



From Your Associate Director

JUST RETURNING FROM the NATaT event and we had a great turnout for this year! Attending this event is a great way to convey the TOWNSHIP message with similar states across the country. Networking opportunities make it an excellent way to discuss similar situations that occur in other parts of the United States that operate under the township form of government.

Flying home on September 11th provided a somber reflection of what it must have been like to board a plane and experience the horrific tragedy that took so many lives eight years ago. As we were taxiing down the runway, our pilot asked everyone to join in a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their life on the dreadful day. Many of my friends via e-mail and Facebook were posting response to the question "Do you remember where you were on 9-11". We all do. It was a day that the world stood still. This day, like many we have experienced, marks our conscience. Like the day the Space Shuttle tragedy occurred or the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. We recall because our lives were changed permanently.

I remember well where I was on 9-11. I was in Chicago attending what were to be weeklong meetings in my previous job. I was on the 16th floor of the James R. Thompson building on Randolph Street in Chicago. I remember the entire building, which was full of what seemed to be thousands of people. Everyone was so courteous and polite in what was my first experience of worldwide panic. We all walked toward Lake Michigan in an effort to get away from the Sears Tower and out of the downtown area. I vividly remember everyone walking and not really talking, but attempting to get in touch with family members via cell phone, of which no service was available.

My thoughts rushed to my wife and children



MEETING WITH DICK DURBIN during the NATaT Conference were Rockford Township Trustee Greg Tuite (left), Harlem Township Supervisor Doug Aurand, and Rockford Township Supervisor and TOI 1st Vice President Mickey Goral (right).

in Springfield. I just wanted to get home. This day provided us an up-close and personal attentiveness to what it means to be an American, who is really prepared to protect us and what we all have to do in support of future prevention of such tragedies. In all, we experienced what I call the most important lesson regarding our reflection of our country and what government at all levels had to do to get through such a significant tragedy. I say that before 9-11 it was **THE GOVERNMENT** and after 9-11, it vividly became **MY GOVERNMENT** to many Americans.

May God bless all of the families that experienced such a loss on that day.

The Illinois delegation this year had more than 80 registrations. All attendees had great experiences with members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Bryan and I were able to sit down with Congressman Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) and convey the importance of the NATaT agenda in consideration of the Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 2009 (H.R. 3007/ Congressman Paul Kanjorski). This legislation establishes a local fiscal assistance trust fund that would make direct payments to units of local government in support of priority community needs. Additionally, it provides



towns and townships with a direct, flexible source of federal assistance to provide essential services, create jobs and improve infrastructure in township local communities. H.R. 3007 is designed after the successes of General Revenue Sharing in the 1970s and 1980s. Passage of this bill will provide three years of funding and support to local governments.

Now more than ever, townships in Illinois are suffering from budget shortfalls in the ability to deliver not only statutorily obligated services (general assistance, property assessment and road and bridge maintenance), but additional services aimed at meeting the needs of township communities. Congressman Schock commented that he understands the needs of townships in Illinois. Most importantly that he is open to any constituent that has concerns about legislation that will benefit his district. Contact your members of Congress in support of H.R. 3007.

This year, the NATaT conference provided me the opportunity to be in Washington during President Obama's delivery of the joint session message on Health Care. Although I was not able to attend the event (no available gallery ticket), I was able to discuss the proposal with conference attendees. My interpretation from township officials is that the issue is very serious and its implications can be different when considering rural and urban areas. I encourage everyone to review the multitude of literate and media coverage of this issue. This is an important time for us all. We have not experienced such a movement in government since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is a pivotal government movement aimed at addressing an issue valuable to us all—our health care system.

If you were unable to attend the 2009 NATaT event, I hope that you can plan to attend in 2010. I am sure that you will benefit from the experience. Township government is alive and well in the United States. This year, the NATaT conference helped carry that message to Washington.

TOIPAC Needs Your Donations

Plans are underway for the 2009 TOIPAC SILENT AUCTION. Items are being accepted for this auction to be held during the conference outside the registration area. Conference attendees will have an opportunity to bid on items up until Tuesday afternoon. Please help support TOIPAC by donating "paper items" (ballgame tickets, golf packages, amusement park passes, condo vacation packages, etc). Your contributions help maintain our ability to participate in township efforts in the Illinois General Assembly.

TOIPAC Raffle Tickets Still Available!

If you have not purchased your TOIPAC LAS VEGAS raffle tickets, contact a TOI Director. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

No	0751	Win a Trip to	No	0751
Name	_____	LAS VEGAS	Plus a Second Drawing for	CHICAGO
Address	_____	a weekend in		
City	State	\$10 per Ticket or 3 Tickets for \$20		
Township	County	The winning ticket will be drawn on		
Phone	_____	Tuesday, November 10, 2009		
Cell Phone	_____	at the		
Email	_____	TOI Annual Conference Banquet		
		Need not be present to Win. Details on other side.		

Please Make Checks Payable To: TOIPAC

County Association Meetings

I encourage everyone to participate with your county associations of township officials. These meetings are important to educate new requirements in performing the statutory requirement of township officials across the state. If you are interested in forming an association in a county that does not currently have one, or you would like to generate continued support in a county association that has been inactive, contact me. You can reach me toll free at 866.897.4688 or at jerry@toi.org.

Question of the Month?

- Q: If the Supervisor is unable to attend a meeting, who can chair the regular monthly meeting?
- A: If a township supervisor determines that he/she must be absent from a meeting, the meeting does not have to be cancelled. After the meeting is called to order, those trustees present select a trustee from the board to chair the meeting. Usually, this becomes the responsibility of the most senior trustee. However, any present board member may chair the meeting.