



From Your Executive Director

You never know where you might run into a township official!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that fall is well underway and that we are quickly approaching the end of another year.

Recently, I was thinking about all of the different people I have had the opportunity to meet over the last 24 years I have been associated with TOI. Not only have I met township officials at TOI events, but elsewhere also. There was the time 11 years ago when my wife and I were at Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota admiring this amazing monument when a guy standing next to me kept staring at me. He finally pointed his finger at me and said "Illinois — Townships — right?" I couldn't believe it but the guy was a trustee from a township in Winnebago County!

There was also another time that I was in line at McDonald's on a Saturday afternoon when I felt someone tap me on the arm, only to turn around and see a township clerk from Champaign County who was passing through. I also remember the time I was shopping at the mall, only to have a township supervisor from DeWitt County emerge from the housewares section where I was browsing. Township official "sightings" don't always involve actually "seeing" the official either.

One time about 10 years ago, I was at the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian in Washing-

ton, D.C. There was an exhibit on American First Ladies and posted on a wall by the exhibit for former First Lady Betty Ford was a handwritten letter urging President and Mrs. Ford to stop supporting the Equal Rights Amendment movement. The letter was signed by a name I recognized as a Tazewell County township official. So when I returned to Illinois, I called the official and sure enough, it WAS his letter. He said it had been posted there for several years. So not all sightings have been "in person."

And township official "sightings" are not limited to me.

TOI Board Member and Pendleton Township Clerk Treasa Brookman recently shared that she and her husband had gone camping one weekend and another camper recognized her as the writer of the Clerk's Corner article that appears in this magazine each month. Treasa said she was embarrassed but she shouldn't be. At least she knows other clerks are reading her article—which is a good thing!

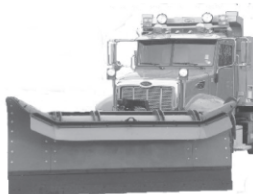


With the Thanksgiving holiday at the end of November, I have been thinking a lot about everything I am thankful for. Having township official "sightings" is just one thing I am

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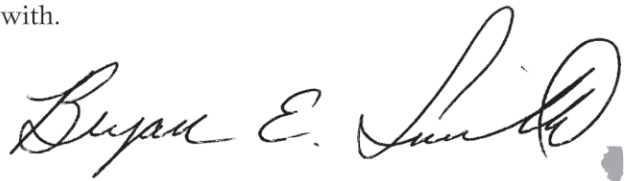
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thankful for. As we approach Thanksgiving 2010, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you other things I'm especially thankful for:

- I'm thankful for my health, my family and the fact we are all together.
- I'm thankful for the more than 11,000 dedicated supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners, trustees, assessors and collectors who serve more than 8 million people in the 1,432 townships across Illinois.
- I'm thankful for the 1,070 officials who attended our eight Education District meetings in the spring and summer.
- I'm thankful for cell phones and laptop computers that allow us to communicate much easier in today's world.
- 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 township activities/programs possible. This includes food drives, youth, senior and disabled activities and many other activities that are too numerous and diverse to list.
- I'm thankful for a great group of TOI Officers and Directors who are involved and supportive.

- I'm thankful for the wonderful and terrific staff I have at TOI.
- I'm thankful for the taxes I pay because it means I am employed.
- I'm thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- I'm thankful for all the complaining I hear about the government because it means we have Freedom of Speech.
- I'm thankful for a lawn that needs mowing and household things that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- I'm thankful for my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- Finally, I'm thankful for those men and women who are serving us in the military and fighting in faraway countries that we may continue to enjoy all the freedoms that we do in the U.S.A.

As you pause to enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I hope you will take a few minutes to think of all those things that you are thankful for and blessed with.



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