



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

WITH THE NEW YEAR being ushered in, calendars are being turned over and special dates for the coming year are being noted. One special thing you are probably unaware of that takes place in 2021 is that our magazine is celebrating 80 years of existence! Since we did a big celebration for the magazine's 75th just five short years ago, I decided to not do that again, but I do feel that recognizing the 80th is important.

In my capacity as Executive Director/CEO of the Township Officials of Illinois, I also assume the duties and responsibilities of Editor of the association's magazine. With a lot of assistance from Associate Editor Kayla Jeffers, and everyone else in the office who write articles, updates mailing lists and addresses, as well as the folks at K.K. Stevens Publishing Company, we put together the magazine 11 times a year. This is probably the most enjoyable part of my job that takes more time than most people realize. Eighty years is a long time. Eighty years of communicating the "township message" all over Illinois. Over eight decades of providing our membership with a useful tool in performing their duties. In fact, I often say that our magazine is our "biggest tool" in getting information into each of our member's hands. That, in my opinion, is something very worth recognizing.

First published in 1941 by Mr. Richard Morris, the magazine was first named "The Illinois Supervisor and County Commissioner", a division of the Illinois Association of County Officials in Springfield. The first issue appeared in February 1941 and the rest, as they say, is history! Not long after being born into existence, the name of the magazine changed to "The Illinois County and Township Official", a name it would keep until 1999, when it became *Township Perspective*.

Charles Allison took over as publisher in 1951, 10 years after the magazine was born. He and later, his wife, Muzette, served as publishers for 20 years until 1971.

For many years, publication of the magazine was a private business, and the magazines were purchased by the associations to send to their memberships as a member service. On August 1, 1971, the magazine was purchased by the Township Officials of Illinois from its publisher, Mrs. M. Turner Allison. It has been published and owned by the association ever since.

From its humble beginnings in 1941, a year that would end with the tragic Pearl Harbor bombing that would set off World War II, the magazine has evolved tremendously throughout the last 80 years. *Township Perspective*, very simply, is an information source. Over the years, the magazine has provided more and more useful content, while its actual appearance has changed as well. In many old issues there is nothing but pages and pages of advertisement, and nothing else.

As we proceed through the new year of 2021, please take time each month to get a new perspective on township government by reading your copy of *Township Perspective*! Thank you for being loyal readers over the years and hopefully, many more years to come!

Happy 80th Township Perspective!

