



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

THANK YOU to the township officials and guests from across the state planning to attend the Annual Educational Conference. We are Looking forward to seeing everyone and are excited to host the 110th Annual Educational Conference in Springfield. It is important to take full advantage of all you learn and have access to as a result of the Annual Educational Conference.

I want to take a moment and thank the TOI team, and you know who you are, for all of the continued support, facilitation and overall work to get the job done. It is amazing how successful we are with such a short staff. You work is appreciated and valued. THANK YOU!

Annually, we remind you of the following recommendations to keep in mind as you return to your township from the 2017 Annual Educational Conference.

- ✓ Keep the momentum, motivation and interest you have experienced very much alive. As you reflect on your experiences, new ideas found and networking relationships, move forward with your ideas.
- ✓ Remember to use the information you obtained and not shelve, it but share it.
- ✓ Prepare for the next township board meeting by summarizing what your experiences were at the TOI Conference. Offer copies of handouts / materials you obtained from various resources while attending the event.
- ✓ Engage township officials that may not have had an opportunity to attend a TOI event. Help them realize the importance of educational investment.
- ✓ Share the program agenda with your board members
- ✓ Promote attending TOI education events in 2018 by reminding the board of the Township Government Education Network calendar of events

scheduled for release in the January 2018 *Perspective* magazine.

- ✓ Work to engage your community in Township events!
- ✓ Ask for board approval to attend the Topics Day event and educational district event scheduled for your area in 2018

As we conclude the final months of 2017, we are reminded that our term began just a few short seven (7) months ago, what are you doing to improve your township? What is your township doing to educate the community they serve on the value of township government? How has your township board networked with state elected officials in your area on working together on understanding how local government in Illinois benefits so much? You have much work to be done.

There is so much to do and participate in as we close out this year and start the new (2018) loud and clear. The program year for 2018 is going to be even better than 2017 with improved agendas and events scheduled throughout the year.

Thank you for a great conference and I wish all of you a warm Thanksgiving holiday!

— Jerry

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