

A Letter from Your President



**Reserve Lt. Eric Beron
Urbandale Police Department**

IOWA STATE RESERVE LAW OFFICERS ASSOCIATION *“Voice of Iowa Reserve Law Enforcement Officers”*

Fellow Iowa Reserve Peace Officers:

On behalf of the Board, I would like to personally extend this invitation to all reserve peace officers to join us at the 53rd Annual Conference and Business Meeting of Iowa State Reserve Law Officers Association being held at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines on March 28-29-30, 2025.

This annual conference is one of Iowa’s most significant reserve peace officer training events. The event is comprised of professionally taught training classes, fellowship among other reserve units from around the State, and vendor displays of law enforcement products.

Your Conference Chairperson, Reserve Deputy John Gahring, has assembled a comprehensive, educational and fun conference to serve the needs of our members. Please refer to this issue of The Backup for additional details.

I look forward to sharing the activities with you in March and wish all of you a safe, happy and healthy start to the new year! Be safe out there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Eric Beron".

Reserve Lt. Eric Beron
ISRLOA President

Iowa Reserve Peace Officers
“Volunteering to Serve”

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Board of Directors Meeting	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Registration	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Entertainment/ Bags	9:00 p.m. - 12 midnight
Hospitality Room	12 midnight - 2:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Displays	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Opening Ceremony	9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
District Meetings	10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Annual Business Meeting	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Seminar	12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Reserve Liaison Officer meeting	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Banquet	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Entertainment	9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room	10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Brunch	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Presentation of Awards	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Adjournment	11:30 a.m.

***ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING
THE SATURDAY SEMINARS
ARE REQUESTED, BUT NOT REQUIRED
TO WEAR THEIR UNIFORMS***

TRAINING SEMINAR

Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement can be particularly challenging. In recent years, topics such as mental preparedness, the importance of recognizing a citizen in mental and/or emotional crisis, and having resources available for both officers and citizens to resolve these challenges are receiving more recognition throughout the US in law enforcement training.

This training will cover the importance of Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement, and emphasize the idea that healing and rehabilitation start with self-confidence and a sense of self-worth .

- 12:30 - 1:30 SESSION 1 ——— Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement**
- 1:30 - 1:40 BREAK**
- 1:40 - 2:30 SESSION 2 ——— Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement**
- 2:30 - 2:40 BREAK**
- 2:40 - 3:30 SESSION 3 ——— Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement**
- 3:30 - 3:40 BREAK**
- 3:40 - 4:30 SESSION 4 ——— Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement and Wrap Up**

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

Only members of the Iowa State Reserve Law Officers Association will be allowed to attend the annual conference and business meeting. Spouses may attend and do not have to be members. If you wish to join the association, please complete the application. Annual dues are \$20.00 per year.

2025 GUEST SPEAKER

Linn County Sheriff Brian D. Gardner



Sheriff Brian Gardner began his forty-four-year career with the Linn County Sheriff's Office in 1980 as a communications operator. He became a reserve deputy sheriff in 1981 and a full-time deputy sheriff in 1982, working in the Jail, Civil, Patrol, and General Services Divisions, and served as the department's Accreditation Manager. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1994 and worked as a supervisor in the Community Services Unit and the Jail Division. In 1997, he was promoted to Lieutenant and became the department's first Assistant Jail Administrator. He was promoted to Captain in 2000. In 2002, he was reassigned as the Patrol Division commander. In 2008, he was appointed Second Deputy with the rank of Major, overseeing the Patrol and Communications Divisions. He was elected Sheriff in 2008 and is currently serving his fifth term in office.

Sheriff Gardner is a lifelong Linn County resident. He has received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration, and a Master of Public Administration degree in Criminal Justice.

Sheriff Gardner is a graduate of the 80th basic class of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the National Sheriffs' Institute. He has been an Emergency Medical Technician since 1981 and a Certified Credible Leader since 2017. Sheriff Gardner led his agency to achieving Credible Leadership Organization certification in 2019 and the Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Destination Zero Program's National Officer Safety & Wellness – Comprehensive Safety Award in 2020.

Sheriff Gardner was a recipient of the Marion – East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club, Linn County Peace Officer Recognition Award in 1985, the Greater Cedar Rapids Sertoma Club, Annual Peace Officer Recognition Award in 1986, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Commissioner's Special Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety in 1996, the Keep Iowa Beautiful, Iowa Litter Enforcement Award in 2005, the Mount Mercy University, Alumni Professional Achievement Award in 2011, the Kirkwood Community College, Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016, the National Command & Staff College, MAGNUS MOΛΩN ΛABE Award in 2018, and the Iowa Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award in 2022.

Sheriff Gardner currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Iowa State Association of Counties as a Past-President, is the Chairperson of the Linn County Emergency Management Commission and is the Chairperson of the Linn County 911 Service Board. He is a former Chairperson of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council and is a Past-President of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association. He is also a member of numerous other professional organizations.

2025 SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR



Rich Nesmith *Mental Health Liaison* *Assigned to Linn* *County Sheriff's Office*

Rich is the Foundation 2 Law Enforcement Liaison assigned to the Linn County Sheriff's Office. He is a social

worker and counselor who dispatches with first responders to provide mental health expertise and critical social services to people in crisis.

Rich is a retired Air Force Officer and Pilot with a passion for working with Veterans and children. He believes healing and rehabilitation start with self-confidence and a sense of self-worth and teaches classes in woodworking, blacksmithing, and leathercraft to support his assertions.

Rich holds master's degrees in Computer Information Systems, Leadership and Counseling.

ISRLOA DEATH BENEFIT

With a by-law change that was voted on and passed on August 19, 2017 the death benefit that is now given by the Iowa State Reserve Law Officers Association (ISRLOA) is a memorial emblem grave marker. This emblem can be placed next to the deceased members tombstone.

The Iowa State Reserve Law Officers Association will still have to be notified of the death of the member and who the emblem should be sent to.

Send the notification to:

ISRLOA

PO Box 26

Marshalltown, IA 50158



Friday Night
9:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

BAGS TOURNEMENT

SILENT ACTION

Saturday Night
9:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.



ISRLOA AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED MERIT AWARD

This honor recognizes a reserve officer's actions above and beyond the call of duty by risking their life to save another and is awarded by recommendation of the board of directors.

1979	Shirley Frampton	Buchanan County SO
1983	Ken Simons	Jefferson County SO
1984	David Craig	Cedar Rapids
1988	Bill Schnell	Webster City PD
1989	Dennis Deford	Cedar Rapids PD
1990	Harry Brutsman	Cherokee PD
1992	Doug Riest	Muscatine County SO
1999	Todd Friedlein	Guttenburg PD
2003	Jeff Buland	Mason City PD
2005	Corey Reutter	Boone County SO
2012	John Carter	Des Moines PD

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This honor recognizes an individual's time and effort for the advancement of reserve law enforcement and the ISRLOA. It is awarded by recommendation of the board of directors.

1987	Robert Schubert (D)	Marshalltown
1987	Donald H. Mackaman (D)	Marshalltown
1991	Rev. William Holzer (D)	Oxford Junction
1994	Leonard Kemble Jr. (D)	Cedar Rapids
1996	Senator Emil Husak (D)	Toledo
2012	Dan Brandt	Marshalltown
2016	Ted Kamatchus	Marshalltown

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This honor recognizes a reserve officer's ability to demonstrate excellence, while either on duty or off duty, through the reserve officer's actions and training. It is awarded by recommendation of the board of directors.

2005	Tyler Moore	Appanoose County SO
2005	Bill Mullan	Linn County SO
2012	Bobby Wright	Cedar Falls PD
2019	Randy Leventhal	Urbandale PD
2019	Amy Swaner	Urbandale PD
2019	Dean Luttrell	Urbandale PD
2022	Kenneth Mims	Linn County SO