

IAWP Heritage Award Recipient 2015

Juliann Brunzell



The Heritage Award is an honour bestowed upon an individual member when warranted due to substantial and significant contributions to women police and the International Association of Women Police over a period of years and especially during milestones of the organisation. The honour is meant to ensure the recording, recognition, and appreciation for outstanding and dedicated service to IAWP. The IAWP's Heritage recognition is the highest tribute given by the IAWP.

Heritage Award recipients represent the legacy of the IAWP. They are the historical memory of an organisation that continues to grow. By virtue of participating in its history and having a resolve that the organisation evolves, these leaders confront core goals and serve as tangible evidence to the rest of us of the honour it is to serve the IAWP.

The Heritage Award aims to recognise an individual's substantial and significant contributions to women police and the IAWP. Additionally it ensures the recording and recognition of, and appreciation for, outstanding and dedicated service to IAWP over a period of years and especially during milestones of the organisation.

The 2015 Heritage Award Recipient is Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Special Agent (Retired) Juliann Brunzell.

Biography

Juliann Brunzell has over 32 years of experience in sworn law enforcement; seventeen years as special agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, fifteen years as officer/sergeant with the University of Minnesota Police Department. In 1974, she became a significant pioneer and advocate for women in law enforcement (second in Minnesota as sworn uniformed patrol) by raising awareness and the value women bring to policing. Her career assignments also included felony investigations, undercover, community policing, major crime scene response, and extensive training and development projects. She also specialised in leading state and national training conferences on violence against women crimes, and coordinating programs/research on women in law enforcement. Further, she has founded and served on numerous boards and organisations. Juliann continues to serve as member of the Board of Trustees with the IAWP.

Most recently, Juliann worked as a criminal justice specialist for the Battered Women's Justice Project, a national non-profit resource center that examines and assists the criminal justice system in responding differently to domestic violence crimes. She acted as trainer and consultant and offered expertise to law enforcement professionals regarding emerging issues and best practices. This included controversial training and policy review

for law enforcement on officer-involved domestic violence and stalking crimes.

Juliann was featured in a national documentary film, *You Don't Know What I Got* (whatigot.com), highlighting the stories of five "remarkable" women. Her expertise within the criminal justice system has also allowed her to participate in law enforcement training internationally to include the United Arab Emirates, England, Sweden, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Germany, and Japan.

Juliann is an accomplished classical pianist. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology/social welfare from Augsburg College, Minneapolis.

The Early Years

In 1974 while Juliann was briefly assigned to the Minneapolis Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit she had the good fortune to meet Detective Luan Zulsdorf (Lorenson), a member of IAWP. Luan introduced Juliann to her good friend across the river in St. Paul, Detective Carolyn Bailey, IAWP life member, President, Executive Director, and Board of Trustees (BoT) member. IAWP came into her life in a big way because she became a working part of the IAWP Conference St. Paul in 1978, the first of three conferences with which she assisted.





In 1991, the ever-so-persuasive New York City detective and IAWP "lifer"/President/ BoT member, Kathy Burke, convinced Juliann to compete for the Sergeant-at-Arms position. Victorious, she functioned under the gracious Georgian tutelage and mentoring of then President Gale Buckner.

IAWP Career Path

Juliann's career path with IAWP includes:

- 1990 IAWP St. Paul IAWP Conference co-director
- 1991 Sergeant-at-Arms
- 1993 IAWP Second Vice-President
- 1998-2000, IAWP Executive Director, serving the needs and the global vision of the Board of Directors and President Laura Goodman.
- 2000-present, Board of Trustees member
- Awards Committee chair, Strategic Planning committee, conference committees
- 1978 IAWP St. Paul Conference committee
- 2010 IAWP Minneapolis Conference committee

Juliann claims she was more comfortable in being an informal leader, working behind the scenes and assisting in bringing the vision to reality, citing the need for both styles of leadership in order for any organization to succeed.

Accomplishments as IAWP Member and IAWP Board Member

When asked to describe her accomplishments in IAWP as a member as well as on the IAWP Board, Juliann specified the following:

- Mentoring with and for women in law enforcement, most significantly through the IAWP affiliate, Minnesota Association of Women Police, whereby she proudly received the Carolyn Bailey Mentorship Award
- Being a strong advocate and voice for the inclusion of women, with our style of policing, into the rank and file.
- Helping to create global relationships to further IAWP's mission
- With then-President Goodman, Juliann opened doors in the United Arab Emirates' police service and governments, training and speaking and advocating for their women police
- Planned and/or directed three IAWP conferences
- Assisted in successfully investigating an internal financial matter, thus furthering a strong ethical operation within the organization
- Chaired the Awards Committee, which brought international award honorees to conferences
- Showed up, and spoke up

Greatest IAWP Accomplishment

Juliann identified her greatest accomplishment for the IAWP as when in 1999, with the wisdom of then-President Laura Goodman and Juliann as the Executive Director, they were able to see the need for global inclusion within IAWP membership and board. Together they pushed for and succeeded at making Africa a region within the IAWP organizational structure. When Juliann and Laura were vilified by a few skeptics who pointed out, "But Africa only has one member. Why would you make a region based on one?" they responded with, "If you build it, they will come." Today, the IAWP has 270 members in Africa, culminating with current-President Townsley and her work in furthering the global effort with having the first-ever conference in the African continent (South Africa IAWP Conference 2013). Juliann is most proud of the fact that it started with just "one".

Legacy

Juliann's legacy is "I've got your back." Whether you are young or old, rookie or retired, liberal or conservative, leader or follower, going along to get along, standing alone or in a group, she has your back. Juliann understands what it takes to survive this work. While the response is different amongst us, Juliann gets that, but "I've still got your back."

Juliann has formally and informally spoken to many audiences regarding the absolute need for increasing the ranks of women in policing, with its inevitable positive impact on criminal and social justice. That is at her core, and is supported by the mission of IAWP.

What You Probably Didn't Know

Juliann plays a mean baby grand piano at home, both classical and jazz. Her parents were professional musicians and raised a family on such. As a child, Juliann had 12 years of classical piano study and recitals. Juliann says, "So, what does the daughter of classical musicians do after college? Well, become a police officer, of course. It's a story. Stop me in the hallway. I'd love to meet you and tell you the story, as I hear yours."

Whether you call her Juliann, Julie, or Jules, she is a formidable, awe-inspiring woman, who is certainly the personification of the IAWP Heritage Award.