

# GRASS ROOTS REPORT



FALL 2015

The Official Newsletter of the ND Township Officers Association

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## Notice of the 49th Annual Meeting of NDTOA

By Larry Syverson, Executive Secretary

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North Dakota Township Officers Association will be held December 7 and 8, 2015 at the Grand Hotel, 1505 N Broadway, Minot, ND.

All Township Officers are urged to attend, this is your meeting! Costs such as convention registration, hotel charges and mileage are allowable township expenses.

Convention registration is \$50 per person at the door, \$40 if pre-registered and paid by November 17, 2015. Please mail your check and registration form to: Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

The registration fee also covers the cost of the Monday luncheon and evening banquet.

Hotel reservations can be made at 701-852-3161 or 800-735-4493. Call by November 17 and tell them you are with ND Townships to get the convention rate.

Monday morning registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. The session will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the Presentation of the Flag by the Color Guard from Minot AFB.

The morning will be filled by a list

of speakers. At the time of this printing we don't have times confirmed for some speakers so if you need to know when someone will be speaking call the NDTOA office at a time closer to the convention.

The convention will break at noon for the provided Awards Luncheon and the Grassroots Leadership Award will be presented to this year's selected Outstanding Township Officer.

The convention will resume at 1:00 p.m. with the annual business meeting. Reports of finances and association activities will be given at that time.

Elections for officers and directors will be held (*see list in separate section*).

While all township officers are welcome to participate at the meeting, the by-laws limit each dues-paid county to two (2) votes.

After the adjournment of the business meeting, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a "no-host social" (cash bar).

The evening banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. At that time the Legislator of the Year Award will be presented followed by the banquet speakers.

Tuesday morning registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. the session will begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be presentations by several speakers to fill the morning.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North Dakota Township Officers Association will adjourn by 12 noon on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

### Monday Morning Speakers:

**Kathy Neset**, President of Neset Consulting Service, which is based in Tioga, will fill us in on the many changes in the oil industry.

The effects of the downturned oil market, increased efficiencies and the future of enhanced recovery options such as CO<sub>2</sub> capture and oil well injection.

**Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger** and State Supervisor of Assessments, Linda Leadbetter. Will speak on the new assessment laws including the **Assessor Certification** changes.

**Brent Bogar**, Research Consultant, ND Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties, will give a legislative update. The "Surge Bill" the "Bucket Bill" and how they affected funding in and out of the oil patch. *(Continued on page 3)*

**NEW Phone Number for NDTOA Office: 701-430-1735**

## NDTOA Officers

### **ROGER OLAFSON, President**

12945 84th St. NE, Edinburg, ND 58227  
(701) 993-8765  
rlolaf@polarcomm.com

### **RONALD TUFTE, Vice President**

4945 104th Ave. NE, Lakota, ND 58344  
(701) 247-2614  
rontufte@polarcomm.com

### **LARRY SYVERSON**

#### **Executive Secretary**

#### **Director of Governmental Relations**

465 150th Ave. NE, Mayville, ND 58257  
(701) 430-1735 Office  
larry@ndtoa.com

### **BARB KNUTSON, Treasurer**

2600 236th St. NE, McKenzie, ND 58572  
(701) 673-3198  
barbk@ndtoa.com

### **LARRY SYVERSON, Past President**

465 150th Ave. NE, Mayville, ND 58257  
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### **LEE BRANDVOLD, District 1 Director**

20100 317th Ave. SW, Ryder, ND 58779  
(701) 758-2456  
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### **MARK SHIPLEY, District 2 Director**

PO Box 493, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
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### **AL BEKKERUS, District 3 Director**

1890 12th Ave. NE  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(701) 741-2120

### **LEON MONKE, District 4 Director**

5645 B 106th Ave. SW  
Regent, ND 58650-9119  
(701) 563-4498

### **BARB KNUTSON, District 5 Director**

2600 236th St. NE, McKenzie, ND 58572  
(701) 673-3198  
barbk@ndtoa.com

### **STEVE GINSBACH, District 6 Director**

16290 91st St. SE, Hankinson, ND 58041  
(701) 242-7291

Legal Counsel

### **THOMAS R. MOE**

Attorney-at-Law

39 1st Ave. NW, Mayville, ND 58257

## President's Comments



Hello everyone!

Doesn't seem like three months have passed since the last newsletter but here we are again!

As a result of legislative action the North Dakota Department of Transportation has begun a truck size and weight study. Late this summer ND DOT requested that NDTOA be represented on the committee carrying out this study.

We have appointed Larry Syverson to be our representative on this committee. I'm sure Larry will provide updates on any pertinent action by this committee at the annual convention and in the *Grassroots Report*.

By the time you read this article another fiscal year for NDTOA will have come to a close-October 31st. Even with the higher expense of a legislative year, it appears we will break even or have a slight gain.

One reason for this outcome is an increase in the number of organized and unorganized townships paying dues to the association.

Thank you to anyone that may have played a part in getting these townships on board or back on board.

Since another fiscal year end is at hand that means the NDTOA annual convention must be near. You will find detailed information on the convention elsewhere in this issue.

I certainly would like to see more township officers attending these conventions.

Remember, this is YOUR convention. This is where YOU can find out what has been happening lately in the organization. This is where YOU can learn how to be a more

effective township officer.

This is where YOU have an opportunity to have a say in the future direction of the organization.

In addition to urging more attendance at the convention I would also urge everyone to think about a deserving individual for the Grassroots Government Leadership Award. Information and nomination form are listed elsewhere in this issue.

A reminder as the fall meeting season for county associations begins, we usually have at least one board member attending these meetings if we know about them.

Let's do our jobs diligently and keep our form of Grassroots Government alive and well!

## Grassroots Government Leadership Award Nominations Needed

With nearly 6,000 township officers serving almost 1,200 townships, there has to be a bunch of officers that deserve individual recognition for putting extra effort into the job!

The last few years we haven't been getting any nominations for the award.

This year the Board of Directors decided to start the application process earlier. You will find the application online: [www.ndtoa.com](http://www.ndtoa.com) or write or call Larry Syverson.

*Please help us give those officers the recognition they deserve.*

# 49th Annual Meeting

Cont'd from page 1

**Denise Brown**, Training Coordinator, ND Local Technical Assistance Program.

**Mark Verke**, ND Insurance Reserve Fund.

**Al Jaeger**, ND Secretary of State, Will speak on the application of voter ID laws for elections.

## Evening Banquet Speakers:

President Roger Olafson and Larry Syverson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, will present this year's Legislator of the Year Award.

**Kelly Schmidt**, State Treasurer and **Ryan Skor**, Director of Finance

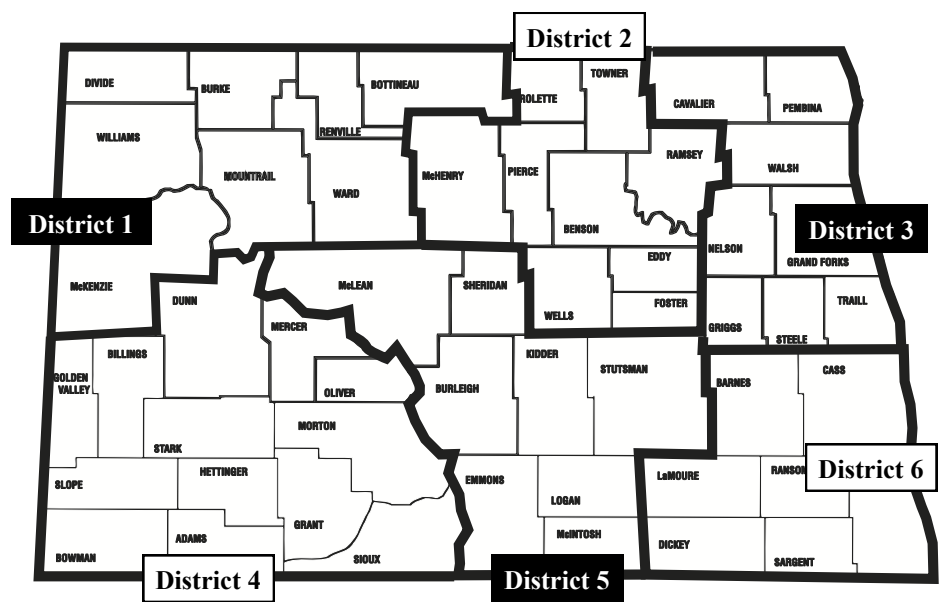
## Tuesday Morning Speakers:

**Brent Bogar**, will present the **ND Uniform County Truck Permit System**, could this system even be used for permitting loads in non-oil ND?

**Donna Bye**, President of ND Planning Association, a primer on: **Planning and Zoning in ND Townships**.

**Alan Dybing**, Associate Research Fellow, and **Tim Horner**, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, NDSU will speak on the **Road Needs Study – Survey** and the **Truck Size and Weight Harmonization Study**. Could 129,000lb GVW trucks be coming?

# Officer Elections to be held at this Annual Meeting



**President: Currently held by Roger Olafson, Edinburg.** (Roger is eligible for re-election.)

**Vice President: Ronald Tuft, Lakota.** (Ronald is NOT eligible for re-election)\*

*District Directorships to be filled this annual meeting are as follows:*


**District 1** consists of the following counties: Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Ward and Williams. *Directorship currently held by Lee Brandvold, Ryder.*

**District 3** consists of the following counties: Cavalier, Grand Forks, Griggs, Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Steele, Traill and Walsh. *Directorship currently held by Al Bekkerus, Grand Forks.*

**District 5** consists of the following counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, McLean, Sheridan and Stutsman. *Directorship currently held by Barb Knutson, McKenzie.*

*\* A candidate to be an officer or director of NDTOA must be a currently elected township officer. Anyone interested in serving on the NDTOA Board of Directors for those districts should contact a nominating committee member: District 2 Director Mark Shipley, District 4 Director Leon Monke or District 6 Director Steve Ginsbach. (Contact information can be found on page 2.)*

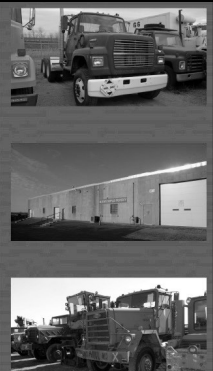




**STATE SURPLUS PROPERTY**  
NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota townships and government entities are eligible to purchase from Surplus Property. Contact us at 701.328.9665 to learn about Surplus Property and to begin shopping from our available property.

[www.nd.gov/surplus](http://www.nd.gov/surplus)



# The Country Lawyer

by Thomas R. Moe, Attorney-at-Law



Greetings!

We've had a very nice fall season, and I'm hoping harvest is going well. The World Series will be here by the time you read this, so winter can't be far behind.

Hopefully, you've been able to take advantage of the nice weather and done a sign survey in your township. It's especially good if you can do some night driving, because that's when the reflectivity—or lack of it—of your signs becomes evident.

We also note there are a lot of new faces on township boards around the state, so the road and sign survey helps the new folks out as well.

Speaking of new faces, we have a couple of good opportunities coming for all of us to have some "face time." The State NDTOA convention will be in December, and our biennial round of township workshops will be at various places in the state next February.

There's a good program lined up for the state convention in Minot on December 6-8, 2015. Look elsewhere in this issue for a complete listing of the both the agenda and the planned speakers.

It's official township business, so officers' expenses for lodging, etc., can be reimbursed by the township.

I always look forward to that meeting, because I often times get to put a face with a voice, because my only communication prior to that get together with you has been by phone.

In addition, township officers should be ready to nominate persons for various positions which may be open, and more importantly, nominate someone from your township for the Grassroots award.

This is a good way to recognize that

officer who goes above and beyond the duties of a township officer in order to make your township a better place to live! Please make plans to attend the annual meeting in Minot.

The February workshops are another great time to get together. The schedule is still a work in progress, but right now it looks like we'll be in the western part of the state the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>, and the second half will begin in the East the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We try to do 15 or so locations so no one has to drive very far to get to a 2 hour workshop, then allowing them to get home the same day.

At these meetings we go over the new changes to the township laws which the legislature passed last year, plus other information is also given out.

And, I usually get to moderate a question and answer session on any topic(s) which the attendees want to visit about. So, mark your calendars for both the State Convention, and the February workshops, so we all can get in some "face-time!"

Here's hoping that the remaining harvest is a safe one. I know the Twins won't be in the World Series this year, but pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training in only 3 1/2 months! Here's some questions I've received in the office recently. TRM

**Question:** We got all the supervisors and the Clerk together for a sign survey on evening at the end of August. We all rode in the same pickup. Was that a meeting of the township?

**Answer:** It wasn't a meeting of the entire township, but it definitely was a meeting of the Supervisors. Any time two supervisors get together, it's considered a meeting.

We obviously encourage supervisors to make this trek to survey the township roads & signs (see above). As long as notice is given about the meeting to do the road survey, then that requirement is met.

You probably gathered together at some place to meet each other, and that place should be included in your notice—usually with the county auditor for supervisor meetings. Failure to do so may cause someone to think those "damn supervisors are having a secret meeting!"

**Question:** We have several of our residents who will be leaving soon for the South for the winter—"snowbirds". Many won't be back in time for the township annual meeting next March. Is there any way they could vote absentee at the meeting?

**Answer:** No. The annual township meeting in March is just that—a meeting. In order to cast a ballot, one must physically attend.

It's not just an election like we have in November, but a time for all residents to come together and carry out the business of the township. Historically, 'towns' have been having this type of meeting since the first one held in Dorchester, Massachusetts in the year 1635, and we are the only political subdivision (other than some fire districts) to have regularly scheduled meetings of the residents.

All others have representative bodies that set budgets, levy taxes, etc., such as city councils and county commissions.

**Question:** We got a check from the state for additional funds which

the legislature gave us. Will that happen again? And are we supposed to account for it separately?

**Answer:** NDTOA was able to persuade the 2015 legislature to allocate some monies to all townships in the state to assist in road repairs and maintenance.

If oil prices stay low, that probably won't happen again—at least to the same extent. Our advice is to spend it, of course, as no doubt the legislature will want to track where the money went.

Earmark it at least for a special road project that you may have wanted to get accomplished. There also was a change to the township special road fund law which we can discuss at one of our upcoming meetings.

**Question:** Can we close some of our trails to deer hunters? They can make quite a mess if it rains.

**Answer:** You mention “trails”—by that do you mean prairie trails which are on section lines? Section lines are open to the public unless closed to all drivers; including the farmer who needs the section line to get to the fields beyond.

In other words, you cannot close a road to one group, but not the other. And, if a road is closed, it must be done with an official class 3 barrier, plus the proper signage.

I think we are all happy when the Thanksgiving rolls around and deer hunting season is done for another year!

**Question:** The county wants to take out a bridge on one of our township roads and replace it with a large culvert. The adjacent landowners don't think the culvert will be big enough. Do we have anything to say about the culvert size?

**Answer:** Bridges are the responsi-

bility of Counties in our state, regardless if the bridge is on a township or county highway.

You should have some input as to the culvert size as it relates to potential flooding of your road. Your concern is not with flooding of the adjacent lands, but only potential damage to the road.

My guess is that the county engineer/road supervisor has properly sized the culvert for road purposes. The County Water Board should hear the landowners' complaints and would have jurisdiction over the route the water takes.

Just be glad that county is putting back a culvert, because we have seen several instances where the bridge has been taken out and nothing put back, forcing the township to permanently close their road.

## NOTICE TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**If your county includes unorganized townships:**  
Is your county paying dues for each unorganized township?  
The per mile funding each township gets is a result of NDTOA effort. If your county doesn't pay dues, someone else is paying your freight! Your county has benefited from NDTOA for many years.

**Have you calculated the benefit your county has received from the efforts of NDTOA?**  
***WON'T YOU PLEASE PAY THE DUES?***



## NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

P.O. Box 2258  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502  
Phone (701) 224-1988 • Bismarck  
Toll Free 1-800-421-1988  
Fax # (701) 224-0609  
[www.ndirf.com](http://www.ndirf.com)

# A CLOSER LOOK AT NDIRF LOSS CONTROL

During a time of turbulent insurance markets in the 1980s, the NDIRF was formed with a goal of providing a stable source of risk services to North Dakota's political subdivisions with a central focus on offering service as only a North Dakota organization with North Dakota employees can.

We all have a stake in the success of the NDIRF and through the hard work of our members, agents, staff, and board members we have proven our ability to meet that goal, year after year.

The NDIRF staff works to quickly and fairly resolve claims, properly underwrite our members' exposures and last, but certainly not least, we assist our members with their loss control efforts on a daily basis.

One of the most impactful ways a member of the NDIRF can contribute to our mutual success is through their loss control efforts.

Naturally, reducing or eliminating claims activity will ultimately reduce NDIRF claim payments. Money saved is moved right back to our members through the conferment of benefits program.

In this article, I would like to take a moment of your time to explain some of the most prominent loss control programs we have available to our members - these loss control services are included with your membership in the NDIRF.

The below list is certainly not all-inclusive of the services we provide and to inquire about additional services or to utilize our services listed below, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

**1-800-421-1988 or  
LossControl@NDIRF.com**

The most popular service we currently provide to our members is defensive driving courses. Our experienced loss control representatives, Mark Verke and Doug Griffin, performed defensive driving courses for over 1,100 class participants in 2014, free of charge to our members.

The course was developed by the National Safety Council. Defensive driving courses offered by the NDIRF can meet the requirements of regulatory agencies, can help reduce auto accidents (which in turn helps lower your NDIRF contribution) and our courses can also assist participants with personal insurance rate reductions and even reduce driver's license points.

Another valuable and unique service provided by our loss control representatives is the handling of special requests of our members.

We receive requests from members for technical loss control assistance on a wide range of topics from post-accident reviews to township road maintenance to aquatics safety.

Given the experience and background of our loss control representatives, there are not many loss control scenarios we haven't seen or heard.

Whatever the situation, if you would like assistance with a liability exposure, please reach out to us. We are happy to assist you in any way we can.

One of the most important loss control activities an NDIRF member can perform is the identification of potential loss hazards and the planning for reduction or elimination of those hazards.

Our liability hazard surveys are designed to do just that, identify hazards and assist with the reduction or removal of those hazards.

NDIRF loss control representatives will periodically schedule a liability hazard survey with your entity and plan on working with you to achieve your loss control goals through team work and our loss control expertise.

The goal of these surveys is not to catch members acting in a manner inconsistent with proper loss control methods.

It is to act as a resource to reduce their potential for loss, creating a safer environment for the citizens, students, employees and volunteers in our organizations and communities - and to ultimately reduce the cost of risk services to the members of the NDIRF.

As mentioned, we will reach out to members to schedule a liability hazard survey periodically.

However, we also take requests. Please feel free to contact us at any time to schedule a liability hazard survey of your entity.

At the end of the day, the NDIRF staff is here to serve our members.

If you have an idea for a loss control service we are not providing or if you can provide feedback to help improve our current services, we want to hear from you!

Please contact me, Brennan Quintus, directly at 701-751-9105 or email:

[Brennan.Quintus@NDIRF.com](mailto:Brennan.Quintus@NDIRF.com).

# THE ASSESSOR SITUATION

*The following description of the changes the Legislature has made to the assessment laws is provided by Linda Leadbetter the State Supervisor of Assessments.*

*If you have further questions or concerns after reading her article be sure to attend the annual NDTOA meeting in Minot on December 7. Linda Leadbetter and Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger will be there to address the membership and answer your questions. Larry*

## **North Dakota Assessment Updates (October, 2015)**

At the end of every legislative session North Dakota gathers the details of the changes and begins to adjust, what may be age-old practices, to the new standards created by law.

### **Notice of Increased Assessment**

House Bill 1057 provides for changes to requirements for the notice of increase. The statute is located in North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) 57-02-53. An assessor is required to provide notice prior to the board of equalization meeting if the assessment has been increased 10% or more AND \$3,000 or more than the previous year's assessment.

If an assessor was not required to provide a notice of increase, but action of the local, county, or state board of equalization results in a cumulative increase of 10% or more AND \$3,000 or more than the previous year's assessment, written notice must be provided to the property owner within fifteen days of the local or county board of equalization or within thirty days of the state board of equalization.

A township, city, or county board of equalization may not increase an

assessment that results in a cumulative increase of 15% more than the previous year's assessment without providing the owner, or an agent of the owner, reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding the board's intention to increase the assessment.

### **Assessor Certification**

Near the end of the 2015 session, House Bill 1059 was adopted. This bill addressed the transmission line taxes, state paid credit, homestead credit, fire protection district levy authority, and assessor certification.

Assessor certification was previously managed under North Dakota Administrative Rules. That administration is now included in North Dakota Century Code and reduces the levels of certification to two. The following defines the requirements for North Dakota assessor certification resulting from the adoption of HB 1059:

#### **Class I:**

Have a high school diploma or its equivalent

Successfully complete 180 hours of assessment and appraisal instruction approved by the state supervisor of assessments in the following areas:

Tax administration.

Principles and theories of value.

Residential property appraisal.

Commercial property appraisal.

Agricultural property valuation.

#### **Class II:**

Have a high school diploma or its equivalent

Successfully complete 80 hours of assessment and appraisal instruction approved by the state supervisor of assessments in the following areas:

Tax administration.

Principles and theories of value.

Residential property appraisal.

Commercial property appraisal.

Agricultural property valuation.

***The previous Township and Class II City assessor certificates will not be renewed.*** As previously noted, Class II assessors will be required to complete eighty hours of education to become certified. Subsequent renewals will require ten hours of continuing education every two years.

Any assessment made by an assessor that is not certified must be reviewed and approved by a certified assessor **prior** to the township or city board of equalization meeting.

The Class II certificate may be obtained without requiring any travel. The schedule for education allows for substitutions of classroom education if pre-approved by the state supervisor of assessments.

County directors of tax equalization have been provided specific course substitution information. The following schedule has been established for the Class II assessor certificate (for pre-approval of substitutions for the classroom instruction, please contact the Office of State Tax Commissioner):

40 Hours Online Instruction – International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)

801 – Site Analysis

802 – Introduction to Cost Approach to Value

803 – Introduction to the Sales Comparison Approach

*Cont'd on page 8*

## The Assessor Situation

Cont'd from page 7

804 – Introduction to the Income Approach to Value

10 Hours Self-Guided Instruction – Agricultural Land Valuation through the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner

30 Hours Classroom Instruction - Course 101– International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) - Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisal (Residential)

OR

30 Hours Classroom Instruction – Course 102 – International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Income Approach to Valuation Course (Commercial)

The assessment jurisdiction and assessor may determine the course that best suits the type of property within that district when choosing the commercial or residential course for certification. Continuing education requirements will allow the assessor to obtain more specific instruction for the other class of property prior to renewal of the certificate.

Cost to obtain the Class II certificate is estimated at \$1000 and may vary depending on course selection and travel and lodging expenses if classroom education is selected.

Again, it is important to note that any assessment made by an assessor that is not certified must be reviewed and approved by a certified assessor **prior** to your township board of equalization meeting.

Questions regarding the education schedule may be directed to your county director of tax equalization or to the Property Tax Division of the Office of State Tax Commissioner 701.328.3127 or toll free at 877.328.7088, option 6.

## Treasurer's Report

by Barb Knutson

District 5 Director, NDTOA Mail List



Happy Fall! It has been a beautiful one!

With October here, we are coming down to the end of the fiscal year. I am happy to say that dues have come in quite timely.

There are some that are still out there. Still time to get them in this year. I want to thank you for getting them in and I want to thank the counties that have chosen to pay for their unorganized townships.

This is a great help to us in affording the representation we all need at legislature and the unorganized townships benefit same as the rest. So thanks again for seeing the need.

The work is constant on the mailing list, trying to get all the changes made before this issue needs to go out.

For the most part, the lists are looking good, but am still hearing from some that they are just getting those changes now.

The auditors have been very help-

ful in our quest for addresses, so we all need to do our part in getting that information to them right after the annual meetings in the spring.

If there are changes, let them know. If it all stayed the same, let them know. I have been getting quite a few cell phone numbers and emails included. That is also very helpful. Thanks!

A special thanks to those that come with the plus 4 on the zip code. We need that to mail the Grass Roots.

Looking forward to the annual meeting in Minot on December 7 & 8. Look for more information on reservations in this newsletter.

Hoping a good many of you see the importance of attending. We will have information that should be helpful to you in your own townships. The cost of the attendance can be paid by your townships. Hope to see you there!

### SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE NDTOA ANNUAL MEETING

If your county has an issue that you feel should be addressed by NDTOA, bring it to the annual meeting as a written resolution.

All written resolutions should be sent to the NDTOA office : Larry Syverson, 465 150<sup>th</sup> AVE NE, Mayville ND 58257 or given to your District Director no later than Friday, Nov. 27, 2015.

They may also be emailed to the office at: [larry@ndtoa.com](mailto:larry@ndtoa.com) by Friday December 4, 2015

The Resolutions Committee will meet on Sunday evening December 6, 2015 after the close of the Board of Directors Meeting.

Steve Ginsbach, 16290 91st Street SE, Hankinson, ND is the Committee Chairman.



# 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 specific reference to the following features of the nominee's accomplishments as applicable:

- ❖ 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. **Nomination deadline is November 13, 2015.** If additional nomination forms are needed, contact:

**Al Bekkerus**  
1890 12th Ave. NE  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(701) 741-2120

A nomination form is below for your convenience. Just complete and mail. It's that easy!

## North Dakota Township Officers Grassroots Government Leadership Award NOMINATION FORM

Name, title, local government, address and phone number of NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name, address and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide name, address, day phone, title and affiliation of two objective references who can evaluate the nominee's accomplishments:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief biography of the nominee summarizing positions held, civic and professional affiliations, and other relevant personal data. (Not to exceed two typewritten, double-spaced pages.) Also attach a summary of the major accomplishments for which the local official is being nominated, keeping in mind the examples and criteria listed above. (Not to exceed four type-written, double-spaced pages.) The award will be presented at the County Association Annual Meeting and the NDTOA Annual Meeting in December.



# Treasury Notes

## Additional Township Distributions

*By State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt*

In addition to the “surge” distributions our office sent out in early March, the 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly also allocated for a one-time township distribution to be distributed in February of 2016.

Section 8 of House Bill 1012 allocates \$5,000 to each organized and unorganized township in the 43 counties that were not in the top 10 of oil and gas production for FY 2014.

The counties included in this allocation are the same as the counties that received township distributions under the “surge” distribution.

The only difference in language is that a township is not eligible for an allocation of funds under this section if it does not maintain any township roads.

There are a number of unorganized townships across the state that do not maintain any road miles and, under this bill, the county would not be eligible to receive a distribution on that township’s behalf.

As you may recall from our Spring 2015 Grass Roots Report column, an allocation of \$5,000 “per township” doesn’t always end up with each specific organized or unorganized township receiving

exactly \$5,000.

As with previous lump-sum township distributions, it has been determined that the Legislature intended to distribute \$5,000 to each township and range number.

Under this interpretation, there are a number of scenarios which lead to an organized or unorganized township being allocated more or less than \$5,000.

Most of these scenarios involve bodies of water that divide a specific township and range.

In the instances where a river or lake splits a specific township and range number between different organized townships or even different eligible counties, the split in dollars is calculated using the ratio of maintained road miles in each portion of the township and range and the \$5,000 is divided accordingly.

Another instance occurs when an organized township encompasses more than one township and range number.

In the case of an organized township encompassing more than one township and range number, the organized township would be eligible for \$5,000 for each whole township and range number in



which it maintains miles.

With all of that being said, be sure to be on the lookout for this special township distribution in February 2016.

As with all township distributions made by our office, these amounts will be distributed to each eligible county to be further distributed by them to the townships.

All of the township distributions made by our office are searchable on our website at [www.nd.gov/treasurer](http://www.nd.gov/treasurer).

Please don’t hesitate to call my office at 701-328-2643 with any questions. We are on social media! Be sure and like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for current information relating to our office.



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**NEW Phone Number for NDTOA Office: 701-430-1735**



## Grass Roots Report

North Dakota Township Officers Association  
2600 236th St. NE  
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