

“Cooperation Goes a Long Way”

An example of cooperation going a long way recently made it's way from Illinois Senate Bill 1693 to law in Public Act 094-0712. This is the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Pension (SLEP) enhancement that Deputies have fought for over six years in a pension system that has gone without upgrades far longer than it's downstate police pension counterparts. The unlikely combination of the **Police Benevolent and Protective Association**, the **Fraternal Order of Police**, the **Illinois Sheriff's Association**, and **local legislators** worked hand in hand to increase retirement benefits for SLEP participants.

Some of the enhancement highlights include raising maximum retirement benefits from 75% to 80% and allowing the buy back of other police service of up to ten years. In order to better understand how this pension enhancement will benefit SLEP participants, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) will be presenting an informational seminar on March 7th, 2006 at the McHenry County Courthouse. The pension representatives plan on presenting a general information seminar from 9 to 10 am and then conduct individual counseling throughout the remainder of the day. They will be targeting individuals retiring in 2006 and over the next two years.

Please extend a debt of thanks to your local PB & PA and the FOP but in addition take the time to thank and support **Senator Pam Althoff**, **Representative Mike Tryon**, and **Representative Jack Franks** for without our local legislative support this bill would never have become law. Cooperation goes a long way...

In closing I want to wish all of the members of the Sheriff's Office and their loved ones a blessed and joyous holiday season. I look forward to a promising 2006 and thanks for making the Sheriff's Office a premiere law enforcement agency.