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# Chapter Chatter *with a colleague*

Vol. 2008-10

## 2008 SW Chapter Board

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## President's Message

By Steve Gendler, IALEP SW Chapter President

Don't miss our November meeting at Phoenix PD. Not only is it the "annual business meeting" featuring elections, information exchange, and crime lab tour but it also is a chance to see colleagues, meet new members, and become involved in planning for another year.

Have you considered hosting an IALEP meeting? This is your chance; we are looking for host agencies in 2009. You can experience the thrill of helping set the agenda, the excitement of having an international organization

gather in your facility, the joy of boosting your local economy by selecting a restaurant for lunch, and security in the knowledge that your agency will be one of only four selected for this honor in 2009.

At DPS we have a unique opportunity to be members of both the IACP State and Provincial Police Officers Section (SPPPOS) and IALEP. This allows the exchange of information for both organizations and provides both a state and local perspective. I have

asked Russ Azbill, DPS planning staff, to provide trends, issues, and unique solutions from SPPPOS for the "Chapter Chatter". Look for Russ's column. In the meantime, I'll keep looking for pictures exemplifying "lack of planning" among those not fortunate enough to be members of IALEP.

See you at the November meeting.



## Fuel Savings Equals Budget Savings

By: Russ Azbill, AZ DPS

In my capacity as an Arizona Department of Public Safety planner, I am responsible for monitoring and answering inquiries that come in from both IALEP and the IACP state law enforcement section. Although one involves primarily municipal law enforcement and the other involves state police and the highway patrol, there are some common concerns that you may find interesting. From time to time, I will be submitting articles addressing these concerns and some of the methods various states have used to tackle them.

This month the issue involves *Fuel Savings Equals Budget Savings*. Agencies across the country are facing ever increasing budget restrictions. Even though gasoline prices

have begun to drop, agencies should still explore applicable methods to lower their fuel costs, freeing up much needed funds for other needed expenditures. What follows are some of the methods agencies are exploring to save fuel costs.

- Does an agency really need the higher fuel consumption vehicle over another more fuel efficient vehicle? Is it preference or necessity?

- Educate employees about fuel consumption and how it relates to their agency's vehicles. Before driving to an off-site meeting, employees should ask themselves if driving to the meeting is really necessary. Could the meeting be accomplished by

video conference or teleconference? If travel is a necessity, is it possible for all attending employees to carpool in a single vehicle; for example, a seven passenger van from the pool fleet?

- Agencies should ensure that all vehicles are properly maintained; for example, correct tire pressures, engine tune-ups, air filters, and oil changes. The American Automobile Association (AAA) states that a properly maintained vehicle achieves 3% better fuel mileage.

- Require each work unit to review its goals and processes in order to justify the use of each vehicle and determine if changes can be made to lower vehicle usage.

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- If possible, limit the number of miles driven for each patrol shift. Some agencies have chosen to replace single officer vehicles with two officer vehicles in order to remove one vehicle from service.

- If possible when patrolling highways and rural areas, use the vehicle's cruise control. This alone can yield an increase in fuel mileage from 5% to 33% as per AAA.

- For urban areas where the traffic is often congested and the patrol speeds are not high, agencies might consider some smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles for these patrol areas. If an agency felt that a smaller vehicle would not satisfy prisoner transport requirements, they might consider having a single purpose, larger prisoner transport vehicle to assist with those needs.

- For state agencies and county sheriffs that patrol large sections of highway, they might consider a portion of each shift where an officer parks in the center median and performs radar enforcement.

This would limit the amount of fuel expended while driving on patrol, yet presents a public presence of enforcement. While performing this function from the center median, drivers from both directions will view the unit, doubling the public's awareness of enforcement.

- Agencies might want to consider only having high fuel mileage vehicles in their admin/pool fleet.

- Many agencies are draining and reusing fuel from out of service vehicles which are being sent to surplus for auction. This alone can save agencies thousands of gallons in fuel costs per year.

- Agencies should investigate if they are getting the lowest cost possible on their fuel purchases.

- Review agency policies regarding take-home vehicles. Does the requirement of the position truly justify a take-home vehicle? Does the agency have any residency requirements for employees with take-home vehicles; for example, an employee must live within 35 miles of their assignment.

- Many agencies are considering allowing private sector businesses to act as sponsors and purchase their vehicles for the agency in exchange for advertising space on the patrol unit. Most advertising appears on the hood of the vehicle, but for agencies wanting a more subdued form of advertising, a notice could appear on the back of the vehicle saying something like, "This public safety vehicle was purchased from a generous contribution from Company X" or "Company X supports public safety through the donation of this vehicle."

These are but a few ideas circulating among law enforcement agencies. Agencies should always be looking at cost savings methods, not just when budgets are tight; it is just good fiscal management. Remember, by reducing costs, the job you save may be your own.

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## **A message from your 2008 IALEP SW Board**

What an awesome year for the **IALEP SW Chapter**.

Your continued Chapter support is the single biggest contributing factor to another successful year. We would like to thank you for your support and for allowing us to serve you during 2008.

Steve, Gary, Kim, Candace, Tiffany and Mark



*IALEP SW  
Announcements  
And  
Upcoming Meetings*

**Lack of Planning,  
Random Wisdom**

*Begin with a vision of  
the future.....  
.....now plan backward  
to the present.*

**Become a Member or  
Renew Your  
Membership with  
IALEP!**

Go to the IALEP  
Website [www.ialep.org](http://www.ialep.org)

***ELECTION  
Results***

.....to be  
announced at the November  
18<sup>th</sup> meeting.....

Voting has begun. Ballots  
will be counted and results  
will be announced at the next  
meeting. If you are a  
member and have misplaced  
or need a 2009 Ballot please  
email

[debeusk@mcao.maricopa.gov](mailto:debeusk@mcao.maricopa.gov)

And speaking of the meeting,  
you won't want to miss  
the last meeting of the 2008  
year.....mark your  
calendars accordingly.

The meeting site is **Phoenix  
PD** where strategic  
management, process  
mapping and internet crime  
mapping will be presented.  
Additionally, a tour of the  
crime lab will be provided.

Networking at lunch is  
always a plus. Watch for  
your agenda with address,  
map and parking  
instructions.

**See YOU there.....**

In a continuing effort to demonstrate the difference  
between professional planners (such as IALEP  
members) and amateurs such as the highway  
department, here are the "pictures are worth a  
thousand words" award winners this month:

