



GRASS ROOTS REPORT

FALL 2025

59TH CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

BY LARRY SYVERSON

The NDTOA 2025 Convention will be held at the Ramada, 1400 Interchange Avenue, Bismarck ND , on December 8th and 9th. Speakers invited include Governor Armstrong, NDDOT Director Ron Henke to speak about the Flex Fund grants, State Treasurer Tom Beadle will speak about the Flex Fund and Prairie Dog payment timeline and qualifications for the payments; Justin Messner and Brent Kahl will present on FEMA-NDDOT applications and procedures, Tyler Spomer will present on FEMA requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program, and there are still more being lined up. Representatives from NDDOT will be there to answer all your questions about the transportation grant programs. The issues of the budget hearing requirement and levy caps will also be addressed.

Vice President Todd Weber will lead a discussion about a proposal

to make some fundamental changes to the association. If fully implemented the board of directors would be increased from 6 to 9 districts and the president and vice president would be selected from the board members by the board. There is a provision that the selected officers would be ratified by the membership at the annual meeting. If there is a consensus that supports this proposal it would be presented to the 2026 annual meeting as a constitutional and bylaws amendment. If you want to have input on this proposal it is imperative that you attend this meeting.

When the presentations and times are finalized, the agenda will be posted on the website at NDTOA.COM. While you are on the website check out all the features and resources.

On Monday afternoon the annual

business meeting will see elections of the President, Vice President and three Directors. The President and Vice President are not eligible for re-election.

The registration fee for this convention remains unchanged from last year, \$40 per officer attending if pre-registered by November 29. The charge at the door also remains the same as last year at \$60 per officer. Pre-registration really helps us plan for and contract meals, so please take a minute and fill out and submit the registration form which can be found in this newsletter or online NDTOA.COM.

The meeting will be streamed live on Zoom but there will not be any way for virtual involvement in the meeting. If you want to participate, you will need to attend the meeting in person. Check out NDTOA.COM for the Zoom link and updates on the convention program.

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Flex Fund Grant Application Results

BY LARRY SYVERSON

The 25-27 Flex Fund application deadline passed on September 19th. The flex team put together this initial summary from the hundreds of applications. These are high-level numbers which may change as the team evaluates the applications.

The DOT Flex Fund Team has been reviewing the applications and has pre-ranked them, now the Flex Fund Committee will begin meeting in early November to further score the merits of each application before the list goes to the NDDOT Director for final approval.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY LEE BRANDVOLD

Greetings Township Officers,

This is my final Grassroots article as President of NDTOA. I have commented before on how quickly time flies, and in December, I will have served as your president for six years.

According to the NDTOA Bylaws, a person may serve as president or vice-president for two-year terms, with a maximum of three terms. I would like to take this opportunity to express how truly honored I am that you placed your trust in me to lead our well-respected association.

Over the past six years, I've had the privilege of meeting and working with many talented and dedicated individuals. It has been a humbling experience to serve all North Dakota Township Officers, while always keeping public safety as a top priority.

Thanks to the support of township officers for a dues increase a few years ago NDTOA is now financially strong. This stability allows us to continue our vital legislative work, ensuring the voices of township officers are heard during the legislative session.

I would like everyone to know that my favorite part of serving as president was traveling across the state to help put on workshops for township officers. Visiting township officers in person gave me a deeper understanding of the unique challenges each township faces and allowed me to help find practical solutions.

Over my six years as president, the greater part of calls, texts, and emails I received were concerns related to trees within the right-of-way, fences along section lines, and various water-related issues such as culverts and drainage problems.

We now need to turn our attention to the upcoming annual meeting, which will be in Bismarck on December 8 & 9th at the Ramada Inn. During this year's meeting, new leadership for NDTOA will need to be elected. Both the president and vice-president have reached their term limits, and election for Directors in Districts 1, 3, and 5 will be held.

I understand that everyone's schedule is busy, but I am asking you to please make the time to attend your annual meeting in December. The NDTOA annual meeting is a critical time for your association where key decisions are made that will shape our future. By standing together and working as one, we can ensure that our association remains strong and resilient for the years to come.

It has truly been a privilege to serve as your president for the past six years. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your dedication to the mission of NDTOA. I look forward to seeing how our association continues to grow and thrive in the years ahead and wish the best of luck to our new NDTOA board.

Respectfully,

President Lee Brandvold

NDTOA 2025 59th Annual Meeting Registration Form

December 8th and 9th, 2025 Ramada, Bismarck ND

Name(s),and Title(s)	FIRST	LAST	TITLE
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Township _____ County _____

Total No. Attending _____ @ \$ 40 per person **PRE-REGISTRATION before 11/29/25 (\$60 at the door)**
 _____ @ \$ 12 per spouse attending the Monday night banquet
 _____ @ \$ 10 per spouse attending the Monday luncheon **Total Amount Due \$ _____**

Please complete and send this registration form, along with your check payable to NDTOA by November 29, 2025, to Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

NOTE: Townships may pay from their general fund for officer's registration fees and expenses.

For hotel reservations call the Ramada Inn 701-258-7000 by Nov. 25th

Flex Fund Grant Application Results *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Obviously with \$108 million of township requests for \$31.1 million of grants, less than 1 out of 3 will be successful in this round. Those successful will be notified early next year. Those that are not successful should not give up but should seek to improve their applications for the next round. Ask what you could do better; this is important because competitive grant funding is likely here to stay. If your township needs money to fix something, you need to apply, and your application will need to show greater need than the next two applications to win. But the applications that beat yours out this time will not be on the list next time so there might be a chance in a future round!

2025-2027 Flex Fund Grants Initial Summary

410 Applications - \$765,394,671.69 Total Project Costs

- 184 Township - \$112,077,132.67
- 120 County - \$340,976,543.91
- 106 City - \$312,340,995.11

\$517,789,834.78 Flex Funds Requested - (Funds Available)

- \$ 107,985,353.84 Township - (\$31.1M Township Bucket)
- \$ 246,288,016.04 County - (\$44.85M County/City Bucket)
- \$ 163,516,464.90 City - (\$44.85M County/City Bucket)
- (\$80M Prairie Dog Grants Bucket)

Work Types - number of projects (this also includes County and City projects):

Aggregate Surfacing (graveling) - 81; Hot Mix Asphalt - 71; Reconstruction - 53;
 Grade Raise - 39; Grading - 26; Grading and Paving - 24; Replace Box Culvert - 19;
 Pipe - 17; Full Depth Reclamation - 15; Preliminary Engineering Only - 9; Bikeway/
 walkway - 8; Chip seal coat - 8 ; Roadway realignment - 6; Roadway expansion - 5;
 Shoulders - 5; Erosion repair - 3; Hot or cold in-place recycling - 3; Crack Sealing - 2;
 Intersection improvements - 2; PCC Pavement - 2; Railroad crossing improvements -
 2; Slide repair - 2; Slope protection - 2; CPR - 1; Curb ramps - 1; Flashing Beacon - 1;
 High Friction surfacing - 1; Rehab box culvert - 1; Signals - 1



North Dakota is Changing

Hello Township Officers! I'm excited for the opportunity to be a part of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. I grew up in Griggs County and have been involved in my family farm for as long as I can remember. I've spent the last twelve years as the State's Attorney in both Nelson and Griggs County and am the past president of the NDACo. I am now farming full-time, working for NDTOA and Griggs County. I am excited to assist the NDTOA and the member townships in anyway possible.

I'm staring out my office window this morning, watching it rain and wondering when we will finish harvest. I hope we can get back into some dry warmer weather so everyone can finish their beans and corn before we settle into winter. I know there are some of you who have had a dry harvest and others who have had plenty of moisture that may have you dealing with mud in the fields and on the roads. On that note, take some time to do a road and sign survey when you're checking out any last-minute road repairs that need to be completed this year. Make sure to document this for your records.

As a kid I can remember my parents telling me that things weren't like they were when they were growing up. Now that I'm about the age they were when they

gave me their wisdom, I'm going to tell you the same. THINGS AREN'T HOW THEY USED TO BE.

Times have definitely changed, we are now staring down the barrel of companies developing data centers, carbon pipelines, wind towers, and solar panels. North Dakota seems to be on the developers' radar for development with many sites under construction and more being developed every day. If your township is concerned about the proximity of these new developments to your farms or homes I would encourage you to take a look at your zoning ordinances and update them accordingly. Though you can not implicitly or explicitly prohibit development, zoning should help promote the health and safety of your townships.

NDTOA's state conference is scheduled for December 8 and 9 at the Ramada in Bismarck. We're planning on an interesting agenda, with some good presenters and speakers. Please plan to attend the conference. Expenses for attending should be paid by your township, and I promise you will all learn something that will benefit your township. You will also have an opportunity to vote for your State Officers and approve the NDTOA's annual budget.

I hope to see you all at the

conference in December! Tom Moe is a hard act to follow and I have some big shoes to fill, but I hope to answer some of the common questions I receive just as Tom did.

Q: Does the city have the ability to enforce zoning regulations against individuals outside of the city limits, but within a mile of a city?

A: Yes, may by ordinance extend its zoning regulations to land outside city limits to any quarter section of land if the majority of that quarter section is located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city. That distance is determined by the size of the city; it is 1 mile if the population is fewer than 5,000, 2 miles if the population is greater than 5,000 but less than 25,000, and it is 4 miles if the population is greater than 25,000. NDCC 40-47-01.1

Q: We have a resident whose cattle are continually getting out and a few have been hit before. This resident doesn't believe that he is responsible for the boarder fences even if the neighbor doesn't have cattle.

A: Bottom line is the owner of the cattle is responsible for his cattle. A person who fails to maintain fences and allows their cattle to run at large may be charged with a B misdemeanor criminal offense. NDCC 47-26-01 and NDCC 36-11-01.



TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BARB KNUTSON

Here we are, way down into October. Thankful for the fall we have had. Hope this finds all well out in your neighborhoods!

Thinking of things that need to be addressed. I am still missing updated mailing lists for some counties. Seems this year has been a bigger struggle for some reason. Any help I can get in that department is much appreciated as this is a big part of contacting officers with pertinent information. Thanks to all that have helped to date. It is also important to remind officers that it is important that you get the information to the county in a timely manner so they can pass it on.

It has been brought to my attention that some counties that have associations do not bill the

townships for dues. I have received some directly and with them came the dues that should have gone to the county association. That then needs to be rectified. If the association bills townships, the townships would know who to send the dues to, this is especially important if there are new officers. Reminder: Dues are due to the state by May 1 and delinquent October 1. Our fiscal year ends on October 31.

We are always looking for candidates for Grassroots Leadership awards to be presented at the annual convention in Bismarck in December. There are many people that I know that would qualify for this award. They just need to be nominated. Information on website of what is required. Get those nominations

in!

Mark your calendar for December 8 and 9 in Bismarck at Ramada for Annual Convention. Registration information in this newsletter. Encourage your people to attend. Besides the training and information that is provided, this is where important decisions are discussed and made at the business meeting. It is important that we are all aware of this and that we are made aware of any proposed changes and have a vote as to how our association is run in the future.

Thanks to all who are out there in the field doing the work that our people have elected us to do. Hope you all have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

October 23, 2025

NORTH
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Township Officers' Association of North Dakota with Rail/Hwy Crossings

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is requesting your assistance to identify locations within your jurisdiction where rail/highway crossing safety could be improved. The information provided should contain the location of the grade crossing by street or road name and the distance and direction to the nearest town(s). Please be specific about your concern or suggestion for improvement.

NDDOT has annual federal funds available for safety enhancement projects at rail/highway at-grade crossings. These funds are used for the installation of active warning devices (e.g. flashing light signals with gates), crossing signs, and crossing surface improvements.

Please remit your concerns or suggestions before **December 31, 2025**, so they can be included in the annual review process. Be assured past concerns have been incorporated in the statewide pool of prioritized crossings.

Crossing concerns or suggestions can be forwarded via email to: jstyron@nd.gov

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and supporting rail/hwy crossing safety.

JIM STYRON – HWY/RAIL CROSSING SAFETY MANAGER

Grassroots Government Leadership Award

To recognize the leadership, creativity, and dedication of township officials, the NDTOA has established a leadership award to pay tribute every year to an individual whose community service exhibits the highest standard of dedication, ability and service.

ELIGIBILITY

The award will be presented to an individual, locally elected official, currently in office. It will recognize him or her for their outstanding contributions on a sustained basis or from a single performance.

Nominees should have responsibility for accomplishing or causing to be accomplished significant programs or projects within their area of responsibility, to the ultimate benefit of the general public.

Examples of such professional accomplishments include local government cost-cutting, coordination of a major local volunteer effort, and promoting townships at the national level, establishing new local services or programs, and success in securing public or private funding for local projects.

SELECTING CRITERIA

Nomination should include as much information as possible, such as:

- **Complexity of the problem(s) addressed.**
- **Measurable improvements resulting from nominee's accomplishments.**
- **Use of original, innovative or creative approaches and solutions in difficult situations.**
- **Long-term or lasting benefit of the nominee's accomplishments.**

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

Nominations may be submitted by member townships and counties of the NDTOA. A nomination form is below for your convenience. Just complete and mail (or e-mail larry.ndtoa@gmail.com). **Nominations must be received by November 20th.**

North Dakota Township Officers Grassroots Government Leadership Award

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE: Name, office, Township, County, address and phone numbers.

Your name, office, address and phone numbers.

Other objective references: name, office, address, phone numbers.

Please attach a summary of the major accomplishments for which the Township official is being nominated. Also attach as much information as you can, such as a brief biography of the nominee summarizing positions held, civic and professional affiliations, and other relevant personal data. The more information you can provide the better chance your candidate will be selected.

The award will be presented at the NDTOA Annual Convention in December.

Mail (or email) the completed form to: NDTOA; 465-150th Ave NE; Mayville ND 58257-9011

For questions or for copies of this form please phone 701-430-1735 or email larry.ndtoa@gmail.com.

This form is available as a fillable PDF on NDTOA.COM under Resources / Forms.

NDTOA Elections To Be Held

BY LARRY SYVERSON

Officer Elections to be held at this annual business meeting December 8th at 1 p.m.

President: currently held by Lee Brandvold, Ryder.

Vice President: currently held by Todd Weber, Wheatland.

The President and Vice President are limited to three consecutive terms, both Lee and Todd are ineligible for re-election to their current office.

District Directorships to be filled this annual meeting are as follows: (All are eligible for re-election.)

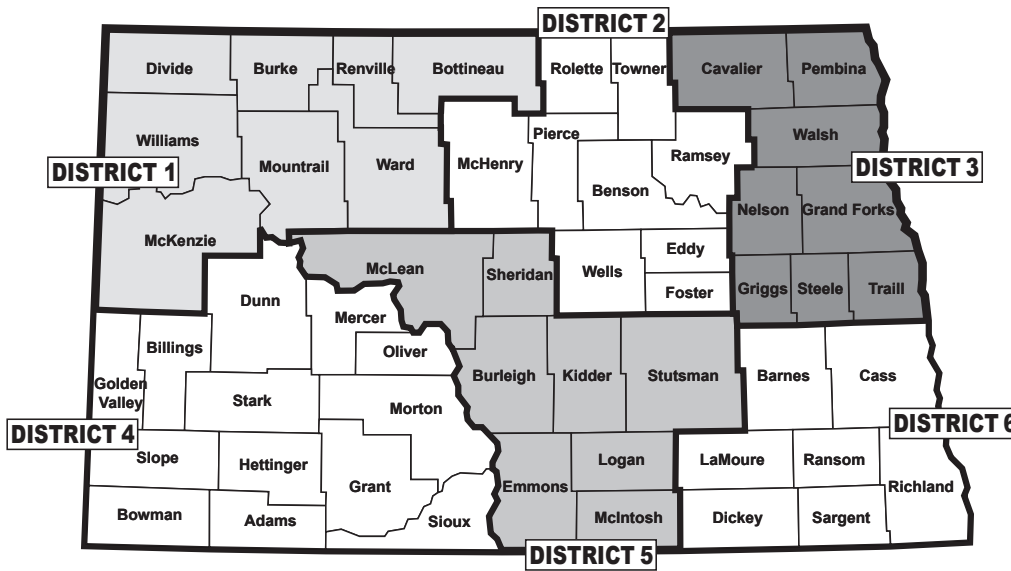
District 1 consists of the following counties: Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Ward, and Williams. Directorship currently held by Tom Wheeler, Ray. (Tom is eligible for re-election.)

District 3 consists of the following counties: Cavalier, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Steele, Traill and Walsh. Directorship currently held by Rod Meyer, Petersburg. (Rod is eligible for re-election.)

District 5 consists of the following counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, McLean, Sheridan and Stutsman. Directorship currently held by Gerald Miller, Bismarck. (Gerald is no longer an elected township officer and thus is not eligible for re-election.)

At the time of election, a candidate to be an officer or director of NDTOA must be a currently elected township officer of a township that is a dues-paying member of NDTOA.

Anyone interested in serving on the NDTOA Board of Directors for those districts or as an officer should contact a nominating committee member: District 2 Director Dale Schmitz, District 4 Director Leon Monke, or District 6 Director Tim Geinert. (Contact information can be found on page 2.)





Save the Date
**NDLA's
Livestock Summit**



Michele Payn, Keynote Speaker

January 27, 2026
10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Delta Hotels Fargo
1635 42nd St. SW, Fargo, ND
FREE ADMISSION!

Calling all North Dakota agriculture producers, landowners, local leaders, and industry stakeholders!
Please join our member organizations and trade show vendors for a fun, inspiring day filled with new knowledge, activities and nationally-renowned ag keynote speaker Michele Payn of Cause Matters Corp. 'Connecting Gate to Plate'





For more information and to RSVP go to;
ndlivestock.org
or call 701-712-1488

NDLTAP RURAL ROADWAY WINTER MAINTENANCE

Developing safe & skilled snowfighters!

Local and Tribal agencies face harsh winter weather challenges for much of the year. This training helps tame those challenges.



Helpful Resources and Training for Plow Operators

- Snow removal policies
- Off-season planning
- Anti-icing and de-icing: methods
- Snow and ice control
- Snowfighting equipment
- Operations Strategy
- Materials Selection
- Environmental Factors
- Application Rates
- Calibration

November 12, 2025
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cass County Highway Dept
East Shop
1201 Main Ave W
West Fargo, ND

November 19, 2025
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Ramsey County Highway Dept
Shop Area
919 5th St SE
Devils Lake, ND

Instructors

Denise Brown, **NDLTAP**
Jason Kraft, **Ramsey** County Road Superintendent & **NDLTAP** Instructor
NDDOT Representative
Ramsey County Operator



Registration ends 3 days before event, registration fee of \$50 will be invoiced by NDLTAP after the class.

Questions regarding class or registration:
tracy.wing@ndsu.edu or 701.612.8632



Grass Roots Report

North Dakota Township Officers Association
2600 236th St. NE
McKenzie, ND 58572



PRSRTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 256
BISMARCK, ND

Check Out The New NDTOA.COM Website!

New look! The site is also mobile friendly so check it out on your phone. Resources, important township information is added frequently – check back often.

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