

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION



IOWA'S HEROES

By Zach Lewis, ISPA President



This edition of Iowa Heroes is dedicated to all of the officers, associations and departments that donate their time, money and bodies to make their communities and our state a better place to live. Throughout the year, officers volunteer in countless events in efforts to raise money, awareness and often the spirits for those involved.

The “Law Enforcement Torch Run” and “Polar Plunge” raise money for the Special Olympics of Iowa. These event are just two of the many activities that officers participate in that directly benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

As November came and went, many departments relaxed their facial hair policies in order to raise money and awareness for cancer education and treatment. What started out as growing out mustaches for “Movember” to raise awareness for prostate cancer (amongst other types of cancer) morphed into “No Shave November” for growing beards for the same purpose. Ten of thousands of dollars were raised by police and sheriffs’ departments across the state. By relaxing the facial hair policies, departments were able to get greater participation, thus raising more money. An added bonus was that our significant others were willing to be seen in public with the bearded versions of us, as opposed to the creepy mustachioed men.

Now that we are in the heart of December with the holiday season right around the corner, departments across the state and country participate in “Shop with a Cop” events. Thousands of dollars are raised through sponsorships, community donations and officer associations in order to take children shopping — children who would otherwise not have the resources to buy gifts for their loved ones. It is a great way for the officers and kids to connect and bond outside of “official” police duties.

For everyone that donates their time and resources, thanks for all you do. Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.