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GRASS <sup>*</sup>	
NDTOA	<b>LEPORT</b>

FALL 2019
The Official Newsletter of the ND Township Officers Association

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## NDTOA 53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

Will be held at the: Ramada Inn, 1400 East Interchange Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota, in the Heritage Ballroom on December 2nd & 3rd 2019 Registration at the door begins at 7:30 AM each day; the programs begin at 8:30 AM.

Early Pre-registration (must be received by November 25<sup>th</sup>): \$40

Registration after November 25th and at the door: \$60

Mail to: Barb Knutson

2600 236th St NE McKenzie ND 58572

The reservation number for rooms at the Ramada Inn is 800-922-5548 or 701-258-7000 Tell them you are with NDTOA to get the price. To get the block rate, rooms must be reserved by November 18th.

## THIS MEETING IS FOR ALL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

We are putting together a program with state officials and others.

Justin Kringstad, ND Pipeline Authority, will give a report on pipeline developments in the state.

Brent Bogar will report on "Prairie Dog" Funding.

NDLTAP personalities Denise Brown and Dale Heglund will present Sign Inspection and Inventory Made Easy, and NDLTAP Training – gravel, motor grader, culverts and more. Leanna Emmer will present LoadPass, How the System Works (Live Demonstration).

Someone will answer the question. What are "wise roads"?

Josh Loegering, LaMoure Co. Hwy Dept. Superintendent, will demonstrate the use of culvert-sizing software which is available without cost.

Amber Boeshans, ND Livestock Alliance, will speak about livestock friendly communities. ND Livestock Alliance is a PLATINUM SPONSOR of the NDTOA 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention, THANKS NDLA!

Terry Traynor & Genny Dienstmann, ND Association of Counties, will report on NDACo services and operations. If you have questions about zoning and writing a comprehensive plan for your township, Natalie Pierce, the Morton County Planner, will give a presentation on planning and zoning and will answer your questions and give pointers on writing a comprehensive plan that will fit your township.

Tom Moe, our Country Lawyer will give his report and presentation and then be ready for your questions, so bring them. During the business meeting Monday afternoon a President, Vice President and 3 Directors will be elected.

For the latest information about the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention go to: NDTOA.COM/CONVENTION

## **NDTOA Officers**

#### **ROGER OLAFSON, President**

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

#### LEE BRANDVOLD, Vice President

20100 317th Ave. SW, Ryder, ND 58779 (701) 758-2456 ljbranch@restel.com

## LARRY SYVERSON Executive Secretary

Director of Governmental Relations 465 150th Ave. NE, Mayville, ND 58257 (701) 430-1735 larry.ndtoa@gmail.com

#### **BARB KNUTSON, Treasurer**

2600 236th St. NE, McKenzie, ND 58572 (701) 673-3198/(701) 391-6767 barbk@ndtoa.com

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

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

#### **THOMAS WHEELER, District I Director**

6561 115th Ave NW, Ray, ND 58849 (701) 641-1073 wheelert@nccray.com

### RICHARD LYNNE. Distruct 2 Director

4951 28th St. NE, Maddock, ND 58348 (701) 438-2747/(701) 202-6067 rrlynne@gondtc.com

#### **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 (701) 563-4498

#### **BARB KNUTSON, Dist. 5 Director**

2600 236th St. NE, McKenzie, ND 58572 (701) 673-3198/(701) 391-6767 barbk@ndtoa.com

## TIM GEINERT, District 6 Director

509 2nd St., Nortonville, ND 58454 (701) 685-2493 (701) 320-6120 cell geinert@drtel.net

#### Legal Counsel

### THOMAS R. MOE

Attorney-at-Law 39 1st Ave. NW, Mayville, ND 58257

## **President's Comments**

Hello again everyone,

Weather comments? Well, maybe not this time! Suffice it to say I hope everyone is able to peck away at harvest and other fall tasks that need to be done.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Sen. Cramer hosted a roundtable discussion in Bismarck on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) issue. He brought in EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to take part in the discussion. Nearly two dozen organizations were represented at this meeting.

As President of NDTOA, I was invited to represent townships as one of the stakeholders attending the conference.

Over the past couple years or so, legal challenges to the 2015 WOTUS Rules were brought forth by organizations and a group of states, including North Dakota. This action was instrumental in two Federal District Courts ruling that procedures used to establish the 2015 Rules were not legal, many definitions were too broad, and smacked of a power grab by EPA.

But, as AG Stenehjem pointed out, there is a good possibility that proponents of the 2015 Rules will appeal the decision of those courts, so the battle isn't over yet.

In September 2019, EPA and the Department of the Army issued a rule to repeal the 2015 WOTUS Rules.

Administrator Wheeler agrees with this decision and hopes current efforts to redefine WOTUS Rules will make them less intrusive and overreaching. It was obvious to me that Mr. Wheeler is anxious to make EPA

a much less intrusive and a more rural friendly organization.
Time will tell!



I would encourage all township officers to try your best to attend the NDTOA annual meeting in Bismarck in December. Turnout for this event has been disappointing the past few years considering the large number of township officers that are in the state.

Townships are allowed to reimburse their officers for expenses incurred for attending such functions. Detailed information and registration instructions can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Coming up, in the not too distant future, we also have the Workshop Tour in February. Preliminary info can be found in this issue with final details coming in the first quarter 2020 issue.

Here again, I would encourage all township officers to make an effort to attend one of these meetings. Information presented at these workshops can be very useful to new officers as well as those that have been in office for some time but still may not be fully aware of their duties and responsibilities. The itinerary is set up so that no one has to drive very far to attend.

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



**WORKING FOR YOU!** 

## The Country Lawyer by Thomas R. Moe, Attorney-at-Law

Greetings! By the time you read this, the World Series will have been completed, and not sure if my team won or not-all I know is that the Twins need to get some better pitching!

They say baseball is a game of inches, but sometimes even if the strike zone was three feet wide, some pitchers still could miss it. Oh well, Spring training starts in February, so hope springs eternal, I

And speaking of February, the biennial workshops are just around the corner as well, and are a great time to get together. The schedule is pretty much finalized, so we'll be in the western part of the state the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>, and the second half will begin in the East the week of February 24th.

We try to do many 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. See the schedule and locations listed elsewhere in this issue.

At these meetings we go over the new changes to the township laws which the legislature passed last year, Mark Verke from the Insurance Reserve is there with a presentation, plus other speakers host various topics, and the new edition of the handbook 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. Please consider attending the workshop when it comes to your area.

An even sooner time to meet and greet you comes very shortly, as our

annual State NDTOA convention is in Bismarck in a few short weeks from the publication of this newsletter. The planning committee has been hard at work and the agenda and names of our invited speakers are listed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

The state convention is official township business, of course, so township reimbursement of their officers' expenses to attend is proper. I've talked to several of you over the course of the summer who have attended—and never vou promised me that you would be there! I think lots of people don't realize the convention and meeting is for everyone, but rather only for certain designated people or delegates-nothing could be further from the truth.

This convention is for all township officers, and there is no one more important than each individual township officer! As we always say, township government is true grassroots government, and it is from each township officer that we learn new ideas and better ways to do things.

Please consider coming to Bismarck for your state convention—besides, I enjoy meeting you and finally being able to put a face with a voice and a name. So, mark your calendars for both the State Convention, and the February workshops, so we all can get in some "face-time"!

Try to get a sign and road survey done yet this fall. Make note of those signs that are deteriorating and those that may need replacing. Use the forms that the Insurance Reserve has, or create your own.

Regardless, document your trip around the township.



Hunting season is also upon us, and remember, that closing roads to just hunters, while keeping them open for everyone else is not allowed. I'm afraid we will have a lot of muddy roads this fall, so hopefully rural drivers will use some common sense and stay off those roads that are in poor condition.

We've got a couple of opportunities to get together in the next few months, with both the State Convention and the regional workshops in the offing. Give us a hand and promote these opportunities with some of your neighbors and get them to attend as well. Following are few questions I've received in the office. See you soon! TRM

Question: Can we reimburse ourselves for expenses incurred while attending the NDTOA convention in Bismarck? How about the February workshops?

Answer: Absolutely!! Educational opportunities are official township business, and quite frankly, it is prudent and almost required for an officer to receive up-to-date training on a regular basis. And, don't tell me the township doesn't have the funding-annual training can and should be part of all township budgets.

Question: We have a trail on the quarter line—(between two quarters Continued on page 5

## The Country Lawyer cont'd

of land) that runs down to a river. A new homeowner at the end of the trail claims it's a township road and that we are required to maintain it. Do we have to?

**Answer:** Probably not, unless the township has taken over the quarter mile road in the past, because perhaps the section line(s) in either direction were not useable because of topography?

My guess is that the trail is there simply because the adjacent quarter owners agreed to allow it. And, you mention a river, so maybe the hunters/fishermen/public has been using the trail for several years as well?

There is a way for an easement to occur if the public has been using a trail for 20+ years without any objections. The burden will be on the homeowner, however, to make the case for a 'public easement by prescription'—in which case the township would then become responsible.

**Question:** Two of our supervisors are "snowbirds" and go South for the winter. Neither will be back for the March annual meeting. Can they participate by phone?

**Answer:** Probably. Public meetings can have a phone conference hook-up, as many of our County Commissions and other Boards and committees do it quite regularly.

One problem that will occur, however, is the logistics for handling the secret ballot which township law requires.

Interestingly, we have had several townships where there have been contested officer elections. The question will be is how does the person attending via the phone submit a ballot secretly? Of course, voting on motions and other routine business is usually done by verbally pronouncing 'Aye' or 'Nay', or just a showing of hands, anyway, so the phone person could verbally record the vote on those matters.

Finally, remember the March annual meeting is for the residents, so technically, the supervisors' attendance is not necessarily required. (Except many times they are the only ones there!!)

**Question:** Our township road crosses a railroad, and some of the warning signs have bullet holes, are not very reflective, and are hard to see. Who is responsible for these signs?

**Answer:** The advance warning signs—those that are prior to the tracks—are the responsibility of the township. The signs that are right at the tracks are the railroads.

If it is the railroad's signs that are the problem, you should send them a letter, either to the trackmaster or the roadmaster about the situation. That will document your concerns.

You may also want to contact the County Sheriff as well, and he can contact the railroad about the unsafe condition.

**Question:** What is a 'set-back' ordinance? We heard that our neighboring township has set-backs?

Answer: A set back is a zoning provision that requires all permanent structures—e.g. buildings, trees, shops, houses, barns, grain bins, etc., must be "set back" a certain number of feet from the road; usually more than the 33 foot right-of-way standard we see with

section line roads. Many are 50 feet or more. It helps to relieve the township road of all those structures being too close to the road that create snow drifts, plus keeps sight lines open for the travelling public.

We will have a zoning discussion at both the State NDTOA convention and at the February workshops. (I thought I would end this with a commercial!)

## SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS

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. 22, 2019.

They may also be emailed to the office by Friday, November 29th at:

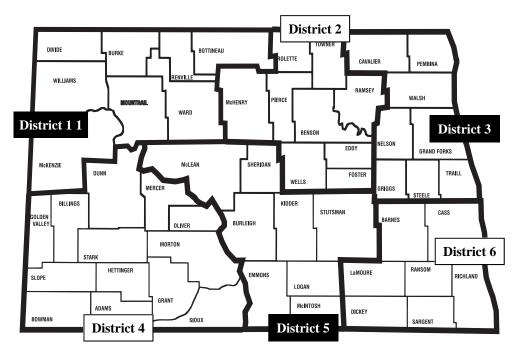
larry.ndtoa@gmail.com.

The Resolutions Committee will meet on Sunday evening December 1, 2019 after the close of the Board of Directors Meeting.

## Committee Chairman Tim Geinert

509 2nd St Nortonville ND 58454 (701) 685-2493 (701) 320-6120 cell

## **NDTOA Elections to be Held**



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

Officer Elections to be held at this annual meeting:

**President:** currently held by Roger Olafson, Edinburg. (Roger is NOT eligible for re-election.)

**Vice President:** currently held by Lee Brandvold, Ryder. (Lee is 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 Thomas Wheeler, Ray.* 

**DISTRICT 3** consists of the following counties: Cavalier, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, 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.* 

## We need your help! See page 11 for details.

## **Nobody Named for Grassroots Leadership Award!**

Somebody was definitely more qualified, dedicated and served the Township in some outstanding way; but Somebody didn't get nominated in 2018. Perhaps we should have printed the form and reminder earlier and more often, we will try to do better on that. The form is now also available on the website: www.ndtoa.com

There is a lot of room on the form to list qualifications, fill in what you can. It doesn't have to be completely filled in but the more information you can provide the better chance your candidate will have. The nominations have to be in our hands by November 15 each year but the earlier the better.



## Go to www.ndtoa.com to Find More on the Discussion Tab

## NDTOA.COM/Discussion forum

The Discussion Forum page of the NDTOA.COM website can be a source of answers to problems, very often someone else has had a similar issue and the solution is already available here. Here are a just a few samples of Questions and Answers from the page.

## Can multiple members of a family serve on a township board? March 2019

QUESTION: Can two members of one family be elected to the board, when other residents are running?

ANSWER: There is no prohibition on multiple members of a family being elected or serving on a Township board.

The requirements to serve on a Township board or to vote in a Township election are the same as voting in a general election.

Must be a citizen of the US over 18 years of age and have lived in the precinct (Township) for at least 30 days before the election.

Owning land in the Township does not entitle a person to vote in the Township; a person that has been elected to the board that subsequently moves out of the Township is no longer qualified for the office.

## Can clerk/treasurer also serve as township supervisor? February, 2019

QUESTION: Do we need four people on our board? One of our board members has moved and no longer can serve on our board. We cannot seem to find someone else in our township to take his place. Can the Clerk-Treasure also play the role of a supervisor? As of now we have three supervisors and one Clerk/Treasurer. In March when we meet we will be down to two supervisors and 1 Clerk/Treasure. What do you

recommend we do?

ANSWER: ND Century Code 58-05-02 indicates that the same person cannot hold the offices of supervisor and clerk-treasurer. How many residents of your township are eligible to vote in township / general elections? They are all eligible to hold an elected office in the township, and to many people's surprise, this includes women.

Do all you can to stress the importance of keeping the needs of the township under the control of the residents of the township. We have heard of townships disbanding for similar reasons to your situation and then ask later how to reorganize due to the dissatisfaction of services the county is now providing, or not providing.

Many Townships are in the same predicament. It is time to start working together to preserve local control.

It is very likely that some of your neighboring Townships are also having difficulty filling the board. There is a procedure in Township law that permits a group of Townships to operate under a common board; that way not as many people are needed from each Township. Talk with your neighbors. It might be something that would work for you. Contact North Dakota township Executive Secretary Larry Syverson for specifics. You can find NDTOA contact information here: http:// www.ndtoa.com/ officersanddirectors.htm

#### **Minutes Books**

QUESTION: Where can I find minute book for our township? The one we have now is full. It is called a Faultless SO-1203 4-ring binder with 7 tabbed divisions.

ANSWER: I have the same binder with about 16 divisions. I believe they are not available anymore.

I kept a master copy of the pages I use and copy more as needed, my scanner will copy and print legal size documents. I found pre-punched legal size paper at an office supply store, not sure which one, to make new copies. I then pull out some of the pages from older years and put them in a vinyl/clasped folder for storing.

## Tree and Brush removal within Right of Way

QUESTION: At our annual township meeting, we voted to require landowners adjacent to section line township roads, to have trees and brush cleared back 33 feet on each side of the township road. The reason being is that trees and brush have grown too close to the township roads, which hamper the movement of farm machinery and impede snow removal during the winter time. Obviously, some of the landowners have not mowed their ditches, causing brush and trees to grow in the ditches. What type of formal notice do we need to do, to inform the adjacent landowners that they need to cut back brush and trees within the 66 feet of section line roads? We want to give formal notice to the landowners, to ensure adequate notice is presented. The Supervisors may have to hire a contractor to clear noncompliant adjacent roadsides. resulting in a bill for the adjacent landowner.

Would a Certified Letter have to be sent to all landowners with land along the section line roads? Could

cont'd on page 7

## Discussion Tab cont'd

a notice in the legal section of the county newspaper suffice, as providing notice to the landowners? Signed, Overgrown Township

ANSWER: A couple areas of NDCC probably apply to this problem. Chapter 63-05 (page 215 of the 2018) township officers handbook provides direction on how this problem could have been avoided in the first place.

Most counties publish a notice every year about mowing the right of way(33'each side of the section line) and the consequences for not doing so.

NDCC 24-06-28 thru 24-06-31 beginning on page (77 of the 2018) version of township officers handbook may also apply in this case, giving direction on how to deal with obstructions in the right of way. We are of the opinion that townships, landowners, and operators may have to work together to clear up some of these problems that have been festering for a long time from the lack of due diligence on the part of all involved.

These are just a few of the questions posted in the forum; check it out at NDTOA.COM/Discussionforum

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN MEETING, FROM ELECTION CAKE TO LEMON MERINGUE PIE

Source: New England Historical Society

Town meeting wasn't exactly what the Puritans had in mind when they came to New England to build their cities on a hill.

Samuel Stone, who came over with Thomas Hooker and John Cotton, described the Congregational Church government as "a speaking Aristocracy in the face of a silent Democracy."

Some Puritan leaders like John Winthrop were reluctant to allow a noisy Democracy in civil government. William Bradford, on the other hand, was the moderator of the first-ever Town Meeting in Plimoth Plantation in 1622.

## NDTOA 2020 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE SET

NDTOA will again be presenting regional workshops to deliver the new 2020 Edition of the Township Officers Handbook. There will be no charge for this workshop. The schedule will be repeated in the next issue of the Grassroots Report with more details about the program. All Township Officers are urged to attend, county officials are also welcome.

## **2020 WORKSHOP ITINERARY:**

February 10	Newburg – Senior Citizens Hall: 1:00-3:00 PM
February 10	Minot – North Central Research Center 5400 Hwy 83 S 7:00-9:00 PM
February 11	Stanley – Fairgrounds - Community Hall 1:00-3:00 PM
February 11	Williston – Airport Ramada Inn 5813 Jefferson Lane 7:00-9:00 PM
February 12	Wildrose – Fire Hall – 12 Noon- 3:00 PM (12 noon lunch provided by local sponsors)
February 13	Bowman – Bowman Lodge & Convention 207 US-12 1:00-3:00 PM (MST)
February 13	Regent – The Enchanted Castle 7:00-9:00 PM (MST)
February 14	Steele – Steele Community Center 108 W Broadway 1:00-3:00 PM
February 24	Larimore – American Legion Club: 1:00-3:00 PM
February 25	Park River – City Hall: 1:00-3:00 PM
February 25	Langdon – Courthouse - meeting room 7:00-9:00PM
February 26	Devils Lake – Courthouse Basement meeting room 1:00-3:00 PM
February 26	Jamestown – Quality Inn, 507 25th St SW 7:00-9:00 PM
February 27	Lisbon – Veterans Home "Town Hall" 1600 Veterans Drive 1:00-3:00 PM
February 27	Casselton – City Hall Auditorium: 7:00-9:00 PM
February 28	Fessenden – Fairgrounds – Festival Hall 9:30 – 11:30 AM

## NDSU UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

## 2019 TOWNSHIP ROAD NEEDS STUDY SURVEY

Please return this survey in the enclosed envelope by **November 20, 2019**. Please direct any questions to Alan Dybing at 701.231.5988 or <u>countytwp@ugpti.org</u>.

Township:		County:		
Contact:				
	Name	Phone	Email	
Preparer:		Date Prepared	:	

### **Gravel Costs**

## **Township Roads Need Survey**

This month, more than 2,000 surveys are being mailed to county and township officials across the state to obtain updated information about cost of gravel from local pits, trucking costs, placement costs, blading costs and costs of any dust suppressants used. The survey also asks questions about blading frequency and graveling frequency and other maintenance costs. The survey was designed with help from an advisory group made up of county road officials. Information gathered will help researchers estimate investment needs for maintaining the state's more than 60,000 miles of gravel roads. Uniformity in completing the survey is critical. UGPTI hosted a training webinar on Oct. 23. **The webinar will be available for replay on the UGPTI website. www.ugpti.org** 

Alan Dybing, Ph.D.

Associate Research Fellow - Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Gene M. Gehrke, Past President of NDTOA

Gene Myron Gehrke, 86 of Aneta, ND passed away on September 29, 2019 at Luther Memorial Home in Mayville, ND

Gene was a long time township officer serving Rugh Township in Nelson County; he was very active in the Nelson County Township Officers Association. In December of 1991 he was elected president of North Dakota Township Officers Association and served as such until December of 1995.

During his term as NDTOA President, North Dakota was the "Featured State" at the National Association of Towns and Townships annual September conference.

Twenty eight North Dakota Township Officers attended that conference in Washington DC.

Gene also helped out lobbying in Bismarck for NDTOA and the state water districts. One of the successes of this time was a 76 page "toolbox bill" which provides a framework for cooperation between governmental entities.

Besides serving the townships Gene was very active in the community, volunteering as Santa, and visiting shut-ins. He also served on several boards for many years; such as the Aneta School, Sundahl Church, Good Samaritan Center, Aneta Booster Club and Turkey BBQ, and Nelson County Water Resource. After retiring from farming he enjoyed volun-



teering and supporting the Pioneer Village at Stump Lake.

Governor Art Link presented him with an "Outstanding Community Leadership Award" in 1980 when Gene had just started his devotion to community service.

He is survived by Bonnie his wife of 62 years; three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

## **Statewide Planning Issues and Needs Survey**

NDTOA, ND Association of Counties, ND League of Cities and ND Planning Association are working together to develop an interim legislative study about planning and zoning issues in North Dakota. The first step in this process will be to gather information and input from townships, cities, counties across the state, via an online survey.

We have a lofty goal of hearing from every township, city, and county in North Dakota. So please take the survey (about 12 minutes) and encourage all your elected officials, planning and zoning commissioners, and colleagues from other political subdivisions in North Dakota to omplete the survey too!

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Pierce at 701-667-3361 or natalie.pierce@mortonnd.org

You can find a link to the survey at: NDTOA.COM/zoning

CHECK OUT THE NEW FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE...

HOT TOPIC BUTTON

www.ndtoa.com



# North Dakota Livestock Alliance ndlivestock.org

Do you have questions about animal agriculture in your community?

Do you want to learn about livestock development?

Visit our booth at the ND Township Officers Association Convention – December 2 and 3 at the Ramada Bismarck.



## Treasurer's Report by Barb Knutson

Can't really tell what season this is! When you push the snow back and the grass is as green as June and the trees all still have their leaves, rather a confusing picture. However, according to the calendar, it is coming to the end of our fiscal year, October 31.

This is the date that all dues are to be paid so we can get them in the correct year. Thanks to those that are current. If you have not paid, it is not too late!

The calendar also tells us it is coming up on State Annual Convention in Bismarck. Dates for that are December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Look for more specific information in this edition of *GrassRoots Report*.

I am still finding people that are not aware of this being a reimbursable cost to the townships. Keep track of your cost and time spent and turn it in to the township. In addition to that, you can come to Bismarck, do some learning and socializing and help make our convention a success! As usual, we are working very hard on getting an agenda and speaker list that is of interest to you as well as help us all learn how to better do the work we are doing.

Still having issues of getting up to date mailing lists from the counties. Whether they are not getting the updates from the townships or if they are not doing these updates is a big question to me. I hear both statements being made.

However, it is super important for us to have the most up to date lists in order to get information to new officers or to the officers that have changes of address etc. I really appreciate the folks that are sending this info directly to me, and for the counties that are keeping their lists up and



furnishing them to us. Thanks a lot!

**REMINDER:** Make reservations at Ramada in Bismarck for the annual convention. Deadline for getting into the block of rooms is November 18, 2019. 800-922-5548 or 701-258-7000.

Please remember to send in your nominations for Grassroots Leadership Awards.

Hoping our Indian summer lasts way into winter. Also hoping to see a lot of you at the convention. Thanks for all you do out there in each of your townships!

It is important to our state!

# NDTOA 2019 53rd Annual Meeting Registration Form December 2 and 3, 2019 Ramada, Bismarck ND

'	bootinger E and C, ECES	rtamada, Bisme	
Name(s) and Ti	tle		
City, State, Zip			
Township		County	
Total No. Attendi	ng @ \$40 per person PRE-REGIS	TRATION before 11/18/	19/(\$60 at the door)
	@ \$10 spouse attending the	Monday Night Banquet	Total Amount Enclosed
	@ \$ 7 spouse attending the	Monday Luncheon	\$
November 25, 2	e and send this registration form, along w 2019 to Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE os may pay from their general fund for off	E, McKenzie, ND 58572.	·

## North Dakota Township Officers 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 <a href="mailto:larry.ndtoa@gmail.com">larry.ndtoa@gmail.com</a>). Nominations must be received by November 22nd.

## 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 <u>as much information as you can</u>, 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 <a href="mailto:larry.ndtoa@gmail.com">larry.ndtoa@gmail.com</a>.



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