ILLINOIS’S BICENTENNIAL came and went without much fanfare and as the 200th year of statehood joins the past we enter the 201st with anticipation. However, due to the scheduling of two days of lame duck session in the early days of January, the 100th General Assembly of 2017-2018 will meet and be able to take action in 2019 before the 101st General Assembly is sworn in.

When the 101st General Assembly do take their oaths of office it will look much different than the one of 2017 due to the number of changes in legislators. With 30 freshman legislators to be sworn in and the near two dozen legislators that have been appointed in the recent past, the number of legislative members with no or limited experience in the General Assembly will land somewhere between 40 and 50 members. To that end if you have not yet had an opportunity to schedule or meet with legislators in your district please take the time to at least try.

Last year saw a heavy agenda for TOI and we anticipate this year possibly exceeding last, with a large number of proposals likely aimed at Townships, many of which may end up hurting the people you all serve. We also expect work to be done on infrastructure projects in the form of a capital bill and discussions to center on Motor Fuel Tax dollars. As always we will review each piece of legislation as they are introduced and work with our legislative allies and all of you to advocate on behalf of Townships and the constituents they proudly serve.

Here are a few important dates for the 2019 Spring Session:

January 7 & 8: Two days lame duck session for the 100th General Assembly.
January 9: Inauguration for the 101st General Assembly.
January 14: Inauguration for the Governor.
February 15: Deadline for bill introduction.
February 20: Governor’s Budget Address (at this time the Governor-elect has indicated the State of the State Address will be delivered simultaneously).
March 22: Deadline for Senate bills in Senate Committees.
March 29: Deadline for House bills in House Committees.
April 3: Township Officials of Illinois Topics Day in Springfield
April 12: Deadline for passage of bills from chamber of origin.
May 10: Deadline for bills from opposite chamber out committee.
May 24: Deadline for passage of bills from opposite chamber.
May 27: Memorial Day.
May 31: Adjournment.