



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

It is all coming together for 2016

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

neighbors



serving neighbors

2016

THE FINAL PLANS for the TOI Annual Education Conference (2106) are completed. We are ready to release the full schedule of events and hope that township officials from across the state plan to attend the three-day event packed full of educational and networking opportunities. If you cannot attend the full conference, please remember that we offer a single day (Monday or Tuesday) registration. Take advantage of the educational programs available.

To make the most of your conference experience this year, the Conference APP is back and available prior to the event. The event APP provides an opportunity to download early the schedule and create your personal schedule to attend the many events scheduled this year.

The APP technology provides the following:

Note: If you downloaded the APP last year and it is still accessible on your device, simply log in and your application will be updated to the 2016 conference specs.

- A preview of the schedule
- Access to event schedules any time to customize your conference experience
- Review of speaker information and handouts presented during education programs

- Review of the exhibitor listings and location of each on the exhibit floor
- Many other features to make your conference experience the best ever!

The conference APP works on any phone, tablet or device (including laptop/desktop computers). Follow these easy instructions for using the application:

- Log into the download center / app store on your device
- Find the APP under the name "TOI CONFERENCE"
- Download to your device
- Sign in and register with an email and password of your choice

I challenge all of you to take an opportunity and introduce a fellow township official or even a neighboring official to the benefits of attending the 2016 Annual Education Conference. As we continue to become the subject of the local government consolidation discussion we have to be proactive and work at educating our members of the benefits of attending the event. Together we can educate the current members of the Illinois General Assembly who are not aware of the contributions made by township government to the local government landscape.

PROMOTE YOUR TOWNSHIP WITH THE 4th ANNUAL PARADE OF FLAGS PROGRAM

Does your township have a township flag? Are members of your township board attending the 2016 conference? If so, you need to have your township register to be part of the opening ceremony with the parade of flags. We have over 10 townships already registered and we are always looking to increase the number. Be a part of our community and contact TOI today with the name of your townships flag bearer. Amy Rourke can be reached at 217.744.2212 or amy@toi.org.

New this year is the FOOD BANK program. As part of the conference theme this year, *Townships Government, Neighbors serving Neighbors*, we are offering the opportunity for your township to participate by donating (individual personal and not township funds) to TOI to purchase food that will be part of food baskets created at the conference. Members attending the



PARTICIPANTS in the 2015 parade of township flags during the opening session of the Annual Educational Conference.

exhibit hall will have the opportunity at the TOI exhibit booth to fill food baskets that will be delivered at a later date to a local charity. All donations will be listed on a board placed at the TOI booth. To date we have over \$375 to purchase food. Contribute today and help make this program a success. Your support is appreciated.

Webinar Program continues to be a success!

The introduction of the “Lunch and Learn” webinar series in 2016 was a success. The premise of the program was to provide access to educational opportunities for those township officials and others who cannot attend education district or other TOI event. We had over 400 attendees at the webinars already held. The schedule is underway for the 2017 calendar year. We are excited to provide new, innovative and effective 60 to 90 minute programs. If you have a program or know of one that you have attended that can benefit township

officials, please forward the information to the TOI office.

A few Reminders for Support

Don't forget to participate in the 2016 SILENT AUCTION. Items that we have received are viewable on the conference APP and will be available near the TOI BOOTH in the EXHIBIT HALL during the 2016 Annual Conference. All proceeds from the SILENT AUCTION benefit TOIPAC.

If you have not purchased raffle tickets from a TOI board member, please do so. The 2016 raffle is a \$2500 travel voucher to a destination of your choice. Tickets are available now from TOI board members and will be sold at the TOI EXHIBIT BOOTH during the conference.

