

# IOWA POLICE JOURNAL



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## SECRETARY/TREASURER UPDATE

By Rick Host, Secretary/Treasurer



Another conference has come and gone. I would like to congratulate and thank the men and women of Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Local #17, Marshalltown, for all of their efforts in hosting another wonderful Annual ISPA Conference. I believe all who attended had a great experience. The educational presentations were very well done and enlightening. The Purple Heart Award ceremony at this year's conference banquet was a very moving experience for the recipient, her family and the delegates. This is one of those awards we hope we never have to give but it is something all of the members of ISPA can be proud of.

It is again time to remind everyone their 2016 ISPA membership renewal is fast approaching. Membership in ISPA runs on the calendar year. Dues are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. As always, I will be sending out a reminder letter to all the local secretaries along with the roster for your respective local and a contact sheet for you to update your contact information. I will also be sending out a reminder postcard to those members who pay their own dues.

Over the past several years, you have all been very prompt in getting your membership renewals to me. I appreciate that very much. I look forward to another year like the last few. According to our by-laws, membership dues are considered delinquent 60 days after they are due. At the end of February or March 1<sup>st</sup>, I will send out past-due notices to those who have not renewed by then. Then I will send a second past due notice on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Any dues not received by the end of April will result in suspension of the member from membership. ISPA is a 501(c)(5) corporation. This is a non-profit labor organization status, which means we are not a charitable organization. Therefore, your dues are not deductible from your income tax as a charitable contribution.

In my report at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual ISPA Conference, I updated the delegates on the financial condition of ISPA. At the end of the 2014–2015 fiscal year, August 31, 2015, our net worth was \$1.8 million. This is down a bit from last year. Over the last few years we have stayed in the \$1.8 to \$2.2 million range. As you all know, however, the market is a continual up-and-down roller coaster ride. I don't see this changing any time soon.

Membership dues brought \$77,000 into the ISPA treasury this past year. In 2014–2015, I paid out 40 death benefits to the named beneficiaries of those deceased members. One was returned as the member's beneficiary had predeceased him. That amounted to \$58,500 in death

benefits. As you can see, that does not leave any room for the other operations of ISPA. In the past, we've received a fair weekly revenue stream from our telephone solicitation. You are all aware that has been discontinued and we have yet to make up that lost revenue stream. Consequently, I have had to draw down on the annuity investments we have with Central Financial Group. Over the last several years, these investments have dropped from a high of \$800,000 to about \$300,000 today.

The ISPA Board of Directors is very concerned with this situation. We employed the services of a non-profit marketing firm, (c)3 Marketing, and the Charitable Giving Resource Center to help develop a case statement for ISPA. We were going to use the case statement to solicit donations so we could provide the best service possible to our members. There was some misunderstanding about ISPA, and in the end, the Charitable Giving Resource Center was unable to help us with any kind of fund raising efforts in that we are not a 501(c)(3), charitable organization.

Another step the board took to help with our financials was developing the sponsor program. Currently, we have one Premier Sponsor: California Casualty; two Gold Sponsors: Brownell's and MassMutual; and one Silver Sponsor: Upper Iowa University. Please check these sponsors on our website, where we have links to the sponsors' websites. If you need these types of services, please give our sponsors a hard first look. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for fundraising for our association, let any one of the board members know. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season this year.

Enjoy your families and, as always, be safe.