



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

JUNE IS HERE! The summer nights of backyard BBQs and front porch conversations are an important part of our local township community settings. TOI is working on the summer/ fall schedule and looking toward the conference line up for November 2016. Additionally, looking at county association meetings that are usually scheduled for the fall months. If you are part of a county township organization that is planning an event, please let us know if we can assist. A few years ago I made it a part of the yearly plan to advertise, assist and initiate county-township association events. Many of the groups tend to meet less when we are at the end of a term. However, as we continue to be in a township environment that is defending our existence what better time than now to have a county wide meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS PERSPECTIVE on your 75th Anniversary Issue!

Starting my career with TOI in 2005 I was not aware of the importance of this publication until I was two-three years in my tenure with TOI. This publication or resource is one of the primary sources of in depth up-to-date information made available to township officials across Illinois.

I would like to congratulate *Perspective* on its 75th Anniversary issue. The magazine itself is an important tool to what we promote, administer and achieve at TOI. This publication goes to thousands of individuals each month. From our Educational Program perspective this is a very important part of our membership

benefits. The educational programs offered by the association are listed and promoted through this print media. I am glad to be a part of the 75th anniversary of this great publication.

Education Program Update

The Rockford event in May was a great success! Over 170 township officials attended the event. Dr. Glenn Poshard's enlightening speech on the value and historical traditions of township government provided a much needed boost to the energy among township officials.



TOWNSHIP FLAG PROGRAM REMINDER

2016 will be the fourth year for the annual parade of Township Flags. I have received several new calls on creating a flag and the program in general. We encourage all townships to participate. The parade of flags is



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open to all 1431 townships in Illinois. Please forward an email to me at jerry@toi.org for additional information or if you would like to secure your spot in the parade lineup. We look forward to seeing many new entries this year.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

TOIPAC is again beginning to secure silent auction items to benefit our PAC fund. We are specifically asking for "Paper Items", not gift baskets, for the 2016 auction. If you have event tickets, ball park tickets, hotel accommodation or other items you would like to donate the list of auction items please contact the TOI office today. You can call TOI toll free at 866.897.4688.

TOI CONFERENCE OFFERS APP TECHNOLOGY AGAIN

For the third year, TOI is offering the CONFERENCE APP for the fall conference. The APP can be



downloaded early to start planning your TOI conference experience. This technology opportunity is being provided to enhance your conference experience. It is available for download on all Apple and Android devices. Exhibitors and educational sessions are just a few items that are accessible with this app. We are planning to release the app with the July/August issue of *Perspective* when the conference registration process opens. A kiosk and assistance will be available throughout the registration hours to help you get connected.

Watch the July/August issue of *Perspective* for a complete listing of the available services brought to you with this app.

TOIRMA is our PRIMARY APP sponsor and we thank them for helping us bring this advance technology to you.

Keri-Lyn J. Krafthefer



KERI-LYN J. KRAFTHEFER is a shareholder and partner with the law firm of AnceI, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C., which has offices in Chicago, Naperville, Vernon Hills, Crystal Lake and Bloomington. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois and her juris doctor degree from the John Marshall Law School. Throughout her legal career, Keri-Lyn has concentrated her practice in the representation of units of local government and public officials. Keri-Lyn has counseled numerous townships regarding the issues that arise daily, including matters related to board practices and procedures, personnel, finance, employment, intergovernmental cooperation, open space, election law and governmental finance, as well as in litigation.

Keri-Lyn has been named by *Chicago Magazine* and *Illinois Super Lawyers* as one of the top 50 female attorneys in the State of Illinois, as well as one of the top attorneys representing cities and villages. Keri-Lyn is the primary author of the *Township Officials of Illinois Laws & Duties Handbook*. She has authored several chapters of the *Township Clerk's Handbook*, helped edit *The Illinois Township Supervisor's Guide* and has spoken at various zone meetings for the Township Officials of Illinois clerks division, providing an overview of township clerks' responsibilities. Keri-Lyn also formerly served as a Township Trustee in York Township. She serves as the township attorney or special counsel for many townships.

Keri-Lyn speaks regularly at training seminars and the annual conferences sponsored by the Township Officials of Illinois, as well as to regional township and township clerks' associations. Keri-Lyn is the former Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Local Government Law Committee, the CBA's Election Law Committee and the CBA's Entertainment Committee. For more information on Keri-Lyn or her law firm, visit their website at www.ancelglink.com.

My third monthly speaker spotlight is Keri-Lyn Krafthefer. Keri-Lyn offers the following to the questions this month.

What is your message to township officials in 2016?

Collaborate, communicate and embrace change. Townships need to identify needs within the township and should be continually evaluating what services they can

offer to residents that they do not currently offer, or which services they can offer more efficiently. Instead of running from consolidation, townships should look for ways to work cooperatively with other local governments to provide or increase their service areas. This does not necessarily mean permitting other governments to overtake townships; it may mean that your township can enter into intergovernmental agreements for emergency services,

siren monitoring, space sharing, or many other services, and your road district can enter into intergovernmental agreements for equipment sharing or to more efficiently provide services to municipalities, as many road districts are already doing. Demonstrate what townships do well. Also, if you have not started moving forward with technology, it's time to start. Get a computer, get a website, learn about social media; whatever that next technological step is for your township—take it.

What do you think is the biggest obstacle for township government in 2016?

The biggest challenge for township officials is educating the public, elected officials in other forms of government and members of the General Assembly about the services, values and efficiencies that townships and road districts provide. Most constituents do not understand what townships and road districts do, and that studies have shown that when townships are abolished, the costs of those same services increases. Townships need to educate people about their functions and efficiencies, so that townships and road districts can be removed from the discussions about eliminating unnecessary and duplicative forms of government.

What do you hope that your program provides to attendees of the TOI Education District Program?

I hope to provide an overview of topics that should be on the radar for township officials, and to provide a forum for township officials to hear about successes of other townships, and to learn from the challenges of others. My favorite part of my presentations is when the officials who are present speak about problems that they have faced and challenges they have overcome. Some have shared their creative solutions which other townships have implemented. Such networking is very helpful—and a lot more interesting than simply listening to a lawyer's perspective!

What advice would you give to newly appointed township officials or those interested in seeking office?

Learn about your duties and functions, as well as those of other elected officials. Respect different viewpoints. Try to operate from common goals and objectives when you can. Respect the wisdom of more experienced township officials and the energy and innovation of newer officials. Avoid lawsuits whenever you can.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The August 12th BONUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT event is coming soon. This event in Springfield focuses on the election cycle coming in 2017. Watch future editions of Perspective for a complete agenda and program outline.

The **State Board of Elections** is providing a Pow-

erPoint presentation that day titled “Preparing for the 2017 Election Cycle”. Each participant will receive a copy of this presentation that will cover election terms, nomination by caucus or primary, petition filing procedures and requirements, ballot certification and important dates to remember.

Speakers for this event are Brent Davis, Director of Election Operations, and Jamye Sims, an Election Specialist with the State Board of Elections.

Brent Davis is a graduate of Quincy University, and has been employed by the State Board of Elections since 2005. During that time, he has worked with all aspects of elections, having worked directly with campaign disclosure, voter registration, training of election judges, canvassing of election results, and overall election administration. He became the division director in January, 2015.

Jamye Sims began her election career with the Christian County Clerk's Office in 1987. She has worked with every aspect of the elections from registering and coding in voters, to ordering election supplies, to setting up and testing the election equipment, to assigning and training election judges, to counting ballots on election night. In 2003, she was offered a job at the Illinois State Board of Elections as an Election Specialist. She feels that nothing is better than having a job you thoroughly enjoy!



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