

Updates from ILEA Council

Greetings from myself, Officer Melissa Henderson from Cedar Rapids Police Department, your ISPA council representative. Thanks for the opportunity to continue to serve on the council.

Director Brady Carney from ILEA continues to do an outstanding job leading ILEA. He settled in quickly and has tried to educate himself in all aspects of ILEA. He has had a lot of things thrown at him in a short period of time. He continues to put out monthly newsletters (<https://ilea.iowa.gov/policies/#newsletters>) to update the law enforcement community. He has been including updates regarding the academy classes, staff updates, legislative updates, changes in procedures and reminders for all agencies. I find these newsletters very helpful.

One update that Director Carney and staff have tried to push out is keeping ILEA notified of personnel changes. All agencies are required to provide updates on all sworn personnel and dispatch personnel within ten days. There are report of hire forms and change in status forms on their website, (<https://ilea.iowa.gov/forms/>). They have made the forms user-friendly, and they only require digital signatures. If for some reason the change in status is a result of termination or if they have resigned in lieu of termination, information needs to be documented and sent to ILEA for possible revocation or suspension of certification. If this is not done an officer who is terminated for good cause and shouldn't be certified may obtain employment with another agency.

ILEA has transitioned to a new Learning Management System (LMS), Acadis. This has been a learning curve however they believe this will be an asset for the academy, documentation of personnel, and a training portal for all law enforcement training across the state. This is a work in progress.

It is with great sadness that we have lost a member of our ILEA council. Retired Police Chief Gene Bienke from Clinton, IA passed away unexpectedly from medical issues on January 11, 2024. Bienke provided great insight and a high level of integrity. Two seats on council have recently been filled, Captain Aaron McClelland, Waterloo PD, representing the Iowa Peace Officers Association and Captain Dan Jansen, West Des Moines PD, representing police departments over 50,000. After Chief Tim Carmody's retirement, Ric Martinez has taken over as Chair of council.

ILEA is working with agencies across the state to host certification and re-certification schools. They are trying to cover different territories to prevent long drives and hotel stays. ILEA will be staffing these schools with the assistance of outside agencies.

There continue to be numerous waivers at council meetings. Some of these are instructors that have not been certified for 3 or more years. Most of these waivers are being approved based on the demands

and low numbers in law enforcement. Some of the other waivers are based on moral turpitude, residency requirements, extensions, and a few other reasons. These cases are all looked at individually. Council members take several things into consideration. Some reasons waivers may be approved or denied are, time and distance, severity, and possible hardships to the subject and/or department. We understand hiring officers is difficult right now and we take this into account. The council does not want to lower the standards of hiring officers. Some of these waivers are approved and some are denied.

All de-certification cases are held in closed session. ILEA has done a great job of staying up to date on these cases as they come in. The council takes this job very seriously and considers all the facts of each case.

There are currently 91 recruits attending the ILEA academy. They reported the academy is going well and these classes have some outstanding recruits.

Indian Hills University was approved to host a Level II Regional academy and they wanted to start an academy in January 2024. They did not have enough interest in hosting the academy, so they plan to host an academy this spring if they have enough interest.

I am on the curriculum committee, and we plan to meet soon to dissect the academy classes and curriculum. This will be a big task and will crossover with the rules committee as there may need to be some changes to code based on our feedback.

ILEA is still evaluating the hiring process with the physical test and the POST test. They are interested in looking at other options in the future. This will need a lot of research before any changes would be made or if there would be any changes at all.

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or if you would like me to add something to the agenda.

Melissa Henderson