



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Online Training Available to Township Officials



MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME to try to find the good side of anything that presents itself. That's good advice, but it's not always easy to follow. Needless to say, since March 2020, we have all been presented unique challenges to our everyday lives. In my opinion, nothing beats meeting in-person and that unscripted interaction and learning that occurs when meeting with our members. I had only vaguely heard of Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, and Ring Central just months ago. Now, these tools are a regular part of our week. Looking for that "good side," more and more training programs are available. Online training definitely has its place and makes it more convenient. Keeping in-mind that an educated township official is good risk manager. I'd like to highlight some of the trainings that are offered to township officials.

TOIRMA Video Trainings

TOIRMA recently launched a new "Members Only" section of the TOIRMA website, toirma.org. Training videos are available to TOIRMA Members at no-charge. Most are under five minutes, and we are continually adding courses to our catalog. Please don't miss out. Visit toirma.org and click on "Members Only" in the upper right corner of the homepage for access.

Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Trainings

Our sister association does an excellent job in offering numerous online training opportunities. TOI is continually hosting live webinars in which participants have a chance to ask questions to presenters. Past sessions are

also available for viewing at your convenience and pace. TOI also posts select sessions from other events held throughout the year. Please visit www.toi.org for further information.

Illinois Department of Transportation – Technology Transfer (T2) Center Trainings

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Technology Transfer (T2) Center offers township and road district officials training programs. The seminars are free and are on a variety of subjects ranging from highway design, construction, maintenance, and work zone and general safety. Recent "General Administrative Duties of the Highway Commissioner" trainings are also available and an excellent resource. The T2 Center has a new session that meets the requirement of public agencies relating to "Sexual Harassment Prevention" training that must be completed annually.

For a complete listing of sessions offered by the T2 Center, please visit: <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/technology-transfer-center/index> (or search for **Illinois Department of Transportation Technology Transfer Center**).

Illinois Department of Human Rights – Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Effective January 1, 2020, the Workplace Transparency Act (Act) charged the Illinois Department of Human Rights to develop a model Sexual Harassment Prevention training program for Illinois employers. The Act requires all Illinois employers, including local governments, to train employees on sexual harassment prevention. This online training meets the requirements of the Act and should be completed by all employees annually. Please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sexualharassment/Pages/State-of-Illinois-Model-Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training-Program.aspx> or go to the Illinois Department of Human Rights website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/DHR/Pages/default.aspx>, and click on the "Sexual Harassment & Discrimination" link.

As a part of being your risk partner, TOIRMA



encourages you to continually participate and take advantage of training sessions offered online. In addition, we look forward to seeing you in-person at upcoming training programs throughout the state.

We appreciate your consideration and have a safe and happy holiday season.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at: jdonelan@toirma.org.

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