



from your Associate Director

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TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

THE THEME OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM in 2016, **Township Government: Neighbors Serving Neighbors**, is one that reflects the core of township services delivered across our great state, in both rural and urban townships. With the recent release of the Lt. Governor's Task force report on local government consolidation recommendations, we are called yet again to take action to defend what we have been offering and providing consistently for over 100 years.

The best approach is to be educated on the facts. We know that we offer the most affordable and valuable services when reviewing the duties and responsibilities of each township in the local government landscape.

In 2016, the Township Government Education Network offers something for everyone. A listing of all education opportunities is provided at www.toi.org and in issues of the *Perspective* magazine. I am challenging everyone to promote registration at these events. Your participation and promotion can aid the overall goals and objectives of the association in 2016. Let's band together and educate not only our communities, but the state elected officials that question the services provided by township government and the value it brings.

This year, we are encouraging the review of township technology by ensuring that your officials, or at least one person from the township board, has an active email address registered with our association. Email access is needed to keep up-to-date with all information relayed to officials regarding legislative alerts, upcoming programs, and general information related to their function as an elected township official.

I would like to remind everyone that Local Government Week is fast approaching. The first week of March is annually designated as LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK across Illinois (March 7-11). Take this opportunity try one of the following suggested activities in your township:

- ✓ Host an open house for the community
- ✓ Invite your Senator and Representative to attend the March Board Meeting

- ✓ Ask your local schools to promote local government projects
- ✓ Invite a high school senior to be the moderator at the Annual Town Meeting on 4/12/16
 - Remember they must be 18 years old and a registered voter
- ✓ Place an article with your local news media on the promotion of your township
- ✓ Ask your local radio shows to promote township government
- ✓ Be creative

Please forward pictures and stories on the activities held in your township that promote this annual event.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the first education district event in 2016. We are traveling to Lisle on March 18. Notices of the 2016 program dates and agenda were sent to all elected township officials the last week of January. Your township supervisor will receive a reminder letter at least a month prior to the scheduled event with a registration form. You can download and print the registration form from the website or return the copy included in this issue of *Perspective* magazine. There is no online registration for these four district events.

Check the list of available Professional Development Day events as well as the Lunch and Learn series of webinars.

Let's make it a great 2016! Educate our communities on the value of services delivered by township government. Remember that TOI, as your association, maintains three functions on your behalf – **EDUCATION** of township officials, **LOBBYING** on behalf of Illinois Townships and road districts, and **PROMOTION** of the work that you do. LET'S DO THIS !