

‘Craft your questions from your mind and heart’

WE’RE JUST LIKE YOU, just in a different position, said State Rep. Al Riley.

Riley, supervisor of Rich Township in Cook County, spoke to officials at TOI’s 27th Annual Township Topics Day April 21, encouraging them to try to be more effective in communicating with their legislators.

“Write a letter yourself or call your representatives and let them know what your needs are,” he said. “Some people have trouble with the give and take, but just craft your questions from your mind and your heart. It isn’t rocket science; just ask your questions. I answer all my calls.”

Riley, who represents the 38th District of Illinois, said that the Annual Town Meeting held only by townships is extremely important.

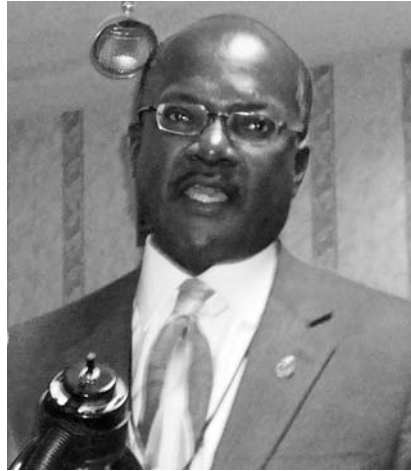
“No one else does that but townships; it’s one of the greatest things we have. We’re among friends here, but every time we run, we have to justify what it is we do. We have to craft our own image,” said Riley. “Sometimes we need to step back and ask ‘can we do more?’”

Dr. Kent Redfield, professor emeritus of Political Studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield ...

These are certainly exciting times to be in Springfield, said Dr. Kent Redfield, professor emeritus of Political Studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

“It’s a little like the guy who had 12 kids; he was afraid to ask his wife ‘what’s new?’”

“These are really, really tough times. The state is broke, in worse



STATE REP. AL RILEY

fiscal shape than ever, and we have big changes in state government with a new governor and new leadership,” Redfield said. “Take horrendous overspending coupled with a revenue structure that doesn’t keep up with growth. We’ve had six dishonest budgets in a row. We had settled into a comfortable pattern with the governor and four leaders writing the budget; it was dysfunctional but it worked.”

Redfield noted that it is crucial for an association like TOI to have a legislative consultant such as Tim Bramlet.

“You have to be constantly vigilant in the General Assembly, especially now,” Redfield said. He recalled a situation a few years ago when liquor lobbyists stayed in Springfield, and the soda pop lobbyists went home; soda pop got taxed, but liquor did not.

With the budget situation beyond belief and cynicism from the public unbelievable, we’re just not seeing a lot of optimistic things, Redfield said.



TOI Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet ...

TOI Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet said all five major bills TOI is working with have been successfully winding their way through the legislative process.

They include:

SB1379 Highway Commissioners/Lease Contracts

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John M. Sullivan

House Sponsor: Rep. Jil Tracy

Current law allows in townships with less than 15,000 for a township highway commissioner to have a pecuniary interest in lease contracts if the aggregate total of the contracts is less than \$1,000 with the approval of the town board of trustees or the highway board of auditors. This bill raises that amount to \$2,000.

HB 644 Delinquent Sewerage Payment and Discontinuing Service

House Sponsor: Rep. Pat Verschoore

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Michael Bond

This legislation is an initiative of TOI. Over the last several years, the General Assembly has passed several bills which have allowed municipalities and sanitary districts to enforce non-payment of sewer ser-

vice charges by entering into agreements with water service providers to discontinue water service to the premises that haven't paid their bills.

This bill adds township sewer service systems as entities that may also use this method to collect delinquent sewer service charges. The bill also provides that the township must reimburse the water service provider for the cost of discontinuing or re-establishing the water service.

HB 621 Township Grass/Bush Upkeep

House Sponsor: Rep. Mike Fortner

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Randall H. Hultgren

This legislation adapts language to the Township Code that would authorize township boards to deal with mowing grass, trimming or removing nuisance trees or bushes on neglected property.

Current Township Code law authorizes weed cutting, but not grass mowing or tree and bush trimming or removal. This language is quite similar to that which already exists in the Municipal Code that authorizes municipalities to do so.

HB 564 Township Supervisor Meetings Presiding

House Sponsor: Rep. JoAnn D. Osmond

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Pamela J. Althoff



LONG CREEK TOWNSHIP (Macon Co.) Water Superintendent Tim Kite, Trustee P.K. Nuernberger, State Rep. Bob Flider of Mt. Zion, Clerk R.C. Smith, Trustee Dale Workman and Highway Commissioner Dean Rhoades



LEMONT TOWNSHIP Trustee (Cook Co.) Gregory Nicklas, Sen. Republican Leader Christine Radogno of LaGrange, Trustee Kathy Henrikson and Supervisor Steven Rosendahl

This legislation would simply remedy a situation where a city and a township are coterminous and a city council is exercising powers that would ordinarily be exercised by the township board. It simply allows the council, by a three-fourths vote of its members, to authorize the township supervisor to preside over portions of the city council meetings, rather than the mayor, when it is addressing township issues.

HB 476 Motor Fuel Tax Distribution

*House Sponsor: Rep. David Winters
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Louis S. Viverito*

This legislation is strongly supported by the Township Officials of Illinois. It would provide for a proportional allotment of motor fuel tax receipts to **all** townships, rather than to just those townships that levy at .08 %.



TOI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Bryan Smith, TOI Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet and State Rep. Frank Mautino

Bramlet also asked officials to make sure their legislators know to include local government in any capital bill that may be approved for the state.

“This is not a given, that we will be included in a capital bill,” Bramlet said. “There has been some reluctance on the part of legislators to say that local governments must be represented.”

Legislators have passed, at Gov. Pat Quinn’s request, what has come to be known as the “mini Capital bill.” That measure would utilize \$300 million in existing revenue to fund more than \$1 billion in road and bridge projects ... all at the state level. Atten-



STATE REP. DON MOFFITT (left) with Indiantown Township (Bureau Co.) Highway Commissioner Bill Sears



TOI 3RD VICE PRESIDENT Larry Mowery with Sen. Dan Rutherford



FROM BUREAU COUNTY, Berlin Township Trustee John Gaylord, Supervisor Neil Genslinger, Hall Township Trustee Charlie Lamb, Rep. Frank Mautino from Spring Valley, and Supervisor Butch Moran of Selby Township



TOI ASSOC. DIRECTOR Jerry B. Crabtree with TOIRMA Executive Director Rod Beck

tion now turns to a more comprehensive program that could see a 27% increase in Motor Fuel Tax revenue for local governments if we are included in the package, he said. But there is still some uncertainty over whether townships, counties and cities will be included and to what amount.

About 150 township officials attended the annual lobby day that featured visits with legislators in the afternoon, and an evening reception at the Illinois State Library attended by several legislators.

TOI DIRECTOR Susie Carpentier (S. Rock Island Twp. Assessor), Deb Lane, multi-township assessor in LaSalle Co., Sen. Gary Dahl and City of Galesburg Township Assessor Darrell Lovell





(FRONT) CHAMPAIGN TOWNSHIP Trustee William Higgins, Champaign Township Highway Commissioner Keith Padgett, City of Champaign Township Supervisor Pam Borowski. Back: Sen. Mike Frerichs, Champaign Township Supervisor John Schmidt, Rantoul Township Supervisor James Rusk, Ludlow Township Trustee Jim Quinlan, and Ludlow Township Supervisor George Burnison.



SEN. KYLE MCCARTER talks with TOI Director Shirley Moore and husband, Woody

