



# from your Associate Director

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## Reaching Your Professional Development Goals

**A**S TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT maintains a significant presence among local government, it is important to have professional development goals for yourself as an elected township official and for your Township as a collective group. The end focus is to provide the best leadership you can to your community.

The Township Officials of Illinois looks at educational programs as the pillar of our goals and objectives for our members. The foundation of all the programs offered annually are aimed to make our members better in their role as an elected township official and assist in promoting your services and programs among your communities.

The processing of information and government requirements has changed drastically over the past decade. The use of the internet and requirement to be "online" is imperative to the success of everything that we do. As we enter the third month of 2021 and continue to move toward eradicating this pandemic causing so much harm across the country, we can highlight a focus on improving

our organizational goals and objectives to better our townships communities regardless of fiscal abilities or access to technology.

The suggestion being made to you as a township is to discuss your two- three- or even four-year goals as an organization. What needs do you have, technology required and even courses to attend to make your job easier and more effective.

As we often remind legislators and townships researchers in Illinois, a large percentage of our townships exist on limited budgets, small staffs, limited office space and small technology budgets. However, they are the most effective, efficient, and cost-effective component of local government.

Therefore, make it an agenda item in April 2021, to discuss professional development for your individual board members as well as the township. The association has delayed the release of the 2021 program calendar due to the pandemic and the inability to secure in person meetings. However, the decision has confirmed our intentions

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to move toward virtual offerings until further notice.

The April 2021, issue of *Township Perspective* will highlight the programs offered in 2021 that includes, but is not limited to webinars, professional development day events as well as our newly elected official training scheduled for August 2021.

The important objective is to discuss with your township boards what can be done to improve the services provided, presence, and future events for the township. Share resources, goals, and objectives. The resources needed are available you only are required to look for them.

### TOI Website Program

- Do you have a website?
- The benefits of a township website are a great way to communicate with your community!
- TOI has an affordable, easy, stress-free option to have a website with little maintenance and knowledge required.

### Good Luck With The 2021 Annual Town Meeting

There are many challenges before us regarding the ATM. We encourage you to plan early and make accommodations to follow social distancing, mask wearing and safety protocol to have the April 2021 ATM. At this point, we have no new directives from the Governor's

Office to postpone or reschedule the event. **THE ATM IS REQUIRED STATUTORILY!** TOI is having a webinar on March 26, 2021 providing an overview of the meeting with time for questions and answers. Information and registration are available at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org).

I hope that you all have a great meeting. Promote attending to your residents and offer explanations to why you have the meeting and the benefits that the township brings to your community.

I have taken several calls this past month regarding the 2020 ATM. You are required to have that meeting as well. If you have not held your 2020 ATM, we recommend that you do so as soon as possible. You are required to have one separate from the 2021 event. Information on holding the annual event is on our website and available in recent editions of *Perspective*.

We are looking for new program content for the educational calendar. If you have information on a new program, please forward it to me at [jerry@toi.org](mailto:jerry@toi.org).

### Promote the Use of Our Website

As we continue to move through the pandemic for COVID-19. I would like to remind you that if you have questions about holding our annual town meeting or other pending issues the TOI website ([www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org)) is the best resource for information.



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