



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

## *Giving Thanks for Another Year*

**I**T IS HARD TO BELIEVE that we are nearing the end of another year. The holiday season is already upon us and the weather is changing rapidly. It seems like only yesterday that 2016 was starting, and now it is almost over!

This past year, while challenging, has been a good year and as we close the books on 2016, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you what I am thankful for from 2016.

- ❖ I'm thankful for my health, my family, and especially my two daughters, who really keep me hopping.
- ❖ I'm thankful for the more than 11,000 dedicated supervisors, clerks, highway commissioners, assessors, trustees, and collectors that serve more than 8 million people in the 1,431 townships across Illinois.
- ❖ I'm thankful for the many devoted employees and volunteers across the state in numerous townships who help make many township activities/programs possible. This includes food pantries, senior, youth, and disabled activities, and many other activities and programs that are too numerous and diverse to list.
- ❖ I'm thankful for a very supportive and encouraging TOI Board of Directors.
- ❖ I'm thankful for cell phones and iPads that allow us to communicate much easier in today's world.
- ❖ I'm thankful for the many friends, both current and former township officials, that TOI has in the Illinois General Assembly.
- ❖ I'm thankful that the national election is over!



- ❖ I'm thankful for a great staff at TOI that goes above and beyond in everything they do on a daily basis.
- ❖ Finally, I am thankful for the country we live in and for the veterans who have given so much for us and for the men and women serving us today in all branches of the military. They are sacrificing so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do in this great country.

As we all pause to enjoy the holiday season, I hope you will take a few minutes to look back over 2016 and think of those things that you are thankful for and blessed with.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!