

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS

township Perspective

December 2016



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Personal Perspective



Pam Helsel Hoffman
Township Clerk
Crete Township/Will County

My husband Kevin and I recently celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. We have two children and two grandchildren. Our daughter Samantha is a busy, young mother and bank branch manager in Indiana. Our son Scott is a CPA involved with corporate finance/restructuring and travels on business.

What do you like most about township government? *It is grassroots democracy and very accessible to the people.*

What makes your township unique? *Crete Township has a very diverse population and also a mixture of rural areas and municipalities.*

How long have you been involved in township government? *This is my first term as township clerk, but I attended township meetings frequently over the year and have served on the Crete Rural Park Board for several terms.*

How has your perception of township government changed over this time? *I discovered that the clerk's position involves a lot of legal paperwork, such as filings, public notices, election materials, etc. Fortunately, TOI and the State of Illinois websites offer invaluable resources that are extremely*

helpful as learning tools. Also, I would especially recommend attendance at TOI Educational District sessions and the Township Clerks of Illinois Handbook. The pages in my copy are highlighted and dog-eared.

What is your favorite place in Illinois? *The nearby Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township and Monee Reservoir, both are part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County.*

What would you consider your greatest accomplishment? *As a mother, I would say my children; I share this role of parent with a wonderful man. Being valedictorian, earning a Master's degree, starting a business are other achievements, and*

I gratefully acknowledge my husband and many excellent teachers for their support and encouragement.

I wish I could talk to: *Any of the Founding Fathers. They were remarkable men who risked everything for the "great experiment."*

Favorite way to spend free time: *Reading and travel are both enlightening and take you to different places and cultures.*

I most enjoy reading: *Historical novels.*

Favorite childhood memory: *Large family Christmas parties with my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. Good food, lots of fun, many presents!*

What would you like people to know about township government? *As electors, the people of the township have the most influence at the Annual Town*

Give 110% in service to your country and to the people who elected you.

Meeting on the second Tuesday of April. More people should attend.

How would you like to be remembered? *As a caring wife and mother, a person of integrity, and a volunteer who contributed to the community.*

What do you wish you were better at? *Foreign languages.*

What did you want to be when you were younger? *A teacher – and I did teach elementary school after college graduation until I started a family.*

First job and how much I made? *During high school, I worked as an aid in the dietary department of the local hospital for \$1.35 per hour.*

People would be surprised that I'd really like to try: *Ballroom dancing.*

Who are the people that have had the greatest influence on your life? *My father and mother had the most influence, of course. I often find myself saying the same things to my children/grandchildren that my parents said to me when I was growing up. Other people can relate to this experience, I'm sure!*

I'm fascinated by: *Many things. It may sound cliché, but you do learn something new each day.*

My advice for state/national government: *Give 110% in service to your country and to the people who elected you. Like George Washington, return home after two terms.*

Favorite quote: *"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." (John F. Kennedy) The WWII's "greatest generation" is an inspirational example of this.*

Email amy@toi.org to be featured in the Personal Perspective.



LADDER SAFETY TIPS

- Always maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on a ladder when climbing.
- Avoid electrical hazards, look for overhead power lines before using a ladder.
- Don't use the top step/rung of a ladder, unless designed for that purpose.
- Don't place a ladder on boxes, barrels or an unstable base.
- Place ladders a quarter of the working length from the wall or vertical surface.

Climbing is a contact sport.

Every year people are seriously hurt due to ladder accidents. Take a moment to remind your employees of these five basic ladder tips and help keep your workforce safe. When we work together, we all benefit.

If an injury does occur remember to call TOIRMA as soon as possible. Call us toll-free or visit our website to learn more.



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