



US Section of International Police Association to Celebrate 50th Anniversary.

The United States Section of the International Police Association was founded on February 26th, 1962 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. The organization will mark the occasion with a 50th Anniversary event in November of 2012 in Washington DC. Attendees will be active and retired officers from around the country and the world. The four-day event will include tours, hospitality, daily entertainment and a final banquet.

The International Police Association (IPA), the largest fraternal police organization in the world, was officially formed on January 1st, 1950. A United Kingdom Sergeant, Arthur Troop, who saw WW II had caused many distrust issues with police officers around the world, founded the IPA. His vision was to create an organization that would bring police officers of the world together in friendship.

The US section of the IPA was formed by Buffalo, NY officer Harold Litwin and involved about 30 original members. The members were from Toledo (OH), Buffalo (NY), Trenton, (NJ); Uniondale (NY), Schenectady (NY), Venice (FL), Chicago (IL) and Alexandria/Arlington (VA) and the founding meeting was held at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall on Summit Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

The IPA is a non-profit, worldwide fraternal organization whose membership consists solely of active and retired law enforcement personnel. The organization is not connected with or influenced by any union, police, governmental agency, or any outside interests. The association promotes global and cultural friendship amongst peace officers. All officers serve in their spare time and receive no compensation of any kind to do so.

The IPA as an organization is based strictly on idealism and friendship. Its uniqueness is demonstrated by never creating a rank-conscious atmosphere among its members. There are approximately 400,000 members in over 60 countries and all are volunteers. The IPA has no paid staff. Four hundred thousand police officers that believe in friendship and the benefits it can bring each other.

Kevin Gordon, who serves as a national officer commented, "The IPA is the world's oldest and largest fraternal police association and yet most US police officers have never heard of it. We refer to it as the 'sleeping giant'. Our official motto is 'Service Through Friendship' but our unofficial motto is '\$25 buys you the world'".

Dues are twenty-five dollars each year and bring all the benefits including the ability to meet officers around the world, home hosting by officers, organized travel trips, the ability to attend training courses at the IPA Training Facility in Gimborn, Germany, and scholarships for members and children of members. For those interested in police collecting of patches, uniforms, challenge coins etc., there is no better way to connect. Maybe your youngster would like to have an "email pal" in another country and

you want to make sure they are who they say they are. Many members' children use such contacts to help them learn English or German etc.

Steve Livingston, an IPA national officer, said “belonging to the IPA is like having good friends around the world to help in whatever you need. Maybe you need advice on an area or would like to do a ride along in another country, or just want help on your family tree or in collecting a patch. Whatever you need in another country, who better to help than a fellow officer?” Because of the IPA, Livingston has interacted with the Prime Minister of Ireland, the Minister of the Interior for Slovenia, the Minister of the Interior for Austria, the Charge de Affairs for Austria, a multitude of Police Commissioners, Director Generals, Lieutenants, Sergeants, and of course staff Officers. “I have been fortunate enough to host in my own home and at work officers from Turkey, Italy, Ireland, the UK, Germany, Switzerland, and more.”

Italian State Police Officer Nicola Zichella joined the IPA in 1992. “I joined to be culturally informed from colleagues of other police departments in Europe on how they work, what tools they use in their agencies and to inform our Italian colleagues through police journals blogs etc.

Colonel Vladimir Kislukhin, a Russian police officer, said the IPA has allowed him to communicate with colleges around the world. The IPA created a Russian section in 1992. Vladimir said “before the IPA, Soviet and Russian police officers couldn't go abroad and learn how officers in other countries did the job. The KGB was always frightened that police officers of that country would enlist the police officer to work as a spy. The IPA has opened the world to us”.

Calvin Chow, a US member from the San Francisco area believes the friendships he has built are the most important aspect. Chow said “I've never had better friends than the friends I met through the IPA and they are friends from around the world.”

Manfred Greitemeyer, a retired officer from Germany, said “the IPA brings police officers from around the world together as friends. I love being a member and I have friends around the world that would never have happened without the International Police Association.

The International Police Association is online at www.ipa-usa.org and can be found on Facebook.

