



I.P.L.E.A.

Illinois Park Law Enforcement Association

"Dedicated to the Advancement of the Park Law Enforcement Profession"



2014 IPLEA Fall Conference



September 22nd -24th, 2014

Sponsored by IPLEA



**Hosted by the
Crystal Lake Park District Police Department
REVIEW**

It was back in 2003 when Crystal Lake Park District Chief Ron Lyons last hosted an IPLEA fall conference along with McHenry County Conservation, and Chief Ron Lyons pulled all his resources in for the 2014 fall conference, from name cards and hand-outs, to food and even a landing zone for a helicopter. He might have even had something to do with the great weather we had for the entire conference enjoyed by 26 park law enforcement professionals from 11 different agencies. The conference was filled with a variety of topics, great networking opportunities, great food, and yes, a helicopter.



Held at the Crystal Lake Country Inn & Suites, the IPLEA Board had their meeting on Sunday night, and then the conference began on Monday morning, September 22nd. **PDRMA** provided the Monday morning session, opening with Dr. Jim Clapper, OCC Injury Prevention Specialist.

Dr. Clapper has worked with many risk management entities, sports clinics and profession sports

teams providing injury prevention and rehabilitation guidance. He

held a few main themes in his presentation. One was that

injuries, such as a back injury are actually a result of a series of smaller strains and stresses that

lead up to a debilitating situation. These injuries are preventable with lifestyle changes.



Dr. Clapper put the class through a series of exercises and stretching techniques designed to alleviate pain and problems. Many stretches were designed to be beneficial even while sitting down or in a squad. He discussed spinal alignment as a catalyst for pain and how to keep in in proper position. The whole class had to perform these moves while sitting and standing. Many spoke of the immediate improvements after the stretching exercises.



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Next up from PDRMA was Attorney Steve Kleinman, PDRMA Counsel's presentation. Mr. Kleinman covered agency liability and report documentation. Scenarios from videos and incidents were discussed. It was stressed throughout the presentation that simple comments and opinions in reports can open up agencies for undue liability. It was advised that agencies should have protocols that allow agency counsel to review incidents and provide guidance during report writing. Factual report documenting with proper guidance could help minimize unnecessary scrutiny.



During the session, Tim Lenac of PDRMA accepted a certificate of appreciation for PDRMA's support in Co-Sponsoring the 2013 Fall Conference.

During lunch, representatives from Archoil products presented attendees with their company's gun oil products and discussed their benefits. After the provided lunch, the afternoon's instructors dropped in, literally, for their presentation. It was pretty cool to have the next instructors arrive by helicopter for a session. Air One Coalition is a non-for-profit organization started in

2003 providing helicopter air support for northern

Illinois emergency agencies. Elgin Police Commander Dan O'Shea, who works with Air One, headed the classroom presentation. He discussed landing zone requirements, which most often are not necessary for their purposes. Videos showed the extensive training and capabilities of the Air One crew. It was stressed by the unit to make the

call early in an incident if it is thought that air support is needed, rather than wait. Waiting too long can expand the incident or search area and decrease success potential. Agencies often hesitate to make the "big call" to them for assistance. They don't mind getting started and turned around if there is a cancellation

or resolved situation.



After classroom time, it was time to go check out the big black chopper in the field next to the hotel.

Attendees got to check out one of Air One's helicopters and its equipment. Air One Pilots showed attendees "around the bird" and had plenty of information and stories about their experiences. A few minutes later it was time for them to take flight, which drew a crowd of on lookers as they spooled up, lifted up and flew off to the horizon.



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Attendees gathered back in the class room for the final session of the day. Voni Coombs, a certified Traumatologist with the McHenry County Crisis Center provided a sobering discussion on suicide and how to deal with the families it affects. Park settings are too often an attractive setting for suicides that most park agencies will have to encounter. It was evident that Mrs. Coombs was prepared for those situations through her temperament, training, and experience. Mrs. Coombs stressed to seek your city and county crisis agencies as soon as possible when faced with a suicide and families. Remember to get people that are trained on site to help as you manage the incident. When anyone deals with grieving people, remember to "model calmness," speak slowly, and use calm gestures. The effected people are in a particular state and are processing the trauma emotionally, psychologically, and physiologically.

Shuttles were provided for Monday's cookout and social. Attendees enjoyed a cookout at Veterans Acres park shelter, compliments of the Crystal Lake Park District Police Department. Chief Lyons arranged for a vendor trailer on sight, dispensing ice cold "beverages."

The Tuesday morning session opened with McHenry County Sheriff drug task force agents discussing drug trends in the area, cannabis grow operations indoor and outdoor, and recent drug cases. A powerpoint showed examples of (indoor and outdoor) grow sites and what to look for. A large recent case showed how an entire house in a seemingly quiet suburban neighborhood was turned into a giant indoor grow operation. The County seized the house and all of its contents.

Assistant State's Attorney Randi Freeze continued with the morning session, tying in the County's drug cases with the State's Attorney's efforts to prosecute them. Other topics included concealed carry, Medicinal Marijuana Cannabis Act, and seizures.



After the provided lunch, Chief Ron Lyons covered the afternoon session with an array of topics. His section on "Public Indecency Issues in Public Parks" enlightened attendees to the underworld of "cruising websites."

Chief Lyons showed examples of a member's only website called "Squirt.com" that shows park ratings, directions, cruising information, and comments from cruisers. One park listed showed that it was viewed 37,455 times. His Department's efforts to address this type of activity were also discussed.

Chief Lyons next showed everyone in class how his Department has moved to computer tablets for everything their in-car computers did, like LEADS and reports, and for much cheaper. The tablets they use are more versatile and portable. They can be used on alternative patrol vehicles too, like ATV's and snowmobiles. The tablet system works through the IPSAN Mini-BULLET network and has many useful apps.

Drones and alarms were the next topics from Chief Lyons. The Crystal Lake Park District police have an ingenious "homemade" portable alarm system. In a travel case is a self-contained battery operated alarm system that uses a wireless sensor. The sensor can be used to detect activity, like after hour's crimes, with the alarm case nearby that sends out the information to the officers.



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They also have a drone with a camera that seems to get a lot of use. Their drone takes great photos and is used for documenting events, incidents, and property. They get many requests from other departments in the District to make aerial photographs for things like, events and construction projects. Chief Lyons refers to his drone photos of special events, showing parking arrangements and event set ups for future planning. This drone is so slick that when its battery gets low, it knows to fly back to where it started, using GPS coordinates.



Tuesday evening was time for the conference banquet. Shuttles from the hotel brought attendees to the Crystal Lake Park District Park Place Banquet facility. During the banquet, IPLEA Board President Steve Laskowski and Vice President Tracy Chapman presented certificates of appreciation. Don Otto accepted a certificate on behalf of the Round Lake Area Park District for hosting the 2013 Spring Workshop. Rick Splittgerber accepted a certificate on behalf of the Kane County Forest Preserve Police and Sgt. Bill Glisson for hosting and instructing the 2014 Spring Workshop. Chief Ron Lyons was given a certificate of appreciation for hosting the 2014 Fall Conference. Attendees enjoyed a great meal and door prizes, and the gun was raffled off.



The Wednesday session was a morning spent with Attorney W. Randall Baudin II. Attorney Baudin is an active law professor at Judson College, an administrative judge, a practicing attorney, and a Crystal Lake Park District Officer. In his spare time he has even gotten on set for the filming of a Cop TV show in Chicago. Attorney Baudin led a lively discussion on case law trends, search and seizure clarification, and was basically open for any discussion on law. He was able to keep the class involved with his ability to relate much of it to the park setting that everyone in the room was familiar with.

The 2014 Fall Conference wrapped up by lunch time Wednesday.
IPLEA would like to thank Chief Ron Lyons and all of his resources for presenting a great conference.



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