



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

## *Township Government needs YOU as a lobbyist!*

**T**HE OLD SAYING GOES “time flies when you’re having fun!” Time sure has been flying because here we are already a month into a new year, and it doesn’t seem possible that another year has come and gone.

By now the second Spring Session of the 101st General Assembly is in full swing. Typically the even-numbered year is lighter of the two sessions. Last year over 6,000 bills were introduced. This year it is expected to be at least 3,000. Future issues of *Township Perspective* will include information, including bill numbers, of bills that are very important to townships and road districts.

I’ve heard rumors that the administration has a fairly major agenda for 2020 but given the fact that 2019 was a landmark year given all the legislative initiatives passed, it will be interesting to see what actually shakes out. Of course, we will be monitoring bills introduced that are related to townships and road districts and will let you know if anything major is pushed.

This year, TOI’s annual Topics Day will be Wednesday, April 1st in Springfield. Registration information is found elsewhere in this magazine. Please come join us in Springfield on this day when township officials from all over the state gather to rally and meet with legislators to discuss issues that concern township government. I can’t stress enough how important it is for you to be present in Springfield on that day to meet with our legislators and key officials.

A few years ago I attended a function in Springfield where one of the guest speakers was a legislator who spoke on communicating with your state legislators and

he singled out TOI for having a great legislative event each year that brings in officials from all over the state. While I was very pleased to hear his compliment, it really did prove to me that your active involvement does not go unnoticed!

Working in Springfield on a daily basis, I am constantly reminded of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln lived most of his life in Springfield. He and his family lived here prior to moving to the White House and he practiced law in Springfield from 1834-1852. The Old State Capitol, where Lincoln said, “a house divided against itself cannot stand”, is especially one of my favorite sites to visit and reminds me of the importance of being united as one against the common enemy.

With the new legislative session in swing let’s all vow to be involved in the legislative process by being “lobbyists” for township government in the coming year and beyond! Your active involvement is the key to the future of township government.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on April 1st at Topics Day!

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