

ITASCSC News

November 2022

Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens' Services Committees

FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Dear ITASCSC Members, Elected Officials, and Friends,

It is hard to believe that this is our first newsletter in three years. The COVID-19 pandemic upset many facets of our lives and work; it was particularly impactful to older adults. Throughout the pandemic, ITASCSC proved to be a vital link to townships who had to navigate quickly and competently in order to serve our most vulnerable citizens. I am proud of the amazing work done by our member townships.

Despite some hurdles, there were many highlights from the past three years. ITASCSC conducted a membership mailing in early 2022 resulting in the highest number of members in recent memory. Our members joined meetings virtually and in-person and shared resources to better serve our residents. The ITASCSC website added a "members only" section with replicable program ideas and document templates. Each of our member townships offered creative, cost-effective, and innovative programs during the pandemic.

A few examples of township activities include the Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center offering one of the first vaccine clinics during the pandemic, successfully vaccinating 440 participants. Schaumburg Township launched the "Send a Smile" campaign inviting community members to send a card to an isolated older adult in their township. Fox Valley Older Adult Services provided car bingo where bingo was offered to people in a socially distanced manner. Maine Township created a variety of game show-style activities presented outside their facility under a tent. Hanover Township launched an in-home care program to provide non-medical services to older adults in need. Ela Township crushed their fundraising goal for the Alzheimer's Association, raising \$2,600! This is just a small sample of the amazing work by our member townships!

We are thrilled to return to in-person activities with this year's annual education conference. I encourage you to attend one of our sponsored sessions on Monday, November 14 or the ITASCSC Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 15 (see page 3 for more details). We invite you to congratulate our annual *Commitment to Senior Services* award winners who we are proud to recognize during Tuesday's Awards Breakfast. The two education presentations represent emerging concerns among older adult service providers: the lack of affordable and accessible housing and our ability to sensitively and compassionately respond to people with dementia.

As always, ITASCSC remains ready to support the townships of Illinois and their goal to provide exemplary services to older adult residents.

Respectfully,

Megan Conway
Hanover Township
Director of Aging Services



Our mission is to enable townships to provide services necessary to empower older adults to maintain independent lifestyles within their communities.

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Benefits to ITASCSC Membership

- ⇒ Network with other professionals serving older adults
- ⇒ Five in-person meetings per year (February, April, June, August, November)
- ⇒ Training and educational workshop opportunities
- ⇒ Legislative updates on issues affecting older adults and townships
- ⇒ Support, information, and resources in establishing a senior committee, expanding programs, launching a new idea, or troubleshooting an issue
- ⇒ Access to “members only” section of website
- ⇒ Eligibility for annual awards

2022 Award Winners

Please congratulate this year’s

Commitment to Senior Services Award Winners

Township of the Year

Rich Township

Elected Official of the Year

Joe Burgess, Clerk, Washington Township

Senior Director of the Year

Laura Wassinger, SOAR Director, Dorr Township

Senior Staff Member of the Year

**Betty Erickson, RN, Adult Day Service Director,
Fox Valley Community Services**

Senior Volunteer of the Year

Patricia Koko, Oak Park and River Forest Townships

Innovative Senior Program of the Year

Home Services Program, Hanover Township

The Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens’ Services Committees is proud to sponsor the

“Commitment to Senior Services Awards.”

These awards are presented at the awards breakfast during the annual education conference of TOI on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. They are given in recognition of outstanding commitment to meeting the needs of older adults.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE— CHECK OUT WWW.ITASCSC.NET FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS!

ITASCSC-SPONSORED SESSIONS

Education sessions will be Monday, November 14.
The Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, November 15.

2:45 PM—3:45 PM **Housing for All Ages: *Aging in Our Communities Creatively***

This session provides a brief overview of Missing Middle Housing as well as information on shared housing, including the Homesharing Pilot launching in River Forest Township. The panelists touch on co-housing and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Ruth talks about Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and the Village Movement (stressing the importance of staying engaged as people get older). Tony from Marion Street Services shares information about modifying the inside of your home, as well as adding rooms or an ADU to a home/property for family, friend or caregiver.

Presented by Betsy Burton Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator, River Forest Township; Tony Roeder, Marion Street Services; and, Ruth Reko, MSW, Pd.D., Arbor West Neighbors.

4:00 PM—5:00 PM **Dementia Live**

Dementia Live is an innovative program designed by a team of dementia, sensitivity awareness, and professional development experts from the nationally recognized AGE-u-cate Training Institute. Using specialized gear within a safe, experiential setting, Dementia Live participants experience a real-life simulation of what it is like to live with dementia, gaining greater awareness and understanding. Dementia Live is the newest tool in the arena of sensitivity awareness training used to help direct care staff, professionals, and caregivers.

Facilitated by Lisa Phillipson and Deborah Reynolds Hogg, Hospice of Southern Illinois

10:00 AM—11:20 AM **Annual Meeting**

ITASCSC members and interested individuals are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting of ITASCSC. During the Annual Meeting, members will review the bylaws as well as conduct elections for board positions in 2023. No advance registration is necessary.



TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Many townships provide transportation services to adults aged 55 and over as well as individuals with disabilities. We invite you to join our Quarterly Transportation Calls with other transportation professionals to share information, review best practices and network.

For more information, please contact the transportation sub-committee chairperson, Dino Kazeos, Hanover Township, dkazeos@hanover-township.org.



Save the date for 2023 Meetings!

- ◆ January 10 at 10 AM
- ◆ April 11 at 10 AM
- ◆ July 11 at 10 AM
- ◆ October 10 at 10 AM

MEMBER TOWNSHIPS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Aging Care Connections | Monee |
| Berwyn | Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center |
| Bloom | Oak Park and River Forest |
| Dorr | Oregon-Nashua |
| Downers Grove | Palatine |
| Ela | Proviso |
| Fox Valley Older Adult Services | Rich |
| Gardner | Schaumburg |
| Geneva | Stickney |
| Granite City | Thornton |
| Hanover | Troy |
| Harlem | Vernon |
| Indiantown | Washington |
| Leyden | Wauconda |
| Maine | Wheeling |
| McHenry | Worth |
| Millstadt | Zion |
| Milton | |

2023 Membership Registration

Membership Dues: \$75 for up to 2 delegates. Membership is from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023. Checks should be made payable to ITASCSC. Please mail to:

Monika Jaroszewicz, Maine Township
1700 Ballard Rd, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Township: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

1st Delegate Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

2nd Delegate Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For more details, visit our website at www.itascsc.net.

2021-2022 Officers

President

Megan Conway
Director of Aging Services
Hanover Township
mconway@hanover-township.org

Vice President

Jim Dalbec
Assistant Community Programs Director
Ela Township
jimd@elatownship.org

Treasurer

Pam Mahn
Director of Senior Services
Oak Park and River Forest Townships
pmahn@oakparktownship.org

Financial Secretary & Perspective Coordinator

Lynndah Easterwood Lahey
Director of Senior and Disability Services
Wheeling Township
llahey@wheelingtownship.com

Secretary

Desiree Scully
Executive Director
Aging Care Connections
dscully@agingcareconnections.org

Publicity Chair

Vacant

I.T.A.S.C.S.C.

Serving
Township
Seniors

www.itascsc.net