



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

**A**S I SAT DOWN to write this month's article for *Township Perspective*, we are in the midst of receiving the results from the County Clerks, all over the state, from the April 6 Consolidated election. I'm hopeful that in the next few weeks we will have received them all. If not, please share your magazine with any newly elected official.

We all know that township officials do not serve for the money, power, or glory. Most officials ran for office because someone pushed them to run. Some ran because past officials may not have been "doing their job" as others thought it should be done. Some ran because a family member served before them, and they were expected to run and serve to fulfill an obligation to their township. Some townships have had a member of the same family serving for generations. For whatever reason you decided to seek township office, we at the Township Officials of Illinois hope your tenure in township government will be both professionally and personally rewarding.

I know, myself, that there will be times when you will get frustrated. But despite the occasional frustration, there will be times you will be rewarded by appreciation and thanks of the voters who put you in office.

As you can tell from the cover of this magazine, TOI is having two Newly Elected Officials Trainings on August 12 and August 26. Both those programs will be held virtually, so it will be easy for you to attend even from the comfort of your home or office. I want to encourage you to register and attend. Current officials, please share this information with your "first time" officials and strongly urge them to register and attend. You

will find registration information in this issue, as well as online at [www.toi.org](http://www.toi.org). These programs have been designed with nuts-and-bolts information that will be beneficial to those newly elected as well as returning officials. Learn as much as you can so you can become the best township official possible. A well-trained and educated township official is vital to the survival of our form of government.

Speaking of upcoming educational opportunities, the TOI Annual Educational Conference is every November. However, this year, once again, due to capacity limits and current COVID-19 restrictions in place for large events, the TOI Board of Directors voted at their last meeting to **cancel** the in person 2021 Annual Educational Conference. They also voted to move forward with plans to hold another Virtual Annual Educational Conference this November, with full expectations of returning to the normal conference schedules in 2022. More information on the Virtual Conference will be coming in the months ahead, so keep your eyes open for coming information. The knowledge passed on at these seminars can help and guide you in your daily duties as a township official.

Always, remember that the office you hold belongs to the taxpayers of your township. They have selected you to carry out the duties of that office for the next four years. Stay positive and learn all you can. You won't regret it!



## Building and running a Township Website is easy through TOI's Website Program.

Contact Kayla Jeffers at (217) 744-2212 or [kayla@toi.org](mailto:kayla@toi.org) for more information