



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

2019 Conference Was a Success!

TOI CONCLUDED the 2019 TOI Annual Educational Conference in November and are happy to report that it was a great success. A special thanks to all who participated, volunteered, moderated, and—most of all—attended the many events held throughout the three-day event. We are tabulating the evaluations and program suggestions already as we plan for the conference next year. We encourage everyone to share with your township boards the materials and knowledge obtained from attending the event. Remember that we have posted all the 2019 speaker materials on the TOI website in the download center. Thank you to everyone who donated food at the TOI exhibit booth. We delivered several pounds of food to the Kumler Outreach Ministry Food Pantry and donated \$108.00 to them. Additionally, we donated \$100 to the Central Illinois Foodbank.

I think that we drove home the conference theme of making and sustaining township government to be **Efficient, Empowering and Innovative**. The educational programs and networking opportunities have benefited your roles as elected township officials and staff.

Plans are underway already for the 2020 conference. We appreciate your feedback on the event and what you recommend to make the event even better. Please send your reviews and suggestions to Jerry@toi.org for consideration by the 2020 conference committee.

A special thank you to the TOI staff and event planners for all that was accomplished. Our team is efficient, and you all contribute a great deal to our success. Thank you to the TOI Board of Directors for their continued support and encouragement to provide the foundations on which we can provide such outstanding events. Their unwavering support and contributions are appreciated.

Save The Date!

**2020 TOI Educational Conference
November 15-17, 2020**

Education Program Update

Please note that, The **January 2020 issue of *Perspective*** is scheduled to showcase the complete 2020 education program, theme and program event dates.

TOI would like to put the March events on your radar now as you may need to request approval at your January township board meeting to attend. We are finalizing the agenda for the 2020 education program events scheduled for the following dates/locations:

March 7 – O’Fallon

March 21 – Rockford

March 28 – Bloomington

Township Election Seminar

July 23 – Springfield

Information to register early by mail is included in this edition of *Perspective*. Soon you will be able to register online at www.toi.org.

The January Professional Development Day is scheduled for Friday, **January 24, 2020** and it is a return of the **Budget Planning** seminar hosted by TOI Executive Director Bryan E. Smith. Registration information for this event is also included in this edition of *Perspective*.

We have a webinar planned for January 22 and February 12 as well for you to consider. Check the website for details at www.toi.org. Remember that all our live webinars are recorded and available in the on-demand library. Access to all of this information is at www.toi.org.

New Association MEMBER database UPDATE!

As mentioned previously, TOI staff have been working toward full implementation and transfer to a new member database providing access to member benefits online and enhancing the member experience for all of you. The complete transfer from the old system is scheduled for January 1, 2020. Watch your email very soon for an announcement asking that you access the member portal and confirm your membership information. Please note that we do not share your email address with anyone unless permission is granted. We understand the privacy issues if you are utilizing your personal email. We encourage and will be promoting in

2020 the creation of an email address to be used exclusively for your work as an elected township official. Please embrace our membership services as we move forward with this database conversion. We need all of our members to participate in all of the benefits provided by this data management system. I am confident that you will find it much easier to review and register for the events provided by the association as well as track what you have participated in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the TOI office.

It is this time of year that I would wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season. It is this time of year that we all appreciate those close to us, as well as, those that are no longer with us. I would like you to also think for a moment for all that are less than fortunate and suffer in many ways during the holidays. They are also deserving of our positive thoughts. The holidays are a great time to reflect on how we can close out 2019 and charter a new frontier in 2020. I wish the very best for all of you and your families this Holiday Season.



J. Crabtree

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