

# IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

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## ILEA COUNCIL UPDATE

By Sgt. Melinda Ruopp, Marshalltown Police



Hello ISPA members!

I wanted to introduce myself, as I am representing the Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Council. Thank you for putting your trust in me!

A brief introduction: I have been in law enforcement since 1988. I started out as a 911 dispatcher for the Marshall County/Marshalltown Communications Center, and after about five years, I took a position with the City of Marshalltown as a reserve officer. In 1995, I took the plunge and became a sworn full-time officer. I handled a dual-purpose (patrol/narcotic) dog from 1998 through January of this year. I just retired my second dog, so I'm learning how to be a Sgt. without a K9 partner — big adjustment!

For the last year, I have been on the ILEA Council. I really enjoy the Council; all the members are wonderful. I think we all do a great job of being impartial and detailed with any decisions that come our way.

Most of our meetings are spent hearing from departments who need waivers or exceptions from officers and reserve officers who have been unable to meet certain qualifications. I know one of the more frustrating (and repetitive) things we have to consider is reserve officers who need time extensions to complete mandatory training. There are certainly some folks who have understandable issues — issues that are no fault of the officer or department. The Council takes these requests seriously, but perhaps we need to understand why so many have issues getting their training done in the time allowed.

Budget is also a frequent topic of conversation, as is maintaining a strong central Academy.

As a council member, I appreciate hearing from ISPA members. I'll try to pass along imperative information in advance about topics that require input, so that you have a say in how I vote should something come up.

Thank you again. If you have any questions/comments, feel free to contact me at [uspcasec@heartofiowa.net](mailto:uspcasec@heartofiowa.net)

*Photo credit: [The City of Marshalltown](#). January 10, 2014.*