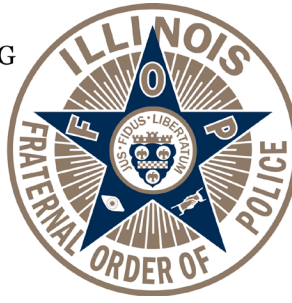

IMPROVING
LIFE
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&
PEOPLE



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD? WHAT'S NEXT?
Ted Street, President
Fraternal Order of Police, Illinois State Lodge

The uncertain times being faced by the men and women in law enforcement today are historically unmatched. The very essence of our foundation--built on the cornerstones of collective bargaining, pensions, health care and the legislative process--is being tested. Employment and post-employment securities are being attacked by government, the media and taxpayers alike. The humble profession we chose of service, integrity and pride is being made out to be one occupied by greedy double dippers and wealthy retirees who are inaccurately portrayed to be holding the taxpayers hostage for terms and conditions of employment that private sector employees do not enjoy. Layoffs, reduced staffing levels, re-organizing, pay more and receive less, threats of filing bankruptcy, wage freezes, contract concessions, employers not making their pension contributions after we have made ours, and the threat of 401-Ks are everywhere.

All this uncertainty is beginning to take its' toll on the lives of FOP members and their families alike. We are a profession comprised predominately of conservatives who hold strong to family and family values. Hard work, patriotism and taking care of our families' future come as second nature. We chose this profession because we saw an opportunity to live out the "American Dream" while realizing certain securities as public servants and peace keepers. What Happened? For every article or editorial page one reads there is yet another opinion. One thing is for certain, the storm has not blown over yet.

There has never been a time like the present for the Fraternal Order of Police to truly be defined as the "Voice of Law Enforcement." There is no room for complacency, apathy or an inability to lead individuals to join forces in a united front of cooperation, communication and combat. Status Quo is unacceptable and any sense of entitlements must be set aside by both leaders and rank and file. If we are going to have any success in waging these battles ahead, the only plan that will succeed is one that puts our membership first! The primary focus must be on setting forth the facts, through public and media relations, and providing education for all parties involved. Name calling, finger pointing and a general "us against them" mentality will ultimately fail. The FOP must reach out to the members, the communities, the government, other Unions, and public and private organizations to broadcast a message of solidarity and make known the reality that "We are ALL in this Together." The days of chest thumping, threatening and saying we are the largest have come and gone. There has to be a new way of doing business.

As a candidate for the Office of President for the National Fraternal Order of Police, I believe we can succeed, however the organizational direction has to move toward inclusiveness, consensus building, and mutual respect and away from divisiveness, political favoritism and entitlements. The times we are facing dictate a NFOP President with a strong union background who has been in the trenches fighting for employee's rights and due process. The NFOP must step out and lead in providing the State and local lodges every available resource in combating the warfare being waged against our members. I contend that a lack of experience in dealing with 'what life is like' in our workplace today is simply too large a risk for this organization to take by leaving it in the hands of the inexperienced.

Be Street Smart! Vote Ted Street!

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