



# from your Associate Director

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**D**ECEMBER IS HERE! Hard to believe we are on the eve of the beginning of 2018. Excitement is in the air for the holidays as well as the beginning of great educational programs being planned for 2018 with the Township Officials of Illinois. Watch for the **January 2018 Perspective** magazine that will include a summary of all educational programs scheduled with the Township Government Education Network (TGEN). The Education Committee is working to secure speakers, confirm schedules, and agendas all aimed at providing a great experience for township officials statewide. We hope to see you all there!

Please take advantage of the schedule available in January and present a challenge to your fellow township board members. To register planning to attend the events online or in person that are closest to your area of the state. The program theme (**Navigating your way in Township Government**) is great and the educational opportunities are sure to help you understand your role as a township official as well as look at innovative ways to bring new programs or services to your township.

The goal of providing the entire year of scheduled programming in the January 2018 magazine is to provide an opportunity for township officials to present a request to their boards for approval to attend. This is a permitted township expense. Our hope is that we can generate new support as well as returning members for the programs we have planned.

The Annual Educational Conference just concluded for 2017. It was great! I hope that you were able to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through the



activities and educational programs provided at this year's Annual Educational Conference. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success. Thank you, the township officials, for attending and promoting the benefits of education and networking to make township government better.

### START PLANNING EARLY FOR 2018

Plan early for township events in the upcoming year. Place a discussion item on your next meeting agenda to generate ideas on how the township board plans to work with the community over the next year promoting the township government message. There are several new consolidation agendas out generating unneeded support. Our best defense is the ability to educate our communities on the value and efficient services being provided by township government. Remember that in addition to the many tools available in the TOI download center we have the first full week in MARCH in 2018 that is designated as Local Government Week. Plan an event to promote and network with your state elected officials that come to Springfield so that they understand just what YOUR township is doing in YOUR community.

Please let me express a Happy Holidays to everyone involved with township government and beyond. The holidays make us appreciate friendships made personally and professionally.



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