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May 15, 2024 – **REMINDER NOT PAID YET, DUE JUNE 15TH**

Dear Town Leader:

Every day our team passionately looks forward to serving town and village government throughout Wisconsin. The WTA is an association of towns and villages dedicated to providing high quality legal information, education, and legislative advocacy so that you can be the best grassroots government leader possible, and local government and democracy are protected. Our mission is: ***“A statewide association providing education, legal information and grassroots legislative advocacy to empower and inspire our members to lead in their communities.”***

The annual membership dues for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, are due by **June 15, 2024**. Enclosed please find your dues statement. Just a few of the benefits of membership include:

- ✓ ***Legal Information*** from our three full time attorneys, Carol Nawrocki, Joe Ruth, and Lara Carlson.
- ✓ ***Monthly Magazines*** to elected officers and appointed clerks, treasurers, and assessors.
- ✓ ***Exclusive Access to the Education Library*** on the WTA Website.
- ✓ ***Standard Educational Workshops***
  - ***Fall Training Workshops*** provided in collaboration with UW-Extension.
  - ***District Meetings*** spanning January to April providing legislative updates and education.
  - ***Board of Review Certification*** provided through a variety of outlets.
  - ***New & Continuing Officials Workshops*** provided in May of odd numbered years.
  - ***Annual Town Lawyers Conference*** provided in late summer for both town officials and attorneys.
  - ***Annual Convention*** held in October.
- ✓ ***Various Training Workshops*** provided on contemporary topics. Recent programs include: WisDOT Culvert Program; WisDOT Agricultural Road Improvement Program; Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Federal American Rescue Plan Act, and Town Road School.
- ✓ ***Legislative Advocacy*** through the Executive Director and Joe Ruth, Government Affairs Director, as well as contract lobbyists, Larry Konopacki, and Jolene Plautz. In the last 10 years, WTA in collaboration with the

Town Advocacy Council has influenced over 90 legislative initiatives being enacted into law that have positively influenced towns. This has resulted in towns receiving an additional over half a billion dollars in direct investment and having access to an additional \$509 million in the form of grants or efficiencies.

Despite several bills awaiting action by the Governor to close out the 2023-24 regular legislative session, several highlights that have already been signed into law, include:

- Shared revenue overhaul, including a \$65.6 million per year increase for towns
  - \$150 million Agricultural Road Improvement Program Pilot
  - Repeat of the \$100 million Local Road Improvement Program – Supplemental
  - \$12.5 million culvert inventory and assessment program
  - 4% increase in TRI and TRID
  - Restoration of county bridge aid program to former practices after attorney general opinion clarifying they were not substantiated in law
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- ✓ Access to become involved in the ***Town Advocacy Council*** (separate dues required) that provides leadership for our legislative agenda.
  - ✓ ***Capitol Day*** sponsored by the Town Advocacy Council held at the beginning of each legislative session to empower you to meet directly with your legislators in Madison.
  - ✓ Membership in the ***National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)***, which lobbies on your behalf at the federal level in Washington, D.C.
  - ✓ Preparation of ***specialized educational materials***, such as, Town Officer's and Financial handbooks.

Please note: If you are a TAC member, you have complimentary access to the on-line videos and receive one free Town Officer Handbook per edition (2023 edition) per town. If you are not a TAC member, please note the option on your dues bill to sign up for the on-line video subscription.

Your participation and leadership in the Association will help keep local government in Wisconsin strong, and you will play a continued role in **empowering town officials to unlock the potential of democracy**. Without your steadfast, collaborative support we could not effectively defend against the threats that would have us lose local government and lose America.

Create a great day!



Mike Koles

WTA Executive Director

### **ADDITIONAL** **INFORMATION**

- Please complete the enclosed roster for elected and appointed officers. Please give the complete name, address, email, telephone number (cell, home, and/or work), and a **plus- four zip code for each officer**. The plus four zip code can be obtained by contacting your local post office. The plus-four zip code offers the lowest possible postage rates for our mailings.
- Please note that the roster inquiry includes a question regarding whether or not each person would be willing to receive an electronic copy of the magazine **as a replacement for the paper copy**. An electronic version is preferred by some people and saves natural and Association resources.
- We encourage you to send in the rosters with names and addresses as soon as you can after the April election even if it is before you send in the dues payment. This way we can update our database for Association mailings.
- In addition to the elected and appointed officers, we are also asking that if your town has a **town administrator** that you provide us with their information as well. Some professional administrators carry various titles (e.g., Clerk/Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer). If your town has someone that functions as a professional administrator, please provide their information.

**PLEASE – WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES.** Given today's communication and legislative advocacy environment, we must be able to quickly and thoroughly communicate to achieve your goals. Right now, we have approximately 70% of your email addresses. If we are to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we will need to communicate both the traditional way and via new technology.

**PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH YOUR TOWN'S WEBSITE ADDRESS** at the bottom of the town roster if your town has a website.