



From Your Executive Director

Think of it as a wise investment for your township

WE ARE NOW almost a couple of months into the new term of office for most elected township officials. Hopefully by now, new officials have “gotten their feet wet” when it comes to serving in township government. From the election results of the April 7 Consolidated Election, there are 2,123 newly-elected, first-time officeholders. This is approximately a 19.24% turnover in the ranks of township officials.

For you new officials, by the time you read this, dues statements for the 2009-2010 TOI membership year will have been mailed to all 1,432 townships in Illinois. The billed amount for dues is based on the township’s equalized assessed valuation (EAV) as obtained from each county clerk’s office, and on population figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of Census from the latest census.

As most of you know, there are a number of benefits to joining the Township Officials of Illinois, but probably the most important is that you become part of a large, statewide organization that speaks on your behalf. By speaking with one voice for township government, we are better able to change things for the better for everyone.

The Township Officials of Illinois serves as an information clearinghouse to member townships and road districts, the media, state and federal elected officials and agencies, and the public at large. TOI serves as an advisory organization, NOT a law enforcement agency. We have no power to “force” any township official to do anything.

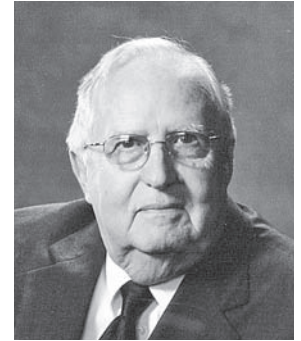
When established in 1907, TOI’s principal function was lobbying on behalf of member townships. Today, 102 years later, TOI’s function is threefold: the EDUCATION of township officials; LOBBYING on behalf of Illinois townships and road districts; and PROMOTION of township government.

TOI assists its members through letters, emails, phone calls and office consultations. TOI also produces several educational publications of which a complete listing can be found on our web site at www.toi.org. The *Township Perspective* magazine is published 11 times a year and mailed to all member officials,

Illinois state legislators, the Illinois Congressional delegation and many state and federal agencies. *Township Perspective* is our biggest tool for getting information into the hands of our members.

TOI also holds formal education and training seminars for its members. Last year, the eight education district programs saw record-breaking numbers of officials attend these programs brought closer to home. The three-day Annual Educational Conference is held in November and includes the opportunities to network and attend a variety of educational sessions. November 8-10 will be this year’s Conference at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to come together with township officials from all over the state to better educate yourself and help us celebrate “Government for the People – The Lincoln Legacy.” Another educational opportunity is every four years after the election (this year), the Newly Elected Officials Training Seminars. These are excellent not only for the “new officials” but for returning “veterans” as well. The divisions of TOI (Supervisors, Clerks, Highway Commissioners, Assessors and Trustees) also hold their own training seminars throughout the year and produce various educational publications.

The TOI lobbying effort is led by our Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet, who works to promote pro-township legislation. The TOI Legislative Committee is comprised of members of the TOI Board of Directors and they help generate grassroots support for or in opposition to specific legislation, as well as informing the membership on legislation affecting township government. TOI also holds an annual Topics Day to promote townships’ involvement in the legislative process.



CURRENT TOI PRESIDENT Richard A. Ralston, Oblong Township Supervisor

Mission Statement

Township Officials of Illinois

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS, organized in 1907, serves as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies, as well as its member townships. The organization's attention to and involvement with the legislative process enables it to exert influence on behalf of its member units, as well as to report to them on decisions which affect their functioning.

In addition to offering information and guidance, TOI promotes and supports strong township government in the State of Illinois. To that end, it offers a series of continuing education programs designed to provide a sense of responsibility, assurance, dedication and unity.

TOI recognizes that offering service benefiting the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois requires the representation of diverse constituencies. Its Board of Directors is structured to accommodate that purpose, as are its respective divisions.

The organization provides leadership for the continuation and effectiveness of strong grassroots government in the state. Through education, dedication and unity, TOI has achieved and surpassed the goals of its founders and is poised to provide leadership for grassroots government into the 21st Century.

TOI aims to promote the efficient and effective operation of township government at the local level. All promotional and educational materials emphasize the fact that township government is the form of government closest to the people and a vital community link.

TOI also sponsors a risk management program, TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association), which is available only to TOI member townships. TOIRMA continues to grow and provide liability coverages, property coverages, worker's compensation and even provides the supervisor's bond to member townships that join the program.

TOI also helps administer a random drug and alcohol testing program to member townships to comply with federal laws and regulations. Contact the TOI Office if your township is not a part of the program and is interested in compliance with federal regulations.

TOI also has a presence on the World Wide Web. Our web site is found at www.toi.org. I encourage you to visit TOI's web site and access the tremendous amount of information there, including division pages for all of TOI's divisions, plus useful forms you can download and print for your use. On-line transactions are also available to purchase any of TOI's publications.



TOI FOUNDER Rufus Kendall, circa 1940

Your membership in TOI also brings with it membership in our national organization, the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT). NATaT is managed by The Ferguson Group, a lobbying organization in Washington, D.C. NATaT does a great job of making sure the "township voice" is being heard in Washington, D.C. The 2009 NATaT Conference will be held Sept. 8-11 in Washington. I hope you will make plans to attend and participate. Our involvement with NATaT is very important because things that take place on a daily basis in Washington, D.C. have an effect on townships here in Illinois.

TOI is stronger now than ever. I am very proud to have been associated with TOI and all of our members for the past 23 years. The association remains strongly committed to giving township officials the necessary tools they need to be successful.

TOI's strength is determined by our membership, and to keep our form of government strong, we need the active participation of every township. This year when you and your fellow township officials are discussing your township's dues, think of it as a wise investment for your township and officials to be well informed and educated in these tough economic times.

Thank you for your active involvement and support of TOI. I look forward to another great year with all of you as members!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Rufus E. Kendall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.