



# from your Executive Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Executive Director

## Dear Association Members:

As your new Executive Director, I want to introduce my intentions for the transition into this new role with the Township Officials of Illinois. The changes I will be introducing are nothing more than a focus on *YOU* our member and how we can improve your experience as an elected *Township Official* in local government in Illinois. Additionally, how our resources online and in person contribute to your overall success in your position within and among your individual townships.

The work I have accomplished since 2005 contributes to the many successes of the association. As we

continue to move through the changes coming to associations across Illinois in response to the Pandemic and the influx of advancements in technology in what we do, one thing remains consistent—we will only achieve continued success working together for the betterment of township government.

The TOI Board of Directors includes representation from across the state and continues to represent township government and the targeted goals and objectives for everyone involved.

The Association's *mission statement* remains consistent and constant.

The **Township Officials of Illinois** (TOI), organized in 1907, serves as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies, as well as its member townships. The organization's attention to and involvement with the legislative process enables it to exert influence on behalf of its member units, as well as to report to them on decisions which affect their functioning.

In addition to offering information and guidance, TOI promotes and supports strong township government in the State of Illinois. To that end, it offers a series of continuing education programs designed to provide a sense of responsibility, assurance, dedication, and unity.

TOI recognizes that offering service benefiting the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois requires the representation of diverse constituencies. Its Board of Directors is structured to accommodate that purpose, as are its respective divisions.

The organizations provide leadership for the continuation and effectiveness of strong grassroots government in the state. Through education, dedication, and unity, TOI has achieved and surpassed the goals of its founders and is poised to provide leadership for grassroots government into the 22nd Century.

The goals and objectives of TOI will continue to enhance this statement.

My transition plan is to focus this first year on working with our *members* across the state, both large and small townships to define our statistics in a manner that the members of the Illinois General Assembly, as well as, nationally, can define the importance and realistic contributions that township government makes to the local government structure in Illinois.

We are looking forward to our fall VIRTUAL conference in November. I encourage to assist us in promoting the fall conference as well as, the many educational opportunities that we provided annually. We are developing our plans for next year (2022) and will make every effort to host in person events that bring educational opportunities to you all.

Please know that I need your help. I am open to and encourage member engagement in the development of programs to benefit our association members. I look forward to your feedback on your member experiences with TOI and how we can improve any areas that need attention.

I look forward to this new horizon but most of all I enjoy working with you all to improve and engage township government across the state.

Sincerely,

*Jerry B. Crabtree*