



# from your Associate Director

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## Education Program Update

TOI is GLAD that JUNE has arrived. We are full steam ahead for the new term through May 17, 2021. I think that the Association has scheduled several upcoming events that will assist all new and returning officials in township government. The reason that we have scheduled all four of our Newly Elected Official Training events in July/August is to accommodate the updating of the member database with the recent election results. We can include all the changes and forward registration information to our members after May 15 when the new officials take office. Your patience is appreciated.

JUNE kicks off the formal official registration for the 2017 Education Program with our scheduled NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIAL TRAINING – BOOT CAMP Series. Registration information is included in this issue

of *Perspective*.

Additionally, a reminder will be sent this month to all township supervisors to promote attendance at the events in July and August. We need your assistance in generating support for these programs. Please ask all your township officials at the June township board meeting to attend these events in July/August. They are affordable and above all, they promote the goals and objectives of township government. The summer program dates are as follows:

- July 13th in Lisle
- July 20th in Mt. Vernon (EVENING MEETING)
- July 27th in Rockford
- August 3 in Normal

\* An evening meeting is being offered this year to accommodate officials in this area of the state who may be unable to attend day events.

In my research and review this past month, I have come across some quotes from Benjamin Franklin that seem to directly contribute to what we are doing for township government this program year.

**“Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember, Involve me and I will Learn”.** — Benjamin Franklin

**Without Continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning ...”**

To all township officials, I ask you to get involved in educating yourselves and your township boards on what we do as an integral part of the local government landscape.

## SUGGESTIONS AS YOU START THE NEW TERM

- Host a meet your township board meet and greet
- Review the TOI Calendar of Events and Register to attend a NEOT
- Contact the Media about the new term effective on May 15 and January 1 for the Assessor
- Promote a meeting of all the townships in your county
- Promote Local Government Week for 2018
- Examine what your township board can do to

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better community involvement and participation in township events.

- Review your township website and create one if it currently does not exist.

Our 2017 Program agenda includes programs for new and returning officials regardless of the position you have been elected to serve.

I look forward to meeting you all at our events this year.

### **TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL OMA/FOIA MANDATED TRAINING REMINDER!**

Please note that if you are a NEW TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL being elected for the first time, you have one year (through May 15, 2018) to complete the FOIA training provided by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. This training is required for all new first-time officials. If you completed the training in the past for another position, you are NOT required to take the training a second time. Information on the training can be obtained from the website of the Illinois Attorney General. <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/default.aspx>. Please contact the Public Counselor's office at 217.782.1090 if you have questions on this training or would like additional information.

### **TOWNSHIP FLAG PROGRAM REMINDER**

2017 is the fifth year for the Township Flag Program. I have taken several calls about the program and even some about how to create a flag. Several townships across the state are hosting promotional events in the community to have youth design a flag. Please consider participating in the TOWNSHIP FLAG PROGRAM at the Annual Conference in November. If you are interested in participating, please email me at [Jerry@toi.org](mailto:Jerry@toi.org). Let's make this the largest participation year we have had.

### **PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Final program scheduling is taking place for the education line-up for Conference. The JULY / AUGUST magazine will have a complete listing of the programs scheduled. A tentative list is as follows:

- Clerks Responsibilities
- Freedom of Information / Open Meetings Act
- What's My Job Discussion: THE ABCs of Township Government
- Township Budgeting
- How to promote compliance with the US Census Program in your Township
- A discussion of IMRF

- Township Responsibilities for a Cemetery
- Controlling Workers Compensation Costs
- Technology in Township Government
- Explanation of Township Funding
- Three Hot Topics in Employment Law with Township Government
- Understanding the Illinois General Assembly Process and Local Government
- Ask a Township Professional
- Attorney Question and Answer Session
- Township Government and the Media
- Townships using QuickBooks
- TED Talks on Township Practices
- Running an Effective Township Board Meeting
- Road District Issues
- Prevailing Wage and Intergovernmental Agreements in Township Government
- Understanding Township Government and TIF Districts
- Yoga and Meditation for Health on All Levels
- A Gift of Hope – Life Goes On
- Mason Jars, Mugs and Mocktails Projects

It is with a sad heart that we pay tribute this month to a dear friend of TOI, Rod Beck. Rod was one of the first individuals who introduced himself to me in 2005 when I started working for TOI. He made the trip from Peoria to Springfield in November to introduce himself to me as the associate director of TOIRMA, pledging to make every effort to work together for the betterment of township government. He was a driving force behind the idea of sharing office space between our two organizations.

My father told me one time that "there are few individuals that we come in contact with in our personal and professional life that we can call a true friend." Most of the time these individuals can be counted on less than one hand. I found that in Rod, a true friend and colleague. Rod's death is a loss to everyone who knew him. He believed in township government and everything that it stands for. He understood because he was at one time an elected highway commissioner. He valued honor of your name, professionalism of your career and the commitment of friendship. I will never forget what he taught me about family and career and how to manage them simultaneously. Our hallway discussions about raising children will forever be appreciated. I am glad I met Rod. He was a treasured soul that will forever live on in so many township memories. Thank you, Rod, for your friendship and commitment to township government.

