



# Education Update

**W**HAT A GREAT 2010! Although we have been battling cold temperatures in America's heartland, we are taking the New Year and what it brings with great strides on behalf of township government. There are many new beginnings and new experiences for all township officials across the state. Whether you are a returning veteran or a newly elected official—you have opportunities before you with the New Year.

The 2010 Education Program is extremely exciting. The year-long efforts of the committee, the TOI board of directors and TOI staff are finally starting to become a reality. This program is the future. This program is proof that divisions, elected positions and association executives can work together for the betterment of the people who we serve—township people!

In the pages that follow my article, you will see monthly the upcoming education district events. You can help by contacting your personal township officials and administrative staff. You can also contact neighboring township officials and make sure they are familiar with the dates and locations of the scheduled education events. Talk now—learn later! Put the question before your board at the next township board meeting. Make the benefits of attending educational opportunities known to your board and electors.

Registration is open to you on-line at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org) and we are forwarding a program brochure and general information to officials via mail as the program calendar progresses through the year. You can also return the printed registration form included in the magazine.

On February 19, the first event is launched in Quincy (Education District 5). Those officials in the counties of **Adams, Brown, Cass, Fulton, Hancock, Mason, McDonough, Pike, Schuyler and Tazewell** are up to bat. Make your District attendance all that it can be. Remember that the county with the most registrations submitted is being recognized at the 2010 Annual Conference. Further, townships that submit a minimum of five (5) registrations have their name submitted for a drawing to receive a free conference

registration. Visit the TOI website at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org) for program information, an informational brochure download and registration information.

## Your Challenge!

**Partner with a new Official to bring a new face to the 2010 Education Program.** As you have been reminded this past year, township government in Illinois experienced a 20 percent turnover in 2009. That is more than 2,200 elected officials. I challenge all of you to contact a new official either in your own township or a neighboring township. Travel together and bring them to the education district nearest you. If you have not attended a program in the past—do it together. Experience what the program can offer. I am confident that you will see it is a day well spent out of the office. The registration fee of \$40 is an affordable reimbursable expense to include the entire township. Help make the 2010 program a success by reaching out to fellow township officials to attend the event in your area.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK!!!

For the third year in a row, we are preparing townships across the state for Local Government Week. This week is very important to local government at all levels. Due to financial capabilities and time as well as conflicting schedules and events, there is no event planned for Springfield this year. However, what we are asking is for townships to partner with county and municipal officials to promote adequate recognition of local government.

Invite school, local civic groups, businesses leaders and the media to participate in places to celebrate recognition of local government week at your township. Plan a recognition event at your March township meeting.

## SOME GENERAL IDEAS FOR YOUR TOWNSHIP:

- ✓ Have your township board member(s) attend a classroom program at an elementary, middle or high school. Present a program on exactly what township government is.

- ✓ Offer an open house of the township office on an evening during local government week.
- ✓ Encourage students to attend the March scheduled township board meeting. Make this meeting a special event by encouraging their involvement in the process.
- ✓ Promote existing or upcoming projects sponsored by the township during this week both at the office and in the local media.
- ✓ Simply ask the local media to do a cover story on the significance of township government.

### Question of the Month

**Question:** An unexpected snow storm hit our township last week. The Road Commissioner did not have enough employees to plow the snow in an acceptable time period. However, Bill, who also serves as a township trustee, offers to help with the plowing for minimum wage. Can a trustee be paid an additional wage for helping the road district plow snow?

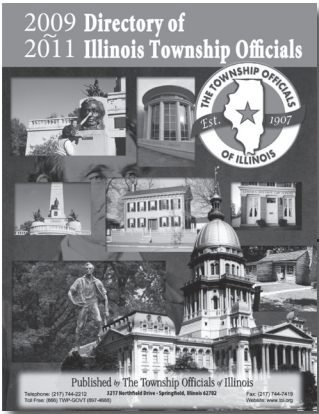
**Answer:** According to an informal Attorney General Opinion, since a township trustee has certain duties related to the township road district, such as budgeting and auditing of warrants, this activity is NOT permitted. So a township trustee may not be hired, even part-time as a snowplow driver for the road district.

### Notice to TOI Web Program Participants!

On January 12, 2010, a letter was sent to all current townships active in the TOI web services program. The recent changes to the Freedom of Information Act create a new requirement for all public bodies that maintain a website. Information on your compliance with this new requirement is included in that notice. If you did not receive the letter, please contact me at [jerry@toi.org](mailto:jerry@toi.org).

### Second Year of the 96th General Assembly Underway

January 2010 having arrived brings with it the beginning of another round of the Illinois General Assembly. January 2010 starts the second year of the 96th General Assembly. As you will recall, we finished the first legislative year of this biennium having introduced 2509 Senate Bills and 4771 House Bills. To date, the governor has acted on approximately 858 bills. TOI will be monitoring new bill introductions and providing access to our 2010 legislative agenda soon. If you are interested in viewing the bills introduced, you can see them on the Illinois General Assembly web site at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). Watch the TOI website for the release of the 2010 legislative agenda and various updates. If you have questions regarding our legislative agenda, please contact the TOI office.



## New Directory now available!

The 2009-2011 Directory of Illinois Township Officials, featuring names, addresses and other contact information for Illinois' more than 11,000 township officials, is now available. The Directory is also available on CD.

Fill out this order form and mail to:

**Township Officials of Illinois  
3217 Northfield Dr.  
Springfield, Illinois 62702**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the 2009-11 Directory of Illinois Township Officials at \$50 each

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Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

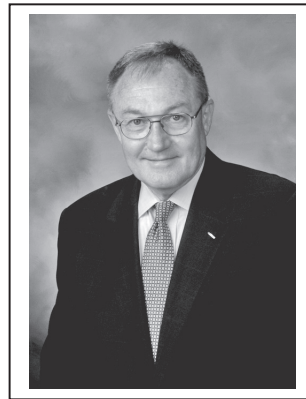
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Educational District 5

## Quincy

**Date:** Friday, Feb. 19  
**Location:** John Wood Community College  
(217) 224-6500



*Richard L. Jaehne, Director  
Illinois Fire Service Institute*

**Pre Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch)**  
**Onsite Registration: \$60 (includes lunch)**  
**Registration Deadline Feb. 15**  
**Time: 8:30 am-3:30 pm**

### **Seminar Highlights:**

7:30 – 8:30 Registration  
8:30-9:00 Opening Remarks  
9:00-10:30 **General Opening Session featuring Richard L. Jaehne**  
10:30 – 10:45 Break  
10:45- 12:00 Division Workshop- Supervisors (Test Your Township Knowledge); Clerks (Overview of Clerks' Duties/Responsibilities); Trustees (Overview of Budget Preparations)  
12:00- 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 2:00 Concurrent Sessions

**SESSION A:** How To Avoid Costly Penalties under the New FOIA Changes: What Townships need to know in order to be in compliance with recent changes to the Freedom of Information Act

**SESSION B:** Alternative Revenue Streams for Townships: Finding revenue beyond real estate taxes in township government.

**SESSION C:** General Assistance Training Institute (GATI) Overview. General discussion of what is required for a township to provide General Assistance

**2:00-3:00** Concurrent Sessions

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**SESSION C:** Working with other units of Local Governments in your jurisdiction. Exploring intergovernmental agreements.

**3:15** Ask an Attorney Session

# Educational District 3

## Springfield

**Date:** Thursday, March 25  
**Location:** Northfield Inn and Conference Center  
 217-523-7900

**Pre Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch)**  
**Onsite Registration: \$60 (includes lunch)**  
**Registration Deadline March 19**  
**Time: 8:30 am-3:30 pm**

### **Seminar Highlights:**

7:30 – 8:30 Registration  
 8:30-9:00 Opening Remarks  
 9:00-10:30 **General Opening Session**  
 10:30 – 10:45 Break  
 10:45- 12:00 Division Workshop-Supervisors (Test Your Township Knowledge); Clerks (Overview of Clerks' Duties/Responsibilities); Trustees (Auditing Township Bills)  
 12:00- 1:00 Lunch  
 1:00 – 2:00 Concurrent Sessions

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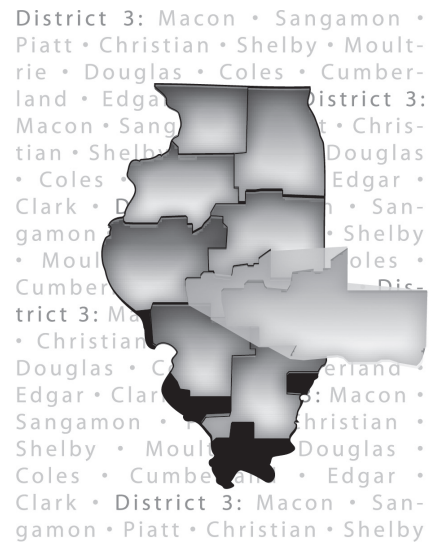
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**3:15** Ask an Attorney Session



# Educational District 7

## East Peoria



**Bill Morris**

**Date:** Friday, April 16  
**Location:** Embassy Suites  
309-694-0200

**Pre Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch)**  
**Onsite Registration: \$60 (includes lunch)**  
**Registration Deadline April 9**

**Time: 8:30 am-3:30 pm**

### **Seminar Highlights:**

7:30 – 8:30 Registration  
8:30-9:00 Opening Remarks  
9:00-10:30 **General Opening Session featuring William Morris**  
10:30 – 10:45 Break  
10:45- 12:00 Division Workshop- Supervisors (Test Your Township Knowledge); Clerks (Overview of Clerks' Duties/Responsibilities); Trustees (Auditing Township Bills)  
12:00- 1:00 Lunch  
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