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BOARD SPOTLIGHT

By Becki Sammons, Jr. Director



Hello fellow Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) members. Many of you may already know that I'm the newest member of the ISPA Board. (If you were able to attend the annual conference last fall in Sioux City, you may remember me as "Julie.") But since we have more than 3,000 members, I should introduce myself.

I am an Iowa City native, happily married to my high school sweetheart, John, and we have three children who will all be in college next year. I have been an officer for the Iowa City Police Department for almost 25 years. I also was a reserve deputy for Johnson County through college and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1992. (For you Cyclone fans, I have a newfound appreciation since my son is now a student at Iowa State.) During my career, I have served as a field training officer (FTO), accident reconstructionist, crisis negotiator and facilitator of Project Lifesaver. I love my job, and most days I still look forward to going to work.

I am also enthusiastically involved in Iowa City's Local 16 — organizing Shop with a Cop, departmental social activities and many charity events. In my current role as Local 16 President, I make sure all new hires are immediately signed up as ISPA members. I was lucky enough to have predecessors who were very involved in ISPA, so early on I saw the impact our grassroots efforts can have. I am dedicated to making sure our officers know what ISPA is and what it can do for them.

Back in 1993 when I attended my very first ISPA Conference, I had a great time. A *really* great time. I had such a great time that I made it a priority to go every year, even though I must admit I didn't have any idea what ISPA itself was all about. I just knew it was a great time with a lot of great people. But I did always go to the meetings, tried to stay awake for the financial report and little by little started to figure out what those guys up front were talking about. I soon realized that ISPA does a lot of important work for the officers in this state, especially regarding pension issues. I was definitely hooked.

Now that I have attended some state board meetings, I have been humbled by the knowledge and sharpness of the other board members. They are very tuned in to what is going on in state government, and they are committed to advancing issues that impact officers across the state. It appears we are in for some struggles in the upcoming years; I am excited to be a member of the board and look forward to the opportunity to make a difference for the membership of ISPA.