



# From Your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

*Remember the voter: your employer and your boss!*

**D**URING THE EARLY PART of the past year, it was hard to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television or radio without hearing or seeing about the most recent events in Wisconsin where the Governor and members of the General Assembly were at odds over collective bargaining for union members. As of this writing, I am hearing news stories of a possible recall election in Wisconsin for the Governor. Undoubtedly, if a recall election is brought forward, the once fairly popular Governor of Wisconsin will be faced with the strongest political fight of his career. It will definitely be an interesting one to watch.

A possible recall election in Wisconsin has a lesson for township officials right here in Illinois. As elected officials, we always have to remember who our bosses are: the voters who elected us to office. After all, it is the voters who pay our salary!

It is now just a little less than a year before the cycle begins for township officials to begin the process for the 2013 township election. At this time when the public is very untrusting of government and government officials, it is more important than ever before for township officials to demonstrate innovative management techniques in order to provide their constituents with the most cost-effective government there is.

Keeping up with changes in the law, finding ways to better yourself as an elected official and finding new

ways things can be done is the responsibility of all elected officials. TOI recently held its 104th Annual Educational Conference and hundreds of township officials came together in Springfield to do just that. It made me feel very proud when looking in on all the various educational sessions and seeing the large numbers of officials listening and learning. I have said this many times before but it bears repeating: township officials are the most dedicated group of officials who want to make sure they are giving their constituents the very best.

I have been fortunate over the years I have been involved with township government to have worked with officials from all over the state who are steadfast in their commitment to excellence. Township officials have a right to be proud because they are doing a great job and I salute you for everything you do.

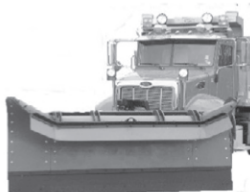
I look forward to a great 2012. I'm sure there will be challenges for all of us, but by working together to help better yourself as a township official, we will together be keeping township government strong!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all of you!

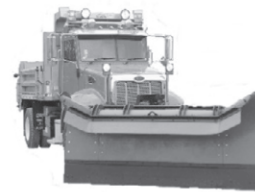
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