

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AT THE 24th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE ILLINOIS STATE LODGE
JULY 18- JULY 19, 2008
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

My report is in Section 4 of the Conference Book immediately following the Conference Agenda. The report in the book is a sum total of the reports I have submitted to the Board of Trustees over the last 2 years. In addition, I submit weekly activity & expense reports to the State Lodge office which remains on file.

I often say and beyond just saying it, the business operations of the State Lodge is an open book. It has long been important to the members of the Executive Board and the Trustees have grown to expect full disclosure when it involves the responsibility of managing the business of the State Lodge. My remarks at this time are intended **not** to report my activity, but to speak about the **responsibility** we all have to the Fraternal Order of Police, Illinois State Lodge.

By the mere fact that we all are here first indicates we have accepted the responsibility to serve the FOP either at the local, State or National level or **just maybe at every level**. It is my intentions during the next few minutes to cause of us to first think about our individual role in the FOP and second how that role affects the FOP in a larger way than just in our corner of the world.

As I reflect upon my experiences, I compare a period where I knew very well what was going on in my corner of the world because for one reason it was in my opinion what being a policeman was about. I knew what was going on in the department, in the community and in my local FOP lodge. I found myself taking all this information and forming opinions which with time I began to speak out about. I soon learned that as result of having these opinions and not being bashful about expressing them I had more opportunities to speak out

and get involved. This is how I first became involved with the FOP. I'm sure most of us in the room today can relate to this story.

I really had my eyes open now over 20 years ago when I started my career with the FOP. The FOP has taught me over time that there is a more than **“just my corner of the world”** and everything that I do and say really does affect more people than the people right around me. One of the areas I truly feel blessed is to had the experience to work all over this State and out of that I have learned a great deal about our differences, but at the same time the many areas we have the same weaknesses and inherent risk. I believe there are going to be battles ahead on many fronts for Illinois Law Enforcement like we have not seen whether it be in the workplace, bargaining table or with the General Assembly. So while may of you have every right today to be comfortable in what you have accomplished through the FOP at whatever level, I am asking you to realize the potential for waters not chartered ahead that will demand assistance, cooperation and strong support from more than just **“your corner of the world”**, but instead realizing what resources there are available when we reach out collectively.