



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

A Surreal Time

WHAT A MONTH! The word I use to describe it is “surreal.” It has also been complicated, scary, and confusing. Just about everything has come to a grinding halt by Coronavirus.

At the time of writing this article, we are well into double-digits days of the stay at home order. If you’re weary of being under what is the new version of “house arrest,” there’s more bad news in that there’s no indication of this ending anytime soon. For the immediate future, this is our new “normal.”

Our lives have been upended. Our kids are home from school; all community and sporting events are cancelled; restaurants are shuttered, and people are adjusting to working remotely from home. Everyone that I’ve talked to is struggling and doing their best to make “normal” out of the very abnormal.

It’s no different for us here at TOI or you in your respective township. We are all struggling to adjust. At TOI, we have utilized the internet and kept up with our work mostly from home. All I can say is I’m so grateful for cell phones and email! I don’t see how we could have done anything without them.

I’ve talked with many Township Officials across the state during this “virus crisis” and have heard of officials setting up shop at kitchen tables, in spare bed-

rooms, and in basements. Several have even told me of how they have used conference calls or video conferencing to check in with fellow officials and staff. I’ve also heard remarkable stories of township officials offering to do whatever they could to help those who are in need due to COVID-19. With restrictions in place to prevent further spread of Coronavirus, it has been a challenge to say the least. Our challenges, needless to say, do not compare with those working in the medical and health-care fields; public safety or other essential services. But despite the challenges it is once again very apparent to me that our townships (and officials) all over the state are made up of resilient people who care about the neighbors they serve.

As we continue to deal with the COVID-19 situation, be aware that you will probably experience more inconveniences and things we just don’t like. But this too won’t last forever. Probably the most difficult job is waiting and not worrying. That is a big challenge, but as township officials we are up to it! Let’s hope for “good news” in the days ahead and thank you for all you have done during this unprecedented time.

Your assistance is needed ...

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Your assistance is much appreciated!

