



# From Your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

*Thank you for being part of the TOI Team!*

**T**HERE IS AN OLD SAYING about the month of March coming in like a lion or lamb. Well, this year, it definitely went out as a lion in the form of Senate Bill 1430, Amendment #1.

This bill amendment allowed for a referendum to abolish all township assessors on a countywide basis by a majority vote and turn all duties over to the County Assessor.

A few days before the bill was to be heard in committee, we “blasted” out a legislative alert via email to everyone, asking folks to contact Senators on the Local Government Committee and ask them to vote “no” on the amendment and bill. This assault was definitely a “call to arms” and township officials from all over the state responded admirably. When the vote was taken in committee, it was defeated on a 4-5 vote.

Afterwards, we once again “blasted” out an email informing everyone of the committee vote. Here is a sampling of some of the responses I got back:

*MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!!!!! We contacted all 11 Senate Local Government Committee, someone is stirring the pot. — Bob McGuire, Ridgway Twp Supervisor (Gallatin Co.)*

*I have just finished calling all the senators on the list requesting them to vote no! — Lynn Watson, Eppards Point Township Clerk (Livingston Co.)*

Emails are sent to alert our officials on pending legislation that would help or harm township government. Please make sure that if you wish to receive these alerts, our office has your correct email address. Thank you for your help!

*Boy this is STUPID! — Joseph Baltz, Troy Township Supervisor (Will Co.)*

*Close but good news! — Dale English, Buck Township Supervisor (Edgar Co.)*

*Thank you for your diligence on this. — Sue Harney, Dundee Township Supervisor (Kane Co.)*

*Great Work, Thank You! — Denise LaCure, Geneva Township Assessor (Kane Co.)*

*THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DILIGENT AND HARD WORK PROTECTING OUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT! You guys (and girls) are GREAT! I think it helped they chose to pull this stunt while many assessors were in one location in Bloomington. Quite the buzz going on there. And it helped at least our class took time out to place calls. Keep up the good work! — Rick Kinner, Gardner Township Assessor (Sangamon Co.)*

Our lobbyist, Tim Bramlet, informed me that there were many township officials who had filed witness slips in opposition also. I’m very proud and thankful for every township official who took time to contact members of the Committee to help get this bill stopped.

However, now is not the time to let down our guard. We must keep working together to ensure that the township message is heard loud and clear with our legislators. We are playing a lot of defense this year and we’ve been successful with everyone’s help so far, but we can’t stop.

Everyone must keep their eyes wide open in case the remainder of the legislative session brings another attack. Like the motto of the Boy Scouts: BE PREPARED!