



# From Your Executive Director

Count your blessings  
and be thankful for all you have

**I**T IS HARD TO BELIEVE that we are quickly approaching the end of another year.

The holiday season is soon upon us with the Thanksgiving holiday at the end of November. This past year, while not yet over, has given me a lot to be thankful for. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the things I'm especially thankful for:

- I'm thankful for my health, my family and the fact we are all together.
- I'm thankful for the more than 11,000 dedicated supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners, trustees, assessors and collectors who serve more than 8 million people in the 1,433 townships across Illinois.
- I'm thankful for the 712 officials who attended our eight Education District meetings in the spring.
- I'm thankful for cell phones and laptop computers that allow us to communicate much easier in today's world.
- I'm thankful for the many township employees I come into contact with across the state. They are dedicated, to the officials and the people they serve.
- I'm thankful for the many devoted volunteers across the state in numerous townships who help and make many township activities/programs possible. This includes food drives, youth, senior and disabled activities and many other activities that are too numerous and diverse to list.
- I'm thankful for a great group of TOI Officers and Directors who are involved and supportive.
- I'm thankful for the wonderful and terrific staff I have at TOI.
- I'm thankful for the taxes I pay because it means I am employed.
- I'm thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- I'm thankful for all the complaining I hear about the government because it means we have Freedom of Speech.
- I'm thankful for a lawn that needs mowing and household things that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- I'm thankful for my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- I'm thankful for the alarm clock that goes off in the early morning because it means that I am alive.
- Finally, I'm thankful for those men and women who are serving us in the military and fighting in faraway countries that we may continue to enjoy all the freedoms that we do in the U.S.A.

As you pause to enjoy the upcoming holidays, I hope you will take a few minutes to think of all those things that you are thankful for and blessed with.

**In next month's Issue, share  
In our NATaT America's Town  
Meeting experiences!**