

94th Annual ISPA Conference

Plans for the 94th Annual ISPA Conference at the Courtyard Hotel (250 Westfield Ave Waterloo, IA) October 12th - 14th, 2026 are wrapping up. Local # 12 Waterloo members are working hard to create an exceptional conference you will not want to miss.

On Monday the conference will get started with the golf tournament at Red Carpet Golf Course (1409 Newell Ave Waterloo, IA), shotgun start at 10:00 am. Please register by **September 1, 2026**, with your golf hoodie jacket size. The online golf registration form can be found [HERE](#). Later that evening you can enjoy some delicious BBQ and a bags tournament. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register for the bags tournament.

Once again, this year the conference will feature multiple educational programs.

On Tuesday morning, Minneapolis PD Retired Brian Collins (Medical Disability/ PTSD) will be presenting. Collins was a close friend and former patrol partner (in years prior to Floyd) with Derek Chauvin. He survived the assault on the Precinct that was overrun and set fire by looters as well as the subsequent days of attacks on the City and LE.

Following that presentation, you will get a comprehensive, 360-degree look at the June 2024 incident where two Waterloo Police Officers were shot in the line of duty. Waterloo Police Captain Gus Farmer will present an overview of the incident. Officer Jason Chopard (now Sgt. Chopard) and Officer Tom Schuster will speak openly about their experiences, sharing the physical and mental realities of what they endured before, during, and after the incident. Amy Chopard, Sgt. Chopard's wife, will also provide a vital look at the secondary impact of critical incidents. She will share her personal perspective and the profound impact this event had on their family. We will end Tuesday's education with the Iowa DCI and ISPA Legal Defense Fund Plan Administrator Stephen Foertsch's break down on being involved in an officer involved shooting.

Tuesday night is our Purple Heart award ceremony. This year's recipient was shot in the line of duty but does not want any recognition or public awards. We will anonymously honor and recognize them and all the past Purple Heart award recipients.

Wednesday's education session: **Mental Resiliency**- maintaining mental toughness and longevity in law enforcement requires more than just physical readiness. In this vital session, Sgt. Philip Anderson of the Topeka Kansas Police Department will lead a powerful discussion. Drawing from frontline experience and specialized training, he will provide actionable strategies for managing the unique stressors of the job, processing critical incident trauma, and building the psychological fortitude necessary to thrive both on and off duty.

We will close out Wednesday afternoon with our annual business meeting. This year your ISPA Board of Directors is proposing several bylaws changes ([HERE](#)). Please make sure to read 2nd Vice President Gavin Carman's article below for more information about these proposed changes. We will also elect a new Jr. Director at the business meeting. If you are interested in running for the board, please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member or past president for their perspective. After the meeting is over be sure to stick around Wednesday night for the **"The Pork Tornadoes"** (#YourGirlfriendsFavortieBand)

Your local should have already received the conference registration information. If you did not, contact me at ispaonline@gmail.com or 515-299-5320. Registering in advance ensures a spot for you at all the events and your meals. You can pick up your meal tickets and ID badges on Monday between 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Tuesday between 7:00 am - 8:00 am.

If you have not already done so make sure to book your hotel room(s) by September 1st, 2026. Doing so will get you the ISPA room rate of \$119.00 King Suite, \$139 Double Queen, \$269 Executive 2-bedroom suite, all room rates are plus fees/taxes. Contact Shianne Diaz-Dalton email: Shianne.Diaz@marriott.com phone: 319-233-5531 to book your hotel rooms.

Please visit the Annual Conference page on the ISPA website for the full schedule of events, the golf tournament registration form, conference agenda and additional conference information. Remember we do not hand out binders at the conference. As it gets closer to the conference you will be able to download the conference materials from the website. There will also be limited copies available at the conference.