



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SPRING so far with so many legislative issues to keep track of, but while I haven't had as much time to devote to our magazine's 75th anniversary as I would have liked, we are devoting this issue to the 75th.

From the moment you saw the cover of the June 2016 issue of *Township Perspective*, I am sure you were aware we were celebrating a very special milestone. Seventy-five years is a long time. Seventy-five years of communicating the "township message" all over Illinois. Over seven decades of providing our membership with a useful tool in performing their duties. In fact, I often say that our magazine is our "biggest tool" in getting information into our member's hands. That, in my opinion, is something very worthwhile to celebrate!

In 1941, history was made for local governments in Illinois, when the *Illinois Supervisor and County Commissioner* magazine began its run. A few short months later, the magazine acquired a new name by becoming the *Illinois County and Township Official*. It would keep this name until the April 1999 issue when it was renamed and became what we have today, *Township Perspective*.

From its humble beginnings in 1941, a year that would end with the tragic Pearl Harbor bombing that would set off World War II, the magazine has evolved tremendously throughout the last 75 years. *Township Perspective*, very simply, is an information source. Over the years, the magazine has provided more and more useful content, while its actual appearance has changed as well.

It has been quite fun digging into the magazine archives and researching the history of the magazine. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find articles about the folks who have been involved in the magazine, some longer than others, but still all working together to provide our members with a useful publication. A few years ago, we were fortunate enough to find Mrs. Sue Price. Sue, who is 92 years old and lives in Springfield, helped run the magazine office from 1951-1974, when, most of that time, the magazine was run by Charles and

Muzette Allison. TOI became the actual "owner" of the magazine in 1971 when it was purchased for \$6,000. Sue, who is still very active, joins us for lunch from time to time and shares what she remembers from the "old days" in the magazine office. It certainly was a different era then.

In my capacity as Executive Director of the Township Officials of Illinois, I also assume the duties and responsibilities of editor of the association's magazine. I have to say that this has always been and continues to be one of my favorite parts of my job. With a lot of assistance from our very talented associate editor, Amy Rourke,

and everyone else in the office who writes articles, updates mailing lists and addresses, sells advertising and the talented folks at Stevens Publishing Company, we put together the magazine 11 times a year. It is definitely a group effort.

We want to keep *Township Perspective* close to you. We always enjoy hearing from you about the magazine, what subjects you would like to see covered in articles, what you like and what you don't. This is YOUR magazine, so please help us continue to make it the best we can for you.

Please take time each month to get a new perspective on township government by reading your copy of *Township Perspective*! Thank you for being loyal readers over the years and hopefully, many more years to come!

Happy 75th *Township Perspective*!

"Just do a good job. It sounds so simple, but it really is that simple. Just work at being good elected officials."

— George Miller in a 2007 article in *Township Perspective*