



# From Your Executive Director

Learn as much as you can—  
be the best you can be!

**T**HIS MONTH'S *Township Perspective* magazine is being sent to all officials elected April 7 whose names and addresses have been turned into the TOI Office by their respective County Clerks. At the time I sat down to write this, 84 of the 85 counties with township government had submitted their newly elected and re-elected officials' names. By the time the July/August magazine is printed and mailed, hopefully all the names will be in.

Whether you're a newly elected, first-time township official or a re-elected seasoned veteran, welcome aboard (or back)! 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, 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 that your tenure in township government service will be both personally and professionally rewarding. During the next four years, you will face a variety of issues that will keep the wheels of

your township government rolling.

Returning township veterans know that there will be times when you will be frustrated. I know from being a former township official myself that despite the occasional frustration, there will be times that you will be rewarded by appreciation and thanks of the voters who put you in office.

As you begin your four-year term of office, always remember that you don't have to feel like you have to go through it all alone. The Township Officials of Illinois wants to help you with your questions. The association's staff is available to guide and assist you as your term of office progresses. Feel free to call us toll free at 866-897-4688 for assistance.

I also want to encourage you to take part in the association's educational programs. These programs are geared specifically to help you grow as a professional public servant. For you first timers, as well as the seasoned veterans, I want to encourage you to attend one of our upcoming Newly Elected Officials Seminars in June, July and August. You will find registration information in this issue. 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 gov-

ernment.

If your county has a county association of township officials, please take an active part in it. If your county doesn't have one, maybe you can step up to the plate and help form an association. These groups are important because they allow all the officials in each county to come together to share and learn. The networking and knowledge passed on at these county association meetings can help and guide you in your daily duties as a township official.

As you proceed through your four-year term, learn as much as you can and be the best township official possible. 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. If you meet their expectations, they may re-elect you for four more years. Stay positive and learn all you can.

Again, congratulations and welcome to the wonderful world of township government!