

## **Drainage Commissioners Must Complete Open Meetings Act Training**

Effective January 2012, all elected and appointed officials, including drainage commissioners, are required to complete an Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training online. Drainage Commissioners will have one year from that date to complete the OMA training program provided by the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor. After January 1, 2012, anyone who is elected or appointed to a position on a local board must complete the OMA training within 90 days of taking the oath of office or otherwise assuming the duties of the office. Upon completion of the online course, individuals will receive a certificate of completion that must be on file with the drainage districts' records.

The Illinois Association of Drainage Districts (IADD) has voiced numerous complaints in reference to the fact that the only avenue to complete the new requirement is online and requires a log in and email address. The Attorney General's Office remains firm that the legislation only exempts School Board members from online training. The IADD recognizes the high percentage of drainage commissioners who do not have access to online training. As your source for education, the IADD is committed to work with its members to meet the new legislative requirement. Therefore, the IADD will have a laptop and internet access at the Annual Conference for those attendees who want to complete the training. The online training consists of reading approximately 60 pages. A staff person will be on hand to assist you with the log in information and the training course.

The Course will be available starting January 1, 2012 at <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/default.aspx>.