

BLUELINE

News from the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police



December 2011

From the Desk of Rocky Nowaczyk, National Trustee, Illinois State Lodge.....2

Rally Saves Law Enforcement Jobs in Henry County4

Exclusive For Members - ILFOP VISA Platinum Credit Card5

FOP License Plates - Exclusive for Members.....5

Financial News You Can Use: Procrastination Could Be Costing You Thousands of Dollars6

General Assembly Adjourns After Fall Veto Session

By Dan Nelson, Esq., Director of Government Affairs

The second week of the fall veto session commenced on Tuesday, November 8, with an additional day of session held on Tuesday, November 29.

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police closely followed several pieces of legislation, due to the potential for significant impact on the membership. The following is a summary of those bills, as well as the current status for each.

Senate Bill 0512, sponsored by Senator John Cullerton (D- Chicago), amends the Illinois Pension Code by what the State Lodge believes is an unconstitutional change to existing employment agreements—requiring that current employees make an election to decrease their own benefits by agreeing to one of the following: (a) The traditional benefit package, at a higher cost to the employee; (b) The existing benefit package for new hires, with diminished benefits; or (c) A self-managed 401k-style plan in which employer contribution is limited to six percent of payroll.

- **House Amendment #2**, sponsored by Representative Tom Cross (R-Oswego), provides that the first election shall take place by January 1, 2013 (instead of July 1, 2012), and changes the amounts for salary caps. These and other changes do not remedy the constitutional issues of the bill; however, portions of this amendment do acknowledge the needed parity among the several pension code articles that address sworn police officers. Officers in the State Employee Retirement System and the State University Retirement System will now be addressed in separate legislation alongside their colleagues in Chicago and downstate police pensions.

Current Status: This bill remains in the House on 3rd Reading (Final Vote). If passed, it would require concurrence in the Senate. The final action deadline has been extended to December 31, 2011.

Senate Bill 0965, sponsored by Senator John Cullerton (D-Chicago), establishes automated speed enforcement (ASE) systems in designated safety zones (near parks and schools). A traffic violation recorded by an ASE system is a civil fine, not to exceed \$100 for each violation. No penalty may be imposed for an ASE system violation if the recorded speed of a vehicle is five miles per hour or

Add Me!



Join Our Mailing List

www.ilfop.org

Continued on page 3...

IMPROVING
LIFE
FOR
OFFICERS
&
PEOPLE



Executive Board

President: Ted J. Street, Sangamon County
First Vice-President: Pat Duckhorn, Chicago (Ret.)
Second Vice-President: Jim Simmons, Illinois
Department of Corrections
Third Vice-President: David Nixon, Rock Island
Secretary: Chris Southwood, Illinois State Police
Financial Secretary: Michael Vitale, Oak Park (Ret.)
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Mehrtens, Jackson County
Chairman of Trustees: Kevin Ferrell, Cook County
Sheriff's Office
Immediate Past President: Mark Donahue,
Chicago (Ret.)
National Trustee: Robert "Rocky" Nowaczyk,
Illinois State Police (Ret.)
Executive Board Chairman, FOP Labor Council:
Shawn Roselieb, East Moline
State Chaplain: Reverend Dan Lovin

District Trustees

District 1: Darrin Bourret, Chicago
District 2: Hugh Carlock, Illinois State Police
District 3: Greg Johnson, Illinois Department of
Corrections
District 4: Kevin Farrell, Cook County Sheriff's
Office
District 5: Mike Lepczynski, Oak Park
District 6: Casey Klingberg, Elk Grove Village (Ret.)
District 7: Dennis Kazarian, Elmhurst
District 8: Philip Tenerelli, Bedford Park
District 9: Jeff Newberg, Calumet City
District 10: Michael Donnerwirth, Waukegan
District 11: John Albrecht, Joliet
District 12: Jamie Brown, East Moline
District 13: Frank Slayback, McLean County (Ret.)
District 14: Mark Krampf, Belleville (Ret.)
District 15: Michael Vladetich, Mt. Vernon (Ret.)
District 16: Steve Trame, University Of Illinois
District 17: John Dunning, Southern Illinois
University
District 18: Terry Trueblood, Secretary Of State
Police

Past Presidents

Gerald J. Gorski, Illinois State Police (Ret.)
James Lis, Chicago (Ret.)

From the Desk of Rocky Nowaczyk National Trustee, Illinois State Lodge

Greetings to my fellow FOP brothers and sisters. I hope your holiday season is full of love, friends and good times.

The National FOP Conference was held in August 2011 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Grand Lodge hit the ground running immediately following the conference. The Grand Lodge has been involved with the issue of collective bargaining retention, particularly in the state of Ohio where it was sought to appeal the ability to collectively bargain a contract. This would virtually make useless the many unions that represent workers on a daily basis, primarily police officers, firefighters, teachers and government workers.

The Grand Lodge mobilized a massive campaign to educate the public with regard to collective bargaining – even going door-to-door. Many states assisted Ohio in their efforts, most notably Illinois, Pennsylvania and Michigan. The result of this massive effort was the repeal of Senate Bill 5, thus maintaining the collective bargaining clause.

This effort is a great example for how the Grand Lodge, state lodges and local lodges can organize to effectively be heard and gain favorable results. Rest assured, this is only the beginning of the attacks on collective bargaining throughout the country. It is incumbent upon every member of the FOP to remain vigilant to protecting our collective bargaining rights and pensions. Our best defense is to maintain contact with our elected officials to keep them apprised of this issue and where we stand. Also, let your legislators know that

how they vote on our issues will affect how you will vote in their respective elections.

On another note, the leaders of your FOP attend various seminars and trainings to sharpen their skills, and I encourage all local lodge executive officers to do the same. Leadership Matters 2012 will be held February 9-11, 2012, at the Nashville Airport Marriott. This training will open your eyes and broaden your horizon with regard to real FOP work.

An additional resource is the Grand Lodge website, located at www.fop.net. Visit the website for access to legislative news, education services, membership information and more.

Finally, I encourage all FOP members to attend their local lodge meetings to find out what they are all about. Become involved—get interested in a particular committee or office. The FOP is always changing, and its leadership must change as well. Executive officers who are in office today may not be in office tomorrow. In order to keep the FOP as the elite police organization in this country, new leaders must be forged from within our ranks. ARE YOU A FUTURE LEADER?

Again, I would like to wish each of you a very happy holiday season that is full of time with family and friends. Be sure to keep a watchful eye out for your brothers and sisters.

General Assembly Adjourns After Two-Week Veto Session, continued from page 1.

less over the limit. As with red-light enforcements, the data is not shared with the Secretary of State. Thus, there will be no consequences for offenders, so long as they pay the specified fine for speeding or running a red light.

Current Status: *Passed both houses.*

Senate Bill 2412, sponsored by Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago), provides budget reallocation to keep state facilities operational by changing, adding and repealing various appropriations and reappropriations, and making new appropriations for fiscal year 2012. The facilities include Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln; the juvenile prison in Murphysboro; mental health centers in Tinley Park, Rockford and Chester; and centers for the developmentally disabled in Jacksonville and Dixon.

Current Status: *Passed both houses.*

House Bill 1708, sponsored by Representative Michael Unes (R-Pekin), establishes that the prohibition on devices designed or used for silencing the report of a firearm does not apply to a peace officer while serving as a member of a tactical response team or special operations team. Equipment must be purchased by and remain in possession of the governmental employer.

Current Status: *Passed both houses.*

House Bill 3813, sponsored by Representative Tom Cross (R-Oswego), amends the Illinois Pension Code. Specifically, changes the formula for calculating pension contributions during leaves of absence when a

participant is on leave to work for a labor organization. Effective for leaves of absence, including those leaves and other periods of service, beginning prior to the effective date of this amendatory act.

- **Senate Amendment # 1**, sponsored by Senator Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago), allows as creditable service those periods when a police officer is on leave of absence to serve in a professional organization/association whose membership consists of members of a police department – so long as the police officer continues to remain in sworn status and subject to the professional standards of the public employer.

Current Status: *Passed both houses.*

House Bill 3815, sponsored by Representative Karen May (D-Highland Park), proposed that a leave of absence without pay during employment with a local labor organization is not to be included in computing total years of service. The legislation would be effective for persons who first become participants on or after passage of this amendatory act.

Current Status: *Held in House.*

House Bill 3827, sponsored by Representative Tom Cross (R-Oswego), proposes to terminate the Chicago Police Pension Board (and other Chicago Pension Boards), and establishes new boards comprised of four members who are appointed by the mayor and three members who are elected from active and annuitant members.

Current Status: *Held in Personnel and Pensions Committee.*

House Joint Resolution 045, sponsored by Representative Michael Madigan (D-Chicago), proposes that the General Assembly shall have the power to prospectively limit any wage increases for state employees, effectively capping all future collectively bargained contracts. Also, states that the size of, or a reduction in, the state employee workforce shall not be a topic of collective bargaining.

Current Status: *Held in Revenue and Finance Committee.*

House Resolution 0550, sponsored by Representative La Shawn Ford (D-Chicago), creates the Firearm Public Awareness Task Force. The Fraternal Order of Police shall be a part of this task force which is charged with analyzing data from states that have concealed carry laws and the impact those laws have had regarding crimes involving handguns.

Current Status: *Adopted*

Due to the General Assembly's continued negotiations concerning tax breaks for Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Sears, legislators will return to the capitol on December 12 and 13. It is possible that additional session days will be held before the end of the calendar year.

For more information about ILFOP legislative efforts, please visit our [website](#) and/or [Facebook page](#). Or contact Dan Nelson, director of government affairs, at (217) 726-8880 or dnelson@ilfop.org.

Rally Saves Law Enforcement Jobs in Henry County

By Katie Davis, Communications & Member Services Coordinator

On Tuesday, November 8, FOP members from across Henry County came together to protest potential layoffs at the Henry County Sheriff's Department. With a looming budget deficit for fiscal year 2012, the Henry County Finance Committee had proposed to balance the budget through the termination of five positions within the sheriff's office, including two dispatchers and three county jailers. This proposal came regardless of a recommendation from the state auditor earlier this year that indicated the county should hire five additional jailers to meet minimum staffing levels.

Opposition from the public and the sheriff's department was successful, with FOP members and citizens of Henry County rallied outside of the county courthouse prior to the monthly board meeting. Of the 22 member board, 16 voted to access cash reserves to provide the funding necessary to save the sheriff's department jobs.

"I was glad to see the support that was shown for our FOP brothers and sisters," said Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council Chairman, Shawn Roselieb. "The staffing levels at the Henry County Sheriff's Department are a very real concern."

"This is about the safety of our fellow brothers and sisters, and the safety of the citizens of Henry County," said FOP Lodge 96 President Dan Crippen. "Many of us live in Henry County and this will directly affect our emergency services."



Fraternal Order of Police members and other county citizens hold a successful rally on November 8, 2011, prior to the Henry County Board of Directors' meeting in which a proposal to eliminate five law enforcement positions is discussed.

FOP Labor Council Representative James Daniels agreed, adding that cutting the five positions would have brought the Henry County jail into dangerous territory by forcing it to operate in a way that would not be secure. In addition, the cuts would likely have taken patrol deputies off the streets, which would impact public safety. "The county could be down to just one or two deputies to cover 825 square miles if forced to pull road deputies inside to man the jail," claimed Daniels.

As is the case in many Illinois counties, the smaller towns in Henry County do not have their own police force that operates on a 24-hour per day/seven days per week basis. As such, they rely heavily on the county sheriff's patrol.

"If you have a small town that doesn't have an around-the-clock police force, it could really impact your ability to get somewhere quick," Daniels warns.

ILFOP State Lodge President Ted Street attended the rally and was pleased with the board's decision. "The Henry County Board made the best decision for its citizens. Many cities are struggling with tough fiscal choices, but you just cannot put a price on the safety of your community."



Click to join firefighters, teachers, police officers, disability caregivers and other public employees in the fight to protect pensions.

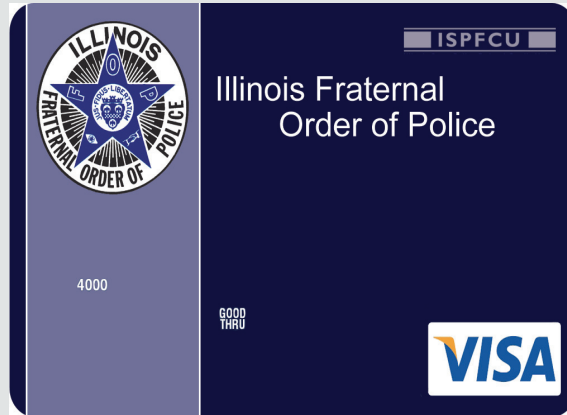
Exclusive for Members – ILFOP VISA Platinum Credit Card Available

Submitted by ISPFUCU

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (ILFOP) is a proud partner of ISPFUCU, Your Law Enforcement Credit Union.

In conjunction with this partnership, ISPFUCU offers a VISA platinum credit card that is branded and available exclusively to ILFOP members. This card offers many benefits, including a very low interest rate, no annual fee and the option of cash rewards. But what makes the card unique is that using it supports the State FOP Lodge.

All current and retired law enforcement employees, both sworn and civilian, are eligible for credit



union membership, as are their family members. Centrally located in Springfield, ISPFUCU is able to serve law enforcement personnel all over the state.

In addition, ISPFUCU offers a complete line of share and loan products at

tremendous rates, including fixed rate home mortgages, new and used auto loans, free checking accounts, and more.

If you are not already a member of ISPFUCU, sign up to join over 9,000 fellow law enforcement professionals and their family members who make ISPFUCU their preferred financial institution. Make the switch to ISPFUCU and enjoy the many benefits.

To see a complete listing of all products and services that ISPFUCU offers, or to apply for the ILFOP VISA platinum credit card, please visit the ISPFUCU website. If you have any questions, please call (800) 255-0886.



FOP License Plates *Exclusive for Members*

- Random Issue, Personalized or Vanity Plates Available
- Passenger Vehicles, B-Trucks and Vans Weighing 8,000 Pounds or Less are Eligible
- Pricing is Comparable to Other Plate Purchase and Renewal Fees
- Purchases Support the Mission of the Illinois State Lodge
- Demonstrates Pride in Fraternalism and the Law Enforcement Profession



Applications Available at www.ilfop.org.

Procrastination Could Be Costing You Thousands of Dollars

By Rebecca Phillips, Consultant

Have you saved enough for the future? Is your family protected?

Procrastination is the primary reason that most people do not meet their financial and personal goals.

It's NEVER TOO LITTLE.

A Beacon Financial Group (BFG) advisor can show you how to begin investing and growing your savings without using any of your current paycheck. You can start with as little as \$100 per month. That is only \$25 per week or \$3.57 per day – less than many people spend each day on a cup of coffee.

It's NEVER TOO LATE.

It's never too late, but don't procrastinate another day – it will cost you.

Waiting just five more years to start investing and saving could cost you nearly \$23,000 or more over 25



years. That equates to a loss of \$383 per month, \$90 per week or \$12 per day.

See the diagram below that demonstrates the return on a \$100 per month investment at a rate of six percent. See also how putting it off for just five years will decrease your savings by more than 30 percent.

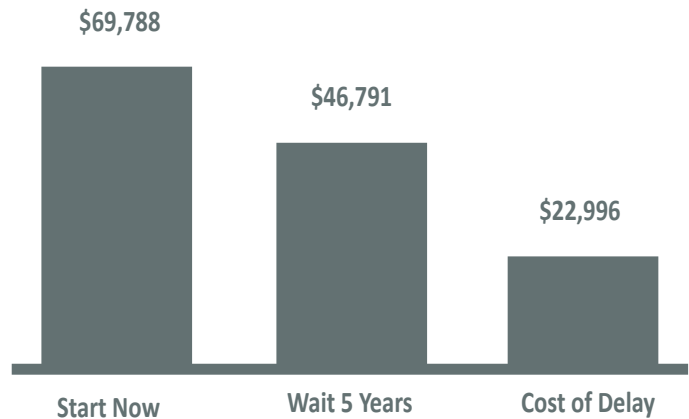
In just 20 years, four percent inflation would drive the value of a dollar down to 44 cents. Instead of losing four percent a year to inflation, you could be **GAINING** at least **SIX PERCENT** by investing.

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police has partnered with Beacon Financial Group to bring exclusive insurance and financial benefits to its members, including a **FREE** personal financial planning consultation.

Call Beacon Financial Group today at (888) 769-4333 or visit them online at www.beacon-financial.net. Don't wait – **TIME IS MONEY!**

Investment Growth Over 25 Years

Initial Savings..... \$0
 Annual Savings..... \$1,200
 Rate of Return..... 6.00 %
 Years of Growth..... 25 Years
 Years of Delay..... 5 Years



About the Fraternal Order of Police, Illinois State Lodge

The Fraternal Order of Police, Illinois State Lodge serves a community of nearly 35,000 active duty and retired police officers by providing up-to-date information that is easy to find and use, including a newsletter, calendar of events and legislative updates.

Mission

The FOP, Illinois State Lodge has adopted the following MISSION: “To encourage fraternal, charitable, and social activities among law enforcement officers. To increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property.” Current Lodge focus areas include attracting new members and associate members, informing members, the public and encouraging donations to support member benefits and programs.

Lodge Preamble

“We, the law enforcement officers of the State of Illinois and the several political subdivisions thereof, as representatives and delegates of the subordinate Lodges, do hereby associate the several Lodges we represent and the members thereof for the following purposes:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois; to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the state of Illinois and the United States of America; to promote and foster the enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage fraternal, educational, charitable and social activities among law enforcement officers; to advocate and strive for uniform application of the civil service merit system for appointment and promotion; to support the improvement of the standard of living and working conditions of the law enforcement profession through every legal and ethical means available; to create and maintain the tradition of esprit de corps, insuring fidelity of duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession, and thus more firmly to establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property.”

JOIN!



Become a Member

ADD ME!



Join Our Mailing List