



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

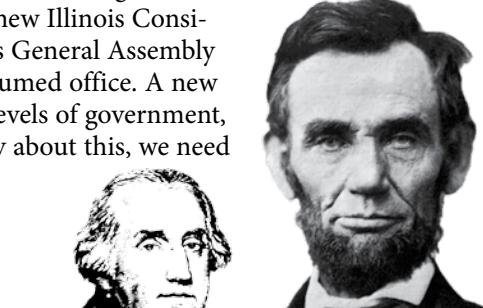
TOI Executive Director

**A**T THE TIME I SAT DOWN to write this article, the holiday decorations are put away and the holiday activities are over for another year. Maybe a New Year's resolution you made has already gone by the wayside. There's no turning back for any of us. It's now 2019, and the New Year is well underway.

By the time you read this, the new Congress will have taken office as well as the new Illinois Constitutional Officers and the Illinois General Assembly will have been sworn in and assumed office. A new era has begun in each of these levels of government, and while not everyone is happy about this, we need to do our best to accept it and help make the system work.

During the month of February, we honor and celebrate two great American presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's Birthday is not considered a federal holiday but is a state holiday in some states on or around February 12 each year. With TOI's headquarters in Springfield, a town so rich in Lincoln history, this time of year is always a good time to read something new about President Lincoln.

George Washington's birthday was normally recognized on February 22 each year but was switched to the third Monday in February each year, and is now called by some "President's Day," and is a federal holiday. It is



however still officially known as Washington's Birthday.

It is interesting to note that President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Only Presidents George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or too late to coincide with President's Day, always observed on the third Monday of the month.

As we forge ahead into the new year, we should take a moment and reflect back on all the struggles and triumphs that President Washington and President Lincoln endured. Throughout the history of township government, there have been struggles and triumphs as well and as we move more into 2019, I'm sure there will be more, but we must face the future with renewed confidence and with a positive attitude. The voters have not only supported you but township government as well through the years. Township government was, and is, intended to follow the will of the people and respond to their needs. Township government meets this criterion better and more effectively than any other example of government we have today. Let's continue to keep it strong!

## Does your township have a truck or other piece of equipment for sale?

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