



From Your Executive Director

Three former TOI presidents honored

BACK IN MARCH, the TOI Board of Directors voted to bestow upon three past presidents of TOI an honorary life membership. Those receiving this honor were past presidents Stan Partridge from Mt. Vernon Township (1996-1998); Bill Prather from Chillicothe Township (2000-2002); and Barbara Weyrick from Lyons Township (2004-2006). While Partridge and Prather have retired from township office, Barb Weyrick continues to serve as assessor in Lyons Township and was elected to another four-year term on April 7.

I had the honor and pleasure of working very closely with each of these individuals during their terms as TOI President. I also can proudly call each one a good friend. Thinking back about all three of these past presidents made me realize how fortunate the association has been to have dedicated officials, 29 in all, to serve as President of the Association. The following is a bit of information on each individual:



WILLIAM "STAN" PARTRIDGE (center) was presented an honorary membership in TOI for serving as an outstanding member and officer of TOI. TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith presented Partridge with the award at TOI's Education Workshop at Mt. Vernon May 15. Partridge and his wife, Sharon, traveled the state and to national meetings for several years as Partridge served as TOI President and on the NATaT Board of Directors. He is retired supervisor of Mt. Vernon Township (Jefferson Co.).

William "Stan" Partridge served as TOI President from 1996-1998 and was supervisor of Mt. Vernon Township for 27½ years. He retired Oct. 1, 2008.

Partridge's term as president included the relocation of TOI's offices from Astoria to Springfield in 1997. He is also a former Jefferson County Board member, and a barber by trade.

Partridge continues to provide food to those in need in his township and county, and each year, he travels to Mexico with a medical team from Texas, where they distribute reading glasses, sunglasses and prescriptions to remote village dwellers.

Partridge and his wife, Sharon, have four children.



BARBARA WEYRICK was presented an honorary membership in TOI for her years of service, presented by TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith.

Barb Weyrick is only the second woman in history to serve as TOI president. Her term in office in 2004-2006 was highlighted by her salute to veterans at TOI's Annual Educational Conference 2005.

After serving as deputy assessor, Weyrick ran for Lyons Township (Cook Co.) assessor in 1989 and won, and continues to be re-elected. She joined the TOI Board of Directors in 1994 and in 2008, received the TOI President's Award.

Weyrick and husband, Jim, have two children and two grandchildren.



BILL PRATHER was presented an honorary membership in TOI for his contribution to township government, presented by TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith.

Bill Prather served as Chillicothe Township (Peoria Co.) Highway Commissioner 37 years, and retired Nov. 30, 2008. He was first appointed to the TOI Board of Directors in 1984, was president of the Illinois Township Highway Commissioners Association 1991-1993, TOI president 2000-2002 and remained on the board until 2004, when he received the TOI President's Award. He later returned to the board to fill a vacancy.

Prather was nominated for the 2003 National Association of Towns and Townships Grassroots Government Leadership Award. He has served on the Peoria County Board for more than 25 years.

These individuals, as well as all who have served as TOI President, have helped make TOI what it is today. Without them, TOI would not be the same today. I thank them all for their dedicated service to the Association.



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