



The Indiana SHERIFF

Fall 2023

A special newsletter from your Indiana Sheriffs' Association



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A Message from Stephen P. Luce

Executive Director of Indiana Sheriffs' Association

Dear ISA Members,

This year we have been very busy with 47 Newly Elected Sheriffs. The ISA continues to serve all Sheriffs in Indiana. Having 92 Sheriffs directly involved as ISA Members says a lot about this organization. Serving the elected sheriff in your county allows ISA to provide resources needed in your communities.

This past May, the ISA Scholarship Committee met. Awarded was FORTY \$750.00 college scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a college degree related to the Criminal Justice field of study. The ISA could not have done this without you supporting the ISA and we APPRECIATE the donations that allowed us to help 40 Hoosier Families.

During the months of June and July the ISA conducted our ISA Youth Leadership Camp for ages 12-13 years old. These camps focus on Leadership and Skill Sets such as Solving a Crime as a TEAM, Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVO), Firearms Safety, Ironman and Iron Woman Competition, Communication – Verbal Skills, Self Defense and Prevention Awareness and many more activities in line with becoming a Law Enforcement Officer. The North location is in Warren County at The Pine Village Camp and the South Camp is located in Brown County at the Waycross Conference

Center. Your support and donations have allowed the ISA to continue this important program for the past 45 years. All camps are overseen by Sheriffs and their employees who come to engage as ISA Camp Counselors.

The ISA is directly involved in providing resources for all 92 Sheriff Offices and this takes a lot of planning. Building relationships with our ISA Members is a priority and also takes time and effort. The ISA will continue to make sure outreach and messaging to our ISA Members is always at the top of our list. By making sure of this together we will continue to be in the business of "Building Communities of Trust."

The 92 Elected Sheriffs in Indiana serve their communities because they were chosen by their citizens to oversee their county as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer. They will continue to serve as "One Voice" and many times we find that "No Sheriff Stands Alone." Help the ISA Protect the Office of The Sheriff and support the Indiana Sheriffs' Association. Your support is greatly appreciated and the ISA could not do these amazing programs without YOU!!!

Thanks for your support,

Stephen P. Luce
Executive Director
Indiana Sheriffs' Association



The President's Message

Wayne County Sheriff Randy Retter

Fall is upon us which for many is a sign of change. Heading back to school, gearing up for the holidays, preparing our homes for winter, among many other undertakings that come with the changing season. It is also a time to reflect on the summer months that are often packed with vacations, the gatherings of family and friends, and outdoor activities. These are special times filled with special memories that will last a lifetime.

It is also important to take time to remember those brothers and sisters we have lost this year. Their sacrifices were not in vain, and their lives will never be forgotten. Family, friends, communities, and law enforcement officers from around the state and nation gathered to memorialize these heroes. We felt their sorrow, and we felt your support. And we feel your support every day, not just in times of tragedy. You are the reason we are out there every day.

Your support along with the Indiana Sheriff's has truly made our association a leader in our state and nation. In addition to serving and protecting you every day, we work hard to help shape the future of our profession, our communities, and our state. Your Sheriff's come together and speak with One Voice on the issues that that affect our lives, liberty, rights, and freedom. We stand strong in the face of adversity and pledge to be there, not only in a time of need, but always.

It has been an absolute honor to be the 2023 Indiana Sheriffs' Association President. I have had the pleasure to be at the helm of this dedicated and driven group of public servants and affiliates. We have accomplished many great things that are benefiting those who we serve daily. We are proud to be your Sheriff and proud to be your association. We are "Building Communities of Trust", and those communities start with YOU!

Sincerely,

Randy Retter
Wayne County Sheriff | 2023 ISA President



Have You Renewed Your ISA Membership?

You should have received your Indiana Sheriffs' Association Membership renewal reminders. If you haven't renewed already, it only takes a moment—five easy steps—to renew your membership online.

1. **Enter your membership number**
2. **Provide your mailing address**
3. **Make your annual contribution**
4. **Click 'renewal' and choose your membership preferences**
5. **Receive your receipt**

We are grateful for your continued support of your ISA. By renewing, you are helping to provide support and training services to all 92 Indiana Sheriff's Offices. Thank you!

The History and Importance of the Office of Sheriff

For most citizens, Hollywood has conditioned their expectations of law enforcement officers and the job we do. Everything is high drama ... and resolves in the span of an hour with the good guys coming out on top.

Marshal Matt Dillon, for instance, was the complete package—he could outwit the bad guys, overpower them, or just plain outdraw them. He always bested the bad guys in just enough time to have supper with Miss Kitty over at the Long Branch Saloon.

Sheriff Andy Taylor was country smart and caring. His laid-back approach put everyone at ease, and his country-charm way of untangling every mess came in especially handy—he did, after all, have the bumbling Barney Fife for a deputy.

Law enforcement in the real world is rarely as dramatic as Dodge City or as silly as Mayberry, and it's never scripted; the job unfolds in real-time, one shift at a time. The brave men and women who serve—flawed human beings like the rest of us—are better supported when the job they do is more rightly understood.

The History and Constitutionality of the Office of Sheriff in Indiana

Did you know that ...

- The office of Sheriff and the law enforcement, judicial and correctional functions they perform are more than 1,000 years old. The office of Sheriff dates back at least to the reign of Alfred the Great in England, and some scholars even argue that the office of Sheriff was first created during the Roman occupation of England.
- Indiana's first constitution, adopted in 1816 when Indiana joined the Union, created the office of Sheriff as an elected official in each county. The concepts of "county" and "Sheriff" were essentially the same as they had been during the previous 900 years of English legal history.
- Indiana's constitution of 1851 also included the creation of the office of Sheriff in the same form as the 1816 document. Constitutional amendments in 1948 and 1952 have changed the term of office of the Sheriff; but the constitutional provisions establishing the office itself remains the same as it was in 1816, which in turn is strikingly similar to the functioning of the office of Sheriff at the time of Alfred the Great and William the Conqueror. The major difference, of course, is that the Kings of England appointed their Sheriffs whereas our Sheriffs have been elected by the people to serve as the principal officer of each county.
- In Indiana, the Sheriff is a constitutional officer,

elected for a four-year term by vote of the entire county, prohibited from serving more than eight years within a 12-year period.

- His or her duties, largely prescribed by statute, include:
 - o Serving as conservator of the peace.
 - o Taking charge of the county jail and the inmates confined therein.
 - o Serving as an officer of the courts, involving serving warrants, subpoenas and other forms of process.
 - o Collecting delinquent taxes and/or levy property when a warrant is issued by the Indiana Department of Revenue.
 - o Selling mortgaged property under foreclosure and execute deeds.
 - o Attending sessions of the County Council and execute its orders.
 - o Process serving for the County Board of Review.

Doesn't sound like there's a lot of time left at the end of the day for a leisurely dinner at the saloon or fishing with Opie! But somehow, these public servants, like the rest of us, have to find the right balance of professional and personal lives and responsibilities—they too, have families and responsibilities at home and in the community.

The job is stressful. Not only on the street, but like any other job, there are office politics and personalities to work with and challenges to overcome. There is never-ending training and education, to keep up with the changing times and newer technologies. And lives are really in danger, every shift, every day. PTSD and other mental health concerns are pressing, as members of law enforcement encounter traumatic incidents on a regular basis. Stigma prevents many from seeking help, and when left untreated the numbers associated with law enforcement suicides are staggering.

Serving as Sheriff isn't a walk-in-the-park career. The men and women who approach their responsibilities with the focus and professional acumen of a Marshal Matt Dillon and the tender community-hearted warmth of a Sheriff Andy Taylor stand out as exemplar public servants, whose departments and staff, and the communities they serve benefit. Indiana boasts 92 such servants. Thank you for standing with your county sheriff and all those who bravely and honorably serve across our great state!



Beside the Badge

Spotlight on Sheriff Rodney Robinson of Steuben County

Steuben County Sheriff Rodney Robinson wanted to go into law enforcement as long as he can remember. When he was in high school, he spoke with both his local sheriff and his high school principal who agreed to let him work in the jail rather than working at other trades with his classmates.

“I’ve been with the Steuben County Sheriff’s Office since 1994,” Sheriff Robinson says, *“serving 28 years from the jail to patrol, and 10 of those years as a part of the SWAT team. I’m in my second term as sheriff—I’ll be here 32 years at the end of this term.”*



In that time, Sheriff Robinson has seen many changes. *“When I started out on patrol, we didn’t have cell phones. Things like the internet, social media and cell phone cameras have all radically impacted the world we live and work in.”*

He’s faced a number of challenges as sheriff. *“Early on, it was primarily employee hiring and retention. Then there was COVID and all of its adjustments. More recently, it’s been the rise in police scrutiny, protests, civil and social unrest. Through it all, we’re working to keep the lines of communication open and forthright with the community.”*



During the pandemic, Sheriff Robinson kept his doors open to the public. *“It is important that the community knows they can come in and talk with me and my staff at any time, seek a safe space, and know they can get any help or information they need. We couldn’t let COVID become a barrier.”*

Back in 2020, the Steuben County Sheriff’s Office debuted ‘the Sheriff’s App’ which allows the community to look into the workings of the department, improving transparency and visibility. The app also allows the sheriff’s office to post press releases and push emergency notifications concerning anything and everything, from weather alerts to information on missing persons and endangered people.

Sheriff Robinson and his staff have also worked to improve their visibility and participation in the communities they serve. One of the ways they’ve continued to build bridges within the community is through participation in the ISA Youth Camps each summer. They’ve also offered programs like Crimestoppers, RAD (Rage Aggression Defense) Classes, Voters’ Education Courses, and a Constitutional Class to help residents understand their rights as citizens. Sheriff Robinson stresses the *“importance of our community leadership relationship,”* encouraging the community to be involved in the legislative process and be in contact with their state representatives. *“Citizens often feel their voices aren’t heard. The best way to be heard is to become active in the process, developing relationships with our state representatives and speaking up.”*



One of the unique features of Steuben County is that it is home to 110 lakes. This makes Steuben County a

vacation destination for many. Managing the influx of people presents a challenge in and of itself due to infrastructure. Steuben County responds to more than 30K calls each year; 13K 911 calls, more than 4K cases to be investigated.

Sheriff Robinson and his staff continue to set a high bar for not only protecting and serving, but also for recognizing and responding to the unique challenges facing law enforcement today. Steuben County residents benefit, and law enforcement and the office of sheriff are better for their efforts.



Beside the Badge

Spotlight on Sheriff Scott Holliday of Wells County

Sheriff Holliday grew up in Michigan where he lived around several police officers, then moved to Indiana at age 15. Living near and interacting with those police officers from such a young age, he wondered if he might have a future in law enforcement.

After high school, Scott went on to college, got married, started a family and worked in a factory for several years. In 2002, his wife showed him an article that Wells County was looking for reserve deputies. He went on some ride-alongs and after a year of serving as a reserve deputy, he decided it was time to make the full-time career move, working for the Sheriff's Department. He was 30 when he began working the road on patrol. He spent 3 years working as a detective and was promoted to Chief Deputy under two sheriffs. When the second of those two sheriffs retired, he decided to run for the position. Sheriff Holliday was elected in 2018 and began his first term in 2019 and was re-elected in 2022.

As Sheriff of Wells County, his job has changed and expanded drastically—he works with the Commissioner, the Jail Commander and staff, and directly with inmates.

“COVID was a huge stressor,” he says. “We had to shift a majority of our processes within the jail to accommodate inmates through the pandemic. COVID also brought a lot of things to light within the jail. Because it was originally built in 1986, capacity was an issue—and then we lost 25% of our capacity to COVID safety mandates, having to dedicate 2 blocks for quarantine, one for men and one for women.”

The silver lining to COVID was that they got a full renovation approved for the jail. The updated and renovated facility now has a larger intake area, 2 video courtrooms, multiple program rooms for classes and courses, a new roof, HVAC system with negative airflow for medical observation rooms.

“COVID also forced judges, prosecutors, and Sheriff's Office personnel to meet regularly to strategize on jail intake. New mandates through the courts applied through the Criminal Rule 26 changed booking and release procedures for minor crimes, rather than holding non-violent and minor non-repeat offenders.”

Sheriff Holliday works closely with the jail and

inmates hoping to curb recidivism and help inmates successfully adjust back into society. They've added Mental Health and Drug Addiction Therapy and Rehabilitation courses, and they're currently looking into QCC-360 which is another mental health class for the inmates.

“The biggest challenge these days,” Holliday says, “like many other Sheriff's Offices are facing, is the hiring and retention of quality jail staff. We've implemented a new pay matrix that has helped a little with retention.”

Sheriff Holliday has been able to implement body cameras as well as audio/video cameras in the jail to provide transparency across the board.

Sheriff Holliday has also focused on building trust and relationships between his department and members of the community. One of the first things he did when he took office was to get social media accounts for Wells County to connect with the community. He actually sent 2 of his deputies to Social Media for Law Enforcement School!



Wells County just went live with their new Sheriff App so the community can download the app and see press releases, who's in the Wells County jail at any time, and receive emergency text/push alerts on their phone for missing and endangered persons

and severe weather, among other things. The app is very informative and a great resource, Sheriff Holliday encourages everyone in Wells County to download it!

In addition to having the social media presence and the Sheriff App, Sheriff Holliday works to stay in good standings and communication with their local news and media sources to allow them to communicate with the community in a positive, factual, and informative manner.

He wants the community to know that he and everyone else at Wells County Sheriff's Office are there to “work with you and for you, in keeping our community safe.”

Sheriff Holliday and his staff are another shining example of Indiana's best, going above and beyond in serving the communities that make up Wells County.

Halloween & Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

Do your part to ensure a fun and safe Halloween for us all

Our desire is for every resident of Indiana to have a Halloween experience that is both fun and safe for all participants—parents, children, and neighbors. Here are some easy-to-implement safety tips parents and guardians can review with their children, and for all of us to keep in mind as trick-or-treaters head out this year.

Parents:

- Map out your child’s route considering the density of housing, traffic, street lighting and proximity to relatives, neighbors, and friends’ homes.
- Accompany your younger children and plan to go when it is light out.
- Feed your children a meal or substantial snack before trick or treating.
- Have children save all candy until they get home.
- Inspect all treats; throw away unwrapped, open, or suspicious looking goodies.

Trick-or-Treaters:

- Keep costumes short to prevent trips and falls.
- Try using make-up instead of a mask.
- Costumes with light colors and/or reflective tape are best. Someone in the group should carry a flashlight. Consider putting reflective tape on their bags too.
- Children should always trick-or-treat in groups preferably with adult supervision.
- Carry a cell phone for quick communication.

- Children should be instructed to stop only at familiar homes and where the outside lights are on. They should not stop at houses that are dark or do not have the porch lights turned on.
- Teach children to NEVER enter a home or car to collect treats.

At Home:

- Turn outside lights on and replace any burned-out bulbs at the walkway and front door.
- Remember, your jack-o-lantern and any other candles or electrical decorations can be a fire hazard. Keep them out of the reach of small children and away from flammable materials.
- Never leave your house unattended. If you have to leave your house, make sure all the doors are locked.
- Certainly, if you’re going to be driving anywhere on Halloween, keep your eyes peeled. Children will be out, and they’ll be excited—watch for them.

Law enforcement will be out in the community on Halloween, but planning and communication on your part is the best way to ensure a safe celebration for everybody.



ISA Annual Conference Recap

Sheriff of the Year



**Sheriff Brad Burkhart,
Hancock County**

The ISA Annual Conference was held at the French Lick Hotel July 17-20, 2023. The conference allows for high-level training for the Sheriffs and all employees who attend. Training is a priority at the ISA Annual Conference. This year on the agenda were several presenters who are considered Subject Matter Experts in their respective fields.

Day 1 allowed Attorney

Imran Ali of Eckberg Lammers LE Consulting Training to present on Rules of Engagement: Use of Force Considerations on Duty to Intercede and Render Medical

Aid. Following Mr. Ali was Retired Lt. Navy Seal and Keynote Speaker Jason “Jay” Redman- author of The Trident. Jason’s presentation was titled Get Off the “X” – Overcoming Crisis and Building Resilience. There was continue education for those Sheriff Employees who are assigned the Sex and Violent Offender Duties provided by the Indiana Department of Correction, ISA Legal Counselor and Offender Watch.

Day 2 training was not disappointing! There was a Jail Track that allowed for Jail Officer Employees to receive training on the topic – Unraveling the Stigma and Myths of Jail Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Programs. Day 2 afternoon training was filled with experts Dr. Shauna “DOC” Springer one of the world’s leading authorities on suicide prevention and healing from trauma. “DOC” presented Suicide Prevention Training for First Responders. This was followed up by a Fireside Chat conducted by Dr. Mitch Javidi, Chancellor of the National Command and Staff College with “DOC” Springer.

ISA Annual Conference Recap *(continued)*

Finishing out Day 2 Training was a presentation by Laura Cole, founder of Cole Pro Media, and ISA Media partner. Laura Cole presented on The Importance of Transparent Police Communication.

The ISA Annual Conference also allowed for the recognition of ISA Statewide Awards that were presented to various nominees. (Please see the ISA Newsletter for names) During the conference also conducted were ISA Business Meetings, Legislative Updates, and ISA Training and Education Committee Meetings. There was also great support from our ISA Business Partners and a large contingency of Businesses that participated in the annual trade show. The conference on Day 3 was finished up with a Prayer Service and Past Presidents and Former Sheriffs Breakfast.

Deputy Sheriff of the Year



Corporal Ingrid Herriott, Allen County
(pictured left to right, President Sheriff Randy Retter, Corporal Ingrid Herriott and Allen County Sheriff Troy Hershberger)

Scholastic Award Winner



Deputy Joshua Bales, Brown County
(pictured left to right, Brown County Sheriff Brad Stogsdill and Deputy Joshua Bales)

Correctional Officer of the Year



Correctional Officer of the Year
 Corporal Keely Ray, Allen County *(pictured left to right, Chief Deputy Gary Grant, Corporal Keely Ray and Allen County Sheriff Troy Hershberger)*

Life Saving Awards



Lieutenant Charles Morgan & Deputy Kacey Reschar, Scott County
(pictured left to right, Lt. Charles Morgan, Sheriff Jerry Goodin and Deputy Kacey Reschar)



Deputy Jerry Weber, Noble County
(pictured left to right, Noble County Sheriff Max Weber and Deputy Jerry Weber)



Captain Jay Crew, Daviess County
(pictured left to right, Daviess County Sheriff Gary Allison, Captain Jay Crew and Chief Deputy Steve Sturgis)



Deputy Derek Halterman, Fulton County
(pictured left to right, Fulton County Sheriff Travis Heishman, Deputy Derek Halterman and President Sheriff Randy Retter)



Deputy Brian Petree, Hendricks County
(pictured left to right, Hendricks County Sheriff Jack Sadler and Deputy Brian Petree)



Lieutenant Cody Brzezinski & Officer Joseph McIntyre, Porter County
(pictured left to right, Porter County Sheriff Jeff Balon, Lt. Cody Brzezinski and Officer Joseph McIntyre)



Indiana Sheriffs' Association

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Sheriff Shane McHenry
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Legislative Update

While summers are not as fast paced in the legislative realm, we did hold our annual legislative round tables at 6 locations this year around the state. There was a good turnout of legislators to discuss topics we want to address at next years legislative session.

We will continue to develop those

discussion topics to help us create an agenda for 2024.

Summer study committees will begin their meetings in September. None of the topics this year directly impact the Office of Sheriff, however we will monitor all of them to make sure issues impacting Sheriffs aren't discussed.

Ride with the Star!

Don't forget to ask for an Indiana Sheriffs' Association Special Group Recognition (SGR) license plate when renewing your vehicle registration this year. In purchasing an ISA SGR plate, you will be supporting ISA Youth Leadership Camps, providing death benefits for the families of fallen officers, and training sheriffs and deputies across our state. Thank you!



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