



ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE



JAN 2025

The inside stories for you! **SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES**



The Illinois Sheriffs' Association extends its warmest wishes for a Happy New Year to all Illinois Sheriffs, law enforcement professionals, and our valued business and citizen members!



Welcome to 2025! From ISA Executive Director: Jim Kaitschuk



The new 104th General Assembly was just sworn in January 8, 2025 and we already have well over 1200 bill introductions. With that said, the 103rd General Assembly didn't go quietly into the night. Instead, the 103rd General Assembly came into what is affectionately known as the "lame duck" session on January 4, 2025 – January 7, 2025. For those that don't recall this was the same time period in 2021 where the SAFE T Act was passed. The lame duck session is one final round for the expiring General Assembly and the members, including those that are not being seated in the 104th General Assembly to consider legislation with an immediate effective date with only a simple majority needed for passage.

There were several measures debated during the waning time of the 103^d General Assembly that the impact law enforcement including:

Karina's Law: [HB 4144 \(Hirschauer/Villanueva\)](#), as amended, represents Karina's Law, which aims to strengthen gun violence protections for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The bill expands the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Illinois Domestic Violence Act to allow a court to order the surrender and the seizure of firearms and firearm parts that could be assembled into a firearm as well as the surrender of FOID cards, upon the issuance of an ex parte, interim and final protection order of protection. HB 4144 passed the Senate as

amended by a vote of 43-10. The House concurred by a vote of 80-33 and the bill now heads to the Governor’s desk. Read more [here](#). The ISA was extensively involved in these discussions, along with the Illinois State’s Attorneys Association.

Hemp: Attempts to pass legislation to regulate hemp-derived THC, including delta-8 products, fell short during the Lame Duck Session. Representative Buckner filed HA # 2 to [SB 2417](#) (Halpin/Buckner), which mostly mirrored legislation passed by the Senate on a vote of 54-1 in May ([HB 4293](#) Buckner/Lightford). The amendment would have required intoxicating hemp products to be sold by state-licensed cannabis dispensaries to keep them out of the hands of children. The bill also would have required testing and labeling of hemp products, as well as restrictions on marketing and packaging. Neither SB 2417 nor HB 4293 was ever assigned to a House committee for consideration during the lame duck session.

The Governor’s office issued a statement saying “Governor Pritzker is disappointed that lawmakers failed to take bipartisan, common-sense action to protect children and the public from unregulated and untested hemp products. The Governor is never beholden to special interests and will always put people, especially children, over politics and profits.” Representative Buckner said, “This is going to get done, and I am committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure we achieve a solution that protects the public, supports innovation and entrepreneurship, and moves Illinois forward.” Read more [here and here](#).

Prisoner Review Board Reforms: The Senate approved, by a vote of 32-21, [HB 3288](#) (Ness/Harmon) which attempts to modernize and professionalize the Prisoner Review Board. The amended bill enhances transparency and training for Board members, including specialized domestic violence education. It also mandates a more balanced composition of professional experiences on the appointed Board, aiming to prevent a dominance of law enforcement and criminal justice veterans. Additionally, the legislation increases compensation for newly appointed Board members, aligning it with the compensation of the Human Rights Commission. Finally, the bill allows for the appointment of Commissioners, similar to administrative law judges, to assist the Board. While the bill passed the Senate, it was not considered in the House prior to adjournment.

[SB 2655](#) (Sims/Slaughter) makes two changes as amended. The first provision is a request from the Illinois State Police to rectify statutory conflicts with their dash camera and officer-worn body camera policies. The second provision is a request from the Attorney General to make technical cleanup changes to the AI child pornography bill passed during the spring session. The bill passed both chambers unanimously and now heads to the Governor’s desk.

[HB 5164](#) (Olickal/Villivalam), as amended, would cap the cost of legal name changes, reduce the state residency requirement for name changes from 6 months to 3 months, and allow certain individuals to request that their name change be kept private and exempt from public disclosure. The Senate adopted SFA # 1 at the request of the State’s Attorneys Association. The amendment clarifies that if a court grants a motion to impound a file under the Code, it must still report the name change to the Illinois State Police. The Illinois State Police must then update the criminal history transcript and offender registration for each person 18 years of age or older to include both the new name and the person’s former name. The House concurred with SFA # 1 by a vote of 71-38 and the bill now heads the Governor’s desk.

By a vote of 43-10, the Illinois Senate approved [HB 4410](#) (Guzzardi/Villa). The bill, as amended, would require law enforcement agencies to create and adopt policies prohibiting officers from engaging in sexual conduct with a suspect while investigating prostitution and require the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement, and circuit court clerks to automatically seal all prior arrest and court records related to felony prostitution charges. The bill would also update certain phrases regarding sex work-related offenses. The House concurred with the Senate’s changes by a vote of 73-38 and the bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.

[HB 4828](#) (Olickal/Peters), as amended, requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to publish quarterly reports online detailing general trends, including demographic information, lengths of confinement, incidents of self-harm, and access to health care in restrictive housing (solitary confinement) units. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 44-12; the House concurred 75-38. The measure now heads to the Governor’s desk.

The House unanimously concurred with the Senate’s amendments to [HB 4412](#) (Vella/Loughran Cappel) which addresses criminal background checks for daycares. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.



**Thanks to our
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Membership
Sponsors.**



To see more photos or visit their Facebook pages click on each image:



COOK COUNTY

January 12, 2025

Hi, everyone! My name is K9 Aris. I'm a patrol and illegal narcotics detection K9 for our Sheriff's Office. As you can see from my big smile, I am super friendly. I'm pretty good at keeping the public and staff safe during in-progress incidents too. I promise I'm not money hungry, those dollar bills just smelled a bit funny to me. #K9 #BelgianMalinois #CCSO



BOND COUNTY

January 10, 2025

A big thank you to Pocahontas Rampart Range for their donation to the K9 fundraiser prize list.
If any other people or businesses would like to donate prize items for the auction, please reach out to Deputy Gage Langel or any other employees of the Bond County Sheriff's Department.

Auction will be held on February 1st at the Greenville VFW Bond County K-9 Fundraiser.



PEORIA COUNTY

January 10, 2025

Today, we recognize Deputy Troy Smith for over 30 years of service to Peoria County as he begins his well-earned retirement. Deputy Smith served in many roles throughout his career, including 10 years in the Process Division and as a valued Range Instructor.

We thank him for his dedication and wish him the best in this next chapter.



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

January 9, 2025

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY
A heartfelt thank you to the residents of Goldie Floberg for spreading kindness and appreciation today! In honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, residents took the time to handcraft beautiful cards filled with messages of gratitude. A big thank you also to Rosecrance for dropping off yummy cookies - they sure didn't last long!



Our stock is running low! Don't miss out on securing your K9 Dax today before they're gone.



**PRICE:
\$30 ea.**
includes
shipping



Your Donation Makes a Difference!

Every time you shop or become a member, you help ISA continue to provide support and training to Sheriff's Offices throughout Illinois. **This special Lake County K9 HERO Dax plush is a DONATION ITEM, with a portion of proceeds going to the Lake County K9 Unit in memory of K9 Dax.** The ISA K9 Dax plush is fitted with a personalized camo tactical vest, embellished with the ISA logo, sheriff collar and Blue-Line Hero dog tag! Dimensions: 4" x 9"

...AND it comes with a K9 Dax Trading Card!!



SHERIFFS K9 HERO SERIES

Brought to you by the Illinois Sheriffs' Association
ilsheriff.org/k9heroes

Go to our site to read
the full story on Dax!

ISA Conference & Training Schedule



ISA PRESENTS - Law Enforcement Continued Education Opportunities

Together, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association is making progress in the right direction by providing our Peace Officers with the resources they need.

Visit our Website For More
Information

Sheriffs Winter Training Conference

February 8-11, 2025
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference

April 2-4, 2025
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Sheriffs Summer Training Conference

September 20-23, 2025
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

We would not be able to put our training and conferences on without our Preferred Vendors! The Illinois Sheriffs' Association would like to thank your vendors listed below!

DIAMOND ELITE LEVEL



DIAMOND LEVEL



PLATINUM LEVEL



2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series -
January | Sangamon County



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - Sangamon County



Appointed as
Sheriff 2024
25 Years in
Law Enforcement



Population
Sangamon County
193,491



Average
Household
Income
\$74,114

1.

What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

I started my career as a dispatcher on the midnight shift while I went to nursing school. When dispatching, I always wanted to know what had happened after dispatching the officers on the call. That curiosity led me to my career in law enforcement.

2.

Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office and throughout your County:

The Sheriff is the Chief Public Safety Officer of the County. As an elected official, I am responsible for all activities of the Sheriff's Office. Those include court security, corrections, and deputies.

3.

What is your favorite part about being Sangamon County Sheriff?

Having only been in this position for a few months, I can not say that I have a "favorite" part yet. I am still learning new stuff every day.



4.

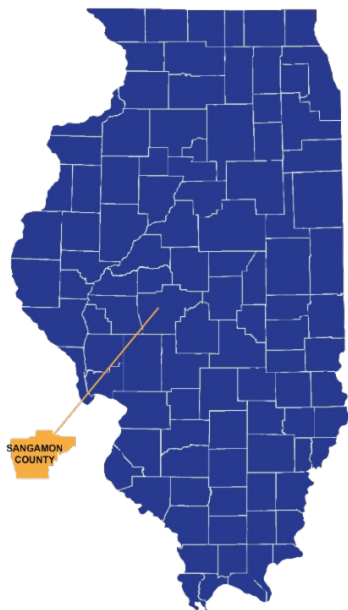
Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

Growing up in a small community, my impression of law enforcement was positive because of the interactions they had with youth and the community. I want my deputies to have that relationship with the communities that we serve as well.

5.

What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career in peace keeping service?

I have been fortunate enough to work with law enforcement and community partners from all walks of life. Those relationships have afforded me the opportunity to recognize differences in beliefs and philosophies and understand and appreciate those differences.



6.

Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

That is kind of a tough question because I have had some great mentors in my law enforcement career as well in my personal life. My primary Field Training Officer's service to community and the consideration he gave to those we served gave me the opportunity to build relationships with the community that have lasted my entire career.

7.

What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

The biggest challenge I believe is educating the community on what the duties and responsibilities of a Sheriff's Office is and teaching them to understand the differences in policing from different organizations and structures (city government, State Police, small communities).

8.

How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

I think initially they would consider me a little "quiet".

9.

What advice would you give young people?

My advice is – someone is always watching. Be the person today that you want to be remembered as tomorrow.

SHERIFF CROUCH FUN FACTS:



IF YOU WEREN'T DOING WHAT YOU DO NOW, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

I would own a flower shop.



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING?

I love to travel, but currently my spare time is spent watching my two high school kids sporting events.



WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I first went to nursing school before switching to law enforcement.



FOLLOW THEM:
Sangamon County Sheriff's Office



Illinois Has a Proud Legacy of Female Sheriffs

History of Female Sheriffs in the State of Illinois

DeKalb County- Helena Dolder After the unexpected death of her husband Fred in 1928, Dolder was appointed DeKalb County Sheriff. Later that year, she ran for

office and won. Because of the curtains hung by Sheriff Dolder, the DeKalb County Jail was called the “Lace Curtain Jail.” She was a vital player in the story that inspired the 2008 film "The Changeling" about a young boy who went missing in Los Angles in 1928 and who mysteriously turned up at a DeKalb Diner. Dolder cared for the boy at the jail in Sycamore where he stayed in a special room Dolder made up for him. The boy, Walter Collins, turned out not to be who himself claimed. After he was taken back to California, he admitted to being a runaway from Cedar Rapids Iowa and was named Arthur Hutchison. The true Walter Collins was sadly murdered in California.

DeWitt County- Myra Westray, appointed in 1942 to serve in place of her husband, Kenneth Westray who was called to duty in WWII. She was 24 years old, and they had no children. Myra lived on the second floor of the jail and had an office in the courthouse. She wore a badge but did not carry a weapon. When Kenneth returned home, he was elected as Sheriff again in 1950.

Jo Daviess County- Emma M. Grebner 1954-1958 duly elected. “Two Gun” Emma as she was called was 46 years old when she won the election and succeeded her husband, Lawrence. Emma refused to wear a uniform “People will know I’m Sheriff by what I do, not by what I wear”. She kept her pistol in her handbag.

Hardin County- Jacqueline Dutton was appointed in August of 1999 when her husband, Sheriff Thomas “Tom” Dutton passed away at the age of 54. Jackie served as Sheriff until a special election was held and a new Sheriff was elected to fulfill the term.

Hardin County- Joyce Cullison was appointed in 2012 after the unexpected death of her husband, Sheriff Lloyd “Smokey” Cullison. Joyce worked as an office administrator under her husband as well as the previous Sheriff. Years prior she was a correctional officer. Joyce was appointed Sheriff from April-December of 2012

Sangamon County-Paula Crouch was appointed Sheriff in September 2024 upon the unexpected early retirement of Jack Campbell. Crouch, 51, would become the counties first female Sheriff. Before becoming a police officer, she was a Sangamon County 911 dispatcher. She later joined the Springfield Police Department in 1999, retiring in 2023 as a lieutenant.

NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY:



LAKE COUNTY, IL:
Teens charged in shooting, police chase

[SEE VIDEO](#)

By: CBS NEWS CHICAGO



CLEVELAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA:
Father and son rescue deputy, dog from burning car

[SEE VIDEO](#)

By: WBTV/Gray News



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:
‘A true image of who he is’: Wife of former Grand Island officer reacts to viral photo

[READ MORE](#)

By: Karen Lucrece, Nebraska NOW



Scholarship Feature



We’re excited to share a few standout essays from the winners of our 2024-2025

scholarship program.

Last year’s essay question was:

"Do you feel like society has become more violent? Why do you think people seem to be increasingly driven to violence to solve issues or promote their agenda? How can the Sheriff and their office specifically address these issues?"

Essay submitted by: [Lee County winner, Maeve Larson](#)



Essay submitted by: [Kane County winner, Keri Wozniak](#)



Essay submitted by: [Rock Island County winner, Sydney Schiltz](#)



ISA was able to award **117 scholarships** in 2024! Our Citizen Membership Program is helping to provide these students with **more than \$59,000 in financial aid** and an opportunity to make a positive contribution to society!

A special thank you to our dedicated Citizen and Business Members whose generous donations make this scholarship program, and many others, possible.

Make sure to follow us on **Facebook** or visit our **Youth Outreach** section of our website to keep up to date on 2025-2026 Scholarship news. We will post information and our application this Friday January, 17th. Scholarship applications are due March 14, 2025, to your county Sheriff's office.

Your Donation CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING!

Did You Know?

Your support allows us to fully fund a statewide scholarship program that empowers students in all 102 Illinois counties to pursue higher education opportunities.

It supports critical training, grant initiatives, and support to Illinois Sheriffs and their staff. And we lobby the General Assembly for Sheriffs & Law-Abiding Citizens Rights by tracking proposed laws that could either help or harm your freedoms.

The ISA pledges to continue our unwavering support to Illinois Sheriffs, which in turn strengthens our communities, saves lives, and ensures a better place to live and raise our children.

We hope you share our passion and commitment to the brave men and women in blue and donate today!



CLICK TO MAKE A DONATION



Plan to **LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE** posts from the ISA to help us spread the word about and educate others on public safety, policing and your rights that the ISA fights for!



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- Forward it Along to a Friend and Encourage them to Join the ISA!

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