hope that you all assist in the promotion of the event. Complete details will be in the January *Perspective* magazine.

We will be introducing a few new products under this network and I encourage all township officials to assist us in promoting it within and among your townships. The goal is to encourage everyone affiliated with township government to reach out and educate our communities at the most local level on the value, contribution and necessity of township government.

I would like to wish everyone a great holiday season. Spend time with family and friends and enjoy the simple, special moments of the holiday season.

I am looking forward to a great 2016!



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