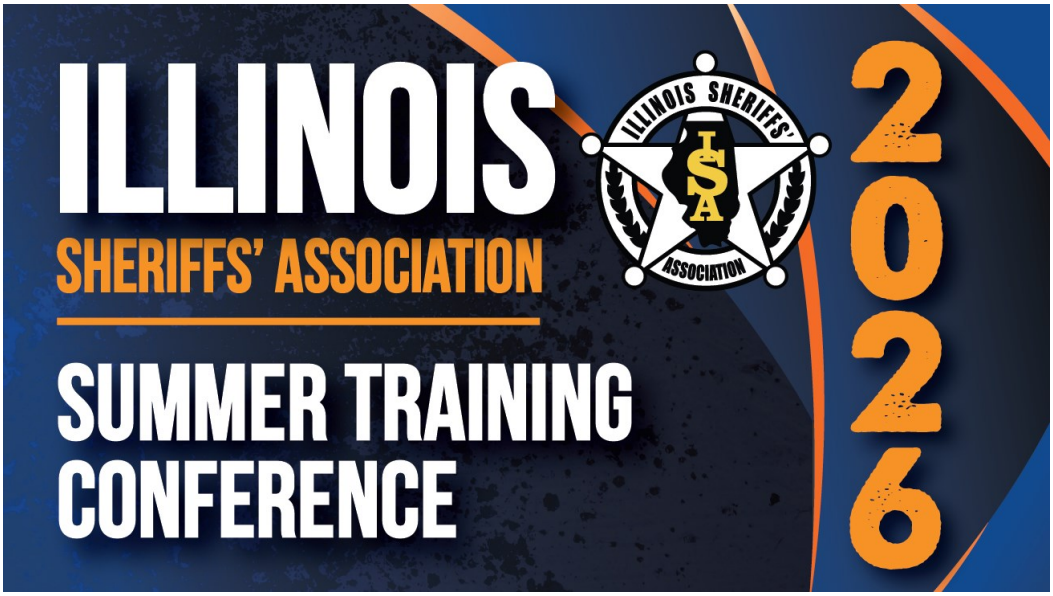


SEPT 2026

The inside stories for you!

SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES



Illinois Sheriffs' Association Brings Sheriffs Together for 2026 Summer Training Conference

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association brought Sheriffs from across Illinois together for its 2026 Summer Training Conference, held September 12–15 in East Peoria. The conference provided opportunities for training, professional development, networking, and collaboration.

The conference reflected the ISA's continued commitment to providing Illinois Sheriffs with valuable training and opportunities to share knowledge, experiences, and solutions to the challenges facing law enforcement and the communities they serve.



ISA Executive Director, Jim Kaitschuk



Tazewell County Sheriff, Jeff Lower

Focus on Training & Preparedness

The 2026 summer conference featured training on critical incidents, officer wellness, and legal and legislative updates, providing Sheriffs with valuable information and resources to help navigate the challenges facing law enforcement today.

One of the featured sessions was Officer-Involved Shooting & Officer Wellness, presented by Master Sgt. Katie Lawson - Oklahoma City Police Department. The session focused on the realities officers and agencies face following critical incidents while emphasizing the importance of officer wellness and support.















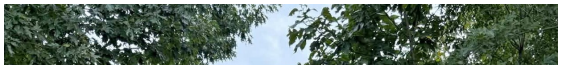


Connecting Sheriffs Across Illinois
Beyond the training sessions, the conference provided numerous opportunities including a golf outing at Lick Creek Golf Course and a sporting clay shoot for Sheriffs to connect with colleagues and strengthen professional relationships.

The Vendor Hall gave attendees opportunities to exchange ideas, discuss issues affecting their offices, and learn about products and services available to support their agencies.

Thank you to all of our Sheriffs, command staff, speakers, vendors, sponsors, and guests who joined us in East Peoria and helped make the 2026 Summer Training Conference a success!













ISA Executive Director Jim Kaitschuk, Senior Director of Development for LETR, George Peterson, Special Olympics Illinois Athlete Emerson, Wabash Co. Sheriff and 2026 ISA President J. Derek Morgan and ISA Membership & Marketing Coordinator Lynn Saputo



Special Olympics Illinois Athlete Emerson and Lake Co. Sheriff John Idleburg

Supporting Special Olympics Illinois

The 2026 summer conference was also an opportunity for the ISA to give back to an organization that means so much to the law enforcement community. During the conference, the ISA presented a $12,914 donation to Special Olympics Illinois, supporting the athletes and programs made possible through the Special Olympics Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run. ***We are grateful to the Sheriff Offices, members, sponsors, and supporters whose generosity helped make this donation possible!***

2026/2027 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



Central Zone Regional Honor Guard Training
October 1st & 2nd, Springfield

New Sheriffs Management Institute
November 15-19, 2026
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

Retiring Sheriffs Banquet
Sunday Nov. 15th, 6:00pm
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

Sheriffs Winter Training Conference
February 13-16, 2027
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference
April 28-30, 2027 East Peoria, IL

Visit Our Website

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!

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2026 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series
SEPTEMBER | Ogle County



Elected as Sheriff 2014
18 Years in Law Enforcement

Average Household Income
$82,132

Population Ogle County
51,399







1. What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

As a child, I was fortunate to visit West Point, where my father was stationed as an enlisted soldier. The history, tradition, and sense of service surrounding the Academy made a lasting impression on me. While my path didn't lead to the military, those experiences helped shape my future, and after 9/11, my path toward law enforcement became very clear.

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

I have always been a very hands-on Sheriff, both within the Office and throughout the community. From day one, I have told our staff that our responsibility is to leave this agency better than we found it, and that is something we work toward every day—myself included. As the public face of the Office, I also believe the Sheriff should serve as an ambassador for law enforcement, a responsibility I hold in very high regard.

3. What is your favorite part about being Ogle County Sheriff?

Without a doubt, it is interacting with the public, especially school-age children. For many people, their first interaction with law enforcement comes on one of the worst days of their lives. I enjoy having the opportunity to show them another side of who we are and build relationships before they ever need us.

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

I hope they would describe me as down-to-earth, approachable, and someone who tries to keep the big picture in mind when making decisions.



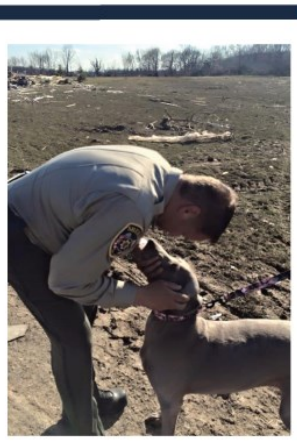
IF YOU WEREN'T DOING WHAT YOU DO NOW, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

I'm not exactly sure what the job would be, but I can assure you it would involve mountains and thin air.



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

My wife and I enjoy traveling—both with and without our children—and spending time with family. Those opportunities to get away and spend time together are something we really value.



WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

My wife and I, with plenty of help from our family, have built three of our homes ourselves.

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

In 2015, a devastating tornado crossed three counties and destroyed more than 140 structures in Ogle County, including my family's home. On one of our absolute worst days, our community showed up—not just for us, but for neighbors, families across the county, and farmers who needed fields cleared in time to plant. It was a terrible day, but the days that followed were an incredible reminder of what community truly means.



6. Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

I was fortunate to work alongside my grandfather for many years. He was from the "Greatest Generation," and while I learned countless lessons from him, the most important was simply how you treat people. He greeted everyone with a smile, treated longtime customers like friends, and treated employees like family. That example has stayed with me throughout my life and career.



7. What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

One of our biggest challenges is maintaining fiscal responsibility while continuing to provide quality services and meet the evolving expectations of our community. Efficiency and cost savings are important, but they have to be balanced with protecting the services and quality of life that make Ogle County a great place to live.

8. Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

My children are the sixth generation of our family to call Ogle County home. I made the leap into law enforcement later in life because I wanted to play a part in making this a community where they would have a reason to stay, raise their own families, and hopefully continue that tradition into a seventh generation.



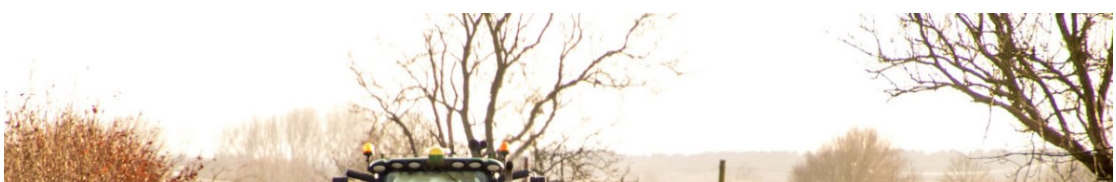
9. What advice would you give young people?

Treat people the way you would want to be treated—or the way you would want someone to treat your grandmother. If you approach conversations and decisions with that perspective, your heart will usually be in the right place, and the outcome will follow.

FOLLOW THEM:
Ogle County Sheriff's Office

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF
STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRIAN E VANVICKLE

Fall in Illinois: Enjoy the Season, Stay Safe





As the seasons change, Illinois families begin enjoying cooler temperatures, fall activities, changing leaves and harvest season. Along with the beauty of autumn, however, come some seasonal safety concerns. The Illinois Sheriffs' Association encourages everyone to take a few extra precautions this fall.

Watch for farm equipment. Harvest season typically begins in early September and can continue into November, meaning motorists should expect to encounter tractors, combines and other large equipment on Illinois roadways. Slow down when approaching farm equipment, maintain a safe following distance and never pass unless it is safe and legal to do so. Remember that large farm vehicles may need to make wide turns or may not be able to pull safely onto the shoulder.

Watch for deer. Fall brings increased deer activity across Illinois. Drivers should be especially alert around dawn and dusk, when deer are more active, and should remember that where there is one deer, there may be others nearby.

Prepare your home for cooler weather. Before turning on furnaces or space heaters for the season, make sure heating equipment is in good working condition. Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from furniture, curtains, bedding and other items that can catch fire. Illinois emergency preparedness officials also recommend testing smoke alarms regularly and maintaining a fire escape plan.

Keep safety in mind during fall activities. Whether attending a football game, visiting a pumpkin patch, hiking, enjoying a fall festival or taking a scenic drive, keep children within sight, stay aware of your surroundings and carry a charged cell phone for emergencies.

Fall is one of the most beautiful times of year in Illinois. With a little extra awareness and preparation, families can enjoy the season while helping keep themselves, their neighbors and others on the road safe.

From all of us at the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, have a safe and enjoyable fall!

NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



Lake County Jail Receives National Detention Facility Innovation Award

By: Lakecountyil.gov

READ MORE



'We took care of each other': Officers across the country reflect on 9/11, 25 years later

Sarah Roebuck | Police1.com

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Thanks to our Corporate ISA Membership Sponsors



There's still time to purchase your ISA K9 Heroes Plush featuring DuPage County Sheriff's Office K9 Xena, the 2026 Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) K9 Hero, and her handler, Deputy Aaron Davis!

In 2024, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association launched its K9 Heroes Series to recognize an outstanding K9 team from across Illinois each year. As part of this special program, the ISA creates a personalized K9 plush in honor of the winning K9 team, with proceeds benefiting that agency's K9 program.





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!