



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

2018 IS ALREADY FOUR MONTHS IN and the momentum of the Association's programs and services for this year and the Township Government Information Network is moving at a rapid pace. Spring is a great time to clean out what we have been putting off, achieving great things in Township Government over the past year. I continue to challenge all officials to participate in the great program being offered by the Association this year. Check out the calendar of events in this magazine or on line at www.toi.org for a complete list. All of the programs are for YOU!

As of April, TOI has held three of the Education District events and the response has been great! Thank you for participating and attending these events. Your participation assists in delivering a consistent message across the state—Township Government is efficient government.

The evening program in Mt. Sterling was different from the regular district agendas but produced a great

Friday evening event providing a township learning experience for all attendees. TOI President Danny Hanning hosted the event in his area of the state and the attendance was impressive. Over 100 people attended the program to learn more about the significance of township government and how effective and efficient it





is working in the western part of the state.

Being an effective advocate for Township Government. We need your help to make this work in every area of Illinois. As you know, Township government is both rural and urban. However, your ability as an elected township official to be an effective advocate is the same in either venue. Encourage programs and services sponsored by your township that meet the expectations of the residents. Promote the township board from their monthly meetings. Work with your local state elected officials so that they understand the issues confronting township government. Your ability to educate your community is the key to ensuring continues success in all that township government does for the community.

The **WEBINAR** program continues to successfully reach intended audiences. The webinars already held in 2018 prove that the participants registering for the event is simple and efficient and on line at www.toi.org. The link for registration is on the association's home page. Check out the schedule today and register for an upcoming webinar or download and listen to a recorded webinar on a variety of topics to assist in the day to day operations of township government. The program continues the search for valuable educational webinar topics. If you have a topic or speaker you would recommend for consideration of please forward the information to me at jerry@toi.org. The webinar concept is an excellent way to introduce new or provide a discussion of returning topics impacting township government.

To highlight the impact, we are delivering to township officials this year, I asked for the opinion of Chuck Davis, an attorney from Brown Hay and Stephens,

LLP from Springfield. Chuck is not new to the speaker circuit on local government issues, but new to our program this year speaking on intergovernmental agreements. I asked a few questions and his responses are below.



CHUCK DAVIS

What do you think of the educational district program provided by TOI for the 2018 program year?

TOI's 2018 program agenda is both practical and timely. Whether it is advice for running a great meeting or navigating your township's legal responsibilities, it is great to have a program that addresses many top-of-mind issues for our township officials.

What common questions or experiences have you seen in the events you have attended?

I have presented on intergovernmental agreements at the program sessions. No matter where we are in the state, township officials are having to figure out ways to do more with less. Despite this, the townships are being creative with intergovernmental agreements with other local governments to offer the best for their constituents. Township officials are a resilient bunch.

What do you think is the biggest challenge before elected township officials today in local government?

This is a tough question, but one of the biggest frustrations I hear about is the lack of understanding of some in the general population about what townships do and the services they provide. What seems to be ignored is that townships provide vital services to many areas of the state, delivered by a dedicated group of local community leaders.

What do you hope attendees of the education program events learn from the program this year (2018)?

I hope the township officials learn that coming to events like the 2018 Education District Program is important for the success of their townships. Education is their best weapon against the legal complexities of running township government.

2018 Fall Conference Planning is underway

As plans for the 2018 Educational Conference continue we need your recommendations or suggestions. The Education Committee is looking for suggestions for programs and speakers to offer at the event scheduled for November of 2018. If you have a speaker or program you would like to have considered please forward the information and any contact information for the speaker to the TOI office. You may email the information to me at Jerry@toi.org.

