



# SHERIFFS NEWSLETTER

*United in Justice*

**JANUARY 2021**

## **Congratulations to our 2020 ISA Award Winners**



### **Deputy of the Year: Ryan Maricle**

On the evening of July 22, 2020, Deputy Maricle was off duty when he learned that a female had rolled over a lawn mower and was trapped underneath. As Deputy Maricle lives in the vicinity of the accident, he arrived on scene to find the female pinned under the lawn mower with her head being the only thing above water.

Deputy Maricle observed the female's husband holding her head and jumped in to assist the husband in keeping her head above water. Upon arrival of additional First Responders, they were able to help roll the mower off of the female.

Deputy Maricle was off duty and had no obligation to help with the accident. He responded out of his personal sense of duty and desire to protect and serve his community. Deputy Maricle demonstrated tremendous heroism that is always present either on or off duty.

### **Correctional Officer of the Year: Elvis Fejzic**

On August 27, 2020, while working in the Administrative Segregation Unit, an inmate attempted to choke himself with a sheet. Officer Fejzic found the inmate on the floor who was distraught and crying, asking Officer Fejzic to let him die. Officer Fejzic talked to the inmate and kept him calm as he unwrapped the sheet from around his neck. Officer Fejzic's compassion and empathy disarmed the inmate from further harming himself and provided an opportunity to get the inmate to safety.



On September 13, 2020, Officer Fejzic was conducting a security check when an inmate was observed laying on the floor. With portions of a torn-up t-shirt the inmate had tried to choke himself, was unconscious and his face was black and blue. Officer Fejzic and his partner entered the cell, removed the item from around the inmate's neck and Officer Fejzic began chest compressions while his partner radioed for medical assistance. Officer Fejzic's quick reaction and response saved the inmate's life.

Officer Fejzic has also prevented numerous contraband from entering the facility which continuously ensures the safety of others by maintaining an awareness of the jail's security policies.

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association would like to thank Correctional Officer Fejzic for his heroic actions and dedication to the members of his community.

### **Telecommunicator of the Year: Kelly Keserauskis**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12:59pm, the Clinton County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call of a cardiac arrest at a golf course in



Carlyle. Telecommunicator Kelly Keserauskis answered the 911 caller who stated his friend had collapsed while golfing and he was going to start CPR. Keserauskis gathered vital information in a timely manner, contacted Carlyle Police Department by radio to respond, and dispatched Carlyle Fire Department to the scene.

Due to the location of the cardiac arrest on the golf course, and emergency units unable to respond directly to the victim, Keserauskis contacted the golf course manager by phone to have golf carts ready at the entrance to the course for emergency responders. The victim was revived, taken to the emergency room and survived the incident.

The extraordinary efforts by Keserauskis resulted in timely lifesaving measures for first responders. Her quick thinking and sense of adaptability will continue providing the highest quality of service to first responders and citizens of Clinton County.

## An Acknowledgement to All Who Were Nominated

### Deputy of the Year Nominations:

Kevin Rodriguez Brian Oaks  
Ryan Monaghan Derrick Sanders  
Gregory Butterfield Victor Elias  
Anthony Cheshareck Nick Clesceri  
Keith Sosnowski Paul Clampitt  
Tom Hagerty

### Correctional Officer of the Year Nominations:

Leonard Gaziano Patrick Tierney  
Justin Kuthie Charles Van Thompson

### Telecommunicator of the Year Nominations:

Lynsey Ingram Sarah Jenkins



## Prioritizing Your Personnel in 2021

**LE leaders share advice and top tips for improving officer wellness, safety and morale in 2021**

### **OFFICER WELLNESS**

Departments must prioritize quality time off for officers in 2021. Without time away from a job that has become increasingly stressful, and frequently unrewarding, the level of burnout and poor mental health rises.

Time off cannot be entirely based on seniority, as young officers with families are equally in need of time away. While this may be a challenge for understaffed departments, failure to respond adequately to the current mental health crisis of the workforce will result in far worse outcomes in the new year.

### **OFFICER SAFETY**

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), the COVID-19

## 2021 Conference Dates:

### **Jail Medical Summit**

August 26, Holiday Inn & Suites Peoria

### **Sheriffs Summer Training Conference**

September 19-21  
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

### **Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference**

October 12-14, Embassy Suites  
East Peoria

### **Administrative Assistant's Conference**

October 21-22  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel  
Springfield

## ISA College Scholarship Applications

ISA College Scholarship Applications are available on our [website](#) under the "Youth Outreach" section or from individual sheriff's offices starting January

pandemic was responsible for a historic increase in health-related, line-of-duty deaths in 2020. In 2021, law enforcement agencies should ensure that their officers are both physically and mentally resilient.

One essential tool that is available to all organizations is the [Destination Zero Safety Resource Center](#). This online repository contains downloadable brochures, information, posters, presentations and videos from over 250 nationally recognized officer safety and wellness programs. Integrate these best practices into your agency's health and safety programs.

### OFFICER MORALE

Police leaders should intentionally focus on improving the quality of their communication. The modern environment is characterized by high levels of speed and interconnectivity, which poses significant challenges for contemporary leaders who are attempting to build and maintain aligning narratives. While the sheer volume of information is practically limitless, a failure on the part of leaders to effectively message their intent in an intelligible and coherent manner is directly correlated with low employee morale and disengagement.

An essential function of leadership is to inspire high engagement, and clarity is a prerequisite for the type of high-functioning culture necessary to contend with today's toughest policing challenges.

Want to learn more? Access the entire Police Leadership Playbook [HERE](#).

15th, 2021.

1. Application to put on your website, phone app or have hard copies available for people to pick up
2. Budget Book- pay close attention to this as we had several counties jump up in memberships!!
3. Press release sample for you to utilize in your area
4. Worksheet & instructions **due to the ISA by March 15th!**

PeaceKeepers College Scholarship Applications will be posted on: March 1st, 2021



## SHOP NOW OPEN.

-WWW.ILSHERIFF.ORG-



**Sheriff Mike Everett**  
**Wayne County**  
**2020 ISA President**

## A Year In Review - Sheriff Everett

When I took the oath as President of the Illinois Sheriff's Association in February of 2020, I had no idea what the coming year would hold for law enforcement.

First came the COVID-19 virus and with it changes to how we lived as a society and changes as to how we dealt with the day-to-day activities of law enforcement. As Sheriff, not only were we dealing with communities that were frightened and wondering what to do, we were trying to keep our staff and jail population safe. Courthouses closed for business slowing the judicial process and prisons closed which caused jail populations to rise all while trying to limit intakes in our jails to keep exposure to a minimum. We dealt with all of these things while trying to protect and serve our communities to the best of our abilities.

Then came the events in Minnesota and other parts of the country that placed a national spotlight on law enforcement in our nation. We were vilified for doing our jobs and were attacked as a whole for the deeds of the very few. In my 50 years on this earth, I have never seen this noble profession so attacked and unappreciated for the service that they provide. Cries for defunding and all-out elimination rang out across the country and yet men and women continued to put on their uniforms and protect their communities with honor and dignity.

Recently, Illinois law enforcement came under attack by way of legislation that would have ended the way we do our jobs as we know it. Many good officers thought it would be better to leave their jobs than to have to work under such conditions. If it weren't for the efforts of the Illinois Sheriff's Association along with the Illinois Chiefs, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the tremendous support from our communities, our jobs would look very different today.

Even with all of the events that this year has brought us, I am very proud to be a member of the law enforcement community and the Illinois Sheriff's Association.

Stay safe and have a blessed 2021!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Solidarity Packages:** We have sold over 100 Solidarity Packages! ISA's goal is to sell 500 in the next few months. If you haven't already shared/liked our Facebook post regarding the \$20 "Support Illinois Law Enforcement" Solidarity Packages, please consider doing so! You can purchase packages [HERE](#).

**Sheriff Bear Comfort Kit Program:** We have 46 counties participating in the Sheriff Bear Comfort Kits Program! If you have not yet let Christan Neff know that you will be participating and how many kits you'll be requesting for 2021, please email her at: [christan@ilsheriff.org](mailto:christan@ilsheriff.org) or call the ISA office (217-753-2372).

**Behind the Badge** interviews have begun and will be posted on social media and the ISA website next month. If you're interested in being interviewed at your office for a short ISA video please contact Christan Neff. The purpose of these interviews is to encourage the public to see beyond the uniform and to discourage the dehumanization of law enforcement.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

HB 3653 has now been sent to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor has 60 days in which to act, April 5, 2021. As previously indicated the Governor can sign the bill, let the bill sit on his desk passed 60 days and the bill becomes law or veto or amendatorily veto the bill. If he vetos or amendatorily vetos that is final action and the bill is dead.

I would ask that all of you continue to reach out to your constituents and elected officials to share your concerns about the impact this bill will have on them. I want to take a quick minute to highlight a specific provision of the bill. Resisting or obstructing would now require a predicate offense to be charged.

Current law allows police officers in this state to control the movement and behavior of suspects and others who would interfere with an officer's duties. For example, It is what allows officers to control the movement of a vehicle's occupants on a stop or during an investigation. What will you do if someone jumps out of the car and runs? Or if someone simply says, I am not standing here and talking to you?

What if you have a crime scene taped off and someone decides to come into the scene and disturbs evidence? Without the ability to subject that individual to arrest, we will literally be powerless to control a scene.

We are continuing to work with our partners in the coalition to identify the myriad of issues in the bill to see what can be addressed. While it is obviously our hope that this bill does not become law, we are still trying to assess if there are any fixes that can be made to mitigate some of the negative impact that this bill would have.

## **COVID-19, Sick Leave, and the Sheriff's Office**

*From ISA Legal Counsel, Rick Stewart*

Recently, a couple of Sheriff's inquired about the paid sick leave that was enacted back in April 2020 and what they were to do now that 2021 is here. Hopefully this helps.

### **Sick Leave for COVID-19 before December 31, 2020**

When the pandemic began, Congress enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) do provide up to eighty (80) hours of Paid Sick Leave and also and Expanded Family Medical Leave benefit. The sick leave and expanded family medical leave applied from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

### **Sheriff's Offices were excluded from the law.**

From the beginning, "emergency responders" were excluded. The Wage and Hour Division of U.S. Department of Labor defines an "emergency responder" as: anyone necessary for the provision of transport, care, healthcare, comfort and nutrition of such patients, or others needed for the response to COVID-19. [1]

"Law enforcement officers, correctional institution personnel, \*\*\* 911 operators, \*\*\* as well as individuals who work for such facilities employing these individuals and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility" were (and remain) specifically excluded. [2]

While Sheriff's Offices were excluded, many Sheriffs and Counties decided by either policy or ordinance to extend the benefits of the FFCRA and the ESPLA to their emergency responders.

### Sick Leave for COVID-19 after December 31, 2020

While the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 extended employer tax credits for paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave voluntarily provided to employees until March 31, 2021, **the paid sick leave and expanded family medical leave benefits were not extended into 2021.**<sup>[3]</sup>

However, this does not mean that you cannot give your employees paid sick leave for COVID-19 related issues. You may do so voluntarily (as you have always been able to do). Yet sure benefits can be expense and CARES money is finite. Additionally, as it is a voluntary system, you will need to consult with your County financial officers and accountants to make sure the money is there to cover these benefits.

[1] <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions#57>

[2] *Id.*

[3] <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions#104>

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<https://thesheriffapp.com/>



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