



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

FIRST, AND MOST IMPORTANT I would like to wish all of you a great holiday season. Enjoy the time with family and friends. Happy Holidays!!

The Presidential election is OVER! What a campaign it was. Although we have been exhausted by the degree of attention on the process, what we can say we have learned is the importance of the civic responsibilities bestowed upon us as American citizens. Regardless of your approval of the outcome, we must respect the process, the person, and the office of the president, as Americans of the United States. I would like to think that the silver lining in the past year of election and political rhetoric has produced a new level of attention to the process and an even better understanding of the reasons why our founding fathers created such a great electoral system. Additionally, there has been a renewed appreciation of the relationship between the office of the President and Congress.

The 2016 109th Annual Educational Conference was a success this year. Thank you to everyone who attended the conference last month. A special thank you to everyone who helped by volunteering and provided assistance in making the event a success.

As the 2016 year winds down, I want everyone to take time to focus on the training and educational needs of elected township officials in the upcoming year (2017). The January 2017 *Perspective* will outline the entire education program year for the Township Government Education Network (TGEN). We are planning for more policy interpretations, professional development program topics and webinars. These and other educational components of TGEN have been proven to benefit the educational needs of township officials.

In 2017, we are scheduling events after the election results are verified in June 2017. As the first year of a new four (4) year term TOI is planning the agenda on the topics related to the basic duties and responsibilities of township officials. We are anticipating a larger than normal percentage of turnover in officials with this election and this is a great time to revisit some of the essential components of the township official education programs.

As we look forward to a new term, I encourage you to also look at the county association of elected township officials present in your particular county. With the last term, we launched in the first year a call to meet with the officials in your individual areas. Statistically, of the 85 counties that operate under township government we have less than 50 percent of them participating in a county association of elected township officials group meeting. We will be providing additional information on revisiting or establishing for the first time a meeting of the township officials in your area.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

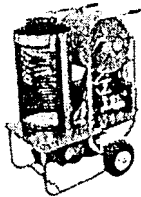
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