

TOI Newsletter



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS
3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 744-2212 / 1 (866) TWP-GOVT

WWW.TOI.ORG

January 2023
Issue 2023-01

Welcome to the first edition of the Township Officials of Illinois' quarterly newsletter! The association is providing an update electronically each quarter in 2023. Like the *Township Perspective* Magazine, it is our hope that this newsletter becomes a valued member benefit.

"Educating our members is one of the cornerstones of TOI's mission. We feel a quarterly newsletter can help us accomplish that goal and provide our membership with important updates on things like pending legislation affecting township government to upcoming Educational Event dates and everything in between."

TOI's President Chris Kain (Addison Twp./DuPage Co.)



Reminder:

Annual Town Meeting - **4/11/23**

3/15/23 Lunch & Learn Webinar:

Preparing for the Annual Town Meeting

4/11/23 Q&A Day: Annual Town Meeting

Are you ready?

Visit www.toi.org for resources.



From The Executive Director

Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Executive Director

Publishing Editor

I am pleased to provide this inaugural newsletter to our members. The design of this newsletter is to supplement, quarterly, the publication of the *Township Perspective* magazine with additional information you need to perform your duties and responsibilities as an elected township official. Through our network of providers, the goal is to provide a one stop shop experience through publications and our website for all your township needs. Your commitment to local government and community services is met with our support in assisting you do the best job you can.

Please remember that the first week in March (March 6-10, 2023) is dedicated as LOCAL GOVERNMENT week. We offer recommendations for you to host various events and activities to promote township government in your community. We encourage you to establish a relationship with your local legislators to educate them on the value township government provides in their individual legislative districts.

Township Government in Illinois is the most effective, economic, and community-based service provided to residents. Many services provided by our townships across the state could not be managed by any other unit of government with the same level of commitment and effectiveness.

Enjoy this quarterly publication and the other programs, services, and resources available to you as a member to the Township Officials of Illinois. Please contact our office should you have questions.

Happy New Year!

Jerry B. Crabtree

Executive Director/Publishing Editor



A Message from the President

Chris Kain

TOI President

Assessor (Addison Twp./DuPage Co.).

Dear Fellow Township Officials,

Welcome to 2023 and we're already off and running. I'm excited about all TOI has in store for you this upcoming year. Brand new for this year is the launch of our quarterly newsletter, designed to give you access to hot topics and timely updates on legislative happenings. TOI is also launching an ambitious array of webinars, the usual Lunch and Learn programs as well as the new Hybrid Events, which offers in-person and online attendance, as well as host of in-person education through the annual Education Events. Growing our Township presence is about to go into high gear. I look forward to speaking and meeting with you as I travel the state. Get on board!

Proud to serve,

Chris Kain

TOI President

President Kain is in his first year as TOI's President. He has been involved with township government for over thirty years, currently serving as Assessor of Addison Township (DuPage Co.). President Kain joined the TOI Board in 2010.



Thank You!

Danny Hanning

TOI Immediate Past President (2017-2022)

Highway Commissioner Rushville Township (Schuyler Co.)

We'd like to take a moment to thank our outgoing and longtime **TOI President Danny Hanning (Huntsville Twp./Schuyler Co.)** for his years of excellent service. Danny joined the TOI Board of Directors in 2008, rose to vice president in 2014 and served as TOI President from 2017-2022, one of the longest serving presidents in TOI's 116-year history. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of township government!



Township Government: Get on Board!

Introducing our 2023 TOI Logo. "*Township Government: Get on Board!*" as the theme of our 2023 Education Year. This logo will be used throughout the year leading up to the big event of the year, *116th Annual Educational Conference* (November 12, 13, 14, 2023) here in Springfield, Illinois..



New TOI Board Members for 2023!

The association congratulates our newest TOI Board Members. **Sue Brokaw**, Supervisor (Dorr Twp./McHenry Co.), **Pam Bruner**, Clerk (Cordova Twp./Rock Island Co.), **Marsha Johnston**, Clerk (Bruce Twp./LaSalle Co.), **James Kensler**, Highway Commissioner (Wabash Road District 5/Wabash Co.), **Tim Killian**, Highway Commissioner (Chenoa Twp./McLean Co.), **James Weisiger**, Assessor (Champaign Twp./Champaign Co.).



Sue Brokaw
Supervisor
Dorr Township (McHenry Co.)



Pam Bruner
Township Clerk
Cordova Township (Rock Island Co.)



Marsha Johnston
Township Clerk
Bruce Township (LaSalle Co.)



James Kensler
Highway Commissioner
URD #3 (Wabash Co.)



Tim Killian
Highway Commissioner
Chenoa Township (McLean Co.)



James Weisiger
Assessor
Champaign Township (Champaign Co.)

Your leadership and commitment to township government is appreciated!

Education Event Recap

Edu

On January 18, TOI held the first ever Hybrid Event! Attendees met in person and on zoom to learn more about “Employee Handbook on Township Government and Preparing for the Upcoming Year” with Chuck Davis, Annelise Barris Fierstos, and Anthony Schuering from Brown, Hay + Stephens.



Attendees at the in person portion of the January 18 Hybrid Event.



Utilizing an OWL Camera, we are able to easily integrate in person attendees with online.



Chuck Davis, Brown, Hay + Stephens.



Annelise Barris Fierstos, Brown, Hay + Stephens.



Anthony Schuering, Brown, Hay + Stephens.

Education

Upcoming Education Events, Professional Development Days, TOI Q&A Days, Webinars, and the 116th Annual Educational Conference

Register for upcoming education events!

TOI offers educational events throughout the calendar year and the state! You can join us at the TOI Office in Springfield, at a location closer to your home, or even at your home through the power of the internet. Check out the list of upcoming dates over the next four months to find out what works best for you and your township!

Professional Development Day

A deep dive into a particular topic area. The program is held at the TOI office and is limited to 25 class participants. The programs in 2023 scheduled are selected as topics that need more time than a regular 60-minute time allotment. We hope you can join us for great educational opportunities.

TOI Q&A Days

This is a new program introduced in 2022. One thing we learned throughout the pandemic, was to utilize online communication platforms. We all experienced that crash course in zoom, teams, or the platform of your choice. In an effort to keep that momentum, we have organized this new online program. Once monthly, we post a zoom link on the TOI website the day before each event. A topic has been selected to start the conversation. The program will be limited to 60 minutes and is free to all users.

Township Webinar Program

The Webinar Program offers a program over the lunch hour. The intention of the program is to have a discussion over lunch, and learn from selected topics impacting the day-to-day operations of township government. The programs are recorded and available anytime for additional viewing from the on-demand catalog.

Regional Education Events

This year we are again taking the education program on the road. We have scheduled day long programs with lunch in Bloomington-Normal, Rockford, and Effingham. We are also hosting evening event in Mt. Vernon. These programs provide excellent programming, networking, and learning opportunities.

- JANUARY 27 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 1: TOWNSHIP BUDGETING
- FEBRUARY 15 - LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR: TOIRMA SHOP SAFETY
- FEBRUARY 17 - HYBRID EVENT: DECENNIAL COMMITTEE
- FEBRUARY 24 - Q&A DAY
- MARCH 15 - LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
- MARCH 17 - Q&A DAY
- APRIL 5 - LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR - STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST
- APRIL 11 - Q&A DAY: THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
- APRIL 18 - HYBRID EVENT
- APRIL 26 - LOBBY DAY

For event information, visit toi.org and click on the “Events” tab.

2023 Education Event sign up information is here:

<https://my.toi.org/events/upcoming-events>

A full calendar of Educational Events is on the TOI calendar.

Do we have your email address to send updates and event information?

Contact teresa@toi.org to make sure!

Legislative Update

As for **Legislation** affecting townships in 2022 and 2023, here is a list of some bills that TOI either supported, opposed or was neutral on that passed in 2022.

Updates are provided weekly during the scheduled legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly. As the 103rd Illinois General Assembly began on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, we are in the process of establishing our legislative watch list. The deadlines for bill introductions are in February 2023. Check out website for legislative updates.

SB 3789- SEN. JULIE MORRISON (D-29TH)/ REP. JONATHAN CARROLL (D-57TH)

Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. Within one year after the effective date of the Act and at least once every 10 years thereafter, each unit of local government that may levy any tax (except municipalities and counties) must form a committee to: study local efficiencies, create a report with recommendations regarding efficiencies, increased accountability, and consolidation. Provides that the duties of the committee include, but are not limited to, the study of the unit of local government's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and interrelationships with other units of local government and the State. Provides that the committee shall collect data, research, analysis, and public input. Dissolves the committee after completion of its report. TOI worked with sponsors to address many of our concerns. **TOI Was Neutral.**

In the November-December Veto Session, Amendment 3 was added to SB3789, clarifying...

HB 4228-DECENNIAL STUDY TRAILER BILL

In a county with a population under 400,000, the township board and the highway commissioner may form a joint committee for the purpose of the Decennial Study. This joint committee shall include the Township Supervisor; Township Trustees; Highway Commissioner; at least two residents of the township appointed by the Township Supervisor with advice and consent from the township board; at least one resident of the township appointed by the Highway Commissioner. The joint committee shall be chaired by the Township Supervisor and will issue a joint report with two sections- one section

for the township and one section for the road district. TOI worked with sponsors to allow the formation of the joint commission **TOI was Neutral.**

HB 4251- TOWNSHIP BID THRESHOLD BILL

Provides that any purchase by a township for services, materials, equipment, or supplies in excess of \$30,000 (rather than \$20,000) shall be contracted in specified ways. Provides that contracts for construction work whose estimated cost will exceed \$30,000 (rather than \$20,000) for township waterworks and sewerage systems shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder. This would bring townships in line with counties and municipalities. **TOI Supports.**

PA-102-0265

States that beginning in the levy year of 2022, each taxing district that has an aggregate property tax levy of more than \$5,000,000 for the applicable levy year shall make a good faith effort to collect and electronically publish data from all vendors and subcontractors doing business with the taxing district as to: Whether the vendor or subcontractor is a minority-owned, women-owned, or veteran-owned business, as defined in the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Woman, and Persons with Disabilities Act. Whether the vendor or subcontractor holds any certifications for those categories or if they are self-certifying; if the vendor self-certifies, then the taxing district shall publish whether the vendor qualifies as a small business under the feral Small Business Administration standards. This is an exempt mandate and no reimbursement by the State is required for the implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory act.

PA-102-1092

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Fix - Rep. Jay Hoffman (D-113th) Removes the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act requirements from awards, including capital appropriated funds, made by the Department of Transportation to units of local government for the purposes of transportation projects utilizing State and federal funds. Provides that the Act shall recognize that federal and federal pass-through awards from the Department of Transportation to units of local government are governed by and must comply with specified federal guidelines. **TOI Supports.**

We have a busy 2023 ahead. Here are some bills to watch come January and the 2023:

BID THRESHOLD TRAILER (BILL NUMBER PENDING)

Amends the Illinois Highway Code. In provisions concerning the performance of functions by the highway commissioner of a road district, provides that, except for professional services, when the cost of construction, materials, supplies, new machinery, or equipment exceeds \$30,000 (instead of \$20,000), the contract for such construction, materials, supplies, machinery or equipment shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder if specified conditions are met. Effective immediately. **TOI SUPPORTS**

PREVAILING WAGE BILL- REP. MICHAEL HALPIN (D-72ND)/ SEN. DAVID KOEHLER (D-46TH)

Provides that prevailing wage be paid on the construction or demolition of public works performed by an employee of a public body engaged in the construction or demolition of public works on behalf of another public

body. This bill would gut intergovernmental agreements and be an unfunded mandate on local governments that would result in an increase of property taxes. **TOI Strongly Opposes.**

Stay up to date on what is going on at the Capitol Building! The archive of the Legislative Reports for the current session has now been moved here to the TOI Members Only section, at <https://www.toi.org/TOI-Members-Only/>

You can also find on our Members Only section a digital copy of our *Township Perspective* magazine, as well as a digital copy of *The Law and Duties Handbook*, available with purchase of a physical copy. Be sure to utilize this feature at [toi.org](https://www.toi.org).

Click here for the 2023 Illinois General Assembly House Calendar.

Click here for the 2023 Illinois General Assembly Senate Calendar.



103rd General Assembly!

Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree and Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert attended the inaugural receptions for new leaders in the Illinois General Assembly.



TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, New House Minority Leader Rep. (R-89) Tony McCombie, and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, New Senate Minority Leader Sen. (R-41) John Curran, and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.

STATE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED JANUARY 1, 2023



Public Act 101-0001 went into effect on February 19, 2019. This new minimum wage law increases the minimum wage gradually until 2025. The next increase took effect on January 1, 2023

The state minimum wage increased on January 1, 2023 from \$12.00 to \$13.00

As per the Minimum Wage Law, the definition of "employer" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, business trust, governmental or quasi-governmental body, or any person or group of persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee, for which one or more persons are gainfully employed on some day within a calendar year. An employer is subject to the [Minimum Wage Law] in a calendar year on and after the first day in such calendar year in which he employs one or more persons, and for the following calendar year.

Governmental bodies are not exempt from the Minimum Wage Law, but there are reduced wages for certain part-time employees under the age of 18, as well as tipped employees.

To the right are the current wages in effect, as well as the statutorily required increases up to January 1, 2025.

| ILLINOIS STATE MINIMUM WAGE CHART | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Effective Date | Regular Minimum Wage | Tipped | Minors Working < 650 hrs per year |
| 1/1/22 | \$12.00 | \$7.20 | \$9.25 |
| 1/1/23 | \$13.00 | \$7.80 | \$10.50 |
| 1/1/24 | \$14.00 | \$8.40 | \$12.00 |
| 1/1/25 | \$15.00 | \$9.00 | \$13.00 |

HOW TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE WITH PA 101-0001

- New employees 18 years or older may be paid up to \$0.50 less per hour for the first 90 days of employment (training wage).
- Employees under 18 years of age who work less than 650 hours per calendar may be paid at the rates on the chart above but are not eligible for the "Training Wage" reduction.
- Beginning January 1, 2020 if a worker under 18 years of age works more than 650 hours for the employer during any calendar year, they must be paid the regular (over 18) wage.
- Tipped employees may be paid 60% of the hourly minimum wage
- Certain employees must be paid overtime, at time, and one-half of the regular rate, after 40 hours of work in a workweek.

For questions, please review the FAQ's on IDOL's website at www2.illinois.gov/idol/FAQs/Pages/minimum-wage-overtime-faq.aspx.





Township Perspective is Moving!

Township Perspective is moving! The first iteration of the magazine you know today was created in 1941 under the name of *The Illinois Supervisor and County Commissioner* and it shortly evolved to *The Illinois County and Township Official*. TOI purchased the rights to the magazine in 1971, and in 1999 the name changed to *Township Perspective*. Shortly after TOI purchased the magazine, its production moved from Springfield to Astoria (where TOI was originally based) and was published by K.K. Stevens Publishing. And they continued the publishing of the magazine until the December 2022 issue. Starting this year, 2023, the publishing has now moved to Effingham with Kingery Printing, Co. We are excited for this new stage of life for the magazine!

2023 Mileage Rates

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3 cents from the midyear increase setting the rate for the second half of 2022.

2023-2024 Membership Dues

It is almost Membership Dues season! Keep your eye on your mailbox this spring for Division Dues. Please verify with TOI that we have the correct mailing address on file so that you won't be tardy on your dues! Remember to keep on the look out for your TOI Dues! We are planning to send them out mid-summer with the regular deadline of September 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please reach out to the TOI Office!

Call for Submissions

Want to share the accomplishments and achievements of your Township? Submit any pictures and articles to kayla@toi.org and you might just be in the next issue of *Township Perspective*!



Save the Date

41st Annual Lobby Day

April 26, 2023

Look for registration online at www.toi.org



TOI Board

TOI OFFICERS

President: Christopher Kain, *Addison Township, DuPage County*

1st Vice President: Craig Paulek, *Stonington Township, Christian County*

2nd Vice President: Sherry Tite, *Wood River Township, Madison County*

Treasurer: Sherrill Knorr, *Reed Township, Will County*

Secretary: Arnold Vegter, *Union Grove Township, Whiteside County*

Immediate Past President: Danny Hanning, *Huntsville Township, Schuyler County*

TOI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Brokaw

Dorr Twp., McHenry Co.

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Cordova Twp., Rock Island Co.

M. Carroll Carroll

Brimfield Twp., Peoria Co.

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Blackberry Twp., Kane Co.

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Schaumburg Twp., Cook Co.

Unit RD #3, Wabash Co.

Chenoa Twp., McLean Co.

Blackhawk Twp., Rock Island Co.

Co.

Millbrook Twp., Peoria Co.

Long Creek Twp., Macon Co.

Wood River Twp., Madison Co.

DeKalb Twp., DeKalb Co.

Grant Twp., Lake Co.

Plainfield Twp., Will Co.

Champaign Twp., Champaign Co.

Co.

York Twp., DuPage Co.

Newman/Murdock/Sargent/

Bowdre Twp., Douglas Co

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Publishing Editor



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Database Manager



Taylor Anderson
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