

ISPA 2024 President's Report

Judy Kellen

President, Iowa State Police Association

I hope everyone had a great time at the 91st Annual ISPA Conference in Coralville. On behalf of the entire board and all the ISPA members who attended the conference, I want to thank and congratulate Past President Becki Sammons and Iowa City Local 16 for all their hard work in hosting such a great conference.

In October, board members from ISPA, Iowa Professional Fire Firefighters (IPFF), and our lobbyists met with Senator Jack Whitver to discuss House File (HF) 687. The purpose of HF 687 is to ensure work-related injuries for 411 members are treated similar to the workers' compensation benefits provided to other employees in the State of Iowa. We discussed all the work and compromises reached by both associations, Metro Coalition and League of Cities. We wanted assurances the bill would have the Senate's support like we have had in the House. We anticipate having a meeting with Senator Chris Cournoyer soon and will keep working on this bill.

Past President Sammons has left the association in a good position. We appreciate all her leadership and guidance. Since this is an election year, we know we have our work cut out for us. In addition to HF 687, we have several other resolutions we are advocating for. We are working closely with IPOA, IPFF, other law enforcement associations and our lobbyists to get the necessary support.

As we look ahead, we will attend the Joint Public Safety meeting December 1. We will represent the membership at the Governor's Iowa State of the State Address in January. Our annual ISPA Legislative Day and breakfast will be held January 31, 2024. I want to encourage you all to come join your board members while we talk to many of our Iowa State Senators and Representatives about issues important to law enforcement. I also anticipate we will need your assistance this spring once the legislative session starts in contacting your senators and representatives. Please take the time to get to know your local legislators ahead of time.

As a reminder, if you are interested in being considered for a position on the Officer Assistance Program board, please let our Secretary-Treasurer, Dave McFarland, know immediately. Sioux City Local 7 members are busy finalizing plans for the 92nd annual conference here in Sioux City. For the planners in your organization, please mark the dates October 6-10, 2024. For people who like surprises, it will be here before you know it.

Please extend a warm welcome to Ryan Anderson and Matt Mullen, who were elected and joined the ISPA board of directors at the conference in Coralville. As always, if you need something, please reach out to any of the board of directors. We look forward to working for our members and having a great year. Please enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends. Please be safe, watch over your communities, protect your brothers and sisters and have fun.