

I want to start off this evening by offering a very sincere thank you to Susan, Anita, LaToya and rest of the LGA staff/speakers for running a truly EFFECTIVE and greatly NEEDED program!! I had the privilege of being an INCUMBENT in Indiana Township for 1 year prior to actually being ELECTED. After wading through various policies and procedures that 1st year, my township leadership steered me towards the LGA. What a blessing! Before I continue, I also want to thank my township manager, Dan Anderson, for attending tonight and offering both guidance and leadership to me for the last 17 months! I truly look forward to working together for the next 4 years.

Now onto business - Simply put, we put our name on the ballot to CREATE CHANGE. We grew tired of hearing, "it can't be done," or "we always do it this way" or my personal favorite "you can't do that!!!"

As NE Officials, we should have some lofty goals! And, my fellow officials, the clock is ticking!! The question is 'how are we going to achieve these goals?' A few months ago, we might have known the final destination, but had no map to get us there! Now, after making the commitment and investment in both the LGA and ourselves, we are EQUIPPED and ready to face that many challenges that come our way.

I know we shared many of the same feelings over the last few months. We must admit, during some evenings and Saturday sessions, we were all dying for that 5th cup of coffee. We experienced **Information Overload** for sure. I remember thinking to myself, how are we going to remember all of this stuff?? However, I am sure we can recall at least 1 great point from our sessions. Therein lies the power of the LGA. The power of the NEO.

Our constituents ELECTED us for a reason! That reason - GET IT DONE! Let's not be intimidated by those who hold a different opinion. Let's MAKE EVERY EFFORT to work with those individuals or groups who CHALLENGE us - and most importantly those who tick us off! Create the LEADERSHIP and GOOD GVMT that our constituents are elected you for!!!! Give them so much of yourself that you become an integral part of their lives!

Get to know and work with your board members, obtain your facts, listen to the opinions of others and work for a fair solve. Do not let anyone stand in your way!! I think of you Ricky Burgess when I say this! Way to stand up and fight for what you believe in!

Lastly, REMEMBER AGAIN WHY YOU PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT in the first place - and do your JOB well!

May you govern well and God Bless you all!