



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'  
ASSOCIATION**

*Protecting Our Communities,*  
**HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE**



**FEB/MAR 2025**

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

# ILLINOIS



## Sheriffs' Association

# 2025

### WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE

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### FEBRUARY 8-11



The ISA hosted our Annual Winter Training Conference in Springfield, IL last month. We hosted our Executive Board Meeting, two-days of continuing education training, ISA Business Meeting, and our Annual Banquet to swear in our new, 2025 Executive Board President, new Executive Committee members and to celebrate our 2024 Service Award Winners!

**2025 ISA Executive Board Sworn in at Winter  
Conference Banquet**



## 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

**Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout**  
McDonough County

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

**Sheriff Derek Morgan**  
Wabash County

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

**Sheriff Michael Downey**  
Kankakee County

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Sheriff Brian VanVickle**  
Ogle County  
(Past President)

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Sheriff Dwight Baird**  
Kendall County



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Sheriff Andy Hires**, Richland County  
(Past President)

**Sheriff Pat Hartshorn**, Vermilion County  
(Past President)

**Sheriff Dustin Heuerman**, Champaign County

**Sheriff Andy Myers**, Clay County

**Sheriff Andy Sullivan**, DeKalb County

**Sheriff Darby Boewe**, Edwards County

**Sheriff Mark Landers**, Logan County

**Sheriff Shawn Kahl**, Macoupin County

**Sheriff Robb Tadelman**, McHenry County

**Sheriff Jeff Lower**, Tazewell County

**Sheriff John Booker**, Whiteside County

### ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

**Jim Kaitschuk**, Executive Director



ABOVE: Honorable Nigel Graham 9th Circuit Court Judge swears in new ISA Executive Board President, McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout



ABOVE: Retired Sheriff Jeff Standard introduces Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout as 2025 ISA President



ABOVE: Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle sworn in as Secretary/Treasurer



*ABOVE:* Wabash County Sheriff Derek Morgan sworn in as 1st Vice President



*LEFT TO RIGHT:* Champaign County Sheriff Dustin Heuerman and Whiteside County Sheriff John Booker sworn into Executive Committee



ISA Immediate Past President, Kendall County Sheriff Dwight Baird and 2025 ISA President McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout

**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!**

**LEVEL DIAMOND ELITE**





LEVEL DIAMOND



LEVEL PLATINUM



## 2025 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



### 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

Visit our  
Website





## 2025 BILL OF THE DAY IS UNDERWAY!


With all of the bills introduced this year in the House and Senate, ISA Executive Director, Jim Kaitschuk has his hands full tracking these bills, working to collaborate with Legislators as they are drafted and to have conversations in the earliest stages on bills that impact public safety and policing!

Go to the [ISA Website Resource Page](#) or watch for posts on our [Facebook](#) for more information.



**Below are just a few examples of the bills we've highlighted so far**


IL 104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**PENDING LEGISLATION**  
3/2025

 **ISA OPPOSES**

**SB1788 FIRST AND SECOND DEGREE MURDER**


Amends the Criminal Code of 2012. Eliminates the felony murder provisions from the first degree murder statute. Provides that a person commits second degree murder when he or she, acting alone or with one or more participants, commits or attempts to commit a forcible felony, other than first degree murder, and in the course of or in furtherance of the crime or flight from the crime, he or she or another participant causes the death of a person, other than one of the participants.

SENATE SPONSORS:  
Introduced by IL Senators Robert Peters  
and Mary Edly-Allen



LINK TO FULL BILL ATTACHED


IL 104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**PENDING LEGISLATION**  
2/2025

 **ISA OPPOSES**

**HB3518 PROSTITUTION DECRIMINALIZATION**

Provides that the Act may be referred to as the Keeping Sex Workers Safe Act. Creates the Sex Workers' Bill of Rights Act. Provides that sex workers shall not be subject to criminal prosecution for engaging in consensual sex work. Provides that law enforcement agencies are prohibited from arresting, charging, or prosecuting individuals solely for performing or engaging in sex work. Provides that sex workers, whether employed, contracted, or self-employed, shall be afforded the same rights and protections as other workers under Illinois law.

HOUSE SPONSORS:  
Introduced by IL Representatives Will Guzzardi  
and Kelly M. Cassidy



LINK TO FULL BILL ATTACHED



## HB3458 CRIM CD-AGG BAT-PEACE OFFICER

Amends the Criminal Code of 2012. Provides that it is a defense to aggravated battery when the individual battered is a peace officer and the officer responded to an incident in which the officer interacted with a person whom a reasonable officer could believe was having a mental health episode and the person with whom the officer interacted has a documented mental illness and acted abruptly.

HOUSE SPONSOR:  
Introduced by IL Representative Lisa Davis



[LINK TO FULL BILL ATTACHED](#)



## HB1143 ILLINOIS CURE ACT

Creates the Compassionate Use and Research of Entheogens Act. Establishes the Illinois Psilocybin Advisory Board. Provides a timeline for the Board. Provides that the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, the Illinois State Police, and the Department of Revenue may adopt rules and implement the Act. Provides for licensing to operate a service center, facilitate psilocybin services, manufacture psilocybin products, and test psilocybin products by certain State agencies, with certain requirements. Provides for the lawful manufacture, delivery, and possession of psilocybin products. Provides procedures for psilocybin services, including requirements for certain sessions, plans, and forms. Limits the sale of psilocybin products with certain restrictions. Provides for investigations and inspections under the Act. Provides for certain fees, fines, actions against a licensee, criminal penalties, and civil penalties for violations of the Act. Provides for administrative hearings and other requirements for disciplining an applicant or licensee. Provides requirements for psilocybin-producing fungi as a crop, food, or other commodity. Provides for labeling and packaging requirements. Imposes a tax on psilocybin.

HOUSE SPONSOR:  
Introduced by IL Representative La Shawn K. Ford



[LINK TO FULL BILL ATTACHED](#)

See the March Senate and House Calendars below.  
Click the coordinating buttons to download a PDF file.

# 2025

ILLINOIS SENATE CALENDAR  
104<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE PRESIDENT DON HARMON



MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 SESSION	5 SESSION ASH WEDNESDAY	6 SESSION	7	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 SESSION	19 SESSION	20 SESSION	21 SESSION DEADLINE Substantive Senate Bills Out of Committee	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 RAMADAN ENDS EID AL-FITR	31					

**IMPORTANT DATES**

March 21 - DEADLINE - Substantive Senate Bills Out of Committee

Senate Sched. JAN-  
MAY





# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4 SESSION	5 Ash Wednesday SESSION	6 SESSION	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins	10	11 SESSION	12 SESSION	13 SESSION	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 SESSION	19 SESSION	20 SESSION	21 SESSION HB COMMITTEE DEADLINE	22
23	24	25 SESSION	26 SESSION	27 SESSION	28 SESSION	29
30 Eid al-Fitr	31	1	2	3	4	5

House Sched. JAN-  
MAY



*Congratulations*  
to our

# 2024

AWARD FOR VALOR

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS  
OF THE YEAR

TELECOMMUNICATOR  
OF THE YEAR

ISA CELEBRATED OUR 2024 AWARD WINNERS AT OUR  
2025 WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET



## 2024 ISA Award for Valor

### Iroquois County Sheriff's Office - Deputy Brock Myers

2024 ISA AWARD FOR VALOR - Val-or – noun | Meaning: Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. On September 1, 2024, at approximately 7:30pm, dispatchers received a 9-1-1 call near Clifton, IL from a child that reported their stepdad was suicidal. Iroquois County Deputy Brock Myers was involved in the vehicle pursuit with this subject with mental health issues. It was believed at the time that he may have his wife at gunpoint in the vehicle with him. Deputy Brock Myers did not know it at the time, but he would end this evening in the face of danger... in a law-enforcement battle. Iroquois County Sheriff's Deputy Brock Myers was honored with this ISA Valor Award for his courage and bravery. He showed extraordinary heroism at imminent risk of his own serious bodily injury, while demonstrating courage. Every day he shows up, a police officer who risks his life to protect citizens in his county. Watch the full video to hear the full heroic tale and why he was given the ISA Award for Valor!

[Watch ISA Valor Award Video](#)





## **2024 Deputy of the Year**

### **Winnebago County Sheriff's Office - Deputy Michael Gambino**

2024 Winnebago County Deputy of the Year – On March 27, 2024, Winnebago County Deputy Michael Gambino responded to a call after hearing Rockford Police Officers responding to a report of an in-progress stabbing on Holmes Street. As he was enroute to the location, dispatch advised there were reports of multiple stabbings throughout the neighborhood and the suspect was last seen on foot in the area. After a very short time of arriving in the neighborhood, Deputy Gambino observed the suspect running behind homes. Deputy Gambino pursued the armed suspect on foot, scaling fences and eventually tackling the suspect to the ground. Deputy Gambino suffered injuries to his hand, face and head during the struggle. The suspect had severely injured a total of 11 people – 4 of which had been killed. That included two teenage girls who were home on spring break. Deputy Gambino's actions exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement excellence. His bravery, quick thinking and actions undoubtedly prevented further loss of lives and ensured the safety of countless individuals. Deputy Gambino demonstrated outstanding courage and resilience, putting his own safety at risk to protect others and uphold the law. His performance under these dangerous circumstances reflects the very best of our profession and serves as an inspiring example of the commitment and courage embodied by our deputies throughout the state!



## 2024 Correctional Officer of the Year

Kane County Sheriff's Office - Correctional Officer Jerome Williams

2024 Kane County Correctional Officer of the Year – In January of 2024 Officer Williams was supervising a housing unit in which he was alerted of a detainee causing concerns on the top tier. Officer Williams immediately noticed that the detainee appeared to have a bed sheet tied around his neck and was attempting to climb onto the railings of the top tier. Officer Williams called for assistance and began to respond to the incident. He approached the detainee from the bottom tier and moved a table under where the detainee was attempting to tie off the other end of the bed sheet to the railing. Officer Williams anticipated that if he were to jump over the railing, he would be able to support his body weight while standing on the table until responding Officers arrived. As he was positioning the table the detainee lunged over the railing with the bed sheet



tied around his neck and top railing. Officer Williams quickly responded by attempting to support his fall to the ground as the bed sheet broke under his weight. Officer Williams reacted quickly in order to prevent any further harm the detainee was attempting to do to himself. In the end the detainee made a full recovery, and Officer Williams was awarded for his actions. Officer Williams proves time and again to show attention to detail, has the ability to think quick on his feet and these qualities are a reflection of his professionalism in the field of corrections

### Watch Correctional Officers of the Year Video



## 2024 Telecommunicator of the Year

### Kendall County & KenCom – 911 Dispatcher Jennifer Powell

2024 Kendall County Telecommunicator of the Year - Kendall County Jennifer Powell has been a dispatcher with the Kendall County Sheriff's Office and KenCom since February of 2009, and in this time, she has regularly displayed her unfaltering commitment to the safety and well-being of Kendall County's first responders and the larger community as a whole. Jen consistently demonstrates inspiring thoroughness, steadfast dedication, and admirable leadership skills. She is hardworking, determined, and always willing to learn and expand her skill set. She is also happy to share her knowledge with those around her. Jen is as reliable a dispatcher as we have ever had the pleasure of working with and truly excels in the most stressful situations. She is so quick to help out her fellow coworkers, ensuring they have everything they could possibly need and that all their bases are covered; it is truly humbling to see her in action. We have seen Jen go above and beyond to help her co-workers more times than we can count. This is true when the room is tasked with complex structure fires, box alarms, or high intensity situations such as home invasions and police pursuits. When we reflect on how Jen's heroism has directly impacted our community, we can't help but think about an incident in which Jen was dispatching police when one of our member agencies on the opposite police channel responded to a call for a

burglary. The situation quickly evolved into a home invasion, prompting Jen to act quickly by alerting the responders on her channel. She kept her units informed as events unfolded, ultimately resulting in her them being involved in and taking the lead on a pursuit as the offender, presumed to be armed and dangerous, led police on a chase that spanned approximately 15 miles across Kendall County and into Aurora on a Friday evening during rush hour. Jen's quick thinking and clear communication were crucial in getting officers to the scene and keeping them updated. At the same time, the events unfolded and got them the assistance they needed when they needed it. This was an exemplary performance on Jen's behalf, and the captured radio traffic is fit for use as a training tool. Her resolve and commitment to public safety are commendable. Her clear and concise communication throughout this incident was valuable beyond measure to the responding officers and the larger community as a whole.

**Watch Telecommunicator of the Year  
Video**

## 2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series - February/March | Boone County



**GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - Boone County**



Elected as  
Sheriff 2022  
37 Years in  
Law Enforcement



Population  
Boone  
County  
53,202



Average  
Household  
Income  
\$81,638





1.

**What first made you get involved with law enforcement?**

I had great friendships with so many officers in my community. While attending college, I was fortunate to ride along with these officers and this solidified my decision to pursue a career in law enforcement.

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2.

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

My role is to guide and support all members of the Boone County Sheriff's Office. It is my responsibility to ensure that the staff have access to the best training and equipment that will help them be successful in their careers. I also prioritize transparency and building relationships with the community and the county board. It is important that I am fiscally responsible and engaged with the residents, we work to protect Boone County.

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3.

**What is your favorite part about being Boone County Sheriff?**

My favorite part of being Sheriff is the opportunity to connect with the members of the community and build relationships that help us be successful in our mission to serve and ensure safety to the residents in Boone County. I enjoy the opportunity to work along our dedicated staff and help them grow and develop in their careers.

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4.

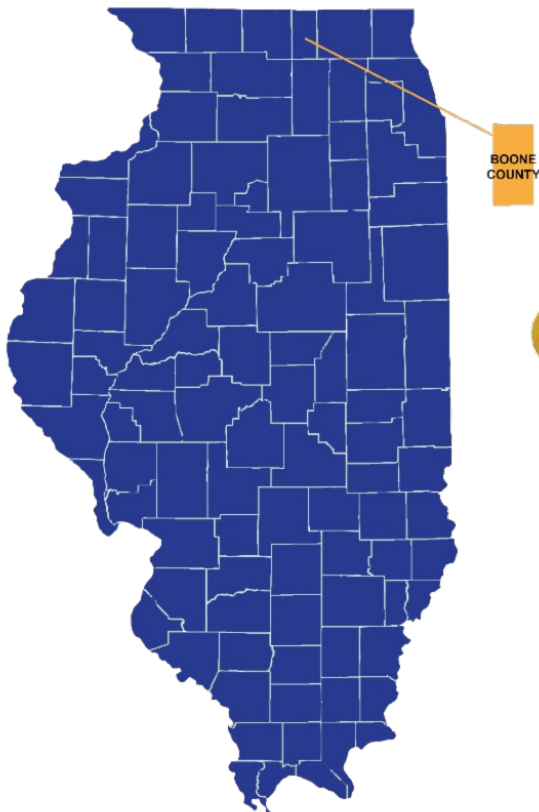
### **Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:**

I was born and raised in Boone County and I am passionate about the community we serve. We are blessed with wonderful people that have strong sense of community. It is a joy to serve on several boards and organizations that make a positive impact and are committed to continuous improvements for all those that live and work here.

5.

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

It is hard to pick just one thing, I have had a very blessed career. I think the biggest blessing is that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people throughout my career. I cherish all the relationships that I have been fortunate to make over the last 37 years of serving Boone County.





6.

### Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

My brother Troy has had a significant influence on me. He is a retired teacher and a IHSA Hall of Fame coach. He had influenced so many young adults and families with such a positive approach for many years. He continues to give so much of his time and talents to our community.

7.

### What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

The biggest challenge for our community is how the continued growth and traffic has impacted safety on our roads. High speed and distracted drivers have led to serious and fatal accidents so we are constantly evaluating opportunities and initiatives to make our roads as safe as possible.





8.

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

I think they would describe me as very personable, approachable and dedicated to my profession of serving and protecting others.

9.

## What advice would you give young people?

Explore opportunities, get involved with your community. Also find a career you are very passionate about and you will never have to “work” a day in your life.



## SHERIFF YUNK FUN FACTS:



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

Working on a cattle  
ranch in Oklahoma!!



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

I spend most of my time working and  
doing chores on our small family  
farm. I still enjoy the work and the  
livestock and it works as a nice  
de-stressor after a long day.



**WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE  
BE SURPRISED TO KNOW  
ABOUT YOU?**

How much I still enjoy  
working with and showing  
livestock at local county fairs.



**FOLLOW THEM:**  
Boone County Sheriff's Office

**Thanks to our  
Corporate ISA  
Membership  
Sponsors.**



## NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY:



**Son of late Lake  
County K-9 Dax joins  
sheriff's office,  
continuing his legacy**

**READ  
MORE**

By Adam Zielinski | Fox32

**Ariz. officer heading to  
work, off-duty  
firefighter rescue**

**READ  
MORE**



# woman from burning truck

By Joanna Putman | Police1.com

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

*Hero - one who gives of themselves, often putting their own life at great risk, for the greater good of others...*



**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](http://ilsheriff.org/k9heroes)

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



# Your Donation CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING!

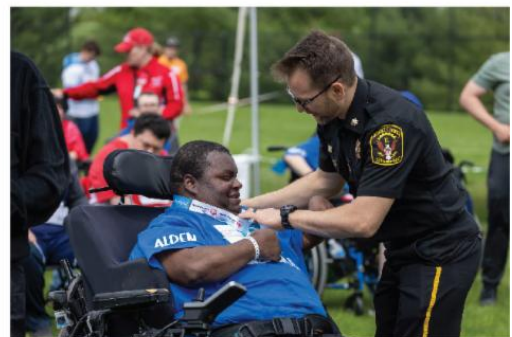
## Did You Know?

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!**



Try email marketing for free today!