



# From Your Executive Director

Countdown to Election Day  
means change is near

**T**HE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN. In about a month, April 7 will be here and the election of township officials for the new term will have taken place.

April 7 is the date we are expecting somewhere between 20-25 percent brand new township officials will be elected and they will begin, what we hope, will be a very successful tenure in township government. With caucuses and primaries and filing dates now behind us, we are heading into the home stretch for the Consolidated Election. Campaign signs are starting to pop up as we get closer and closer to April 7. From all reports I received, there were some very hotly contested caucuses and primaries this year.

Here at TOI, we encounter a variety of things right after the township election every four years. With more than 11,000 members, you can imagine the amount of time it takes to update our mailing and magazine lists.

I have to admit that this period of time once every four years is always hectic. It is also sometimes an emotional period. When you work with township officials like we do, you become friends. When township officials leave office, it's sometimes tough because in some cases, we simply never see or hear from them again after the election. While it's sad to see friends leave, it's always refreshing and exciting to have new officials coming on board too. Being a former township clerk and supervisor myself, I know there are a lot of questions when you first take office and I always enjoy talking to new officials and helping them with their questions.

With that in mind, we here at TOI have already started planning for the "newbies" and are planning three Newly-Elected Officials workshops. We feel it is important that these new officials get the best information and education as soon

as they can after taking office. Our Newly-Elected Officials workshops (*June 27 in Bloomington, July 18 in Rockford and Aug. 1 in Fairview Heights*) will be geared not only for the new folks, but returning "veterans" as well. Stay tuned for more information in future magazines.

Whether or not you are running again, thank you for your past service in township government. You are to be commended for the service you have done for your township. Remember, the new four-year term of office begins May 18, 2009 for all supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners and trustees (Jan. 1, 2010 for assessors, multi-township assessors and tax collectors).

Good luck to everyone on April 7!

## On our cover ...

TOI scholarship recipients in 2002: (clockwise from top left) Sarah Anderson, Paul Fricilone, Andrea Giamalva and Jeff Large



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