



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

**T**HIS MONTH'S FEATURE ARTICLE is about township clerks. This is very special to me because I got my start in township government by being elected Long Creek Township Clerk in 1985.

Serving as a clerk was really an enjoyable part of my life and I couldn't learn enough about everything involving township government. In fact, I was so hungry to learn about the position I had just been elected to, I attended a TOI Education seminar before I took office by going with one of the current officials. I remember purchasing my first Guide and Duties Handbook (now Laws & Duties) there and reading it cover to cover as soon as I got home.


During one of our recent TOI Education District meetings I was discussing with someone education and how we could get more people to participate and take advantage of the educational opportunities available. The comment was made that "people just don't think they need the education". That very quickly made me think of the old proverb I've heard quoted many times, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink". True but, pretty sad considering all the opportunities that are available.

The Township Officials of Illinois and its many associated divisions/organizations know the importance of providing education to help township officials and employees perform their responsibilities lawfully, efficiently and effectively. We can create the programs and hopefully make them convenient for you to attend as well as try to make you understand why it is important for you to learn all you can about the position you hold. But we can't MAKE you attend these educational opportunities. That's a decision only each and every one of you can only make.


I hope I can help you realize why it is so important for you to take advantage of the education that is being made available to you. It seems like every day I read a news-

paper article about some township official who got into trouble because they "weren't doing things right". I certainly understand in today's busy world, it is sometimes difficult to find time to do more things. However, if you leave a program with just one new idea or how to fulfill, a responsibility maybe you didn't even know about, the time you spent attending the educational program will be time well spent! The duties and responsibilities of township officials are ever changing and with the spotlight on township government stronger than it has ever been, now is the time for township officials to learn all they can and to take advantage of the educational opportunities available and become the BEST township official you can be.

So, take it from this former township clerk who soaked up all the education he could. Take advantage of any educational opportunity that you can and become the best township official you can be. You won't regret it!




**Quincy**  
MACK



**Decatur**  
MACK

**YOUR MUNICIPAL SPECIALISTS**



**KASEY MEYER IN QUINCY**  
**217-224-2030**

**MATT PHILLIPS IN DECATUR**  
**217-875-3773**

**MACK TRUCKS ARE BUILT TOUGH  
TO KEEP YOU ON THE ROAD AND GET THE JOB DONE.**

**THE AMERICAN TRUCK  
YOU CAN COUNT ON**

**BORN READY.**