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BOARD SPOTLIGHT

By Todd Thoeming, ISPA President



Greetings from Davenport to all the members of the Iowa State Police Association (ISPA). I want to thank Past President Zach Lewis for his work as president last year, and for making my transition to president as seamless as possible.

It is with a heavy heart that I touch upon a topic that's rocked our profession to its core. I'm speaking, of course, about the devastating deaths of our respected colleagues, Sgt. Tony Beminio and Officer Justin Martin. At a time like this, when it feels like there's nothing adequate to say, I derive comfort from the countless acts of kindness our community has shown to support those in law enforcement. Hundreds of our brothers and sisters in blue from all over the country attended memorial services for these fallen officers. Schools, churches, businesses and individuals flooded us with cards, flowers, food and prayers. And our family and friends provided the solace and comfort we needed during our darkest days. While the tragedy that befell Officer Martin and Sgt. Beminio will never be far from our minds, the love and loyalty they inspired in our community will live on indefinitely.

On a more positive note, I'd like to congratulate Past President Lewis and Local 7 Sioux City for their hard work in providing a great conference this year. Local 2 Davenport and I are looking forward to hosting the 85th Annual ISPA Conference in Davenport in October 2017. Local 2 has been working to provide an educational and enjoyable conference. If you have been to the Conference in Davenport before, you may remember it has been held at the Jumer's Lodge Hotel, which had a unique German castle atmosphere. Unfortunately, the Lodge has been torn down and we had to find a different venue. We will be at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Davenport.

The election is over. As our lobbyist told us at the Conference, it could be a challenging year. I ask that you contact your local representative and ask to meet them for coffee, breakfast, lunch or however they are able. Talk to them about one or two of our resolutions and how important they are for the safety of the community and police officers. Don't be surprised if they ask for your opinion about some other legislation that is not related to law enforcement. In asking, they are showing they respect your opinion.

First Vice President Pillack, Second Vice President McFarland, Secretary-Treasurer Host and I

were recently in Detroit for the Mid-States Conference. The associations from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota and Iowa were at this conference. There was an educational presentation along with a round table discussion. It is amazing how the concerns of each state mirror each other.

In closing, I hope you and your families have a safe and happy holiday season. I also pray that you all stay safe while protecting our communities