



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

Giving Thanks

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE that we are nearing the end of another year. The holiday season will soon be upon us and Thanksgiving is later this month. The weather is starting to change rapidly and it seems like only yesterday that 2017 was starting, and now it's almost over!

This past year has been one of many changes and as we approach Thanksgiving 2017, I'd like to share with you some things I'm thankful for from 2017:

*I'm thankful for my health, my family and the fact that my children are active and happy.

*I'm thankful for the more than 10,000 dedicated supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners, trustees, assessors and tax collectors who serve more than 8 million people in the 1,428 townships across Illinois.

*I'm thankful for the more than 2,000 new township officials who were elected in the April Township election and their willingness to serve their neighbors in township office.

*I'm thankful for the many township officials who retired after the April election and who gave so much to township government through their years of service.

*I'm thankful for the 689 officials who attended our Newly Elected Officials "Boot Camp" seminars after the election.

*I'm thankful for cell phones and iPads that allow us to communicate much easier in today's world.

*I'm thankful for an involved TOI membership.

*I'm thankful for the many friends that TOI has in the Illinois General Assembly that "get" what township and local government is all about.

*I'm thankful for the many township employees I come into contact with across the state. They are dedicated to the officials and the people they serve.

*I'm thankful for the many devoted volunteers across the state in numerous townships who help and make many townships activities/programs possible. This includes food drives, senior and disabled programs, youth activities and many other activities that are too numerous and diverse to list.

*I'm thankful for Jerry, Pam, Taylor, Letitia, Olivia, Kim, Barb and Kristen, the TOI staff, for doing such a great job and going the extra mile in everything they do.

*I'm thankful for a very supportive and encouraging TOI President and Board of Directors.

Finally, I'm thankful for this country we live in and for our veterans and for the men and women currently serving us in all branches of the military. They are serving so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do in this great country.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you will take a few minutes and think of the things you are thankful for. I'm sure it will certainly make you feel truly blessed!

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