



**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
SECTION MEMBERSHIP
Justification Kit**

This document is intended to support understanding of the value of membership to the IACP and the **Public Information Officer (PIO) Section** to your supervisor or to the decision makers at your agency.

Helping your agency leaders understand the value of this section, and of the IACP, will not only benefit you, but also your organization, your communities, and beyond. As a member of the Public Information Officer Section, you quickly learn valuable skills that help build institutional knowledge when it comes to working relationships with media representatives, social media strategies that work for your communities, and hands-on training at annual conferences provides you with immediate skills that you can in turn employ at your agency.

PIO SECTION MEMBERSHIP Justification Kit



What is the IACP?

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the world's largest and most influential professional association for police leaders. **With over 31,000 members in more than 165 countries, the IACP is a recognized leader in global policing.** Since 1893, the association has been speaking out on behalf of law enforcement and advancing leadership and professionalism in policing worldwide.

The IACP is known for its commitment to shaping the future of the police profession. Through timely research, programming, and unparalleled training opportunities, the IACP is preparing current and emerging police leaders to succeed in addressing the most pressing issues, threats, and challenges of the day.

The IACP is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. The IACP is the publisher of *The Police Chief* magazine, the leading periodical for law enforcement executives and host of the IACP Annual Conference, the largest police educational and technology exposition in the world.

Isn't the IACP just for chiefs?

No. The IACP is committed to shaping the future of the policing profession. IACP membership is open to law enforcement professionals of all ranks, as well as nonsworn leaders across the criminal justice system.

Benefits of IACP membership

- Network of more than 31,000 members from more than 165 countries worldwide
- Subscription to the Lead, IACP's daily news brief
- Subscription to *Police Chief* magazine
- Access to model policies, training keys, and other member-only resources
- Reduced rates for IACP conferences
- Ability to participate in IACP working groups such as the PIO Section to develop reports, white papers, or infographics to be released to the membership.
- Discounts on electronics, travel, car insurance, and more through the IACPpreferred program

View a full list of member benefits at
www.theIACP.org/membership

What is the PIO Section?

The PIO Section is one of the fastest growing sections of the IACP, with nearly 200 knowledgeable experts on crisis communications, communication best practices, and media strategies readily available and willing to assist and exchange information that can and does help agencies all over the world.

The PIO Section provides an incredible opportunity for new and seasoned public information officers to share information, training, and best practices for communication strategies. Key elements addressed by the section include:

- Social media strategies
- Crisis communication tools and best practices
- Creative, hands-on training including video editing, podcasting, and more
- Development of communication skillsets and immediate deliverables
- Strategic communication
- Tools, knowledge, and skills that will help build your agency's profile while connecting with the community you serve.

PIO Section membership is open to all active and associate members of the IACP who are either current or previous public information officers, have a professional interest in public information, and who are supportive of the goals and efforts of the PIO section.

“When I first became a PIO, daily tasks alone were overwhelming. Becoming an IACP member, and a member of the PIO section, thrust me into a community of people who were not only willing to help, but people who are experts in this field. Their guidance and advice alone is much more valuable than the cost of membership.”

- Lauren Childress, *PIO Douglas County Sheriff's Office*

Benefits of PIO Section Membership

As an IACP member, you can join the PIO Section for just \$15. As a member of the PIO section, you will:

- Have access to communication experts from around the world, as well as exclusive content produced by the section for communication managers
- Training to enhance a variety of skills from on-camera interviews, to content editing and moderation, to case studies that made news headlines
- Access to the PIO online community where fellow PIOs share best practices and resources
- Opportunities to engage with representatives from major social media platforms to engage with and connect to your residents in your communities

Attend the PIO Midyear Conference

The IACP PIO Midyear conference brings together public information officers from across the globe to deep-dive into new information-sharing efforts, best practices, case studies and more. With 20 hours of training, attendees will walk away with new and advanced knowledge about how to communicate with their communities and engage with residents in new and exciting ways. From on-the-spot video editing training, to learning more about cases that made headlines over the last year, the Midyear conference is one you don't want to miss.

“Joining the IACP PIO Section has been one of the best decisions of my career and has afforded many opportunities to grow, learn and bring some of the industry’s best practices back to my agency. Whether I’m managing the news media during a crisis situation or simply having to create a social media post, it’s reassuring to know that my membership has provided me with a network of talented PIO’s from across the globe who I can reach out to for advice.”

- Officer Steven Smith, *PIO Albany NY Police Department*



Membership Types

ACTIVE MEMBERS \$190

Chiefs and superintendents of police **as well as command-level police officers** in public law enforcement agencies.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Sworn Officers \$75

Sworn, non-command personnel.

General \$190

Those working in or with law enforcement not outlined in another Associate Membership category, including: civilians working in law enforcement, private and corporate security, private detectives, associations and nonprofits, and medical/psychological professionals.

TO JOIN

Visit www.theIACP.org/membership.

If you have any questions, contact the membership team at membership@theIACP.org or **800-THE-IACP**

Dear _____,

In order to further my professional development and support in providing the best service to the community, I would like to join the International Association Chiefs of Police (IACP) as a member, as well as join the Public Information Officer (PIO) Section, and have the agency cover the membership fee. Membership in the IACP will greatly benefit my professional development and allow me to bring my enhanced knowledge and skills to this agency and community.

Benefits of IACP membership include:

- Knowledge needed to be successful in my job through opportunities like the IACP Annual Conference, Public Information Officers Mid-year Conference, Technology Conference, and more. All IACP members receive a discount on these training programs and have access to online content year-round.
- A network of more than 31,000 law enforcement leaders worldwide who can help answer the questions we face on a day-to-day basis. As a member, I will also have the opportunity to participate in working groups to bring back best practices and share some of what our agency is doing to address community needs.
- A complimentary subscription to The Lead, IACP's daily news brief; IACP Monthly, a newsletter highlighting new resources and training opportunities; and *Police Chief* magazine, a monthly publication that includes both print magazine and online only content. Other IACP members and subject matter experts author articles that address the critical issues facing the criminal justice field.

In addition, as a member of the PIO Section, I will have access to the PIO online community to network and share best practices, including access to subject matter experts in public information, crisis communication, and social media which will greatly assist me in my duties as a PIO. I will also have access to a section exclusive newsletter, The Sectional, which is published quarterly.

These are just some of the benefits that membership in the IACP affords me. These benefits will provide me with increased leadership capacity, enrich my subject matter expertise, and allow me to learn global leading practices while sharing lessons learned from our agency as well. The positive impact far outweighs the reasonable membership fee.

The IACP membership level I would like to apply for is _____ and is \$ _____. This total reflects my IACP and PIO Section memberships.

I believe this will be money well spent with a positive return on investment. Thank you for the consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



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JUSTIFICATION KIT**