The educational sessions described below are designed to provide knowledge, enhance your skills and inspire you to become a truly effective leader. Topics are designed for elected officials at every level, from townships of all sizes, and, in addition to statutory duties, address a variety of concepts, trends and current issues in township government.

Please note that speakers, topics and times are subject to change. Consult your program booklet on-site for the final schedule.

**Tuesday, April 28**

**Concurrent educational sessions**
10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

**Budgeting for Beginners: What to Do, When**
Does approving the budget mean the board has authorized those expenditures? How does the board set itself up for success? If you’re feeling uncertain about how to handle the budgeting process, we want to help! Whether your township has a budget of $50,000 or $50 million, preparing, adopting and implementing a budget are among the board’s most important responsibilities. Get a better understanding of budgeting basics, whether you’re new to the ranks or a veteran board member.

*Speaker:* Mike Selden, MTA Member Information Services Director

**Building a Better Relationship with Your Assessor**
As a board member, you have relationships both inside and outside the township hall. Now more than ever, it’s critical to have an effective working relationship with your assessor. You can help clear those communication channels by communicating expectations. Who do they report to? How and when do they meet with the board for reporting or updating? Get ideas for building a stronger relationship with your assessor, and walk away with insights into assessment administration in your township.

*Speaker:* Shila Kiander, Michigan Master Assessing Officer, Director, Mecosta County Equalization

**Employment Law Update**
It just takes one employee to create employment issues. Get an overview of what you need to know when it comes to your township hall as a workplace. From implementation of the new Fair Labor Standards Act exemption change to problematic personal relationships, we’ll offer insights to keep your township out of hot water. Learn more about hot-button employment issues, such as whistleblowers, sex discrimination and “Me Too” developments.

*Speaker:* Karen Kienbaum, Founder and Principal, The Kienbaum Law Group, PC, and President, JustUs® Programs

**Insights from Inside the Capitol**
With the second year of the 100th Legislature underway, learn firsthand the priorities the governor and the Legislature hope to achieve this year. What issues are in store for the budget, given the 2019 budget battles? Discover the answers to these questions and how they may impact your township and its residents. Don’t miss this opportunity to identify the challenges of today’s political landscape, the “hot” issues, and how you can influence both current and emerging issues.

*Speakers:* MTA Government Relations Staff

**Open Meetings and Closed Doors**
Get a practical review of the Open Meetings Act and clear direction on decisions made in public meetings and deliberations behind closed doors. Get tips for handling the public at your meetings, mitigating the appearance of “secret meetings,” meeting minutes and more!

*Speaker:* Seth Koches, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC

**Renewable Energy Resources**
As demand for renewable energy grows, developers are looking for communities to host solar and wind projects. Learn how these projects may complement—or conflict with—your township goals and how to start the renewable energy conversation with your community before a developer shows up. We’ll introduce new resources, including templates, case studies, answers to FAQs about planning and zoning for wind and solar, and a database of all zoning ordinances in Michigan so you can see how other communities are planning for energy.

*Speakers:* Sarah Banas Mills, Ph.D., Senior Project Manager, University of Michigan; and Catherine Kaufman, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC

**Scooters and Townships**
As if out of the blue, electric scooters that can be rented by the public for a nominal fee appeared in our townships. Soon thereafter, townships were dealing with scooters left in bizarre or dangerous places, left in the snow, or abandoned. Learn about how your township can prepare for the inevitable onslaught of scooters.

*Speakers:* Christopher Patterson and Kendall O’Connor, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzycz Rhodes PLC

**Small Box Discount Retailers and Big Dollar Zoning Issues**
Small box discount retailers—aka “dollar stores”—are significantly impacting local economies, particularly small businesses and local grocers. Get an overview of the economic impact, industry expansion strategies, how this industry growth limits access to healthy food options for low-income families by edging out grocers, and what municipalities in other parts of the country are doing. Then, we’ll focus on zoning options townships can adopt to address discount retailer growth, as well as the related opportunities, risks and complications such zoning changes may bring about.

*Speaker:* Michael Homier, Shareholder, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

**Big Dollar Zoning Issues**
Small box discount retailers—aka “dollar stores”—are significantly impacting local economies, particularly small businesses and local grocers. Get an overview of the economic impact, industry expansion strategies, how this industry growth limits access to healthy food options for low-income families by edging out grocers, and what municipalities in other parts of the country are doing. Then, we’ll focus on zoning options townships can adopt to address discount retailer growth, as well as the related opportunities, risks and complications such zoning changes may bring about.

*Speaker:* Michael Homier, Shareholder, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC
Weed Better Talk
Hear the latest from the state’s Marijuana Regulatory Agency on the evolving landscape of the industry in Michigan. Get an update on medical and adult-use regulatory programs and how they may impact your township.

Speaker: Andrew Brisbo, Executive Director, Marijuana Regulatory Agency, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Concurrent educational sessions 1 to 2:15 p.m.

ADA in the Township Hall
Recognizing triggers for and applying the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) properly is difficult, but critically important for members of your township team with disabilities, as well as your residents and stakeholders coming into the township hall. Learn practical steps for a successful and meaningful ADA analysis, how the ADA fits in with the Family Medical Leave Act, key requirements in the processes, forms, and other tips for navigating one of the most complex areas of employment law and avoiding liability for your township.

 Speakers: Helen “Lizzie” Mills and Chad Karsten, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

Assessing Forms and Functions
In assessment administration, forms are how data is reported. There are a lot of forms, and your board should be aware of most of them and what they mean. Why? Because these forms pass through many hands on your township team … your assessor, the treasurer, your board of review, the supervisor, and even your residents. Get an overview of forms, applications and resolutions that relate to assessment administration in your township.

Speaker: Shila Kiander, Michigan Master Assessing Officer, Director, Mecosta County Equalization

Before the Dust Settles: Insights into Sand & Gravel Mining
Local officials may find themselves caught in the middle of the dustup between the gravel industry, the Legislature and your residents. Gain insights into siting and extraction rules, the pitfalls facing local control, and how they might be changing. Walk away with insights into regulating operations in your community.

Speaker: Catherine Kaufman, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC

Communicating Your Message
In 1996, Bill Gates wrote an essay titled, Content is King. Since then, “content is king” is still heavily quoted in the communications industry. Why is content king and how can township officials best communicate that? Think you don’t have much content to share, or the time and resources to invest in that? Think again! A veteran communications consultant and former township team member herself will share tips for success, and explore the best way to communicate your message.

Speaker: Deborah Guthrie, Owner, Guthrie Communications, LLC

Educating Your Voters About Proposal 3
Proposal 3, passed by Michigan voters in November 2018, called for extensive election reforms. Do your residents know how that impacts their options for registering and voting in 2020? In the current climate of misinformation campaigns and social media bots, the messages of trusted, official sources are more important than ever. Discover ways to educate your voters about changes to the absentee voting and registration processes using communication guidelines and plug-and-play outreach templates.

Speaker: Whitney May, Director of Government Services, Center for Technology and Civic Life

Township Happenings LIVE!
Are you a fan of the “Township Happenings” column in your monthly Township Focus magazine? You won’t want to miss the live version! Come hear your fellow officials tout their township pride from statewide! You won’t believe some of the creative things being done in townships from every corner of our beautiful state. From fundraising to blight razing, walk away with inspired ideas (and maybe even a plan!) to implement creativity in your own community.

Speaker: Mike Selden, MTA Member Information Services Director

Understanding Township Financial Statements
This insightful session will dissect an audited financial statement. Together, we’ll review fund types, full accrual vs. modified accrual financial reporting, and fund balance categories. Learn the importance of the notes to the financial statements, and gain insights into GASB 84, which outlines how to identify and report fiduciary activities, including its impact on your township’s reporting requirements.

Speakers: Representatives from Plante Moran

What to Do With a Marijuana Initiative Referendum
Your township has made a local decision to prohibit or restrict adult-use (recreational) marijuana businesses—but now you’ve received a petition to place a referendum on the ballot at the next election, with a proposal to allow marijuana businesses or impose fewer restrictions. What happens next? What if the ballot measure passes? And what can the township say about the ballot measure without violating the Campaign Finance Act? Explore this new legal territory and these difficult (but important!) questions.

Speaker: Laura Genovich, Shareholder, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

Concurrent educational sessions 2:45 to 4 p.m.

Are Your Sign Regulations Legal?
In the 2015 Reed et al, v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona, et al, decision, the U.S. Supreme Court took a rigid stance on the regulation of signs with respect to their content. This had the effect of eliminating regulations specific to political, real estate and a host of other content-based signs. Sign regulations for communities were instantly made ineffectual, and created a scramble to amend ordinances to comply. Learn from skilled land use and legal experts about this decision, including what you need to do to bring your ordinance into compliance.

Speakers: Steve Langworthy, Planner; and Ross Leisman, Attorney, Mika Meyers PLC
Buy-in Comes from Bring-In:
Hearing Every Voice in Your Community
When considering change in your
township, are you doing the outreach
needed to bring in your neighbors’
hopes, dreams and ideas for their
community? How do you ensure you are capturing—and including—
voices from every segment of your
community? Glean insights for hearing
and including each of your neighbors’
voices to effect change.
Speaker: Nancy Ohle, President,
Professional Training & Development
Resources

Election Security
Don’t miss this informative session
describing the new ways Michigan
is securing the polls and managing
misinformation. Learn more about the
new software that will assist the state
during elections, gain insights into
best practices and get an overview of
changes that may lie ahead.
Speaker: Ashiya Brown, Election
Security Specialist, Bureau of Elections,
Michigan Department of State

Emotional Support Animals … in the Township Hall?
Federal laws impose certain obligations
on your township when it comes to
accommodations involving animals,
whether during the work day, at a
public meeting, or as an exception to
your zoning ordinance. Learn about
therapy animals, emotional support
animals, and other hairy issues that can
put township officials in the difficult
position of having to deny sympathetic
requests.
Speakers: Matthew Kuschel and Kyle
O’Meara, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz
Burzych Rhodes PLC

Project Management Planning and Pitfalls
Learn a simplified, collaborative
approach to the project development
process that will help your township
assemble the right team, avoid
common pitfalls, manage risk, and
streamline operations. This approach
can be used by any group, regardless
of the size of the township, scope of the project or internal resources
available. Get an insider’s look at the
development process and tips for
completing projects on time and on
budget even when daily duties and
decisions threaten to pull you off track.
Speakers: Roxanne Seeber, MTA Legal
Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall,
Seeber and Kaufman, PC

Technology and Social Media Pitfalls for Townships
Public bodies and public officials
are using social media to advertise
and promote township events. The
Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the
Freedom of Information Act
were adopted in the 1970s and did
not contemplate new technology
and social media. Learn potential
pitfalls townships face when using
social media, including using private
accounts for “public” purposes and
addressing comments on social
media. Find out how email and other
technological advancements can
impact record retention, public record
disclosures, and increase the risk of
OMA violations.
Speaker: Anne Seurynck, Shareholder,
Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

Understanding Township Millage Questions
Is a millage election in your township’s
future? As townships grow and
revenue sources become more limited,
an understanding of voted millages
can help townships finance much-
needed programs and services. Bring
your plans and questions for class
discussion, including whether to use
a new millage or a renewal, mandated
elements of a millage ballot question,
tips for scheduling millage questions,
and how far a township board can go
to promote a ballot question.
Speaker: Catherine Mullhaupt,
MTA Staff Attorney

What Every Official Should Know About Boards and Commissions
How do we handle vacancies? Are
“alternates” allowed? What happens if
the appointment wasn’t timely? Get
an overview of the various boards
and commissions that your township
is responsible for, their make-up
and appointment schedules. We’ll
review why it’s important to ensure
your township is up-to-date on all of
its appointments and offer tips for
charting appointments to ensure that
they stay current.
Speaker: Roxanne Seeber, MTA Legal
Council, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall,
Seeber and Kaufman, PC

What is Hemp and How Does it Impact My Township?
Hemp and marijuana are both
cannabis plants, but hemp has
much lower concentrations of the
component that provides the high for
users. Legalized in the 2018 federal
Farm Bill, hemp fibers and stalks
are being used for a wide variety of
purposes. The Michigan Department
of Agriculture and Rural Development
has a program designed to pilot the
growing and processing of industrial
hemp in the state. Come learn more
about the pilot program and gain
insights into the possibilities for
Michigan farmers.
Speakers: Gina Alessandri, Industrial
Hemp Program Director, Michigan
Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development; and Theresa Sisung,
Associate Field Crops and Advisory
Team Specialist, Michigan Farm
Bureau

Informational Sessions
4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Social Networking with MTA
Curious about networking with peers
online using MTA’s Community
Connection? Need help navigating
the resources and information on the
members-only side of MTA’s website?
Ready to explore our mobile app? We
can help! Let us show you how to stay
in touch with the new friends you
meet at Conference with Community
Connection. We’ll demonstrate our
website’s “Answer Center” and the
wealth of information it provides, along
with the benefits of our year-round app.
Speaker: Aimee West, MTA Social
Networking Specialist

The Inside Scoop on County Chapters
Not part of a county chapter? You
can be! County chapters provide an
opportunity for township officials to
discuss common problems and more.
All members are invited to attend and
learn how county chapter members
across the state maximize their
meetings.
Moderator: Cindy Dodge, MTA
Member Information Services Liaison
Wednesday, April 29

Concurrent educational sessions
10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Advantages of Aerial Imagery
Looking for a way to improve your sense of how (and where) your township is growing? Think the cost of aerial imagery puts it out of reach? Think again. Learn more about the benefits this technology brings to your township, from accurate assessing records to emergency services, and how partnering with the state’s imagery program can bring the technology to your community.

*Speakers:* Everett Root and Ulrika Zay, Office of Technology Partnerships, Center for Shared Resources, Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget

Common Drinking Water Contaminants (and Treatments)
Get an overview of PFAS, including why townships should be concerned and how to remove it from drinking water. Hear about other contaminants that may be of concern in Michigan drinking water, including arsenic, nitrates and microbiologicals. Walk away with a better understanding of drinking water contaminants, as well as both point-of-use and point-of-entry water treatment solutions for removal.

*Speakers:* Representatives from Water Quality Association

Getting to Agreement: Consensus Building with Diverse Groups
Learn how to facilitate conversations to help reach solid agreements. Take away tools and facilitation techniques for the different phases of agreement-building, and explore strategies for navigating those “strategic moments” that are bound to happen when working with diverse groups and personalities.

*Speaker:* Cindy Lakin Morley, Morley Management Services, LLC

Insights from Inside the Capitol
Repeated from Tuesday at 10:15 a.m.

*Speakers:* MTA Government Relations Staff

Qualified Voter File (QVF) Update
Join your fellow clerks and deputies for an interactive session with the state’s Bureau of Elections QVF staff. Explore key topics regarding election administration and voter registration processes using a variety of features within the software. Gain insights into the most common questions asked of the bureau and take away helpful tips for navigating the software and the 2020 election cycle. Stick around after class for one-on-one assistance from the Bureau of Elections QVF team.

*Speakers:* Terri Williams, Manager, Program Development Section, and her staff from the Bureau of Elections, Michigan Department of State

Relevant Leadership
Relevance equals influence. Influence doesn’t happen by chance or circumstance, not in today’s world. It happens by design, and takes relevant leaders practicing extraordinary people skills. It takes candor and compassion, strength and strategy. How we connect through communication determines our level of influence. Learn techniques for creating a balance between credibility and relatability to strengthen your relationships and take away tips for developing (and nurturing!) honest, effective communication.

*Speaker:* Ty Bennett, 2020 Conference Keynoter

Small Cell Wireless Regulation: You’ve Got Questions? We’ve Got Answers!
The state and federal government recently enacted laws concerning small cell wireless facility regulation. The statutes and associated regulations have left local government officials scratching their heads. What is 5G wireless technology? What are the impacts of 5G on our community? Do we have to allow these facilities? How do we protect our municipalities?

*Speaker:* Adam Dailide, Plan Review Division, Bureau of Fire Services, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Get the answers to these questions and more!

Up in Smoke: Fire Protection for Marijuana Facilities
The unique design and use of marijuana facilities bring considerable risk for fire. The intense electrical draw and heat of grow lights, the use of carbon dioxide and flammable solvents, fertilizing and fumigating can all be a recipe for disaster. Oftentimes, the business owners are new to the industry and may be unfamiliar with even the broadest business regulations. Get a handle on the hot issues that come with these facilities, from common pitfalls in design to industrial occupancy.

*Speaker:* Steven Mann, Attorney, Miller Canfield; and Tom Traciak, Director, and Andy Campbell, CPA, Senior Manager, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC
Township Business Solutions Sessions
Noon to 1 p.m.

Navigating Municipal Revenue Streams
Money and revenues to pay for municipal operations and capital improvements are vital to maintaining and improving a municipality’s assets and sense of community. Review the main revenue sources for municipal operations and improvements, including voter-approved extra-voted millages, user fees and special assessments, consider the differences between these revenue sources, and get guidance on lawful use of these revenues.

Speakers: Mark Nettleton and Andrea Crumback, Attorneys, Mika Meyers PLC

Retirement Legislative and Regulatory Update
An understanding of your fiduciary responsibilities is essential for all township officials. Learn what being a fiduciary means, including the scope of fiduciary duties, legal exposure and how best to mitigate fiduciary risk. We’ll review key federal legislative initiatives and regulatory rulemaking activities that may impact governmental employer retirement plans. IRS and Department of Labor regulatory agendas, and any recent litigation or state laws impacting retirement plans will also be addressed.

Speakers: Representatives from Burnham & Flower Insurance Group and Empower

You Be the Judge
Township law can be so complicated. Don’t you sometimes wish you could be the judge? Here’s your chance to ask about pressing legal questions your township may be facing. You and your fellow officials will be able to weigh in on what the answers should be. Then our team of attorneys will tell you how our Legislature and courts actually answered those questions. The results should be entertaining!

Speakers: Attorneys from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

Concurrent educational sessions 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Community Connection LIVE
Don’t miss this peer-to-peer discussion of challenges and opportunities facing full-service townships. Participants are encouraged to contribute by bringing your own questions (and ideas!) to share with the panelists.

Moderator: Neil Sheridan, MTA Executive Director

Elections Update
Hear directly from the state Bureau of Elections on the hot issues in Michigan elections. Come hear about key topics for the 2020 election cycle, legislative changes and so much more. Bring your questions!

Speaker: Kristi Dougan, Election Specialist, Bureau of Elections, Michigan Department of State

Financing—and Understanding—Broadband Infrastructure
Delve into the options for financing broadband infrastructure, whether it’s just a portion of your township or a township-wide endeavor. We’ll explore public infrastructure and help you determine whether that ends at the property right-of-way or inside the home at the router. Round out the session with discussion on private-use concerns such as non-governmental internet service providers using publicly funded infrastructure.

Speaker: Steven Mann, Attorney, Miller Canfield

Impact of Legalized Marijuana on Your Township and Public Workplace
Review the basics of the new marijuana laws and the impact of marijuana use by township employees and appointed officials in the performance of their duties and on their own time. Learn how state and federal employment laws are impacted, drug testing policies, pitfalls for the township board as an employer, tips for handling situations and how case law is evolving around these new issues.

Speaker: Steven Joppich, Shareholder, Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsberg, PLC

Mitigating Neighborhood Blight
Is it a beautiful day in your neighborhood? Blight affects all townships. From overgrown weeds to dangerous structures, we’ll discuss ways to be proactive in the blight fight. Take away tools for your enforcement toolbox, including penalties for violations and tips for clean-up. Ensure that your township continues to be a beautiful place to live, work and play.

Speaker: Rob Thall, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC

Nobody Here But Us Chickens
Chicken coops are popping up everywhere; can goats be far behind? The Right to Farm Act and Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices seriously complicate your zoning ordinance and public nuisance prosecutions. Learn how to craft your ordinances and enforcement practices to avoid conflicts between farming and residential land uses.

Speakers: William Fahey and Jacob Witte, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

Tips for Building More Effective Teams
Regardless the type of team, collaboration is critical to its success. Delve into the six practices in which successful teams routinely engage and learn strategies for improving interactions with your own township team. Walk away with insights into maintaining balance, honoring different styles, conducting difficult conversations, navigating change, coaching and thinking as a team.

Speaker: Cindy Morley, Owner, Morley Management Services, LLC

What New Changes Are Proposed for the MTA Policy Platform
Learn about the proposed 2020 Policy Platform from a panel of MTA directors who serve on the MTA Legislative Policy Platform Committee. This session will allow delegates to learn the rationale behind the proposed changes and have their questions addressed before the Annual Meeting, where the proposed policy platform will be formally introduced.

Speakers: Members of the MTA Board of Directors and MTA Government Relations Staff
What the Board Needs to Know about Corrective Action Plans

Boards that don’t meet minimum assessing requirements as determined by statute and the State Tax Commission must submit a corrective action plan detailing how (and when) the deficiencies will be resolved. If your board is facing this, don’t panic! Get the inside scoop on how to identify issues and put together a plan that describes who’s going to fix what—and how and when. We’ll walk you through each step in the process and help you put together a plan that works for the board, the assessor and the state alike.

Speaker: Will Gast, Department Specialist, Property Services Division, Michigan Department of Treasury

Concurrent educational sessions 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Breaking Down the Language Barrier

There’s a big gap between what someone needs to know to pass their civics test in a naturalization interview and what they need to be an informed voter. We can help you create a language access plan to ensure your election officials better connect with the residents you serve. Walk through a language access workbook and learn the framework for building your own plan. We’ll highlight key areas and show you the best place to begin.

Speaker: Christopher Patten, Design Researcher, Center for Civic Design

Personal Property Tax Primer

After years of continuing legislation, personal property tax still exists in Michigan in many new and often complex forms. Learn the basics of personal property tax administration, the increased importance of boards of review, and how your board should prepare to review new filings and information.

Speaker: Jack Van Coevering, Shareholder, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

Protecting Your Township’s Environment

Being environmentally friendly is not limited to large energy projects or infrastructure. The Great Lakes State is full of rivers, lakes, wetlands and other natural resources that require protection by all levels of government. Tuning up and revising ordinances to consider items such as setback requirements, development requirements, and site plan and special use permit reviews in relation to these natural resources can help to protect and enhance environment quality at the local level. Protecting and improving natural resources creates benefits for townships, as well as current and future generations.

Speakers: Stacy Hissong and Brittany Nichol, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

Recognizing Dangerous Behavior

When it comes to public service etiquette, it’s more critical now than ever to understand how to recognize and de-escalate dangerous behavior. Explore active listening skills, efficient communication techniques and timely problem-solving assessments that are critical for safe, efficient and positive experiences with your community.

Speakers: Terry Bykerk and Mike Wierenga, Two the Rescue LLC

The ABCs of Regulating Airbnb and Other Vacation Rentals in Your Township

Short-term rental properties can bring a wide range of issues. Many are operating where they are not compatible. Learn more about what constitutes a short-term rental and how others are handling the hurdles associated with them. Dig into zoning regulations as an option for controlling location and use, police power nuisance regulations and rental registration controls. Walk away with a better understanding of enforcement of ordinance violations for these properties.

Speaker: Rob Thall, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC

Uncommon Legal Pitfalls

Did you know that a violation of the Open Meetings Act can land a board member in jail? Or that a donation to a nonprofit organization is an unlawful expenditure? Did you know a township board cannot add an item to a special board meeting agenda without unanimous consent of the entire board? Or that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows a person to go directly to court if denied a FOIA request—and the township could be ordered to foot the bill for their lawyer? Get a handle on some not-so-commonly known legal pitfalls so they can be avoided.

Speaker: Lisa Hamameh, Shareholder, Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC

Unemployment Compliance

Did you know that all townships are subject to unemployment reporting, but not all township employees are covered by unemployment? Some townships are reimbursing employers, while others are contributing employers. Review what type of employer your township is, who is covered by unemployment and reporting requirements. Learn what to do when a claim is made, including how to protest and appeal a claim.

Speaker: Cindy Dodge, MTA Member Information Services Liaison

Wait, Where Does It Say That? Laws, Rules and Online Resources

The old wall of law books has been replaced by the world of free online resources to help townships understand the laws, rules and other requirements for township operations. This informative session will tour a variety of state, federal and other helpful websites and online tools (including the MTA Members website). MTA staff use them every day in answering your questions—you can, too!

Speaker: Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA Staff Attorney

What Every Township Official Should Know About Cyber Security

Do you leave your house unlocked when you go to bed at night? How about your car? When you don’t take the necessary steps to protect your township finances, emergency services, public utilities and other community services, you are essentially leaving the front door of your township hall open! Think you’ve got your systems locked down? Come to this session and ensure you’re not leaving the keys sitting on the welcome mat.

Speakers: Michael Watza and Carina Kraatz, Attorneys, Kitch Drutches Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook; and a panel of experts