



# from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

## Township Government: Lighting the Way in Local Government!

**T**HE PROGRAM FOR 2020 is off to a great start. We have released registration for the Associations upcoming events. You can see the inside cover of this issue of *Perspective* for a listing of upcoming events, or visit the website at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org) for information on all of the 2020 events and more. Online registration is available as well as mail in.

The release of the REVISED 2019 Laws and Duties Handbook is here! You have two options to purchase the book. You can log onto the TOI store and purchase the book (and other TOI publications) online or mail in your order with payment to the TOI office. Don't forget to order one for each of your board members!

With **ALL** online orders, you are required to initiate a purchase within the new Association Management Software system. After selecting your purchase and you are checking out, you are asked to log into your account. You can access this by your email address that we have on file with your membership. If you do not have an email address on file with our office, you are

asked to create an account with an email address. This address is used only for ordering purposes. We do not distribute email addresses to third party vendors under any circumstances unless authorized to do so. If you use the email address you have on file with us it will ask you for a PASSWORD. This password was emailed to everyone via the email address we had on file on as of January 7, 2020. Check your email for this password. You can contact the office if you have any questions.

It is my hope that you will embrace technology and this new process of purchasing publications and registering for events managed by the association. It provides member interaction and tracking to enhance the process by providing updated information for everyone.

As the 2020 Program begins, I asked some of the speakers and Division Presidents for a few quotes on the program.

Please take an opportunity to review the list of available courses being provided.

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*“It’s my hope that participants will gain a sharper understanding of how to interact with the media, including why it is so important to be proactive.”*

— **Ryan McLaughlin,**  
**Mac Strategies Group, Inc.**

*“I would like for the trustees to attend to gain a better understanding of media and Township government, to learn about how Townships can get involved in the Census and to be prepared for the next Township elections. I would like to encourage this so that they will become more knowledgeable and become a greater asset to their Township Board”.*

— **Mike Reynolds, President,**  
**Trustees Division**

*“It is a new decade and there are new opportunities for elected officials and highway commissioners to educate themselves. TOI offers educational events in all areas, pick one and please attend! Why not be the one holding the knowledge and not the one wondering?”*

— **Don Goad, President,**  
**Illinois Highway Commissioners Division**

*“Education ... the most important thing a township official can do for themselves and their township.*

*Every township official needs to know that no matter what the topic, there is always something you can learn by attending any educational session. If it’s not the actual topic it’s the wealth of information you acquire from*

*the networking with officials from your area.*

*I encourage everyone to give education your number one priority. You just never know what you can learn.”*

— **Sherrill Knorr, President**  
**Township Supervisors of Illinois**

*“Professional development and networking are important tools for success for all township officials, including assessors. The TOI District Program provides an invaluable opportunity to meet with your peers from around the state, to share your experiences, and to learn from others. As we head into the township election cycle in 2021, it is important to review the process and requirements, and to be prepared to address the numerous emerging assessment issues that may impact us going forward.”*

— **John T. Dabrowski, President**  
**Illinois Assessor Association.**

*“The Clerk’s Board of Directors feels very strongly in providing as many educational opportunities for our members. We invite ALL Clerks, new and veteran, to attend one of the 2020 Education Events. Place July 23 on your calendar and plan to attend the Seminar in Springfield on “The Election Process”. As a LEO (Local Election Official) I encourage Clerks to take advantage of the opportunities TOI has to offer!”*

— **Lisa Hodge, President,**  
**Clerks Division**

## **2020 TO DO LIST**

- Promote the 2020 Scholarship Program with your local high school
- Promote Local Government Week March 2-6, 2020
- Register for an Educational District or Regional meeting in your area
- Register for TOPICS DAY in Springfield (April 1, 2020)
- Promote Township Government in your community!

Review the Calendar of Events for 2020 and register early to attend the events provided. On behalf of the TOI Board of Directors and staff we look forward to having you participate in these events in an effort to further your knowledge and provide the residents of your township even better services.

## **HELP US PROMOTE THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Please reach out to your local high school and promote the TOI scholarship program. This year, we are providing seven (7) \$2,000 scholarships. This is an excel-

lent opportunity to work with your local community on the importance and benefits of township government. The Education Committee looks forward to reviewing the submittals and awarding the winners in 2020.

## **2020 SALARY SURVEY UNDERWAY**

The salary survey for the upcoming term is being sent for the first time initially electronically. We are sending the survey to all clerks that are active in our system with an email address. You will have an opportunity to complete the survey online from a link provided. If we do not currently have an active email address the survey link will be mailed to each township clerk over the next month. Please make note of the survey and help us generate a response from each township across the state.

## **CENSUS 2020 UPDATE**

The Township Officials of Illinois recently became a part of the Complete Count Committee network for the census 2020. Watch the website and magazine for critical census 2020 updates and information.

