



Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

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16 police chiefs meet with Governor Rauner, vow focus on training and community policing

SPRINGFIELD -- Sixteen current and former chiefs of police, including 13 past presidents of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACOP), met today with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to discuss their continued effort to modernize training and focus on community policing principles. The meeting occurred Friday, January 29, in the governor's office at the State Capitol.

This meeting with the governor also begins a yearlong celebration for the association, which is observing its 75th anniversary this year.

“We want the governor to know that we have been endorsing community policing principles for two decades – so it’s not a new concept – and we have been sponsoring training on every important issue in law enforcement since the 1950s,” said Chief Frank Kaminski of Park Ridge, the current IACOP president.

One reason that the Police Training Institute was started at the University of Illinois in the 1950s, for example, is that IACOP's leaders saw the need for enhanced training of police officers and pushed for the creation of a state-funded training center.

Established in 1941, the IACOP has more than 1,200 members representing some 450 agencies in every part of Illinois – including many chiefs, retired chiefs and command staff. It provides training and professional development and helps chiefs fulfill their state-mandated requirement to receive 20 hours of continuing education annually.

“There are calls today for police to be more transparent and engaged in our communities,” Kaminski said. “We hear that call, we agree with that call and we’re going share that with the governor. We’re also going to work diligently, as we have for decades, to make sure local police chiefs have the information and training they need to have constructive engagement in their communities. We all want safe communities and a positive relationship with the citizens we serve.”

Kaminski noted that many local police departments embraced community policing in the 1990s. Concepts of community policing include trust, partnerships and mutual problem solving, and relationships outside of enforcing the law.

In addition to this, the association is also celebrating the fact that seven of its leaders have been president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police – roughly one in each decade since the 1940s. Those seven are, and the year in which they were international president were: T.P. Sullivan (Chicago) 1946-47; George Otlewis (Chicago Park District) 1956-57; William H. Morris (Springfield) 1966-67; Donald R. Dering (Winnetka) 1972-73; Charles A. Gruber (Elgin and formerly of Quincy) 1989-90; Darrell L. Sanders (Frankfort) 1996-97; and Russell B. Laine (Algonquin, and now interim chief in Fox Lake) 2008-09. There will be an eighth in 2019, when Buffalo Grove Chief Steve Casstevens is in line to become international president.

Other major accomplishments in the association’s history include:

- Statewide participation in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and other events to raise money for Special Olympics.
- Advocacy of important policy issues in Springfield and Washington, such as body-worn cameras, seat belts, “investing in kids” as a way to fight crime, opposition to “bigger trucks,” and stricter enforcement and punishment for driving under the influence.
- Establishment of the Traffic Safety Challenge to encourage local police departments to push traffic safety in their own communities.
- Establishment of an accreditation program for local police departments called the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, and a certification program for police chiefs and senior-level officers interested in becoming police chiefs.
- Longtime partnerships and relationships with such groups as Northwestern University’s Center for Public Safety, the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the Illinois State Police, the

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and many in the private and corporate security sector, such as the current Illinois Security Professionals Association.

- Collaboration with other groups to establish the Police Memorial on the State Capitol grounds and participation in the annual ceremony honoring law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

**List of ILACP attendees for meeting with Governor Rauner
Friday, January 29, 2016**

The following past presidents of the association plan to be at the gathering:

Name	Presidential Year	Village/City (Chief) at time of Presidency	Currently
Finney, RT	2011	Champaign	Interim Chief, Fairbury PD
Graves, George	1975	Western Springs	Retired
*Hayes, Fred	2014	Elmwood	Chief, Elmwood PD
Hayse, Doug	2003	Morris	Community Service Bureau Manager, Park Ridge
Jones, Robert	2005	Gurnee	Retired
*Laine, Russell	2000	Algonquin	Interim Chief, Fox Lake PD
Millner, John	2001	Elmhurst	Lobbyist; former senator
O'Connor, Pat	2010	Moraine Valley Com College	Chief, Moraine Valley CC PD
Pena, Joe	2006	East Dundee	Retired
Porter, Robert	2012	Downers Grove	Chief, Huntley PD
Schira, Gary	1997	Bloomington	Chief, Batavia PD
Smith, Eric	2009	Sherman	Retired
Weigand, David	2002	IL Commerce Comm PD	Chief, Crestwood PD

**Others in attendance with Governor Rauner:
ILACP Board of Officers (aka Board of Directors)**

Frank Kaminski, President (Chief, Park Ridge PD)

Steve Casstevens, 1st Vice President (Chief, Buffalo Grove PD)

Brian Fengel, 3rd Vice President (Chief, Bartonville)

The 2nd Vice President, Chief James Kruger of Oak Brook, and 4th Vice President, Chief-Designee Steve Stelter of Westchester, were unable to attend.

*Fred Hayes and Russ Laine are also on the Board of Officers as Immediate Past President and Parliamentarian, respectively

Also in attendance: Ed Wojcicki, Executive Director, ILACP.

Top 5 Accomplishments in ILACP History, 1941-2016

1. **Professional development and training:**

Providing high-quality training on all the major issues that police departments have faced since the middle of the 20th century. The association was a major booster for the creation of the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois in the 1950s. It has established certification programs for chiefs and accreditation programs for departments to raise the professional standards of police executives and police departments.

2. **Legislative advocacy and policy making:**

Promoting legislation to support law enforcement and in advocating for public policies and programs that advance the cause of law enforcement and/or increase the safety of Illinois citizens. It was a major backer of mandatory seat belts, for example, in an era when that was no popular.

3. **Leadership in the International Association of Chiefs of Police:**

Seven Illinois chiefs have been president of the international association, two have served as the general chair of State Association of Chiefs of Police, and many others have been active on committees, chairs of committees.

4. **Special Olympics:**

The association has had a close relationship with the Special Olympics of Illinois since the 1980s and views law enforcement's support of the Special Olympics – as volunteers and in fundraising -- as a signature achievement. Activities include the Torch Run, Polar Plunge, Cop on a Top (Dunkin Donuts), and Tip

5. **Traffic Safety advocacy, including the Traffic Safety Challenge:**

This has been a major initiative of the association and has generated a lot of activity and publicity at the local level. This is part of the reason that seat-belt usage among Illinois drivers has increased significantly in the past three decades.