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BOARD SPOTLIGHT

By Ryan Goecke, ISPA President



Greetings from Marshalltown! What an honor it is to be serving as president of the Iowa State Police Association (ISPA). On October 3, I began my 29th year in law enforcement, all with the Marshalltown Police Department. I remember when I started in 1986, looking at the “Serving Since” banners on some of the officers’ name plates. I saw some that had started before I was born. That’s me now.

Like many of you, I’ve served different shifts and many different job assignments over the years. Some were great assignments. Others fell into the “all other duties as assigned” category. I’m grateful for the start I was given and developed a pay-it-forward sense of duty.

I’ve been president of our ISPA Local #17, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #2 and our employee association. I’ve been on different boards and committees to promote law enforcement and for the betterment of my community.

Since going to my first conference in 1990, I had a goal to be elected to the ISPA Board. I had the patience to wait for the right opportunity and that happened at the 2008 conference in Cedar Rapids. I take to heart our mission to promote professionalism in Iowa law enforcement through communication, education and legislation, with the purpose of enhancing the lives of our members and to encourage and build camaraderie between all members of the law enforcement community. ISPA was formed with the intent to benefit all its members statewide. Moreover, it was created to benefit all law enforcement in Iowa.

ISPA is proud to be the largest association of law enforcement professionals in Iowa, and we have a lot of great things going. Recognizing Iowa’s Heroes and the Purple Heart Award are two of our finest.

I would ask that you support ISPA by supporting our Premier Sponsors: Brownells and California Casualty — and our Gold Sponsor: Upper Iowa University. Get to know and develop relationships with your local elected officials. Consider serving the association by becoming a board member. And as always, do what you can to help and support our boys at Rabiner Treatment Center!

We will be soliciting articles from members for our new online newsletter, so please let us know if you would like to contribute. If you have any feedback or ideas on how to improve, please let us know.

Thank you for your membership in this excellent organization. I look forward to the upcoming year and seeing you all in Marshalltown in 2015!

When doing some research for this article, I was surprised to see how few people are actually reading the newsletters. I won't bore you with all the numbers, but on average, only 32 percent or 512 people are actually opening up the newsletter.

As a board, we are always trying to ensure the newsletter contains relevant and important issues to law enforcement, our families and our communities. We want to be able to use the newsletter to bring these issues to our members, but it's hard to do when only a few are reading them.

One of my goals when joining the board was getting participation from more members to help with issues that benefit not only ISPA members, but law enforcement as a whole. The ISPA Board of Directors is only made up of eight people, whereas we have around 3,180 ISPA members. Just imagine all the knowledge, training and education we all possess. If you as a member, and we as a board, start to use our new communication tools, I think we can accomplish almost anything we set our minds to.

In order to do this though, we have to get more involvement and participation from everyone. The first step in this process is to make sure every ISPA member you know is signed up to receive our emails and newsletter. Just click [here](#) to get them signed up.

I wonder by now how many people are still reading my Pulitzer Prize winning article. Let's find out! Email me your name, department and phone number at ISPA2019@gmail.com for a chance to win a gift card to Brownells, one of our premier sponsors. Make sure you write **"I read the article"** in the subject line. For each person who emails me, I will personally donate \$1 towards the gift card, up to \$100 (one entry per person, please). The deadline to email me is October 1, 2014. I will draw the winner at the ISPA Annual Conference in Ames.

On that note, don't forget about the ISPA Annual Conference October 13–15th in Ames. Click [here](#) for more information. I hope to see you there!