

Steven P. Ray, 38, of Boone, was elected Chair of the State of Iowa E9-1-1 Council by sitting council members at its regular bi-monthly meeting on November 19, 2008, in Des Moines. Ray serves as the primary representative of the Iowa Department of Public Safety on the E9-1-1 Council. Bob Seivert, Shelby County E9-1-1, was elected Vice-Chair.

Ray began his public safety career as a 9-1-1 dispatcher at the Boone County Sheriff's Office in the summer of 1988 on the heels of graduating from Boone High School and settling in for college at DMACC in Boone in the fall of the same year. Ray graduated from Iowa State University in December 1992 with a BA in Political Science and continued working for the sheriff's office until August 1995 when he accepted a position as a Communications Center Specialist II with the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa State Patrol Communications in Des Moines (located at Joint Forces Headquarters -JFHQ—Camp Dodge, Johnston).

In October 2003, Ray was appointed Lead Specialist at the Des Moines ISP Communications Center serving under then Regional Manager Maureen "Mo" Warford. Upon Manager Warford's retirement in January 2007, Steven Ray was promoted to Regional Communications Center Manager for the Iowa State Patrol and continues to serve in this capacity. Ray also oversees the operations of the Iowa State Patrol Communications Atlantic (Lewis) center.

Ray comes from a family background with a long history of public safety service which his maternal grandfather, the late Sheriff John P. Stark of Story County; an uncle, Terry D. Stark, retired Sergeant of the Story County Sheriff's Office; and his late mother, Pauline Rentschler, who served as a dispatcher and supervisor for over 28 years with the Iowa State University Department of Public Safety in Ames, each played a vital role in his desire to continue his career in the realm of public safety.

Ray currently serves in his second 4-year term as councilmember at-large for the City of Boone, serving as chair of both the city's Public Safety and Transportation and Economic Development council subcommittees allowing him to receive extensive knowledge of budget issues and planning in city government. Ray also serves as chair of the Boone and Story County Local Board 12 of the Selective Service System (commonly referred to as the local draft board). Ray also serves as Chair of the Boone County E9-1-1 Service Board and as a member of the Joint Boone County Communications Center oversight committee for the City of Boone.

Ray is married to wife, Lisa, and has two step-daughters, Megan, 17, and Miranda, 13.

Ray writes, ***“It is a privilege and honor to be elected by my peers to serve as State E9-1-1 Council Chair. I look forward to serving the council and the people of the state of Iowa. We have a lot of new technologies emerging that will have a profound and positive impact on our ability to help citizens in need through the use of 9-1-1. These new advances, although undoubtedly beneficial, will not be possible without careful planning and prudent financing of public monies to achieve our objectives. For that reason alone we have challenges ahead, but we will meet these challenges with alacritous determination.”***