



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

BEGINNING EARLIER THIS YEAR, and up until the time of me sitting down to write this article, it has been hard to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television or radio without hearing or seeing something about the most recent events involving the COVID-19 pandemic. All of this seemed to overshadow everything going on, including the quickly approaching November election.

It seems to me that especially in Washington, D.C. that frustration is at an all-time high with all the recent events involving COVID-19. Frustration has also spilled over into Illinois as we are slowly re-opening the State and trying to get back to some sort of "normal". Everything combined seems to be causing major voter dissatisfaction and this has a lesson for township officials. As elected officials, we always have to remember who our bosses are: the voters who elected us to office. After all, it is the voters who pay the salaries of elected officials!

Even though most people are thinking about the upcoming November election, it is now just a few months away before the cycle begins for township officials to begin the process for the 2021 township election. At this time when the public is very untrusting of government and government officials, it is more important than ever before for township officials to demonstrate innovative techniques and services in order to provide their constituents with the most cost-effective and responsive government there is.

It was so nice to hear and read recently about the townships from all over the state that were stepping up

to take care of their residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was absolutely amazed at the outpouring of caring and concern that township officials had for their residents. To me there could be no better proof of the necessity of the government "closest to the people." Even Governor Pritzker saw this firsthand when he visited Thornton Township and assisted them in giving essential items to township residents. You can see a picture of this elsewhere in the magazine on page 34.

There are countless township officials all over the state, who are steadfast in the commitment to excellence. Township officials have a right to be proud because they are doing a great job and I salute you for everything you do. I have said this many times before, but it bears repeating: township officials are the most dedicated group of officials who want to make sure they are giving their constituents the very best.

Again, thank you for your commitment to grassroots government and for serving in your township. Township government has a great story to tell. Let's all tell it!



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