

The Informer

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2001

Special Points

- * Elections at December Meeting 12-10-01
- We welcome aboard all new members.
- Congratulations to all award recipients.
- Special thanks to our deployed reserve brothers and sisters.
- Good luck to all lodge officer candidates.
- Awards banquet attended by approx. 100 members and guests.
- Two visiting English Constables attended banquet.

Lodge Officer Elections

It is important to attend the upcoming meeting as we will be holding elections for new lodge officers. The offices are held for a period of two years and as with everything we do, we do collectively by membership vote. This is your time to voice your opinion on your representation.

** Should you not be able to attend the December meeting, we have attached absentee ballots. They must be in the lodge by the meeting date.

Officer Elections at Dec. Meeting

Our next meeting we will have our elections for new lodge officers. All positions are up for re-election and or new candidates. In accordance to by-laws, nominations were heard at our last meeting. The breakdown is as follows.

President: The current president Ric Piersol has elected to step down and the sole nominee for this office is Danny Isgett our current Vice President.

Unchallenged nominee for Vice Pres. Is brother Donald Dulin.

Unchallenged nominee for 2nd Vice President is brother Tim Glover.

Unchallenged nominee for Secretary is current

Secretary R.E. Sharpe.

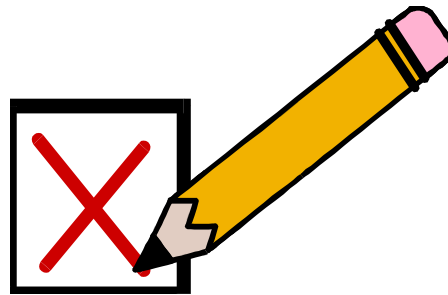
Unchallenged nominee for Treasurer is sister Cathy Bowers.

Unchallenged nominee for Sgt. At Arms is brother Robert Grimsley.

The challenged runoff will be between current Chaplain Bill Kofron and brother Russell Fickett.

We wish both candidates luck as they are both wor-

thy of this office.



Dues notices are out

That dreaded time is upon us again. We have mailed out our dues notices and have had many prompt responses. Please make sure that yours is in soon. As a member in good standing with our lodge you have among other things, life insurance that is active so long

as your dues are not in arrears. If you joined after August 2001, you will not be due until January 2003.



Honoring our past Officers

Our next meeting we will be honoring our outgoing lodge officers. We wish to note that many have been in loyal service of the Fraternal Order of Police for many years. Starting with our President we would like to share the following information about them.

Ric Piersol - President Has a total of 23 1/2 years of active law enforcement service. He started his career with 3 1/2 years with Myrtle Beach P.D. and 20 years with Charleston Co. P.D. and Sheriff's Office respectively. He served as S.C. FOP State Chaplain from 81-90 while serving also as lodge # 3 Chaplain from 81 - 89. He served lodge#3 as Secretary/treasurer 89 - 91 and has been lodge President from 91 to present.

David Merritts - Treasurer Retired 20 year veteran of the U.S. navy. Joined the S.C. Dept. of Corrections in 1989 and currently serves in capacity of Corporal administering drug tests throughout state facilities. He has served the lodge for 6 years as Secretary/Treasurer and 2 years as Treasurer.

Delores Swenson - Sgt. At Arms Retired Lt. From Essex County jail in New Jersey. She spent many years with the Essex County jail Annex and left as second in command. During her active service she has been active in the PBA and served in the union negotiating committee for the FOP while in New Jersey. She has been an active FOP member since 1975 and has served our lodge as Sgt. at Arms since 1995.

Bill Butler - 2nd Vice President Retired Citadel Public Safety Officer. He has been an active FOP member since 1982 and has served as 2nd Vice President for six years.

Chaplain Position Run Off

The upcoming election has two nominees vying for the position of Chaplain. This important position puts this Officer in contact with the public and particularly with the families of grief stricken law enforcement officers.

“this important position puts this officer in contact with the public”

Our current Chaplain Bill Kofron has served in this capacity for the past eight years and has held other positions since 1989. Currently he is medically retired.

The challenger for this position is Russell Fickett who is an active 9 year veteran with the North Charleston Police Dept.. He has been an active FOP member for 3 years.

In fairness, to avoid possible conflict, we will refrain from mentioning qualifications or further service history. Both will be given time to sell themselves at our next meeting. Good luck to both gentlemen.

President Piersol - Farewell Address

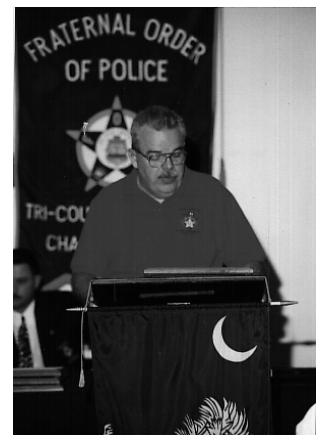
To my brothers and sisters of lodge #3 :

Thank you. Thank you for letting me serve you and our lodge as an officer for the last 18 years. Especially the last ten as your president. We as a lodge have accomplished many great things together and have experienced tremendous growth. I only steered the ship, we all have done the work. I wish to endorse brother Isgett as our next president. I think he has many good ideas, and if you'll work with him as you have with me, the lodge will continue to grow and prosper. Please give him and his new executive board your blessings as I have and 110% effort.

I have made many friends during my tenure, and none of you will be forgotten. You are all very special to me for many reasons too numerous to mention here. You will all be remembered in my prayers.

I will still be around. Like I said I have promised the new E-Board 110%. As the most recent past president I will still be obligated to my successor. Besides, the lodge means too much for me to stay away or stray too far. For those of you who don't make it to the Dec. meeting I wish you a happy holiday season.

Once again for letting me serve you. It has made me proud. - Ric Piersol



Award recipients for 2001

The meeting in November saw a great turnout to accompany the awards presentations. The following is a list of awards given.

Civilian Award of Merit - Mrs. Rhonda Jerome, for outstanding civic duty. She volunteers for numerous organizations including Carolina Children's Charities and is currently lobbying for better laws governing nursing homes and elder abuse.

Law Enforcement Award of Merit - Officer Sal Maestas (North Chas. Police) K-9 Officer commended for continued excellent service and recent work solving a case involving some 50 automobile break ins.

Law Enforcement Award of Merit -

Lt. David Moore (Dorchester Co. Sheriff) Det. James O'Dell (Chas. Co. Sheriff) Det. Joseph Burnette (Chas. Co. Sheriff)

Interstate Criminal Enforcement Unit "ICE".

Recognized for their exemplary work in drug interdiction on Hwy. 95 in Dorchester County. Collectively from Jan. 1, 2001 through Sept. 9th, 2001 they conducted 1,462 vehicle stops, 315 vehicle searches and issued 215 citations. They seized a total of 131 pounds of narcotics and seized \$1,233,426 in U.S. currency. They also arrested numerous fugitives and recovered several stolen vehicles.

Law Enforcement Award of Merit - Michael Ringley (Chas. Co Sheriff) Michael was recognized for excellence in his performance as a crime scene technician. Most noteworthy was his work on a homicide case involving the owner of the Best Bet gun and Pawn shop on Hwy. 61. His diligent efforts amounting to a "needle in the haystack" discovery of fingerprints that proved pivotal in the arrest of several suspects.

Award of Appreciation - Christopher Wells (Chas Co. Sheriff) for his initiative and assistance in our first annual "Badges for Blood" blood drive.

Law Enforcement Award of Merit - Sgt. Stephanie Bridge (Walterboro Police) recognized for her performance above duty in serving as head of her Dept.'s D.A.R.E. Program and assistance in a host of community programs.

Award of Appreciation- Sgt David Fuseler (Chas.Co. Sheriff) for his hours of hard work and upkeep of our lodge website www.scfop3.org

Membership Awards

The following members were recognized for their loyal membership.

25 years - James M. Hill
Charles O'Shinsky
James Shealy
Lawrence Severs
Edward Whitlock

15 years - Harold Bowick
J. Carol Brown

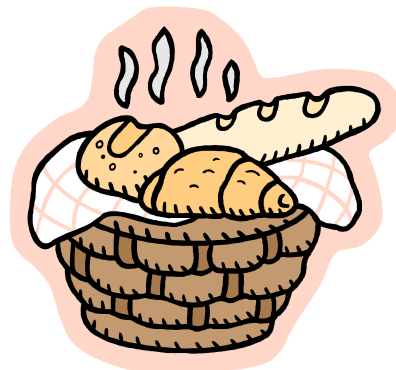
15 years - Shawn Corrigan
Nicholas Cuomo
Robert Dudley
James Glasser
Paul Helms
John Moody
Wanda Williamson

We wish to thank these members for their longstanding and valued affiliation.

Cooks Wanted:

The past year, the lodge bought dinner to be served at the meetings. In the years previous, the dinners were cooked by a volunteer. We have found through the years that many members have great culinary skills and have produced some interesting and tasty delights. We will continue to

purchase meals each time unless we have a volunteer to cook. Should you desire to give it a go, the lodge will provide the funds and the meal is chef's choice. We would hope to find more "hidden talents" in our midst.



S.C. FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE TRI-COUNTY LODGE # 3
"SERVING THE LAWMEN OF THE LOWCOUNTRY"

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Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org

The Tri-County Lodge is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Currently we have 211 active members and we are constantly growing. Our mission both local as well as national, is to better our profession through fraternalism and legally by way of legislation.

We work from the bottom to the top and value the ideas and opinions of all our members.

The "Informer" is a new lodge endeavor and we welcome any comments, criticisms, contributions or ideas for its improvement.

- Ed

Visitors from the UK

In addition to the wonderful time had by all at the November awards banquet, we were pleased to have two visiting constables from England. They are both employed with the Derbyshire Constabulary and were most interested in the law enforcement techniques of the Americans.

With some exceptions, it was amazing to note many similarities between police across the ocean. They reported that within the past year their dept. had their first suspect fatality at the hands of an armed Constable.

Pictured 4th and 5th from left are Constables David Cowlshaw (crime scene investigator) and Sam Goulding (patrol). Both constables got to shoot firearms

during their visit to the Charleston area. For one Constable it was the first time he had fired a weapon and the other it was the second.

Their concerns mirrored ours and both expressed they are "over worked and underpaid."

