



ILLINOIS CORRECTIONS LODGE # 263  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**  
4341 ACER GROVE # B, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, 62711  
[ILFOP263.COM](http://ILFOP263.COM)

1/1/25

It's official... 2024 is in the books and another exciting year begins. As always, I want to start the year off right by Thanking You, the member. I also want to express to you how much your FOP Lodge 263 Executive Board appreciates your continued membership. Also, Thank You once again for allowing me to represent you as your Lodge President and assure you that your Executive Board will continue to strive for a better correctional profession for everyone.

We had a great year with membership efforts, increasing our Federal, County and State brother and sisters, many have had the need to utilize the benefits of membership, specifically Legal Defense, and unfortunate but necessary benefit. Many have been able to experience the fraternalism and even more have added facility trustees or are very close. I am proud of the Executive Board and their willingness to professionally share information with the hope that all Correctional Officers and ranks are included and no one is left out.

Our continued efforts through our legislative friends and media releases about staff exposures to all forms of synthetic drugs has led to IDOC finally bringing "mail scanning" in June 2025. We also assisted our federal friends in the BOP with HR9929 (Blake Schwarz bill). This bill is targeted at addressing suicide prevention through successful training sessions and awareness initiatives developed alongside community partners.

HB4828 was another bill that was gutted and replaced in the lame duck session this year.

This bill was originally introduced to only allow no more than 10 days of restrictive housing in a 90-day period. Once again, after being introduced as originally written for several years, it gained no support. Instead, they passed this bill to collect data from each facility regarding their restrictive housing information. I do believe the data they collect will be used to help bolster their support for this bill in its entirety in the coming year. FOP Lodge 263, along with our allies Chicago Lodge 7 and the Illinois FOP State Lodge through all our lobbyist, will fight this bill tooth and nail every year it's introduced to get it stopped! As we all know if there's no accountability, then there's no deterrent to assault staff.

I want to encourage every member to ensure you keep ALL your personal contact information updated. You can do this easily by going to our website [ILFOP263.com](http://ILFOP263.com).

As a reminder, IDOC members if you go on LOA, you are off of State Pay, your membership benefits, importantly Legal Defense are attached to dues deduction. Please make arrangements to pay dues to the lodge during that time to stay active don't take the risk of being inactive.

Also, for those lucky members who are getting close to retirement, we would love to keep you as a member. The dues reduce drastically once you retire. You can do this by letting us know you are getting close and we will have our retired trustee reach out and get you an SRS form to fill out.



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This year Lodge 263 has lost many members, one was lost in the line of duty. I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to provide the needed information to include our brother on the wall in Washington D.C.

We also want to express the importance for you to follow us on all our social media platforms Facebook (Fraternal Order of Police Illinois Corrections Lodge 263) and X (@ILFOP263)

Finally, I want to continue to urge you, the member, to become more active in your lodge by attending one of our quarterly Executive Board meetings. Our meetings are held at Illinois FOP State Lodge, 4341 Acer Grove, Springfield, IL.

Our 2025 meetings are held at the Lodge Office in Springfield, the dates are as follows:

- \*March 8th
- \*June 7th
- \*Sept 6th
- \*Dec 20th

Additionally, your Trustees are tasked with hosting events in their respective areas once a year. There is a Southern Event scheduled for MARCH 28-30<sup>TH</sup> 2025 at Rend Lake Campground. Being hosted by Southern District Trustee Eric Breeze, Vienna Trustee Jared Klein and Menard Trustee Brad Hall. ANY member, members family and also non-members who would be eligible for membership are invited to come out, or stay the weekend. We will use this time to experience the fraternalism in a stress-free setting, get to know each other and our families. I encourage your participation and support your trustees' efforts in putting this together! More info posted on FB and on the Lodge Website.

If you have any ideas or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on your E-board. Our contact information is located on our website.

Thanks again for your continued support, and look forward to a safe and successful 2025 year in Corrections. Stay Safe!

Scot Ward, President  
IL FOP Corrections Lodge 263