



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

**T**HE 108TH ANNUAL Education Conference is now one for the history books. It was packed full of lasting memories and numerous educational sessions.

The Monday morning opening session began on a musical note, with the Springfield Municipal Band providing some patriotic music to get everyone “fired up” as speed painter John Jansky painted a fantastic Lincoln portrait in less than ten minutes! Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder and Conference Chair Deb Lane welcomed everyone to the conference and to Springfield.

The opening session on Monday morning was held in a packed ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. TOI President Karen Reese did an outstanding job of moving the session along. We were honored to have Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan address the conference attendees to discuss the budget impasse facing the State of Illinois. Speaker Madigan also took time to answer questions from the floor asked by conference delegates. Keynote Speaker Matt Booth presented “Communicate with Attitude” and was very well received by those attending. Monday afternoon was filled with educational sessions for everyone. Attendees of the Spouse Program and Luncheon were treated to a visit to Edwards Place Historic Home and then partici-

pated in an instructor-led canvas painting event.

Monday saw a large number of township officials take part in the Monday Fun Night, which included dancing, games, and a “Dancing with the Township Stars” competition. Some folks even dressed in costumes, adding to the fun! I even took to the dance floor after being dragged there by Conference Chair Deb Lane!

The Tuesday morning Awards Breakfast was well attended, as the various divisions made presentations to many individuals who had made a difference. Winners of the 19th Annual Mighty Message contest were also recognized. A special recognition was given to Senator Don Harmon for his outstanding support of township government.

Both the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning educational sessions were well received. I tried to walk around to as many as I could and it was nice to see people learning and asking questions. Division meetings this year were held a little earlier and included a box lunch, to allow for more networking within the divisions.

The Closing Session held on Tuesday afternoon was a little different this year. The session included a keynote speaker, Doug Dvorak, who spoke about “The

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Essentials of Effective Leadership.” Reports and the scholarship fund presentations from the various divisions were heard as well as a Nominating Committee Report for directors to be elected to the TOI Board for the next two years. The following individuals were elected as directors for the next two years:

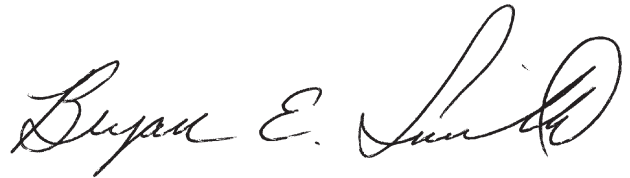
- Susan Curtiss, Supervisor, Esmen Township, Livingston County
- Mickey Goral, Supervisor, Rockford Township, Winnebago County
- Lisa Hodge, Clerk, Blackberry Township, Kane County
- Sherry Tite, Clerk, Wood River Township, Madison County
- Darrell Maxheimer, Highway Commissioner, Rochester Township, Sangamon County
- Arnold Vegter, Highway Commissioner, Union Grove Township, Whiteside County
- Chris Kain, Assessor, Addison Township, DuPage County
- Sherry Meadows, Assessor, Mt. Vernon Township, Jefferson County
- Ruth Stanley, Trustee, Sterling Township, Whiteside County
- Rick Phillips, Trustee, Normal Township, McLean County

M. Carroll Carroll, Tax Collector, Brimfield Township, Peoria County

The annual banquet Tuesday evening was once again a success. TOI President Karen Reese announced her choice for President’s Award for 2015 was Pam Butler, TOI’s office manager. Pam has been with TOI for 35 years and is an outstanding and dedicated employee. Pam’s family, including her husband, daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren, brother, sister-in-law, and mother Shirley were all able to attend and help Pam celebrate this special evening and prestigious honor. The evening was rounded out by entertainer Tim Cavanaugh, who left everyone laughing.

The 108th Annual Conference is now history, but planning has begun for the 109th Conference. Mark your calendars now for November 13-15, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

As we end this year and look forward to a new one, I want to wish all of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!



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