

**President's Report
to the
92nd Annual Conference
Iowa State Police Association
Sioux City, Iowa
October 7th-9th, 2024**

Hello and welcome to the 92nd Annual ISPA Conference. Sioux City's Local # 7 has been hard at work to create an informative, memorable, and fun conference for you. We are very excited to show everyone a great time here on the western side of the state.

One of the largest responsibilities of the ISPA Executive Board is to promote and follow legislative issues that affect law enforcement. Perhaps most important of all, we are constantly monitoring and doing our best to protect your pension benefits as covered by Iowa Chapter 411.

The 91st Iowa General Assembly was officially called to session on January 8, 2024. The ISPA held our annual Legislative Day at the Capitol on January 31, 2024. With the assistance of our lobbyists: Jeff Smith, Maggie Smith-Fitzgerald, Matt Fitzgerald, and Jerry Fitzgerald we met with several key Representatives and Senators to talk about issues important to our members and all of Iowa law enforcement.

One of the very important bills we talked about that day and worked on all year was HR 2680. This bill was aimed at making much needed changes to the 411-pension system. As many of you know ISPA, Iowa Professional Fire Fighters, Iowa Peace Officers Association and other police and fire associations have worked on these issues for several years. I asked our lobbyists to provide a timeline of what it took to get this bill passed and signed into law. The timeline will be provided at the end of this report.

I have been in law enforcement almost 30 years and have attended many ISPA conferences. When I joined the ISPA board in Davenport in 2017, I was excited to be given the opportunity to represent my fellow officers and eager to get involved with board activities.

Almost immediately, we were faced with the difficult decision of closing Rabiner Treatment Center (RTC). After its closure, we were able to distribute the RTC's liabilities in 2019. Earlier this year, we discovered some RTC checks had not been cashed. This summer, we were able to distribute, the last of those remaining liabilities.

During my seven years on the board, we have experienced a lot of change. We selected our current lobbyists. They have truly had our backs and were instrumental in the passing of several important bills, Back the Blue and HF 2680. We have enhanced the Purple Heart program and created the Officer Assistance Program (OAP). Both of those programs have grown. The secretary-treasurer has passed from Rick Host to Ryan Goecke and now Dave McFarland.

We have worked extremely hard to make solid and sound financial decisions. We have transitioned financial advisors from Kevin Dolan to Peter Hill. When I joined the board, we had almost a million dollars in our accounts. We hit the two-million-dollar mark and are close again. We have created a budget committee to examine new ways to save money for the entire association and the board continues to be financially conscientious.

Even with all the challenges we faced, my time and experience on the board have truly been more fulfilling than I imagined. I have had the privilege of bringing our issues to the attention of lawmakers in Iowa's Capitol, but also the Capitol in Washington, DC. I have formed connections and friendships with

officers across Iowa, the US, and a few from other countries. If you have ever considered serving on the board, I would encourage you to join the others who have stepped up to serve on this board.

As my time on the board winds down, I'm confident your next President, Fred Lepley, will be a conscientious and committed leader for the ISPA. I know he will put our members first. I look forward to supporting him and the rest of the board as a Past President.

I want to thank you for attending the 92nd Annual ISPA Conference and for giving me the opportunity to serve on the ISPA board. I would also like to give a heartfelt "Thank You" to the members of Local #7 for all the hard work they put into this conference. Thanks for making the drive across the state to attend this conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Kellen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "K".

Judy Kellen
ISPA President
October 9, 2024

HF 2680 – 411 Disability Bill

We want to share with you the time, energy and effort we all took to pass and have the Governor sign the most extensive workers compensation legislation passed in the last decade or more.

- Introduced legislation in January 2020. With strong relationships with Rep. Bobby Kaufmann the State Government chair, the bill was introduced.
- The House passed it the first time in March 2020, 99-1, just before the pandemic – HF 2592. The Senate did not act on the new policy after the pandemic derailed the session.
- The bill was reworked during the 2021 session and included things like a five-year period after retirement for presumptions, per discussions with the Metro Coalition to give them certainty. HF 797 passed the House 92-0, the second time the House passed the legislation. HF 797 cleared a Senate subcommittee and the Senate State Government Committee and was on the Senate floor Unfinished Business Calendar at the end of the 2021 session.
- In 2022, HF 797 sat on the Senate Unfinished Business calendar all session. We were told late in the session that the Metro Coalition had other concerns and had held it up in the Senate Majority Leader's office with basically little to no time to resolve the issues.
- Over the course of the 2022 interim leading up to 2023, ISPA worked with IPFF and the Metro Coalition to redraft and work out concerns with the legislation. These conversations continued into the 2023 session.
- In 2023, companion bills HF 687 and SF 505 were agreed to with the Metro Coalition and included a 3 year period after retirement for the presumptions, PTSD was no longer a presumption but could be tied to event or events and was no longer subject to specific time and place standard but to the unusual stress standard in the Tripp Iowa Supreme Court case, and a required mental health exam coming into the workforce per the Metro Coalition. HF 687 passed the House a third time, 95-0. HF 687 was attached on the Senate floor to SF 505 which had passed a subcommittee and the Senate State Government Committee for a second time. The bills were not brought up on the Senate floor and was sent back to the Senate State Government Committee and carried over to 2024.
- In the summer of 2023, ISPA board members sat down with Senate Majority Leader Whitver to talk through the bill agreed to with the Metro Coalition. Sen. Whitver indicated he was comfortable with the compromise.
- In 2024, neither HF 687 nor SF 505 were assigned to a subcommittee in the first week of the session per the rules and the Senate State Government Committee Chair Jason Schultz chose not to move the bill. At that point, both bills were technically dead. This was a new rule that we were made aware of just prior to the second funnel.
- The 411 System identified a problem that surviving spouses could be taxed on their benefits and wanted to clarify it –eligible to be considered by the tax committee – Ways and Means.
- This led us to work with Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (now Ways and Means Chair) to create a combination bill to work with the 411 System's concerns and adding our HF 687. Making it eligible for Ways and Means consideration. (Only Appropriations Committee and Ways and Means Committee can introduce legislation after the second funnel).

- HF 2680 was introduced in the House by Ways and Means Chair Kaufmann and passed the House a fourth time 95-0. This version included the tax provision proposed by the 411 system to ensure surviving spouses were not taxed on their benefits. Sen. Dawson, the Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair, agreed (with Rep. Kaufman's help) to take the bill assigned to his committee by Senate President Sinclair.
- Sen. Dawson has Sen. Schultz on the Ways and Means Committee – who chose not to run the bill earlier in the session. Sen. Dawson had to navigate his committee, including Sen. Schultz, to move the legislation. Sen. Dawson took the strongest approach possible, at our urging, to run the legislation himself.
- It was passed unanimously through the Ways and Means Committee.
- Sen. Dawson worked with Sen. Whitver to have the bill brought up on the Senate floor the very next day for the first time in this five-year process and it passed the Senate 46-0.
- On May 3rd, Gov. Reynolds signed the bill into law.