

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MEMBERS**

This morning President Parker and I, along with the leaders from the Command Council and Teamsters met with First Deputy Director Brueggemann and his staff about the current budget crisis in state government. We have been advised that the Department has been instructed by the Governor's office to prepare and plan for sworn officer layoffs. I first want to emphasize that our meeting today was *NOT* an *OFFICIAL NOTICE* of layoffs as is required by Article 11 of our contract. Having said this, I must however emphasize that unlike in previous years where the talk of laying off Troopers was used as a political ploy to push budget passage, there is a very strong chance that some form of layoffs will occur. The Legislature has still not completed a budget that will retain all of our members. They are scheduled to return to Springfield next week to hopefully address the budget shortfall.

The Department has advised this Lodge that as of today, there is no exact dollar figure by which the ISP must reduce its budget for the upcoming fiscal year and therefore there is no exact number of possible layoffs. I can say that the Department, using worst case scenario in its planning, believes that the number may be as many as 850 sworn officers along with the possible closing of 6 ISP Districts.

Since the inception of collective bargaining in our Lodge, language has existed within our contracts to protect our members as much as possible from layoffs and to ensure that they are done in the fairest manner. All of our ranks from Trooper thru Captain are now members of collective bargaining units and are subject to and protected by bargaining agreements and Illinois Labor Laws. The Department must give this Lodge 30 days notice prior to making layoffs. They must also meet with this Lodge and reach an agreement concerning the method by which officers are laid off.

As I have stated, at this point we are only being told that the possibility strongly exists that some form of layoffs may occur. We will continue to speak with the Department as things progress. Our lobbyists are also closely monitoring the legislature's attempts at addressing a budget that does not include layoffs for our members. Please know that we are committed to ensuring that if the unfortunate circumstance of layoffs becomes a reality this union will vigorously protect your contractual rights.

Fraternally,

Fred Scholl, Secretary