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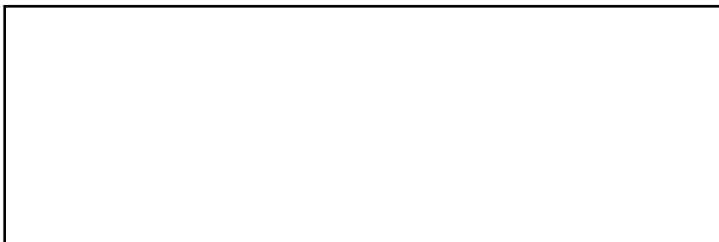
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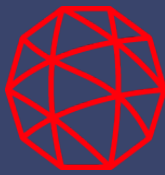
The Official Member Publication of the Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA)



2023 IPOA Board of Directors:

Terry Dehmlow, Sgt. Augustin Farmer, Capt. Mike McKelvey, Chief Marty Duffus, Sgt. Glenn Goode, Officer Steve Jacobs, Officer Dean Sharp, Chief David Niedert





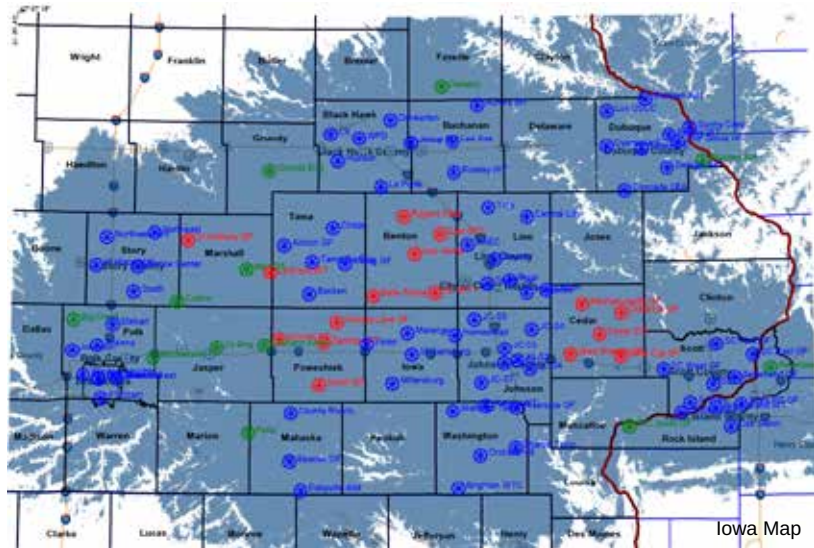
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Iowa Law Enforcement: (ISSN# 0886-8336), published quarterly, is the official member publication of the Iowa Peace Officers Association. Secretary/ Treasurer’s Office: P.O. Box 100, Denver, Iowa 50622. Editorial Office: 413 44th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50312. Office of Publication: P.O. Box 100, Denver, Iowa 50622. Periodicals postage paid in Denver, Iowa, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Iowa Law Enforcement, PO Box 100, Denver Iowa 50622.

This Association represents the best of each of us and is as strong as we make it. We need the participation of every member.

This is my first article as President of one of the finest law enforcement associations in Iowa. I am honored to serve as your President. It truly is one of the highlights of my career.

I want to recognize outgoing President Captain Mike McKelvey for his leadership, guidance, and friendship. Captain McKelvey served as President during the pandemic and police unpopularity. His steady leadership and commitment served our Association well. I also want to recognize our board: Chief David Niedert, Independence P.D.; Glenn Goode, IDOT-MVE; Officer Steve Jacobs and Officer Dean Sharp, Council Bluffs P.D.; and Sgt. Gus Farmer, Waterloo P.D. These board members are instrumental in guiding and building our Association. I appreciate the time they dedicate to this organization. Also, many thanks to Kellie Paschke, our excellent lobbyist, and Terry Dehmlow, our Secretary/Treasurer who is simply invaluable to this Association.

Speaking of careers, let me introduce myself and tell you a bit about my career.

I am married and my wife Robin and I have seven kids and 10 grandchildren. When we aren't chasing our grandchildren, we love to camp and travel on our motorcycle. A big thank you to her for supporting me though this.

I started in law enforcement where I grew up: Grinnell, Iowa. I started at Grinnell P.D. in 1983 and served for two years. In 1985 I went to the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office where I served for 19 years. In 2004, I was appointed Chief in Osceola and have been there for 19 years. I also serve as a Certified Medical Examiner's Investigator for Clarke County. Yes, 40 years. I am a dinosaur. I have a bachelor's degree from Grand View University and am also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. I have held many collateral assignments and attended trainings and have earned numerous certificates. Enough about me! Let's talk about your organization.



Chief Marty Duffus
Osceola Police Department

The Iowa Peace Officers Association is 115 years old and it is your organization. In that time the Association has changed greatly, and it will continue to change. No matter the changes our goal will always be what is best for all of us. This Association represents the best of each of us and is as strong as we make it. To make it as strong as possible, we need participation from every member. As President, I ask each member and each department to reach out to non-members and encourage them to become members. Participation also includes you, the member, submitting legislative ideas to any board member, our Secretary/ Treasurer Terry Dehmlow, or to me. You can email IPOA at iacop2@mchsi.com We also want your ideas on Conference topics. Our Association has a long-standing tradition of providing excellent training that is affordable and relevant to issues or techniques of today's law enforcement. If you have an idea or have been to a conference or training that you think

would be beneficial to Iowa officers, let us know. We would also like to hear your ideas on ways we can offer additional services to you. Again, feel free to email any of us.

Finally, I want to thank each one of you for all that you do for your families, your agencies, and your communities. Without our families our jobs and lives would be unbearable. Without our agencies and the support we receive from each other our jobs would be difficult. Without our communities and the support of our great citizens, our sense of purpose would be missing. Every day I see articles with stories of all the good police officers are doing. Things like helping the homeless, reading to children, D.A.R.E. programs, educating the elderly to avoid being victims of scams and preserving their life savings, mentoring middle and high school aged kids, running toward gun fire without regard for our safety, and the excellent investigative work on the complex cases we all work. This is a time for us to be proud of what we do.

Thank you for being members of the IPOA. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you. Stay safe.

An advertisement for BALI Cares. The background is dark blue with a white diagonal line. The text "Learn the Warning Signs of Teenage Substance Misuse" is written in white and light blue. Below this, a smaller line of text says "As we all work together to fight the coronavirus, learn how to help protect loved ones and address the opioid epidemic from your home." The URL "Visit rali-ia.org/rali-cares" is in white. At the bottom, the BALI Iowa logo is shown, which includes the text "BALI Iowa" and "By State Law Enforcement". Below that is the "BALI Cares" logo, which includes a crown icon and the text "BALI Cares". On the right side of the advertisement, there is a 3D rendering of a computer monitor displaying a website interface with various icons and text.

IPOA Members have Served on a Dozen Boards & Committees During the Four Years Mike McKelvey Served as President

By Capt. Mike McKelvey
Mason City Police Department

The last four years have flown by. I want to thank all the members and their respective agencies for their steady support of the Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA) during my tenure as President.

Memorable national moments to me from the last four years include: COVID-19; eviction moratorium; various high-profile in-custody deaths and related protests; "Defund the Police" rhetoric; nationwide recruitment and retention crisis for certified police officers; staggering inflation; heroin, fentanyl, and derivative overdoses; gun control vs. Constitutional Carry; and political rhetoric, to name a few national issues that affect all of us.

Locally, Iowa-based police associations have also been dealing with various issues related to revisions of Chapters 20 and 411; basic recruit training and services provided by ILEA; discussing the needs for regional police academies; enforcement of vaping/cannabis/hemp/CBD laws; creation of the Public Safety Survivors Health Insurance fund; Qualified Immunity; statewide radio interoperability; drug-endangered children; human-trafficking; proposed body camera legislation; proposed use of force reporting / traffic stop race / gender statistics; increasing penalties for opiate-related crimes; recognizing Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement peace officers as having the same enforcement abilities as other state-certified peace officers; peace officer suicides; effects of trauma and police work on mental and physical health of officers and their families; and law enforcement and corrections workers killed on duty from felonious assault or car crashes, or as a result of contracting Covid-19. We can never forget our public servants who died while serving those they protect.

I also continue to serve as the chairperson on the Iowa Medical Cannabidiol Advisory Board. Up to eight medical professionals and one member from law enforcement comprise the board, which makes suggestions to Iowa Health and Human Services regarding Iowa's very medical CBD program. I have found this role very interesting since its creation back in



At right is a custom clock honoring "Captain Mike McKelvey, President, Iowa Peace Officers Association, 2019-2023" from Amana Furniture & Clock Shop.

2017. Despite not even being six years in existence, I have seen numerous rapid changes in Iowa and worldwide in research and discussion about the pros and cons of cannabis. As the only law enforcement member, I try to remind legislators and community members about some of the challenges and concerns that law enforcement officers see daily as the "Green Wave" sweeps the country. Differences between Federal and state drug laws make this new trend difficult to enforce. Profits, THC potency, and addiction potential can be high as well. There is no easy answer how to implement a medical cannabis program, and a decision could cause an unintended consequence. There are numerous competing interests. We hear from many in favor and many opposed to proposed changes. The value from the medical professionals is that as of right now the other board members are all physicians and experts in specific areas of care. They have been very adept at interpreting various scientific articles to assess for objective and reliable research vs. less-compelling studies before the board must weigh in on a recommendation that may affect all Iowans.

I don't think many IPOA members realize all of the additional voices that IPOA membership provides to members. Some of the committees meet annually, some meet quarterly, and some meet every other month. If you have interest in serving on one of the vacant spots, please let us know. These committee spots are important, and we appreciate being invited to participate in decision-making. It's also an important way for members to get some experience

working with other departments and Iowa legislators.

Below are various committees that IPOA members have served on or began serving during the four years I was IPOA President:

Iowa Joint Public Safety Board (the IPOA Board serves on it); Iowa Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Advisory Board (our Board Member is Sgt. Goode); Iowa Drug Policy Advisory Council (DPAC) (IA MVE Kinney); LE Vision of Equality Task Force (Clear Lake PD's Lopez); Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) Advisory Board (Board Member McKelvey); ILEA Council Advisory Board (Mason City PD's Creekmur) - replacement in progress; 911 Board Advisory Board (Board Member Griffith) - currently vacant; Iowa Jail Rules Review Committee (Board Member Duffus); Iowa Mobile ID Project (Board Member McKelvey); Iowa Telecommunicator Training Advisory Committee (Board Member McKelvey); Brady-Giglio Interim Committee (Board Member McKelvey); Iowa Traffic Incident Management (TIM) (Board Member Lorenzen) - currently vacant.

Last, I want to recognize steadfast and continued support of the IPOA from private and government entities. Their logistical, educational, financial, and emotional support to our members and their loved ones has been incredible over the years. They are never outspoken but continue to reassure the IPOA they support LE and they will be here if we need them. They continue to deliver when we reach out to them.: Midwest Counter Drug Training Center (MCTC), Iowa National Guard, and Camp Dodge at Johnston, IA; Iowa C.O.P.S.; AT&T; Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative or RALI Iowa; Iowa Special Olympics; Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC).

In closing, thank you all. I will continue to be active on the IPOA Board. I fully support Osceola Police Department Chief Marty Duffus as your new Iowa Peace Officers Association President. The transition will be seamless. Looking ahead to next year, we plan to build on successes from our last two annual Training Conferences. Be looking for Conference information this fall regarding the Feb 2024 Conference.

New Iowa Law Enforcement Director Director Brady C. Carney's pledge:

“...To serve all of you with thoughtful consideration, consistency, and an understanding of the challenges we collectively face.”

By Director Brady Carney
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy



Greetings from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)!

I hope this finds all of you safe and well. As the new Director, I am honored and humbled to play a role in helping equip Iowa's law enforcement officers with the necessary tools to positively impact their communities, to promote public safety, and to ensure they return home safely at the end of their shifts. My pledge is to serve all of you with thoughtful consideration, consistency, and an understanding of the challenges we collectively face.

I began my new role on March 6th, which was Week 9 of the Basic Academy for the 307th & 308th. Starting while the Basic was at full-tilt allowed me to observe and evaluate the ILEA staff, assisting instructors, recruits and our overall product on Day 1. The ILEA staff has been hard at work identifying and implementing best training practices while guiding 94 recruits as they become the next round of Iowa's law enforcement professionals.

The last five weeks have also afforded opportunities to meet with associations, boards, committees, chiefs, sheriffs and some of our elected officials. These conversations have brought forth concerns, insight and new ideas. Overwhelmingly, the tone has been positive, and the support from across the state has been tremendous. So, thank you!

I'd like to take just a moment to share a little about my background. I'm still a small-town farm kid at heart after growing up on a cattle, hog and row crop op-

eration in rural Guthrie County just a few miles outside of Adair. I graduated from Adair-Casey High School in 2002 and then attended Iowa State University. Shortly after earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology, I was hired by the Des Moines Police Department.

My first several years were spent working uniform patrol while serving as a mentor for new hires, a Field Training Officer and an instructor at the Des Moines Regional Police Academy. I was assigned to specialized crime suppression units while on patrol and then transitioned to an investigative role in the Vice/Narcotics Section. Joint investigations and subsequent relationships across the state and around the Midwest fostered an opportunity to serve as a Regional Director for the Iowa Narcotics Officers' Association (INOA). My INOA experience was extremely valuable as I learned the needs of law enforcement agencies of all sizes to include relevant training demands. I continued, and ultimately concluded my DMPD career supervising patrol officers and an array of complex and violent investigations with the Crimes Against Persons and Intelligence offices.

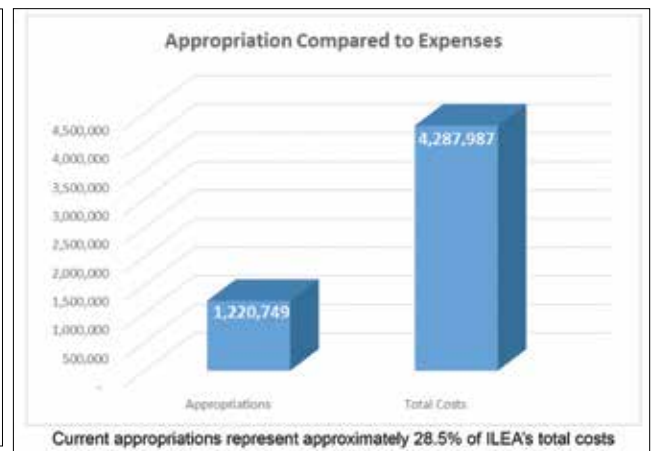
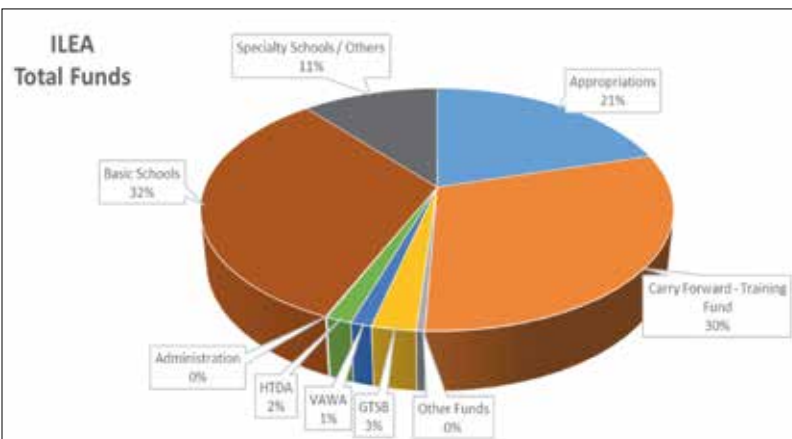
As I alluded to earlier, the transition to ILEA has been filled with many great conversations and a ton of support. Through these interactions, two topics of discussion have been consistent: funding and sufficient training space. There are many beliefs and ideas out there regarding the current financial structure of ILEA, so I feel it's important to shed some light on where things currently stand. The following information provides a snapshot of ILEA's final numbers for Fiscal Year 2022.

As you can see, the current fee-based structure creates some challenges and has determined many of ILEA's longstanding practices. Suffice to say, when sustainability is determined by the number of recruits coming in the door and residing on site, positive growth and best practices can be difficult to maintain. An in-depth review of how things have been done combined with strategic, forward-thinking conversations to ensure we're continually improving will be a priority. Given the importance and role our profession has in serving and protecting all Iowans, it's essential for all of us to do everything we can to deliver top-notch public service.

Navigating challenges to identify solutions is commonplace within law enforcement, and the same mentality applies to the world of training. During the next few weeks and months, we plan to continue working on creating and developing new opportunities that ensure ILEA keeps moving in the right direction. Those include:

- Increased communication with employing agencies: We understand the re-

(Continued on next page)



recruits are your investment, and you deserve to be kept informed of their performance. Agency visits to evaluate the status of your recruit are encouraged, and this opportunity also gives you a chance to see our staff in action. Our doors are open and we welcome your presence in and around ILEA.

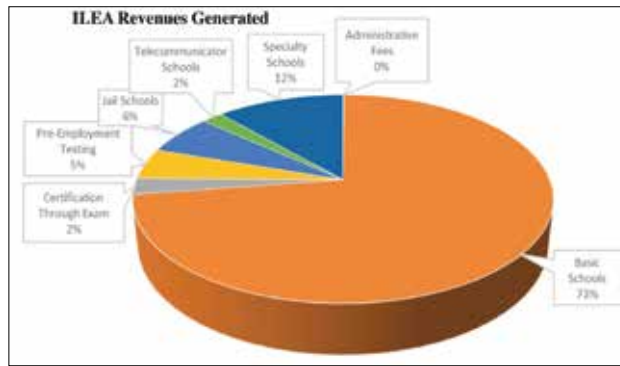
- Thorough review of current curriculum: I truly believe our staff does a tremendous job under difficult circumstances, but there is always room for improvement. More and more is continually added to the proverbial plate of law enforcement, and we learn on the fly through triumph and tragedy. A deep dive into not only what we're teaching, but how we're teaching it is necessary and should be an expectation of those who rely on us.

- Increased scenario-based training during the Basic: We're already reviewing our schedule to identify instruction blocks that can be presented in alternative ways so we can maximize a hands-on approach. Recruits learn in different ways and at different speeds, but increased repetitions and incorporating a wide array of situational training will be a benefit to all.

- New assisting instructor credit plan: Training large numbers in a condensed timeframe takes a team effort. We understand resources are spread thin across all agencies, but there are a lot of great instructors around the state who provide really good insight and help us boost our training value. We're thrilled to have some agencies back on board and helping us out. With just a little more fine-tuning, we plan to push out a new credit proposal that should be a win-win for everyone in the coming weeks. I know it's a big ask to continue lending your resources, so thank you!

- Increased collaboration: By reviewing and updating our curriculum, our teaching methods and our schedule, I hope we can create efficiencies that will allow us to bring more training to you. Instructor classes, recertification opportunities and specialty training are areas I would like to expand across the state. This will take some time to build out, but if you have a specific need in your area or a facility that can help us start to accomplish a more statewide approach, please let us know.

While the aforementioned are ideas we're already working on or will be in the very near future, a couple other areas and opportunities will take more time, strategic effort and resources to evaluate the best



long-term solution. Those include:

- Basic residency requirement: Simply put, our current fee-based structure doesn't allow for much else. Are there positives in the forms of learning about others, self-reflection, team building and networking? Absolutely. Have recruits and agency leaders expressed a desire and proposed benefits to not having our current residency requirement? They certainly have. Having the ability to offer housing and meal plans in an ala carte fashion is appealing to me, but this will require a thoughtful approach and changes to current practices. I'm excited to hear your thoughts and feedback.

- Accreditation: While this term may bring concern to some of you, an assessment of our current practices against recognized standards is something I want to work towards. There are several varieties and formidable options, so many conversations and evaluations are ahead. Verification that ILEA is capable, competent and teaching what we should be teaching in a manner best taught is something I hope all of you will support.

- Dedicated training facility: The Iowa Army National Guard and Camp Dodge have been great partners since ILEA's inception. I've had some really good conversations with their leadership, and they remain committed to helping ILEA accomplish our mission: Professionalism Through Training.

We recognize they face many of the same challenges we do, and competing for training space and continually flexing schedules isn't conducive to producing the best possible training environment. As our profession is constantly presented with new methods, obstacles and standards, our training capabilities must also adapt. It may sound simple, but having a facility that allows us to train how and when we need to is essential

in meeting the needs of all those we serve. This will be a long and tedious effort, but the opportunities, rewards and professional product will be worth every bit of the energy and financial resources invested in those entrusted to our care.

Iowa's law enforcement community is filled with tradition, smart people and great ideas. Through insightful conversations and a concerted group effort, I'm confident we can make a collective push towards a path of unparalleled success. I'm excited to be at ILEA, and I look forward to partnering with you. Please reach out anytime with questions or concerns, or better yet, stop in and see us. Be safe, be well and take care of each other!

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Indianola Police Department Becomes the Iowa Peace Officers Association's Newest Member Agency

Capt. Rob Hawkins
Indianola Police Department

The Indianola Police Department (I.P.D.) is comprised of 24 sworn officers, one K-9, and six civilian staff. The Department, founded in 1947, serves a community of 15,747 with two major state highways intersecting in the middle of the City. In addition, Indianola sits 12 miles from the south side of Des Moines, which contributes to the high volume of motor vehicle traffic the city experiences.

Indianola is home to Simpson College, the Des Moines Metro Opera, the Warren County Fair, and the National Balloon Classic. All these entities bring several thousand visitors to the city throughout the year and particularly the last week of July and the first week of August, when the Warren County Fair and the National Balloon Classic overlap. In 2022, the I.P.D. Patrol Division responded to over 13,000 calls for service.

In October 2022, Brian Sher was sworn in as the Chief of Police. Chief Sher has over 28 years of law enforcement experience and served in a variety of roles, including drug task force officer, detective, captain, and Interim Chief of Police prior to assuming the Chief's position. Chief Sher promotes the Department in a positive manner and encourages all members of the Department to find

a niche. This allows for job satisfaction and encourages ownership in the roles they fill. The other focus is on community engagement, with an emphasis on partnerships with the Indianola Community School District, Simpson College, and other community stakeholders. As a result, there is increased involvement in a collaborative approach to the various issues in the community.

Along with the hiring of Chief Sher, the Department has had several promotions over the last three months. Lt. Rob Hawkins was promoted to Captain in December 2022. Capt. Hawkins, who has 26 years of law enforcement experience, will oversee Police Department administration functions including scheduling, payroll, budget preparation and invoice payment. Sgt. Rick Largesse and Sgt. Justin Keller were promoted to lieutenants in January 2023. Lt. Largesse, who has 20 years of law enforcement experience, will oversee the Investigation Division and Lt. Keller, who has 19 years of law enforcement experience, will oversee the Patrol Division. Officer Brad Metcalf, who has 24 years of law enforcement experience, and Officer Tye Sparks, who has five years of law enforcement experience, were promoted to Patrol Sergeant in February 2023, and are assigned as patrol sergeants in the Patrol Division.

The Department just started a K-9

program with the full support of the City Council and the community. Officer Trey Nixon was selected to be the handler. Our new K-9, Kilo, is a 20-month-old half German Shepard, half Belgian Malinois who was born in Poland. Kilo and Officer Nixon recently completed handler training at Tree Town in Forest City, IA, graduating March 31st. K-9 Kilo is certified in narcotics detection through the Dogs for Law Enforcement (DLE) program. On Kilo's first deployment April 9th, he conducted an open-air sniff of a vehicle and ultimately 7.2g of methamphetamine was located along with drug paraphernalia.

Some of the specialty assignments that the Department offers include a Peer Support Team, UAS (Drone) pilot, Metro STAR team, K-9 handler, Patrol Rifle Officer, D.A.R.E. instructor, Drug Task Force officer, Investigations detective, School Resource Officer, Traffic Unit, and numerous instructor positions. Last year, IPD officers conducted 1,581 hours of training, including mandatory training, in-service training, and other specialty training. In the Capital Budget for FY24, IPD will be funding new patrol rifles for officers assigned to the Patrol Rifle officer program, as well as purchasing a second drone for the UAS program and its six FAA Part 107 certified pilots.



The swearing in of Lieutenants Rick Largesse and Justin Keller with Mayor Stephanie Erickson.



Captain Rob Hawkins (left) and Chief Brian Sher.



K-9 Kilo and his handler, Trey Nixon.

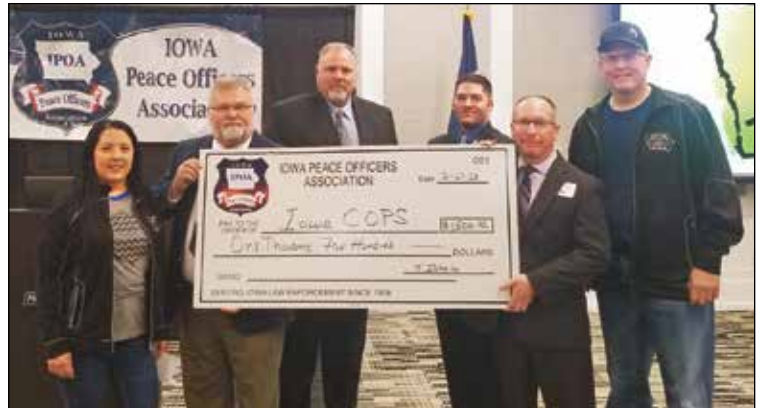
IPOA Training Conference 2023 Focused on Use of Force, Crisis Communication, “Fortitude After Firefight,” Annual Meeting, More



Conference speakers John French (left), Imran Ali (right) of Eckberg Lammers Training w/ Terry Dehmlow; Center: A Council Bluffs P.D. table.



2019-2023 IPOA President Capt. Mike McKelvey (center left) and Board member Officer Steve Jacobs (center right) presented a \$1,000 donation to Special Olympics Iowa staff at the 2023 IPOA Training Conference.



President of Iowa C.O.P.S. Yanira Scarlett (left) was presented a \$1,000 check by members of the Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA) Board of Directors at Training Conference 2023.



Indianola Chief Brian Sher (left), his wife Susie Sher of the Governor’s Office Of Drug Control Policy, and IPOA 2019-2023 President Capt. Mike McKelvey.

Annual Memorial Service Honored members who passed 12 months Prior to Conference 2023:

- Dennis O’KeefeSioux City Police
- Robert Grant Glenn Iowa State Patrol
- Forrest ReeseDes Moines Police
- John SwanDes Moines Police
- Gary WilliamsCouncil Bluffs Police
- Paul Gillispie Jr.Des Moines Police
- Lawrence RowenhorstSioux City Police
- Daniel ReelitzDes Moines Police
- James KaneWaterloo Police



“Take it easy:” Lessons to Learn Early in Your LE Career

“A man has got to know his limitations.” Sound profound or philosophical? It’s neither. Movie character Dirty Harry said it a long time ago, but the weight of those words is immense.

For those of you who are just getting into law enforcement or have been for decades, before you wander off into retirement let us tell you a few gems of wisdom that have come at a price to us.

First, a law enforcement career is a marathon – it isn’t a sprint. If you sprint, you’re going to burn out faster than a gasoline-soaked sponge in a Solo Stove on a Saturday night. Take it slow and easy. Get some experience before heading off into special units. Patrol is truly where you’re going to learn the most. Detective units, tactical units, and whatever else are still going to be there. Take your time and get some experience before you abandon the place where you’re going to learn the most. I would ask the advice of a 20-year patrol veteran about the goings on in the community before anyone else. Patrol is the backbone of every department, and if you don’t serve in it you serve in support of it. Remember that.

Second, don’t kill your body with crazy workouts. You’re going to need it and you need it to be reliable. Of course you need to stay in shape, but do it in moderation. We can tell you from experience: when you get older, your body won’t forget the abuse you put it through when you were younger. Bad knees, bad backs and shoulders are not going to be fun to deal with later in life, especially when you’re wearing 27 pounds of gear day in and day out throughout your career. Train smart and train for longevity. You don’t have to be able to lift a house or run 100 miles to be in shape. Find a balance between.

Next: Keep a cadre of friends outside of your law enforcement circle if you can. Yes, our brothers and sisters in blue understand us and can relate to us, and sometimes it may seem like nobody else can. But try to keep your work at work and your home life separated from it. Law enforcement is by its very nature a stressful occupation. Kee-

ping it separate from your personal life will keep your mental health in a much better state, which means you will be in a much better state.

Lastly: As stated before, ours is a very stressful occupation. EMS and law enforcement see things that cannot be unseen. You cannot ‘compartmentalize’ the things we see on a recurring basis. Period. You may think you can but, you’d be lying to yourself. Cumulative trauma is what happens when you fool yourself into thinking you’re just compartmentalizing the trauma you see and deal with throughout your career. It doesn’t go away, it just lays in a dormant state ready to come back later and when it does come, it’ll hit you like a ton of bricks. Why do we bring this up, you ask? Well, because it happened to us – both of us – and about at the same time.

Back in the stone ages when we were hired, feelings and therapists were something you didn’t talk about. Today, not so much. We encourage you to seek out and find a good therapist early in your career. It’s a great thing to be able to go and talk to someone who understands trauma. Even if you think you don’t need it, it’s still good to have someone familiar with you and your background for the time you do. We wish someone would have impressed this upon us early on in our careers.

Remember, we are human beings first and foremost. Our uniforms do not make us impervious to trauma or stress. Nor do they take it away. Law enforcement and EMS

personnel will experience far more traumatic events than the average citizen. These events can lead to PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and other very undesirable outcomes. Get ahead of those outcomes now by finding a professional you can trust and feel comfortable speaking with. It will make you feel better, and this will make your life better.

You may be saying, “Well, that wasn’t much of a training article.” It may be one of the best ones we’ve done because for us, the test came first and then the lesson. We hope you will take our lesson to heart. We do these articles in an effort to help and give some insight. We hope this one is no different.

Stay safe, train hard.

About the Authors:



Greg Erie has been with the Waterloo Police Department since 1995. A former Marine, Sgt. Erie is currently assigned to Watch III Patrol. Prior to his July 2016 promotion, he served as the Training Unit Coordinator for 9-1/2 years. He is a prior member of the Tactical Unit, FTO, and a TASER and defensive tactics instructor. He is a member of ILEETA. His email is erieg@waterloopolice.com.

Chris Gergen has been with the Waterloo Police Department since 1997. Officer Gergen is state and federally certified as a Control Tactics Instructor. He also teaches in several other areas. Officer Gergen is married with three kids. He can be reached at gergenc@waterloopolice.com.



Iowa Legislator Biographies: Ray Sorensen II and Zach Wahls

Ray Sorensen II

Iowa native Ray Michael Sorensen II (nicknamed Bubba) began drawing as a young child and later painted his first mural on the large, approximately 12ft. tall 60-90 ton, boulder that has made his artwork known throughout the world...The Freedom Rock®.

Bubba was born on August 13th, 1979 in Creston, Iowa, and was raised in Fontanelle, Iowa. Bubba grew up showing cattle in 4-H and loves playing and watching sports...especially the 49ers. After graduating High School, Bubba attended DMACC first, and then transferred to Iowa State University majoring in Art & Design.

While attending college, 19-year-old Bubba was inspired by the movie "Saving Private Ryan" and painted a sincere "thank you" to Veterans on a large graffiti rock. The work was so appreciated that local veterans encouraged Bubba to continue painting the rock every year for Memorial Day.

Bubba has painted the rock with different tributes to our nation's Veterans every year since 1999. Each May he starts out by painting over the previous year's work and repaints a completely different tribute, which he finished by Memorial Day.

The Freedom Rock® takes Bubba anywhere from three to four weeks out of the month of May to complete (depending on



weather). Bubba is not commissioned to paint The Freedom Rock® and does so with his own time and money, along with the help of donations.

Today Bubba and his wife Maria (Galankakis) live in Adair County with their family where they own and operate a mural painting business, Sorensen Studios, from their home.

Although Bubba paints the original Freedom Rock® as a volunteer project, he is commissioned as an independent mural artist for other art projects.

Bubba just recently completed the Iowa Freedom Rock® Tour, by placing a Free-

dom Rock® in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Maria is the communications coordinator, scheduler, and correspondence for the business.

They also recently created The Freedom Rock® Foundation, which exists to help communities maintain, fix and improve landscaping around Freedom Rocks®, as well as create new and unique veteran's murals and memorials. To learn more, visit: freedomrock.foundation

Besides the business, Bubba and Maria have three children. Independence, or Indie for short, is an eleven-year-old high-energy mini version of her mother and Michael is an eight-year-old twin of his grandpa, Mike. Liberty, who is just new to the Sorensen crew, is our cuddling, chill one-year-old baby who fits in nicely.

Bubba was recently elected to his third term in the Iowa House, District 23.

Recently, Bubba and Maria launched a new venture called "Bubba's Rocks" which features man-made rocks painted exclusively by Bubba and delivered to you: bubbasrocks.com.

To learn more about Bubba and the tour visit our website TheFreedomRock.com or search Facebook or Twitter for "The Freedom Rock".

Zach Wahls

Zach Wahls is the Iowa Senate Democratic Leader and represents Senate District 43, which includes Coralville, North Liberty, Solon, several Iowa City neighborhoods, and rural northeast Johnson County. He serves as the top Democrat on the Rules and Administration Committee. He is also the Vice President of Community Investment and Development at GreenState Credit Union, Iowa's largest financial cooperative. He is the author of the nationally bestselling memoir "My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength and What Makes a Family." Zach is a proud Eagle Scout, and he co-founded and



served as Executive Director of Scouts for Equality, which successfully led the national campaign to end LGBTQ discrimination in the Boy Scouts of America. His testimony before the Iowa House Judiciary Committee about growing up with lesbian parents was YouTube's most-watched political video of 2011. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and his master's degree from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. He and his wife, Dr. Chloe Angyal, a journalist and author, live in Coralville, Iowa, with their dog, Zelda.

If you move to a new home, please change your address with the Iowa Peace Officers Association by emailing iacop2@mchsi.com to continue receiving *Iowa Law Enforcement* magazine.

United States Police Canine Association Held the 2023 Region 21 Narcotic Detector Dog Certification in Black Hawk County

By Reserve Deputy Melinda Ruopp
Marshall County Sheriff's Office

The United States Police Canine Association (USPCA), Region 21 (IOWA), held their annual narcotic detector dog certification in Black Hawk County on March 26th to March 28th, 2023. Chad Chase, Deputy with the Black Hawk County S.O. and his helpers put together an amazing event!

Sixty dogs from around the state (and a couple from Minnesota) converged on the Black Hawk County Training Center in Raymond, IA, to test their dogs in searching for marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin. The handler/dog teams had to search rooms and vehicles and locate the hidden drugs while being evaluated and timed by trained judges from the USPCA. Judges are current or former handlers with experience in evaluating police K-9s in detection by scoring them on their ability to search, locate and alert to the substance. The handler and dog are scored as a team.

The USPCA prides itself on this type of evaluation, as well as the long standing recognition that the USPCA has with the courts, being recognized 78 times in court decisions as a national certifying K-9 association.

The results of this testing are as follows:

1st place overall: Tyler Heck from Clay County S.O. & K-9 Kash;

2nd place overall: Steve Dill from Iowa Department of Corrections (ISP) & K-9 Rosco;

3rd place overall: Nate Sands from Woodbury County Sheriff's Office & K-9 Loki ;

The Top Rookie Dog award was given to Dalton Mindham and K-9 USA from the Newton DOC.

Top Team award was presented to Jared Clausen of Ida County S.O., Tyler Heck of Clay County S.O., Patrick Westfall of Spencer P.D., and Isaac Short of Marion County S.O.

The USPCA will hold their Patrol Dog Certification trials this coming September in LeMars, Iowa, in honor of Officer Mark Reed who passed away from cancer in 2021. For more information on the USPCA, go to www.uspcak9.com or contact

Marshall County Reserve Deputy and National Secretary Melinda Ruopp at uspcasec@heartofiowa.net.



1st Place overall winner K-9 Kash and Tyler Heck.



Top Rookie dog award was given to Newton DOC's Dalton Mindham.



Top team: Jared Clausen, Ida County Sheriff's Office.; Tyler Heck of Clay County Sheriff's Office, Patrick Westfall, Spencer P.D.; Isaac Short, Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Sioux City Police Department Promotes Alan Schmeckpeper, Ryan Bertrand, Ryan Moritz, and Jacob Hoogendyk



Sergeant Alan Schmeckpeper began his career with the Sioux City Police Department in 2012. He served as a Uniform Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer before being assigned to the Special Investigations Unit. Prior to his promotion he was assigned to the DEA Tri-State Drug Task Force. He is the leader of the Department's Honor Guard team, a Team Leader on the SWAT team and a Defensive Tactics instructor. Sergeant Schmeckpeper has been assigned to the Uniform Services as a patrol supervisor.



Captain Ryan Bertrand began his career with the S.C.P.D. in 2002. He served as a patrol officer, defensive tactics instructor, SWAT team member, and a Crimes Against Persons investigator. While in the rank of sergeant, his assignments included patrol, investigations, and SWAT team leader. As a lieutenant he oversaw the Watch 3 patrol shift and served as the SWAT Team Commander. As Captain, he will be assigned to the Investigative Services Bureau. In his 21+ year career, he was an instructor in multiple disciplines, active in community team policing and was a member of the Department's Honor Guard.



Sgt. Ryan Moritz began his law enforcement career with the Sioux City Police Department in 2001. He worked as Uniform Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Verbal Judo instructor and hostage negotiator. During his 21 year career, Sgt. Moritz has served as a K-9 handler for ten years, and at the time of his promotion was the School Resource Officer for North High School. He will be assigned to the Uniform Services Bureau as a patrol supervisor.



Sergeant Jacob Hoogendyk was promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant

Lieutenant Hoogendyk started his career in 1993. He served as a Community Police Officer, Uniformed Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, School Resource Officer, Youth Investigator, Crimes Against Persons Detective, and Crimes Against Property Detective. In 2009, he was named SCPD Officer of the Year. While a sergeant, he was a Patrol Supervisor and Sergeant over the TeleCommunications Unit. While in the TeleCommunications Unit, he oversaw the department-wide implementation of body worn cameras. Lieutenant Hoogendyk has been assigned as Watch Commander of the overnight Watch 3 Uniformed Patrol Shift.



Visit the Iowa Peace Officers Association online at iowapeaceofficers.org ...for Conference, training, membership, bylaws, job openings, legislative information and more!

School Resource Officers (SROs) in Marion Schools Love Their Jobs and are Valued by School Officials

School Resource Officer (SRO) Brian Davis

By Superintendent Janelle Brouwer
Marion Independent School District

The Marion Independent School District (MISD) is fortunate to have a partnership with the Marion Police department.

Officer Brian Davis currently serves as the School Resource Officer (SRO) at MISD. This role is integral to our system of support for stu-

dents. Officer Davis is able to interact positively with students as a part of his daily routine. From monitoring safety of student drop off, to offering a fist bump in the cafeteria during lunch, to meeting with a parent and school team regarding a challenging situation, to being a calming presence throughout the school day, Officer Davis is a tremendous part of the MISD team!



School Resource Officer (SRO) Tom Daubs

By Associate Principal Joe Nietert
Linn-Mar High School

Tom Daubs is an integral part of our High School who is adored and respected by students and adults in our building. Tom understands the importance of building relationships and being visible when in the building. When walking through the halls you hear “Hi Officer Daubs” ring from multiple directions. Tom’s ability to build those

By Superintendent Shannon Bisgard
Linn-Mar Community Schools

Officer Tom Daubs provides an invaluable service to all of our Linn-Mar Schools and to the District as a whole. From teaching DARE classes, to responding to emergency situations he is always building relationships with students of all ages. He provides a personal touch while also helping students



strong relationships allows him to step in and have the tough conversations and interactions with students when the need arises.

There is never a question that Tom’s motive is to help students and keep the building safe. Even our most troubled students would tell you that Tom cares about their best interest when he must deal with them in tough situations. Tom Daubs makes Linn-Mar High School a better and safer place.

and staff feel safe in school. His ability to be visible at so many school events and activities makes it feel like he is everywhere! Officer Daubs is part of our Linn-Mar family. He has earned the trust of everyone and we are very fortunate to work so closely with

Officer Daubs and the Marion Police Department to provide a safe and welcoming culture in our schools!

School Resource Officers: “The best job in law enforcement”

By Officer Tom Daubs SRO/PIO/ DARE
Marion Police Department

The City of Marion is the home of two school districts: the Linn-Mar Community School District (an enrollment of 7,700) and the Marion Independent School District (home to almost 1,800 students).

Each entity has a dedicated school resource officer (SRO) who is contractually provided by the Marion Police Department – Officer Brian Davis (MISD) and Officer Tom Daubs (LMCSD). Both serve their respective districts in various manners to include D.A.R.E education, attendance issues, safety preparedness, classroom presentations, student assistance, and sporting

events (to name a few of their obligations). Both also attend school board meetings and provide statistical data upon request.

Officer Daubs began his school cop assignment (for both districts) in August of 2012, when Marion’s first SRO (Jim Teahen) retired. Since its inception this was a service funded solely by the City and offered to the schools at no charge. In 2018, the decision was made that each district would pay half the price of an entry level officer and then receive their own SRO. Daubs was retained by Linn-Mar while the MISD empaneled a committee to interview several interested applicants from the Police Department. Davis was selected and took over that same year.

Both officers work Monday through Friday (although their exact hours vary due to calls for service/special appearances/meetings and such) during the school year but periodically help out the patrol division during the summer months when their schedules allow.

On a daily basis, during the school calendar, Davis and Daubs can be found interacting with their D.A.R.E students, assisting with parent meetings/requests, attending to student matters (which sometimes involve being interviewed for comp papers or guest acting for a student-led video production... or seven), helping out

See “School Resource Officers” on next page

Iowa Peace Officers Association Board Asking Members to Scan the Code Below to Sign Up for Newsletter/ Time–Sensitive Alerts

The IPOA Board of Directors is asking all members and other officers to take a minute to point their smartphone at the QR code at the right, let it focus and then touch the link that appears under the code and fill out four lines of information and then clicking “subscribe.”

(You also also access the QR code using the link <http://eepurl.com/i11ZCg.qr.16>)

That will give the Board a quick and effective contact list of officers across Iowa when time-sensitive issues come up that need to be addressed quickly. It could be used for a news-

letter or important notices.

The form takes less than a minute to complete because it only asks for email address, first and last name, and agency.

If Officers will complete this as soon as possible we can develop our contact list for future use.



DARE Officer Class Visits Norwalk School

This was the 43rd DARE Iowa Officer Training class. We had 15 Officers complete the class from seven states. The photo was taken after our visit to Lakewood Elementary School in Norwalk. They have continued to partner with us on this training, and they are absolutely a fantastic school with a strong DARE Program of their own.



“School Resource Officers,” continued

with fire/tornado/intruder alarms, providing input at attendance meetings (even going to the courthouse, if need be), and (on the very rare occasion) investigating a potential police matter or assisting with school related concerns that arise from time to time.

Traditionally, and across the country, an SRO wears three hats: classroom educator, quasi-counselor, and law enforcement liaison. Davis and Daubs are no different, but tend to wear the “cop hat” as a last resort – and only if needed – since they find it is much more productive and beneficial to initiate their interactions as a friendly face in a classroom, or in the halls, rather than to lead off a situation as the authority when other approaches are available. Regardless, when a crime has been committed, or if a more stern approach is needed, they are patient, purposeful, and professional knowing that life is full of learning les-

sons, especially at the K-12 level.



SRO Officer Tom Daubs with student.

Being in their schools, daily, these two officers get to know “their kids,” which affords them the ability to connect with the students in a way that conventional street cops just aren’t afforded. It really is a win-win arrangement.

For both officers, it is a rewarding role and one that they are enthusiastically passionate about. They each feel that the SRO position is the best job in law enforcement and one that - with the right person selected - continually establishes a sustainable foundation for building lifelong relationships among the kids, parents, the community (at large), and the cops (in general).

In conclusion, being a school cop isn’t for everyone but, here in Marion it is a program that has been incredibly rewarding (and a continued success) for all of the involved stakeholders – a concept that no one is taking for granted.

Court Provides Narrow Exception to Warrant Requirement

By Tom Ferguson

CAUTION: These cases are going to be rare and are very fact specific.

The Courts prefer warrants and will look very closely at any warrantless search.

In *State v. Abu Youm*, ___ N.W.2d ___ (Iowa 2023), the Iowa Supreme Court concluded the US Supreme Court case of *Caniglia v. Strom*, 141 S.Ct. 1596 (2021), did not foreclose use of the emergency aid doctrine under the community caretaking exception to the warrant requirement under the Fourth Amendment.

In *Caniglia*, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that a warrantless search and seizure of two handguns located inside a temporarily unoccupied home did not fall within the community caretaker exception after the suicidal occupant had left by ambulance. The Court found the exigency no longer existed.

Importantly, however, the Court in *Caniglia* reiterated “that law enforcement officers may enter private property without a warrant when certain exigent circumstances exist, including the need to “render emergency assistance to an injured occupant or to protect an occupant from imminent injury.”

What was missing in *Caniglia*—exigency—was present in *Abu Youm*. The officers were responding to reports of gunshots and a witness described to officers arriving on scene a body lying prone on a balcony. Officers had activated the emergency lights at the scene before approaching *Abu Youm*’s apart-

ment. The police saw evidence of recent gunfire—the car window shot out in the parking lot, with broken glass on the pavement. The behavior of the occupants was suspicious.

Abu Youm lied to police by denying there had been gunshots. *Abu Youm* and an occupant were agitated and strenuously objected to their entry into the apartment.

Occupant tried to block the officers’ view into the apartment when he answered their knock. The Sergeant said at the scene (on body camera) that they needed to enter to see if anyone was hurt inside and needed help. He so testified at the suppression hearing.

Applying the community caretaking exception involves three steps:

- (1) Was there a seizure within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment?
- (2) If so, was the police conduct bona fide community caretaker activity? and;
- (3) If so, did the public need and interest outweigh the intrusion upon the privacy of the citizen?

The Court in *Abu Youm* performed its three-step analysis, and found:

- (1) *Abu Youm* was seized;
- (2) Police were performing a valid community caretaking function—entering the apartment to render emergency aid to the gunshot victim seen lying prone on the balcony; and,
- (3) The public need for lifesaving aid (and preventing more gunfire) outweighed the intrusion of the privacy rights of the occupants.

Additionally, the Court in *Abu Youm* said

the police must act reasonably in entering the apartment to render aid to a potentially wounded individual or at the very least to verify no one was shot.

Further, once inside, the police must act reasonably. Circumstances suggested a possible gunshot victim. The cursory sweep of areas where a “body” could be (rooms, closet, bathtub) and was brief. They didn’t go through boxes, etc. where a body could not be. Officers saw in plain view in the areas where a body could be, shell casings and a gun, which resulted in the officers securing the occupants and requesting a warrant.

It should be noted that in *Abu Youm*, three Justices dissented. They were concerned about the cautious approach of the officers, the time it took them to go the apartment, their urgency – which went to whether the officer subjectively intended to engage in community caretaking.

The Dissent states that under article I, section 8, of the Iowa Constitution though, “we believe it is incumbent on the state to prove both that the objective facts satisfy the standards for community caretaking and that the officer subjectively intended to engage in community caretaking.”

The Dissent cites with approval the position they must approach emergency-aid-exception claims with a measure of skepticism when police officers are investigating crimes at the same time that they purport to serve caretaking functions.

39th Annual B.C.P.O.A. Jerry Greenlee Sr. Memorial Golf & Bean Bag Tournament Coming August 19, 2023, in Waverly, Iowa

The Bremer County Peace Officers Association (BCPOA) sponsors a number of activities starting at 9 a.m., August 19th, with the Golf Tournament. We always receive a large crowd and encourage early registration. There will be a Four-Person Best Shot with participants consisting of law enforcement, E.M.S. and fire department agencies.

Participants in the Golf Tournament will have a chance to win multiple prizes throughout the golf course including a new vehicle. The cost of the golf tournament is \$50 per person which includes golf, cart, and

mulligans,

Saturday, after the tournament has concluded, the Association will host a hospitality party at the 4H Building next to the golf course. Cash and awards will be given out at this time. After the awards ceremony, a bean bag tournament will take place. The entry fee is \$20 per team with cash prizes awarded.

We have contacted the Super 8 hotel for anyone wishing to spend the night. 319-352-0888. (Friday and Saturday nights). The Association will provide courtesy transportation between the hospitality party and hotel,

if needed. Please make your reservations by July 20th to ensure you have a room. Mention the Bremer County Peace Officers Association to ensure the special room rate.

All team entries must be in by August 12th. Entry fees will be collected at registration the day of the tournament (PLEASE DO NOT PRE-PAY). For further information or to register your team contact Capt. Jason Leonard or Deputy Matt Tiedt 111 4th St NE, Waverly, Iowa 50677, 319-352-5400. Email Jasonl@ci.waverly.ia.us or mtiedt@co.bremer.ia.us.