



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

LAST YEAR, in 2014, my article addressed the Challenges of Change. I am again or still talking about accepting change in township government. Each and every township should review where they were, where they are and where they want to be in 2016 and beyond!

We just concluded the 2015 Educational District Program with our final event in O'Fallon. The attendance was a bit lower than projected, but the message was stronger than ever—Township Government ~ Learn From Us! Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success. This includes the TOI staff, speakers, vendors and division volunteers. The program's success is the result of the combined collaborative effort and support of TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT in Illinois.

The keynote presentations by former Congressman Glen Poshard and former Governor Jim Edgar were simply right on task with our township message. We are the government closest to the people and quite verified as the most efficient. The common thread throughout the district events this year was to continue to do what we do best and that is provide programs and services to our communities. What we can do differently is start to incrementally look at ways to educate both local leaders and politicians on the value provided by township government across Illinois. Illinois is both rural and urban and we are distinct examples of the diversity in our communities in relation to the services we provide.

Recently, I have been reading quite a bit about the different generations and how they impact the work environment. The next label for children born in the 1990s is identified as **iGen**. Yes, there is a label for these younger folks. I commented, at the program this year that we are all replaceable. Yes, you will be replaced by an official that communicates differently than you, that works differently and has different expectations in their role as an elected official. This is in conjunction with government's technological requirements in order to exist and provide services as a unit of local government. Preparation is key to survival. We need to incrementally prepare our townships to exist functionally in the local government landscape. Current statistics show that the millennial generation (18 to 25 years of age) make up the largest portion for the upcoming workforce. They

communicate and work differently than any previous workforce.

Our goal for the upcoming conference is that you begin to look at ways to improve your presence in your local community. As a part of the local government landscape you need to be present in promoting what you do. One of our biggest shortfalls is that our communities are not properly educated on what we do for them as part of local government. Townships need to reach out and educate the communities on the value provided by them.

TOI CONFERENCE IS AROUND THE CORNER!

The Conference is less than 100 days away! Have you registered? You can register on line at www.toi.org or you can complete and return the registration form included in the *Perspective* magazine. Registration information is downloadable from the website if you prefer to send a check.

The education session descriptions will be included in the October 2015 magazine. We are in the process of completing all of the session information and publishing it on the conference APP. If you would like to review the session information we have so far you can do so by downloading the conference APP today. The APP this year offers a few new features. We will have technical assistance available for downloading the app upon your arrival at the Crowne Plaza for the conference.

About the App:

Schedule: See the full event schedule with activity times, room numbers, speaker details and descriptions. Click the "Add to Schedule" button to automatically be checked off and housed within your Personalized Agenda. You can pre-determine what you want to do in advance of arriving in Springfield.

Maps: Navigate the event through the floor plans and learn more about the area within the area maps.

Exhibitors & Sponsors: Discover the organizations that made this such a great event! Click into the organization name to see a description and contact details.

Speakers: Learn more about the presenters at this year's event by selecting the person's name within the

list. You can tap on the speaker's name to see his or her bio, organization, title, and any sessions at which they will be featured. We are including their session hand-outs as well.

Attendees: Connect with your fellow attendees by exchanging your "digital business cards". Any new contacts made will be housed within the "My Contacts" section of the APP.

Search: Quickly locate any specific sessions, sponsors, descriptions or speakers. Tap on the open text box at the top of the page to enter in a keyword of what you are looking for. Select the detail description as it appears to learn more about a particular section.

About: Learn more about the event and how to use the APP features.

Side Menu Options

(Personalized section in the APP):

- **Event Guide:** Go back to the home page.
- **Activity Feed:** See what sessions are coming up next and view the recent event notifications.
- **My Schedule:** See your personalized schedule.



Does your township have a flag?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you need assistance in creating a township flag?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to participate in a flag parade at opening session of our Annual Educational Conference Nov. 9?

Yes _____ No _____

Please contact Jerry at jerry@toi.org, or fax 217-744-7419

Name/Title _____

Township/County _____

Email or phone _____

- **Contacts:** View the contacts you have made during the event.
- **My Notes:** View any notes you have taken throughout the event.


Need assistance with the app?

Our Support Team is available Monday–Friday 24 hours/day and Saturday–Sunday (9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. EST) at **888.889.3069, option 1** or support@crowdcompass.com for international calls, +1 703.226.3535

County Association News!

It is time again for me to attempt at renewing my contact information for the County Association listing. We encourage all of the 85 counties in Illinois that operate under the township form of government to maintain a county association membership. As a small association, we are unable to physically attend all township meetings in a given year to promote our programs and services. What we can do is attend a county association meeting, where several townships are under one meeting space. We have encouraged the management of these organizations in the past and will continue to in the future. We have information on about 45 percent of the 85 counties participating in the county association organization format. If you have new contact information for the county organization that you are part of please email me the new contact information. The information can be sent to jerry@toi.org. If you would like assistance in scheduling a county association or need a speaker, please let me know and I will be happy to assist.

Flag Program Plans Are Underway for the Conference!

If you are a township that has participated in the parade of flags and would like to do so again this year please complete the form and email or fax it to the TOI Office. 

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