



# from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

**T**HE ELECTION IS OVER, and it is time to get back to the township business at hand. What is that you ask? It is your new term, perhaps your first term, and opportunity to make efficient and effective awareness of just how important your township role is. Look at May 17th as a new beginning for the township. What can you contribute to make it even better than it already was before? We have a very good webinar in the on-demand library from April, 2021 with Keri-Lyn Krafthefer of Ancel Glink discussing a checklist you should consider when leaving office. To register visit our website and online programs at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org). There are many other webinars that can assist you in your township role.

Township Government is a unique and your role is so important to the community that your work, live and serve as an elected official. The new term begins on Monday, May 17, 2021. To all that are new we welcome you to your position. For those returning or perhaps even in a new role we appreciate your contribution to your township government.

As a new term begins, I like to promote the emergence of new thoughts, new programs, new traditions toward improving the image and relationships of your townships with your residents and community.

These are new times. Challenging times for sure. What we have experienced on many levels in our day to day lives over the past year changes our perception of the importance and reliance on solid government functions. We encourage you to discuss with your township boards opportunities to strategically engage and promote effective community involvement. Look at opportunities to improve what services are provided by your township.

## Important New Term Checklist Items

- Make sure that all changes to your membership are provided to the Township Officials of Illinois. Email and Address changes may be emailed to [Pam@toi.org](mailto:Pam@toi.org).
- It is important for all of us to have an active valid email address so that your member profile is updated in in our database.

- Review the current list of educational opportunities that TOI is providing. There are many remote and online opportunities to learn a great deal on various issues related to your responsibilities as an elected official.
- Schedule a time at the next Township Board meeting to plan about future events in the township that can contribute to allowing residents to learn the programs, services and benefits that township government provides.

## 2021 Conference Update

The Association continues discussions with the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on the status of our 2021 Annual Conference. The issue is the phase we can plan the event under as well as the projected attendees. As soon as a determination is made, we will be providing an update on our website as well as emailing our members.

Remember to check our website often for updates, recent legislative reports and various resources to assist you in your role as an elected township official.



Executive Director Bryan Smith greets attendees of the Virtual Topics Day.

# 39<sup>th</sup> Annual VIRTUAL Topics Day!

**T**HIS YEAR, the Township Officials of Illinois brought the 39th Annual Topics Day to our members virtually! With eighteen guest speakers from the Illinois General Assembly, as well as a legislative update from TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson. Attendees also heard from Legislative Committee Chair Arnold Vegter, TOI President Danny Hanning, TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith, and TOI Associate Director Jerry Crabtree.



Associate Director Jerry Crabtree, behind the scenes, speaking to attendees of the Virtual Topics Day.



TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson gave the most recent legislative update to Virtual Topics Day attendees.



Inside the TOI office's Virtual Topics Day command center! Mike Reid from Premiere Audio Visual monitors the broadcast feed of the Virtual Topics Day event.



Trustees Division President, TOI Director, and Long Creek Township (Macon Co.) Trustee Mike Reynolds attended the Virtual Topics Day from the comforts of home!

**The 39th Annual Virtual Topics Day brought in guest speakers from both the Illinois House and Illinois Senate.**



Speaker of the House Emanuel Chris Welch, D-7.



Representative Thomas Bennett, R-106.



Representative Avery Bourne, R-95.



Representative Dan Brady, R-105.



Representative Brad Halbrook, R-102.



Representative Norine Hammond, R-93.



Representative Greg Harris, D-13.



Senator Adriane Johnson, D-30.



Representative Jeff Keicher, R-70.



Senator David Koehler, D-46.



Representative Rita Mayfield, D-60.



Representative Tony McCombie, R-71.



Senator Dan McConchie, R-26.



Senator Laura Murphy, D-28.



Senator Jil Tracy, R-47.



Representative Larry Walsh, Jr., D-86.



Senator Craig Wilcox, R-32.



Representative Sam Yingling, D-62.