



# From Your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

**Publication Error:** Page 9 of the October *Perspective* magazine's "Question of the Month" includes an error in the answer statutory citation. In copying text from a previous article, the recent statutory change was omitted. The dollar amount was changed in 2009 as a result of **Public Act 96-0422**. The last paragraph should read:

*Answer: Only under certain outlined circumstances. In townships having a population of less than 15,000, and with the approval of the township board, a highway commissioner may have such a pecuniary lease or contract if the aggregate total of those contracts is less than \$2,000 in the same fiscal year.*

*I apologize for the error.*

**F**ALL IS HERE! This means one thing—It is annual Conference time! I hope you have all prepared for this year's 104th Annual Educational Conference.



If you would like to provide us with a brief overview of your Conference experience this year, please e-mail me your comments and we may include them in the Conference overview comments next month. You may e-mail your comments to me at [jerry@toi.org](mailto:jerry@toi.org).

There are many traditions that we all encounter with the holiday season. Traditions are a part of what we do in our family and community. I call upon you this month to reflect what the Thanksgiving holiday means to you. Reflect on your family and community and determine what reflections you have on the national holiday. So many of our townships traditionally reach out to the less fortunate members of our communities this time of year with many ways of assistance. If you have a story on an outstanding tradition in your township, please let us know.

Did you realize that in 1863, it was one of Illinois' finest, Abraham Lincoln, who convinced through congressional action to make the last Thursday in November the recognized Thanksgiving holiday?

## General Traditions and Customs

Every celebration is accompanied by some custom or rituals that people enthusiastically participate in with just a trifle degree of variation. Similarly, Thanksgiving Day has its own sets of traditions, practices and pastimes:

### The Gobbling Turkey

According to the National Turkey Federation (NTF) – 91 percent of Americans eat turkey on this special day. Southerners prefer deep-fried turkey in comparison to roasted ones. Almost 675 million pounds of turkey is consumed annually on Thanksgiving Day!

### Charity for the needy

As Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate the abundance of gifts and prosperity, many people move to help their less fortunate neighbors. They supervise the soup kitchens because it is one of the best ways to contribute to society's welfare.

### Football

Americans are passionate about football on Thanksgiving Day! A reporter once commented in 1963 that "Thanksgiving ... is a holiday granted by the nation to see a game of football."

### Lavish Parades

Like football games, Americans also watch the grand parade either on television or in person.

### Making a Wish

Following in the footsteps of Etruscans, we Americans make a wish while attempting to take out the "forked" bone from the turkey. The tradition started out in Rome and then English brought it to America. Source: <http://www.thanksgiving.org.uk/index.html>

What traditions do you have with your family and / or community? Many of our townships focus on food banks and holiday food baskets. The ultimate lesson learned during the Thanksgiving season is that it is a nationally recognized day where we are to stop and recognize the bountiful blessings we have in the great

country. Additionally, take available opportunities in our communities to help those who need it.

Traditions are part of communities as well. As we end the 2011 calendar year and start looking at 2012—let's focus on the benefits of our townships and what we can achieve to improve the services and traditions we offer our residents.

I wish you all a happy holiday season!

### Conference Education Session Handouts

As we did last year, the handouts and session materials for the 2011 Annual Educational Conference are available on the TOI website at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org). You are encouraged to print any of the meeting materials you may need prior to the Conference. They will be available until Dec. 31, 2011 for those sessions you may want to look at.

### 2012 Education District Theme Selected

The Education Committee selected the theme "Township Government: Are You Ready?" as the 2012 Educational District Theme. Mark your calendars today with your district meeting. The January *Perspective* will outline the 2012 district program.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR EDUCATION!

<b>March 2, 2012</b>	Education District 3 <i>Crowne Plaza, Springfield</i>
<b>March 8, 2012</b>	Education District 1 <i>Keller Convention Center, Effingham</i>
<b>May 4, 2012</b>	Education District 6 <i>Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria</i>
<b>June 1, 2012</b>	Education District 4 <i>Marriott Conference Center, Normal</i>
<b>June 29, 2012</b>	Education District 5 <i>Hilton Lisle/Naperville, Lisle</i>
<b>July 12, 2012</b>	Education District 7 <i>Giovanni's, Rockford</i>
<b>August 23, 2012</b>	Education District 2 <i>Hilton Garden Inn, O'Fallon</i>

### Township Services Directory Reminder

Several months ago, a request was forwarded to all township supervisors asking for information on the services or programs provided by your township. The intent is to revise and republish a Directory of Township Services last distributed in 1998. We still have not heard from all of you. We are attempting to put together a directory to be used by other townships across the state when they are looking for services that may benefit their townships. Please help us by completing the directory form. You can contact us if you need a new form. Call the TOI office at 866.897.4688 or email me at [jerry@toi.org](mailto:jerry@toi.org).

To date, we have heard from **36** townships and have **102** entries.

Addison	Algonquin	Barrington	Batavia
Bloom	Bloomington	Bremen	Carrollton
Casey	Channahon	Drury	Dunleith
Dwight	Eliza	Foster	Freeburg
Grafton	Harristown	Indian Grove	Lebanon
Lisle	Little Rock	Maine	Makanda
Malone	Moraine	Newell	Northfield
Pekin	Rockford	Troy Grove	Venice
Warren	Wauconda	Winfield	Worth

### Call for All County Associations!!

If you are a member of a county association of township officials and would like assistance in scheduling guest speakers or an event for the townships in your county, please contact the Township Officials of Illinois. You may contact me at [Jerry@toi.org](mailto:Jerry@toi.org) or call the TOI office toll free at 1.866.897.4688.

In 2007/2008, TOI worked with many counties across Illinois that had no or an inactive county association. A few of those organizations have held additional meetings. The Association would like to see more events scheduled. The availability of reaching township officials on a county basis is a greater opportunity than individually. I encourage all townships to form an interest group among their county in order to stay updated on new laws, changes to existing practices and general networking with neighboring townships.

### County Associations:

- Build a power base on local issues
- Build legislative recognition
- Promote public awareness of township government
- Provide educational opportunities for township officials
- Promote community services for township residents



### On our cover...

**AMONG ILLINOIS DELEGATES** enjoying this year's NATaT Conference are (clockwise from left): Carbondale Township Clerk Charles Leming and wife, Donna; Kendall Township Supervisor Ken Walker and wife, Eva; Bristol Township Supervisor Robert Walker and wife, Sarah.