



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

WE MADE IT! 2020 is in the rear-view mirror. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

We welcome a new year! Together we survived the turbulent 2020 and we are patiently waiting to forge through the beginning of this new year (2021). Like many of you, I remain positive and focused on new opportunities and experiences in the work accomplished by the many ILLINOIS TOWNSHIPS.

This is a different edition of the January *Township Perspective* magazine. For 15 years, I have prepared the entire education program year; releasing the new program logo, in person meeting dates, and all other events, encouraging and looking forward to meeting new elected officials and returning at our events across the state. Well, that is not the case for this January 2021 edition of *Township Perspective*. Our calendar of pending events for the Education Program is on hold.

We have a webinar scheduled for January 21st, and a Virtual Professional Development Course on February 25th so far for this year. I think of the calendar as snapshots from a camera. We will only get to see what is happening after it develops every month or two as we progress through the year. It is my hope that we will have a better idea of what newly elected training events we can schedule in the April or May edition of the magazine. The tentative plan is to have some type of an event in August 2021. However, that is subject to direction from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor's office.

Virtual events or some type of hybrid event seem to be the new approach to learning. However, you, our members, know that nothing replaces the face-to-face opportunities of an event. It is favored across the spectrum in Township Government. We are making every effort to "get back to normal" in 2021. I ask that you be patient and reflective on what you can do with enhanced training opportunities.

I offer the following list for you to consider this first quarter of the new year:

- What can you do to promote your TOWNSHIP in the local news media?

- Remember that the first full week of March is designated as Local Government Week in Illinois.
- What educational opportunities are you looking to achieve in the 2021 calendar year?
- Have you revised or considered a website for your townships?
- What community events are you promoting and even participating in this year?
- Have you promoted the 2021 TOI Scholarship Program at your local high school?

Your association encourages you to adopt a plan for the year. Think outside the box to reach and encourage a prosperous new year in 2021 among your township residents. Do something to contribute to the overall well being of our township community.

Remember to use this magazine as a guide to your Township calendar. We attempt to approach your requirements organized and highlighted by month. Check the Township checklist and the calendar of events page in each monthly edition of *Township Perspective* for a quick guide to what is scheduled. This year is going to start a bit unpredictable, so we encourage you to monitor the calendar. Additionally, your email. If we have an active email address for you in our database, we will be communicating through that address any important events, legislative matters, or general informational items to inform you of. If you have not been receiving information from our office via email, please contact Kayla Jeffers (kayla@toi.org) or Pam Butler (pam@toi.org) on the TOI staff and have your active email address added to your membership file. Please be confident that we do not share your email address with any third party, or anyone not affiliated with our association goals and objectives.

Remember that the 2021 annual town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th this year. If you have not held your 2020 Annual Town Meeting, we encourage you to do so prior to April 13th so that you can close out the previous year.

In this first quarter of the year, most townships will be reviewing and proposing new budget and appropriation ordinances. We have a very good Virtual Professional Development Course scheduled for **February 25, 2021** on the Budget preparation process with Executive Director Bryan Smith. This will be a live Professional Development Course event with questions and answer opportunities. Register today by completing the form (mail in) to reserve your spot.

Remember to log in to the video library of educational webinars offered on the TOI website. We have a great program by Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer on transitioning your township board. As a recommendation, look at this program if you are planning new officials to be elected in your township. Attorney Krafthefer discusses the importance of making the transition smooth and professional.

Lastly, if you have program ideas, or would like to recommend a speaker, webinar topic etc. We encourage you to contact the TOI office. We are always looking for ways to improve existing services and programs for you our Township Officials.

I wish you continued health, patience, and overall positive energy as we move through the first quarter of 2021.



Advertising Gets Results

Township Perspective ads get results!

Advertisements in *Township Perspective* reach over 11,000 readers across Illinois every month.

Publication reaches:

- More than 11,000 township/road district officials
- More than 605 miscellaneous subscriptions (including state and federal agencies, township staff, news media, and libraries)
- 177 state legislators and 21 U.S. Senators and Congressmen

To learn how you can target this audience with your company's ad, call Katie Hart at (309) 693-9667 ext. 14 or Email: katieh@rbpro1.com



Join us for Lunch & Learn

Medical Marijuana: What You Need to Know

Thursday, January 21, 2021

12 pm | 60 Minutes | \$25 for Members



Join Dr. Aaron Weiner as he discusses the facts and myths of medical marijuana. He will also cover the therapeutic facts of medical marijuana.

Dr. Aaron Weiner is a board-certified Psychologist and owner of Bridge Forward Group, a private practice and consulting organization. He earned his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed his fellowship in Addiction Psychology at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Prior to forming Bridge Forward in 2020, Dr. Weiner served as the Director of Addiction Services at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health in Naperville, Illinois, and the founder and clinical director of the Spectrum Health Addiction Rehabilitation Program in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to his work in healthcare systems, Dr. Weiner is adjunct faculty in the Counseling Psychology Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Webinars are convenient, affordable, and interactive.

Visit toi.org for more information and to register!

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The information to be provided at this webinar is provided by the Township Officials of Illinois for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. It is intended to provide timely general information of interest, but should not be considered a substitution for legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. Participation in the webinar does not create an attorney-client relationship with any attorneys participating in the webinar and participants.