



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

HAPPY FALL TO EVERYONE! The fall season is upon us. Probably a fall season we will all remember for sure! Hard to believe that this new normal has encompassed two complete seasons (Spring and Summer) and it looks as if it will be here for Fall and Winter. Yes, the year 2020 is one that we will all remember what impact it has had on so many aspects of our day to day life.

Personally, I have been impacted up close and personal. If you think you are exempt.... Think again.... My son, Carter (20), tested positive for COVID-19 on September 2 and placed our family on a 14-day quarantine. The hardest part of the entire process is that he was mostly asymptomatic. A mild headache and intestinal issues, but mild if any. My wife, an ER Trauma nurse, was unable to work. My oldest daughter, Hannah (24), was in the final stretch of her master's degree clinicals in Occupational Therapy and she was forced to stop. I was working from home for 14 days. Even with the Labor Day weekend in the middle of our personal shutdown made it a long process. Our daughter, Caroline (22), was attending Graduate school in Edwardsville, Illinois, so she was not able to participate in our newly defined experience of family personal bonding. She gladly accepted the separation request.

The impact is real, the virus is real, and doing your part in following public health guidelines is real. We are never going to get to the other side of this pandemic if we do not participate in our personal contribution to the problem before us.

Please remember that although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed so many things in township government regarding meetings, you should consider scheduling your Annual Town Meeting (ATM) before the end of the 2020 calendar year to complete any important items that need to be addressed by the electors. Additionally, following the guidelines we have provide on our website at toi.org allows you to close out the 2020 year and hopefully we can return to the ATM regular requirement as the second Tuesday in April in 2021. Remember that you are required to keep the attendee size to no more than 50 people, social distance and notify your local county health department requesting approval to have the meeting.

So, my hope is that you all stay safe and well as we move into 7 months of dealing with the new normal. Additionally, that you help us (The Township Officials of Illinois) promote the Virtual Educational Conference in November 2020. This edition of Perspective outlines the program offered and highlights what each of the 6-day event provides to our members and their staffs. Together, we can have a great event, participate in outstanding educational opportunities, and learn how to improve what township government does best – serve our communities!

Your association has crafted a virtual program that serves our primary goals and objectives: To provide educational opportunities to our members in an effort to assist in serving their constituents and communities. Further, understanding their statutory obligations as elected Township Officials in Illinois.

How can you help? I ask that you discuss the 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE at your next township board meeting. Perhaps, send an email to your fellow board members or even make a phone call to ask who is interested in attending the event. For the first time in TOI history, you have the ability to attend so many great educational opportunities for the low registration price of \$99. I challenge you to get those involved who have never attended a TOI event. Together, we can have a great turnout for this event. We are working daily on making this event outstanding. You do not want to miss it!

REGISTER TODAY! Remember that all registrations received by October 15th receive the Attendee box including items submitted by vendors and others. This box replaces what you were able to collect at the exhibit hall when we were able to meet in person! Guarantee your attendee box by registering later than October 15, 2020! You will also be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift Card!

CALLING ALL TOPIC SUGGESTIONS! As we begin to start planning for the 2021 calendar year, please forward your suggestions of program content to me. The webinar offering list is being scheduled and I am looking for new programs to provide our members in 2021. If you have a contact or program suggestion, please forward them to my email at jerry@toi.org. 