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SECRETARY-TREASURER UPDATE

By Rick Host, Secretary-Treasurer



First, I would like to take a moment to offer my sincerest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Sgt. Tony Beminio and Officer Justin Martin, and thank the entire law enforcement community for showing your support for them and their departments at this difficult time.

Another conference has come and gone. I would like to congratulate and thank the men and women of Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Local 7 Sioux City, for all their efforts in hosting another wonderful Annual ISPA Conference. I believe all who attended had a great experience. The educational presentations were very well done and enlightening. The Purple Heart Award ceremony at this year's conference banquet was a very moving experience for the recipients, their families and the delegates.

This is one of those awards we hope we never have to give, but it is something all the members of ISPA can be proud of.

I would like to welcome our new Junior Director to the ISPA Board, Becki Sammons from Local 16 Iowa City. Becki, aka "Julie" (you'll have to ask her) is the second woman to serve on the ISPA Board of Directors. I think you will enjoy your time on the Board. It has been a rewarding experience for me, and I know you will do a wonderful job. Welcome aboard.

It is again time to remind everyone their 2017 ISPA membership renewal is fast approaching. Membership in ISPA runs on the calendar year. Dues are payable on January 1st of each year. As always, I will be sending out a reminder letter to all of the local secretaries, along with the roster for your respective local and a contact sheet for you to update your contact information. I will also be sending out a reminder postcard to those members who pay their own dues.

Over the past several years, you have all been very prompt in getting your membership renewals to me. I appreciate that very much. I look forward to another year like the last few. According to our by-laws, membership dues are considered delinquent 60 days after they are due. At the end of February or beginning of March, I will send out past-due notices to those who have not renewed by then. Then I will send a second past due notice on April 1st. Any dues not received by the end of April will result in suspension of the member from membership. ISPA is a 501(c)(5) corporation. This is a non-profit labor organization status, which means we are not a charitable organization. Therefore, your dues are not deductible from your income tax as a charitable contribution.

I sent letters to all the local secretaries and to all members who pay their own dues in August, advising of the proposed amendments to the by-laws regarding ISPA dues. The proposal was to increase the dues for active members from \$30 per year to \$40 per year, to increase dues for retired active members from \$20 per year to \$30 per year and to increase the one-time payment for paid-up-active membership from \$150 to \$200. These increases were approved by the delegates at the 84th Annual ISPA Conference and are in effect for the 2017 dues.

In my report at the Conference, I updated the delegates on the financial condition of ISPA. At the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, August 31, 2016, our net worth remained at \$1.8 million, the same as last year. Over the last few years we have stayed in the \$1.8 to \$2.2 million range. As you all know, however, the market is a continual up-and-down roller coaster ride. I don't see this changing any time soon.

Membership dues brought \$78,590 into the ISPA treasury this past year. Membership dipped from 3,153 in 2015 to 3,143 this year. In 2015–2016, I paid out 34 death benefits to the named beneficiaries of those deceased members. As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to help the families of our fallen brothers and sisters in law enforcement. It's bittersweet to point out that this number was down from the high of 40 paid last year. That amounted to \$51,000 in death benefits. As you can see, that does not leave much room for the other operations of ISPA. The above-mentioned increase in dues will result in revenue of around \$93,500, if membership stays consistent.

The delegates also approved the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation authorizing the creation of a separate charitable fund. This would allow ISPA to receive donations which are tax deductible for the donor. These funds would be maintained in a separate account and can only be used for charitable purposes. These could include donations from ISPA to the Iowa Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics of Iowa and the Rabiner Treatment Center (RTC). The Board will be contacting Charitable Giving to see if this will help us in some fund-raising efforts.

Our sponsor program continues to work well. This program pays for the publication and emailing of the Iowa Police Journal e-newsletter. Currently, we have one Premier Sponsor: California Casualty, one Gold Sponsor: MassMutual, and two Silver Sponsors: Brownell's and Upper Iowa University. Please check these sponsors on our website, where we have links to the sponsors' websites. If you need these types of services, please give our sponsors a hard first look. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for fundraising for our association, let any one of the board members know. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season this year.

Enjoy your families and, as always, be safe.