



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

THERE IS NO turning back now. 2016 is here and we've crossed the threshold into a brand new year.

Probably by this time, all of your holiday decorations are taken down and all the holiday parties are over for another year. If you made any New Year's resolutions, there is a good chance you've already broken one (like me).

2016 is going to be a busy year for township officials. The 2017 Township Election process starts later this year, as well as salary setting for the new term. The General Assembly will be coming back to Springfield and we must be prepared for any surprises that may be thrown at us via legislation. It will definitely be a busy year.

You would have to be living in seclusion to not know that today's world is rapidly changing. Technology is changing our lives so quickly that it is almost unbelievable. We in township government have to keep in mind that in order for township government to continue to thrive, it must change as well. This doesn't mean that

we have to forget everything we have done or learned in the past; it just means that we need to take the good parts of what we have done or learned and apply them to the future's challenges. We have to constantly look at the "big picture." Regardless if you are from a rural or urban township, we are all in this together and we must focus on the "big picture" and what is best in the future for township government and the people we serve.

Township government and township officials have much to offer the people of Illinois. It will only work, however, if we meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. Consider making a "late" New Year's resolution to making township government meet those demands.

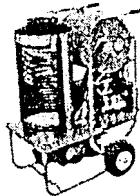
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