



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

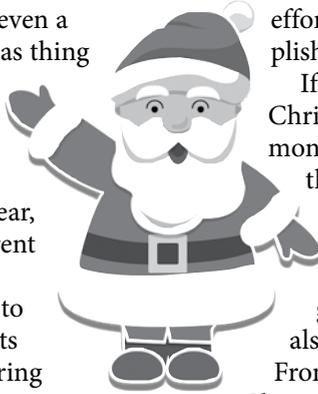
TOI Executive Director

ONCE AGAIN, I've made it through the preparations and I'm ready for Christmas! Really? I don't think so, but it's nice to dream! One might imagine that as a parent, even a parent of teenagers, that doing the Christmas thing might make me a bit weary or at least bored. On the contrary, as Christmas approaches, I get as excited as the little children I see. Their enthusiasm is contagious and (for some reason) makes every year, even as an adult, seem to be just a bit different and more exciting than others.

While I'm not "Santa Claus" and unable to bring township officials all over the state lots of goodies from TOI land, I do, however, bring you my best wishes and hope for the new year ahead.

As an organization of local (township) governments, you (we) stand poised to take the first step on a year-long journey as the year 2020 begins. There will be pitfalls and potholes on that journey which must be avoided. There will be obstacles and detours to overcome, also. If all of the divisions of our organization

harness their energies in the same way Santa's reindeer pull their fair share of the load to help him complete his overwhelming task on Christmas Eve, that joint effort will show that anything can be accomplished.



If we can all remember the real meaning of Christmas and carry the spirit of peace, harmony, cooperation, and understanding through the year, the potholes will seem filled, the detours removed. Set your goals for 2020 and work together in harmony to reach them. You'll learn how rewarding and gratifying mutual success can feel. It will also help you prepare for 2020.

From TOI Land, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, rewarding New Year.

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