

***Secretary-Treasurer's Report
93rd Annual Conference
of the
Iowa State Police Association
Davenport, Iowa
October 6 - 8, 2025***

Welcome to Davenport and the 93rd Annual ISPA Conference hosted by Local # 2 Davenport. It has been another busy year for all of us on the Board of Directors.

Membership

It is always a sad duty to pay out death benefits to the beneficiaries of our members who have died. It is also gratifying to receive thank you notes from their beneficiaries. These notes always express gratitude for receiving the death benefit and talk about the pride our member had in his/her service as a law enforcement officer. Unfortunately, over the last fiscal year we lost 37 ISPA members. I cannot stress enough the importance of taking the time to update your beneficiary information, as it is a very difficult and hard conversation when the beneficiary listed is the deceased member's ex-spouse or the beneficiary is also deceased. The Change of Beneficiary form can be found on the website under the ISPA Membership tab. Once completed you can email it to me.

Our fiscal year ended on August 31, 2025, and at that time we had 3,129 ISPA members. We did have a small number of members choose not to renew their memberships this year but gained new members. Even with the above-mentioned deaths we had a slight increase in our membership.

Thank you for getting your 2025 membership dues sent in. Remember ISPA 2026 dues will be payable January 1, 2026. According to the By-laws, membership is delinquent 60 days after January 1. Thirty (30) days after that, membership in ISPA is suspended. We appreciate your prompt attention to this, as member dues are the primary income for the ISPA.

Iowa Police Journal

The **Iowa Police Journal e-newsletter** continues to be our primary means of communication with our members. This is delivered to you electronically via your email. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter or need to update your email address, please send an email to ispaonline@gmail.com. Make sure to send us your department's promotions, community outreach events and other news we can share. If you have comments (positive or negative) you can email them to any Board member by clicking on the Board member's photo on the website. This is your newsletter, and we want to make sure you get the product you want and provide you with the information you need.

Member Benefits

The Board continues to seek out business partners and sponsors to provide more benefits to our members. Our sponsors: Zanotti Armor, ZeroEyes, Axon Enterprises, FirstNet, Glock, Serve Credit Union and Upper Iowa University, not only provide great benefits to our members, but without their support, our financial situation would be a bit worse. Please make sure to stop and visit with them at their booths during the conference. If you know of a business that would be a good fit to support the ISPA please let us know.

Remember the Officer Assistance Program (OAP) provides temporary financial aid, up to \$1,250, to our members during their time of need. ISPA Members in good standing at the time of the incident/injury may request financial assistance for reasons which may include, but are not limited to, debilitating illness or injury to a member, spouse, or their dependent children, disaster relief, such as needed in the aftermath of a tornado, house fire or flood.

Since inception in 2018 the OAP has donated almost \$60,000 to 56 ISPA Members and their families. Unfortunately, in 2024-2025 the Officer Assistance Program continued to see a steady number of requests for assistance. Thankfully due to very generous past donations by ISPA Locals, ISPA Sponsors and our ISPA Members we had the funds to assist the officers and their families during their time of need.

We want to give a special thank you to Local # 10 Des Moines (Des Moines Police Burial Association) and all the golfers in the 22nd Annual DMPD COPS Classic golf tournament that was held on May 30, 2025, in Des Moines. Each year they select a different organization or cause to make a donation to. This year they chose the Officer Assistance Program and made a \$4,000 donation. This very generous donation will help make sure we are able to help our fellow ISPA members and their families in their time of need. More information about the OAP program and the application can be found on the website.

In 2013 the ISPA created the Purple Heart Award for the purpose of honoring law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident. Since inception we have recognized 25 Iowa Law Enforcement Officers at our Annual Conference and this year we will recognize 7 officers.

For the last several years the board has been researching and attempting to offer a Legal Defense Fund to ISPA members. There have been some setbacks and road bumps along the way, but the board has continued to work hard to bring this benefit to its members. I am excited to say in August the board voted to create the Iowa State Police Association Legal Defense Fund Trust, ISPA LDF. A 7-member Board of Trustees and a Plan Administrator will oversee the LDF.

We were very fortunate to hire Stephen Foertsch and his law firm, Bruno Law, PLLC, to administrate the ISPA LDF. Stephen is also the Legal Defense Fund Legal Administrator of the MPPOA LDF, where he and his partners have years of experience defending officers in on-duty critical incidents and against off-duty charges. Stephen will be presenting on Tuesday morning at the conference to talk more about this great benefit that will be available for ISPA members starting January 1, 2026. He will be available Tuesday and Wednesday to meet with the Local leaders and ISPA members.

One of the most important benefit to our members is the continual monitoring of state and federal laws that could impact law enforcement in Iowa. The Board along with our lobbyists, Fitzgerald-Smith & Associates, are very active. Jeff, Maggie, Jerry and Matt are well respected in the Iowa Legislature. They and the Board lobby to keep, change or remove legislation that could impact our members and law enforcement, both at the state level and nationally. The ISPA is the largest law enforcement association in Iowa and many times the primary source of information for legislators. The Iowa Legislature is always changing, and one goal of the Board and our Lobbyists is to be a bipartisan voice for Iowa Law Enforcement.

Financial

The stock market continues with its roller coaster ride, after the downslide of 2022. In the first 8 months of 2025 it has made some impressive gains, let's hope it does not take them back. Our original investment in the market was just over \$600,000. At the beginning of the 2023-24 fiscal year, the fair market value of our stock market investments was \$1.59 million. On August 31, 2025, the fair market value was around \$1.67 million, which does not include withdrawals. Our investments have seen an almost 10% return this year. Remember our investment in the market is for the long term.

In terms of our balance sheet and total assets, ISPA continues to fluctuate between \$1.7 and \$2 million. This year the net worth of ISPA is around \$2.1 Million. During the first half of the year when the locals pay their yearly membership dues our cash flow is good, but once all the dues are paid things get tighter.

You can find the ISPA Financial Statements in the Audit Report provided on the conference page on the website during the conference. Some printed handouts will also be available.

Lastly, I want to thank President Fred Lepley, the Board of Directors, and the members of the Iowa State Police Association for your continued support and dedication to our association and your communities. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.



David McFarland
Secretary/Treasurer