



From Your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

Thank you for being loyal readers over the years

IN 1941, HISTORY WAS MADE for local governments in Illinois when the *Illinois Supervisor and County Commissioner* magazine began its run. A few short months later, the magazine acquired a new name by becoming the *Illinois County and Township Official*. It would keep this name until the April 1999 issue when it was renamed and became what we have today, *Township Perspective*.

From the moment you saw the cover of this July/August 2011 issue of *Township Perspective*, I am sure you were aware we were celebrating a very special anniversary. 70 years is a long time. 70 years of communicating the “township message” all over Illinois. Seven decades of providing our membership with a useful tool in performing their duties is, in my opinion, something very worthwhile to celebrate!

From its humble beginning in 1941, a year that would end with the tragic Pearl Harbor bombing that set off World War II, the magazine has evolved tremendously throughout the last 70 years. *Township Perspective*, plain and simple, is an information source. Over the years, the magazine has provided more and more useful content while its actual appearance has changed as well.

It has been quite interesting digging into the archives and researching the history of the magazine. Elsewhere in this issue you will find articles about folks who have been involved with the magazine, some longer than others, but still all working together to provide our membership with a useful publication. For me, one of the highlights of researching the magazine’s history was finding Mrs. Sue Price. Sue Price, who is 87 years old and lives in Springfield, helped run the magazine office from 1951-1974 when



most of that time, the magazine was published by Charles and Muzette Allison. TOI became the actual “owner” of the magazine in 1971. Sue, who is still quite the feisty spirit, shared that in the “old days”, the magazine office staff would “break out the booze” every day about 4 pm. Legislators and other state officials would stop by and visit with the magazine

staff. This certainly was a different era.

In my capacity as Executive Director of the Township Officials of Illinois, I also assume the duties and responsibilities of Editor of the association’s magazine. I have to say that this has always been one of my favorite parts of my job. With a lot of assistance from Associate Editor Erin Valentine, and everyone else in the office

who writes articles, updates mailing addresses, sells advertising and the folks at Stevens Publishing Company, we put the magazine together 11 times a year.

The beauty of township government is its closeness to the people, the constituents in your township. We want to keep *Township Perspective* close to you. We always enjoy hearing from you about the magazine—what subjects you would like to see covered in feature articles, what you like and what you don’t. This is **your** magazine, so please help us make it the best we can for you.

Please take time each month to get a new perspective on township government by reading your copy of *Township Perspective*! Thank you for being loyal readers over the years and hopefully for many more years to come!

Happy 70th anniversary, *Township Perspective*!

