



# from your Associate Director

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LET THE PLANNING CONTINUE for 2018. I hope that all Township Officials have had an opportunity to view the January 2018 *Perspective* magazine and review the course offerings and educational opportunities we have organized for your educational planning this year (2018). As mentioned previously, we encourage you to present a plan to your township boards asking for interest, additional registrations and encouragement in attending the education district event closest to your jurisdiction, as well as, the various webinars and professional development programs scheduled throughout the year. Make this the year that reinvents the board involvement at your township. Make this the year that you offer an educational opportunity to your community of the value township government brings to the overall community. Make this the year you change the perception of local government in your community. Let TOI help.

The program agenda for the education districts is provided in this edition of *Perspective*. The program includes excellent speakers and content. We are asking everyone to bring your questions and be prepared for a great education experience.

The first webinar was held on January 10th on the recent legislation mandating adoption of a sexual harassment policy by all units of local government. The webinar had over 50 participants and produced valuable questions as the policy applies to townships, road districts, assessor's office as well as cemetery boards and multi-township assessment districts. The webinar is still available in our on-line library accessible through the TOI website at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org).

## TOI WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Please note that after consideration and review of comments on the TOI website we are entering a redesign phase of this important component of what we offer our membership. The download center and other widely used access points for our members will begin to experience changes all with one concept in mind—making access easier and navigation more adaptable. This project, upon completion, will provide ease of navigation and better access to the components of the website that are used daily by TOI members. Your patience during this time is appreciated.

We are encouraging the following check list as you continue to move forward with your planning for the 2018 calendar year. Remember that we have several events planned where your presence is needed to assist in educating and networking the township message of important services provided by local government to communities and neighborhoods across Illinois townships.

### FIRST OF THE YEAR CHECKLIST IN YOUR TOWNSHIP

TOI recommends that our members discuss the TOI program calendar in detail with their boards, at the first opportunity, to determine a budget and strategy to attend as many of the provided educational opportunities available to you and your respective boards. Discuss attendance early in the year so that approval and registration can be made in time. Organizing your township programs, education, as well as promotion early in the year ensures efficiency and effective use of the tools provided to you as an elected township official.

### 2018 TO DO LIST

- Promote the TOI Scholarship Program (Deadline is March 1, 2018)
- Register for the Education District Program in your area
- Register for the scheduled Webinars
- Register for Topics Day (April 25, 2018)
- Plan for Local Government Week in your Township (March 5-9, 2018)
- Check with your County Association about a meeting in 2018

### 2018 EDUCATION DISTRICT PROGRAM AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS!

President Hanning is taking his message of returning to the basics to a new level in 2018. His endorsement of a total of seven (7) education events shows his commitment to bringing education programs into the rural and

urban areas of Illinois. He is committed to educating township officials from all four corners of township government on how to get it done efficiently, effectively and most of all correct. He is committed to township government and continues to provide leadership everyone appreciates.

With the program, this year in addition to the regular programming information, TOI is bringing back the video produced four years ago entitled "A Township Board Meeting Gone Bad". This video production shows how many township board practices go unnoticed as a direct violation of the Open Meetings Act and violate current state law. We plan to show portions of this video and provide an interactive session of questions and answers with Attorney Jeff Jurgens from **Sorling Northrop**. This has proven to be a great educational tool.

**Ancel Glink, Diamond, Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC** is providing a session on How to Run your Township Successfully and Navigate the Consolidation Issue. The presenter Keri-Lyn Krafthefer knows township government and is committed to furthering the understanding of township officials on these and other issues. Bob Porter, from this firm, will also provide a session on the ABC's in Township Finance. Bob who

is the Director of Special Projects for **Ancel Glink** has been a contributor on the township budget process for several years.

A newcomer to the TOI program speaker circuit is from **Brown Hay and Stephens** in Springfield. Attorney Chick Davis discusses the impact of intergovernmental agreements in township government as well as an overview of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act in 2018 as we move into year two of the current term. These are issues everyone can adapt and implement for positive practices in their individual townships.

The program has secured a speaker from the Illinois State Comptroller's office to discuss the recent changes in audit reporting requirements. **Rosanna Barbaro-Flores, Director of the Local Government Division** will discuss how townships can comply.

The division component will remain a central role of the education district program. Please plan to visit your township division and participate in their education component of the district events. All of the divisions contribute to the success of the programs offered annually and are committed to the success of educating township officials.

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