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BOARD SPOTLIGHT

By Steve Hanson, ISPA Sr. Director



Hello and greetings from Fort Dodge. I hope this finds everyone well as you're enjoying your summer and taking time to spend with your families doing whatever activities that may be. It is hard to believe that I am in my third year as an Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Board member with three legislative sessions under my belt.

Speaking of the legislative session, I would like to take a moment to discuss the importance of "grass roots" efforts with your local legislators. As I previously mentioned, this year was my third on the ISPA Board of Directors during a legislative session, and it was a busy one.

During the last session, I had the opportunity to spend a day at the state capitol with our ISPA lobbyists, Mike Heller and Paula Feltner (who have done a wonderful job for our association), to get a good feel of how business is conducted during session.

The biggest lesson I learned is that someone or some group is always at the capitol talking to legislators about their opinions on any specific bill — and they may not have the same opinion as you. This means we all have to get to know our local legislators so that when we contact them during the session, our initial introduction is out of the way and our contact will be more personal.

With republicans having control again next year, one could expect bills to fly through legislators unless they hear from the people they represent. Next year is considered a pension year. We should all start talking to our legislators *now* to avoid any changes to Chapter 411 (or any public pension). A little effort today could pay off a lot next winter when the 88th General Assembly, 2018 Session kicks off.

Everyone please stay safe and I hope to see you in Davenport in October.

God bless.