

Your association ... working for you!

IF YOU'VE WONDERED what we do here at Township Officials of Illinois (TOI), here's a start:

- We develop educational seminars for all township officials
- Our legislative consultant is in the State Capitol on a daily basis making sure pro-township legislation is in the forefront
- Drug and Alcohol Program random testing for highway commissioners and employees
- We publish *Township Perspective* magazine mailed to all township officials whose townships are TOI members as part of their member benefits; \$25/year subscriptions also available to staff and others
- Consultations to members through phone calls, visits, county association meetings, etc.
- We work with townships in their counties to help organize and revitalize effective county associations
- We encourage Illinois township officials to be involved on a national level with the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATA/T)
- Through TOI membership, townships and road districts may also participate in TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association) that provides significant cost savings on township liability and workers' compensation insurance

TOI Executive Director **Bryan Smith** and Associate Director/Education Coordinator



Jerry B. Crabtree answer questions from township officials regarding proper procedure and law. They also speak at education, county association and other meetings throughout the state, and write monthly articles for *Township Perspective*.

They are also actively involved with TOI's legislative work in the State Capitol. Smith, a lifelong resident of Long Creek Township (Macon Co.), has 23 years with the association and is a former supervisor and township clerk. Crabtree, a West Frankfort native, began his TOI career in 2005. In addition to fielding questions and speaking at TOI events, he coordinates TOI's educational seminars and course offerings, and oversees the Web site and its program through which about 60 townships have created a township Web site. Crabtree also works with county associations who are interested in starting, or rejuvenating their association.



Office Manager **Pam Butler** is starting her 29th year with the association. The Astoria resident (Woodland Township, Fulton Co.) oversees TOI's database of more than 11,000 township officials, hundreds of companies and other businesses. She also coordinates the random drug/alcohol program that is administered through Mid-West Truckers Association. She is responsible for most of the mailings done by TOI and its divisions (supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners, assessors, trustees) and creates many of the educational materials distributed at both TOI and division functions.

Jo Ann Cooper of Astoria Township, Fulton Co. has kept the books and formerly served as the Astoria office manager for a total of 45 years with TOI. She works on a part-time basis now, and handles payroll, accounts payable/receivable, employee benefits and publications inventory. She assists with mailings and meeting registrations as well.



Erin Valentine, associate editor of *Township Perspective*, started her career with TOI in 1997 when the office moved from Astoria to Springfield. The Decatur resident coordinates and edits copy/advertising submitted to the magazine, and does a little writing too. She helps maintain TOI's Web site, processes purchases from TOI's Web site bookstore, answers the telephone, assists with mailings and other details as needed. She is a native of Gallatin County.

Legislative Consultant **Tim Bramlet** began lobbying for TOI in 2008 after the death of Bill Foster. He represents TOI's legislative interests in the Statehouse in Springfield, as well as attending numerous educational events to update officials on what's going on in the General Assembly.



Since 2004, Meeting Consultant **Barbara Hale** has coordinated TOI's Annual Educational Conference and other seminars. She also served as Education Coordinator until 2007. Barbara and her husband, Don, operate Event Management Professionals and plan meetings and events for several organizations each year.



Phone Numbers, Dates to Keep

TOI 217-744-2212 or toll free 1-866-897-4688 (toll-free number works in IL only)
TOI Web Site www.toi.org

TOI Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet ... 217-522-9522

TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Assoc.) ... 1-800-252-5059 (Danville);
1-888-562-7861 (Peoria)

State Board of Elections toll free 1-800-527-8683

Remaining Newly-Elected Officials Seminars

Contact TOI, 866-897-4688

Saturday, July 18 – Clock Tower Resort, Rockford

Saturday, Aug. 1 – Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights

Remaining Supervisors' Zone Meetings

Contact Steve Martin, 309-852-2871

Friday, July 10 Zone IV – Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights

Friday, July 31 Zone II – Stoney Creek Inn, East Peoria

Friday, Aug. 21 Zone III – Chateau, Bloomington

Remaining Clerks' Zone Meetings

Contact George Grosso, 815-953-1201

Friday, July 31 Zone III – Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon ... contact Judy Herrman 309-545-2432

Friday, Aug. 14 Zone II – Chateau, Bloomington ... contact Judy Herrman 309-545-2432

Local Officials Day (ticket requests will be mailed to all supervisors/clerks mid-July)

Saturday, Aug. 15 Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield; Aug. 29, Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, Du Quoin

Trustees Educational Seminar

Saturday, Aug. 29 Chateau, Bloomington ... contact Mike Foley, 618-876-6268

Highway Commissioners Summer Seminar

Aug. 2-4, Peoria Civic Center ... contact Les Hild 217-792-5164

General Assistance Training Institutes (GATI) Seminars

Contact Susan Curtiss, 815-844-6682

Fundamental Classes

Aug. 27-28 Chateau, Bloomington

Sept. 23-24 Radisson, Rockford

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights

TOI Annual Educational Conference

Nov. 8-10 Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield Contact TOI 1-866-897-4688

This year's theme is Government for the People: The Lincoln Legacy

Just a phone call away...

KEVIN BIRD CALLS TOI whenever he needs help or can't find the answer to a question. As highway commissioner of Hickory Point Township (Macon Co.), Bird has attended numerous Annual Educational Conferences and other TOI seminars.

"The sessions have always been very good, and TOI tries their best to make it convenient for everyone to attend.

"It's nice to know that if you can't find the answer, you can pick up the phone and call," said Bird. "Bryan and Jerry always get back to you in a timely manner with a good response."

Bird says he has had questions on basic operational issues such as salaries, and that TOI has provided the information he needed.

"I haven't had any bad experiences with TOI; everyone has been very helpful and courteous."

Five-term Supervisor Del Dalton said she has used the TOI toll-free number "innumerable times".

"Bryan and Jerry are always there in case I need to go to somebody I can rely on; they always have an answer," she said.

Dalton and her Mendota Township (LaSalle Co.) board recently purchased a building for new township offices and she admitted "at first, I thought it was going to be impossible."

"It took a lot of paperwork and there was the contract agreement, but it has all worked out and TOI was a big help. I also called with some pre-election questions."

Dalton said she tries to go to as many educational meetings as she can, and she encourages other officials to go.

Dalton's township service was sparked by her dad, Paul Bauer, who served four terms as a town-



DAYTON JARNAGIN

ship supervisor in Bureau County.

Wheatland Township (Will Co.) Highway Commissioner Dayton Jarnagin has been calling TOI for 16 years, saying he can't remember all the questions he's had, but he had several when he built a new building.

"When something comes up I don't have an answer for, I call. If TOI's advice doesn't satisfy me, I call the attorney," Jarnagin said, noting that Bryan and Jerry always tell officials that they are not attorneys.

"I've gotten a lot of information from TOI that has helped me in my job. Some people go on their own and just do it, but I like to know what's right. When I've worked with intergovernmental agreements, I've called to check to see that I'm doing the right thing."

Lacon Township (Marshall Co.) Clerk Clara Cordes uses the toll-free number to call TOI, and says the office has been very helpful in her 16 years as an official.

"I try to stress to the board that when they have questions, they should call," she said. "I find it's easier and better to get TOI's input because the law can be confusing."



KERN DOERNER

Cordes also likes the fact that TOI staff often attends the Marshall County Township Officials meetings.

Indian Creek Township (White Co.) Supervisor Kern Doerner was trustee before being elected supervisor in April, and said he doesn't hesitate to call TOI.

"I realize they're available and would help me, and I've always gotten a quick response to questions," he said. The township recently purchased and renovated new office space and is working on adding a parking lot now, he said.

Doerner put together a series of articles from TOI publications, submitted them to the *Norris City Banner* weekly newspaper, and said he's had several comments from people who were not familiar with townships.

"I'll probably do this once in a while to let people know we're alive, and to help them understand what we do."