



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

NOVEMBER 2020, what a month! A different type of month this year as we are soon having the first ever virtual annual conference 2020. What was once a month of finalizing in person events, meals, housing, gatherings, banquets, events, exhibit halls and more has taken on a completely different organizational thought. Sort of a flat transition as we move our entire conference to a virtual conference.

We hope that you can join us and be part of TOI history with the first ever completely virtual educational conference 2020. Some feedback and analysis on the event are planned for the December *Perspective* magazine. We will take registrations up to the week prior to the event so check our website at www.toi.org for registration information and see if you still have time to register.

TOI staff have been preparing the schedule, zoom credentials, publications, and program specifics to provide a conference experience just as beneficial as the in person held annually. Although we recognize that NOTHING replaces the in-person benefits of a conference like ours, we are embracing technology in an effort to bring a similar experience to you our members. We hope that you can participate and benefit from the programs designed to help you do your best in your current and future position in TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT!

Winner of the early bird 2020 Conference Registration \$100 gift card: Sylvestre Castellanos, Trustee Waukegan Township (Lake County).

2021 CALENDAR YEAR UNDER WAY

The TOI education program is working to determine our calendar of events for the 2021 program year. At this point, we are uncertain what is available to offer to our members other than waiting to see the status of Illinois in relation to our ability to hold in person meetings in January of 2021 than a virtual event or one with limits placed on participation.

Normally, annually in the January issue of *Perspective* magazine we publish the theme for the new program year, the schedule of events as well as all educational opportunities for Townships officials and staffs.

2021 is a new elected term year which means we have a projected change of about 25 percent to our membership of elected officials. We will make every effort to prepare new innovative programs for elected township officials with every effort aimed at assisting them perform their duties as an elected official whether new or returning. 2021 will be embraced just like 2020.

With the new year in our sight, The TOI Education program is accepting program ideas and content suggestions to assist in our program objectives. If you have attended a course that you think would benefit others in township government, please forward the speaker or program content information to me. We are formalizing our webinar content and schedule for the 2021 calendar year soon.

Regarding the Annual Town Meeting (ATM): If you have not had your 2020 ATM, we are recommending that you schedule it in November or December 2020 so that you have it prior to the year end. It is important to close out all open business for the 2020 calendar year even in the effects of COVID-19. You are able to schedule the meeting if you notify your local county health department that you are having it with the scheduled day and time.

We are recommending having it prior to the year-end so that 2021 and the ATM for this new year can be addressed accordingly. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021. However, as we have no idea of predicting the future results of the pandemic, we may be addressing the attendees at this 2021 meeting as well. Therefore, it is recommended that you close out the 2020 calendar year by completing your ATM needed. If you have specific questions on the meeting you may contact our office for best practice recommendations. If your board requires a formal legal opinion, we recommend meeting with your township attorney.

This year THANKSGIVING brings a bit of a more reflective thought for many of us. The past year has been like no other we have experienced on so many levels. We are not out of the woods yet and the day to day life that we know will forever be changed. It is my hope that you find your peace and provide opportunity to reflect on what you are thankful for in a time that has been so unpredictable. Also, to continue to be thankful

for as we move into a year of unpredictability.

I would like to list out a few things that I am thankful for in reflection of a year that has caused so much uncertainty.

- My health and the health of my family and friends
- My personal family—all of them—mostly my wife of 26 years and my three amazing children that continue to amaze me as they become adults.
- A job to have daily that I enjoy.
- Friendships made throughout my career that support what I do personally and professionally.
- To live in a county that has constitutionally guaranteed freedoms

I wish all of you a season of Thanks and a future of potential and success as we move toward the end of a Pandemic that has impacted so many of our lives. Just remember to stop, pause, and remember what you are thankful for.

All the best this upcoming Holiday Season!



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