

The Informer

Volume 1, Issue 6

February 2002

Special Points

- Retired Chas. City P.D. Captain John G. Clark died 1-24-02. An honorable policeman and long-standing FOP member., he was 80 yrs. old He will be missed.
- Insurance change - vote
- **NEXT MEETING—
MONDAY FEB 11th**

Charleston County Council Chairman Tim Scott To speak at 2-11-02 meeting

Charleston County Council Chairman Mr. Tim Scott will be present to speak at our Feb. meeting .

Mr. Scott is a graduate of Stall High School and holds a degree from Charleston Southern University where he achieved the Distinguished Service Award and also recognized as Alumni of the Year.

Currently he is the President of *Tim Scott & Associates* (Allstate Insurance Agency.) In addition to his council duties, he also serves on the Board of Directors for Trident United Way and Charleston County Aviation Authority.

3rd Annual LEO Appreciation Night A Success

February 3rd saw at the lodge, our third annual Law Enforcement Officer's Appreciation Night. This event has been set aside to honor our brothers and sisters of badge who serve in various capacities throughout the Tri-County area.

The attendance was better than 100 including Officers both active and retired, from the Federal, State and various local agencies.

This event has grown over the years and will most likely improve in many ways as the years pass. We look forward to hosting this Lowcountry tradition in the future.

This event was created for the sole purpose to allow Officers of various walks to get together in



an informal setting for some much needed "R&R." Certainly the last two months have been a damper on our profession here in South Carolina. We have seen much tragedy including the deaths of several well respected Officers.

It is with great pleasure that we extend the hand of friendship to all our brothers and sisters. It is our

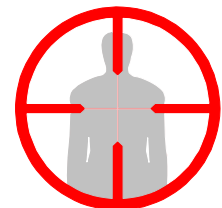
way of saying "thanks" for a job well done. This "thanks" comes from our organization as well as from the community, who without their support and contributions this event would not be possible. We hope that if you attended, you had a wonderful time and if you did not attend, we extend an open invitation to you and your guest for our next year's event.

Brother Dennis LaPage is slain

Most are aware that in January, Charleston City Police Officer Dennis LaPage was slain in cold blood. It is with much sorrow that we viewed the funeral ceremony for this upstanding officer. Please say a prayer for his family. He was well respected by all who knew him.

This event drives home the importance of our work and profession. We stand between those who kill and those who would be killed. Please show support for Officer LaPage by attending in uniform any court function his killer may appear. I pray we not have to wear

our mourning bands again this year. "But for the grace of God go I."



Highlight - Secretary



In an effort to familiarize our members with their elected leaders, the informer will highlight each officer through the next several issues. Your Secretary submits the following of himself:

I was born in Rome, Georgia and raised in the suburbs outside Atlanta. I have been in S.C. since 1985 and graduated Walterboro High School. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduation under the *Sea College* program. Spent most of my enlistment at sea serving in the capacity of ABH (landing signalsman enlisted) directing aircraft on the flight deck. Subsequent to the service, I worked as a machinist, heat treat specialist and insurance underwriter before finding my niche in Law Enforcement.

I began my career as an undergraduate from Trident Technical college. In 1992, I received my first commission under Sheriff Ray Isgett of Berkeley County as a reserve Deputy. In 1993 I began working with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Officer. While at the Detention Center, I served in various capacities spending my final year in the Tactical Action Control Team (T.A.C.T.)* akin to C.E.R.T. for those who may be familiar. From there, I spent two years as a Patrol Deputy covering James, Johns, Kiawah, Seabrook and Wadmalaw Islands. I was transferred from patrol to the Special Operations Bureau where I am to date, serving in the capacity of "warrants investigator," where I hunt down and apprehend people wanted for a variety of offenses. I have served as collateral functions on S.W.A.T. , the Honor Guard and the Search and Rescue team.

I will shortly see my tenth year of marriage and have two children. I write as a hobby and have been published nationally. This is my third year as lodge secretary. - R.E. (Reggie) Sharpe

S.C. Military Miniatures Society raises money for the lodge

On January 27th the South Carolina Military Miniatures Society held its annual Kiawah Toy Soldier Show and sale. Each year a charity is chosen to receive funds from the silent auction and raffle.

We are pleased that we were chosen this year to receive their donation. We respectfully acknowledge the Honorable Judge Jack Matthews and Mr. Rhett C. Dunaway of the S.C. Military Miniatures Society and appreciate their support. We are proud to report that the money given was placed in our fallen officer fund that it used to help provide for the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

Regretfully, we have had to use the fund much already this year. On behalf of the recipient families, we are sincerely grateful for your support.

"the money was placed in our fallen officer fund... To help provide for families.."

Paid insurance vs. self insurance - up for vote

As discussed in our last meeting, our current insurance has reached a point of diminishing returns. That is to say, our premiums increase with each new member. Currently our monthly premiums are around \$1400 and rising. This is for a benefit above and beyond the normal \$10,000 line of duty death benefit that we automatically receive through the state lodge.

I will propose that we discontinue our current additional insurance and opt instead for self insurance. Rather than \$1400 monthly to premiums, we will place \$1000 monthly into a death benefit account to give all our members an across the board (active or retired) death benefit regardless of cause. I will propose that for the first two years the death benefit be \$2500, to increase as our monetary buffer builds. It must be acknowledged that for the first three months, we must gamble there will be no deaths. Again, this proposal will not effect the standard benefits given through our state lodge, only the additional insurance exclusive to our lodge. Your thoughts and concerns should be heard at this meeting for it will be voted.— R.E. Sharpe



Roll call of Lodge Officers and Department Liaisons

President - Danny Isgett , active Lt. Charleston Co. Sheriff

Vice President - Donald Dulin, active Sgt. Charleston Co. Sheriff

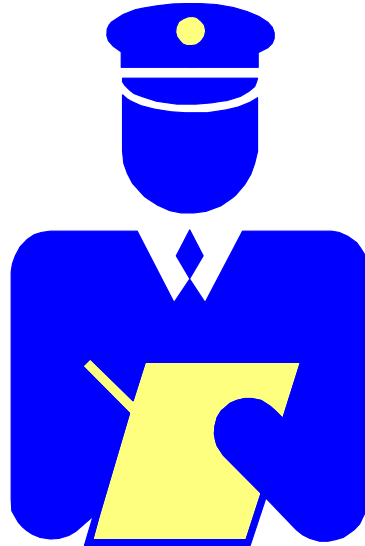
Treasurer - Cathy Bowers, retired Sgt. Trident Technical College Public Safety

Secretary - Reggie Sharpe, active Deputy Charleston Co. Sheriff

Chaplain - Russell Fickett, active Officer North Charleston Police

2nd Vice President - Timmy Glover, active Cpl. Summerville Police

Sgt.at Arms - Robert Grimsley, active Deputy Charleston Co.



Past President - Ric Piersol, active Deputy Charleston Co. Sheriff.

Liaisons -

Walterboro P.D. - Jim Clites

U.S. Customs - Tony Rahaim

Summerville P.D. - Doug Wright

Mt. Pleasant P.D. - Matt Pagliarini

Colleton Co. Sheriff - Steven English

N. Charleston P.D. - Roy Deloney

Charleston Co. Sheriff - Harold Phillips

Charleston Co. Detention - Nick Wagner

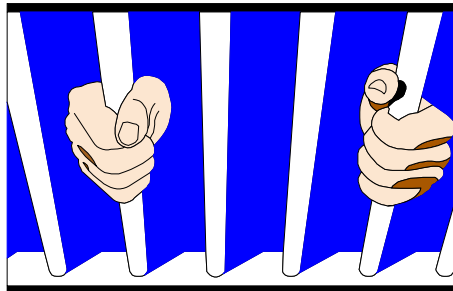
SCDC - David Merritts

Death Penalty Bill for Killing Police Officers - to be on the table soon

Having had four officers killed as of recent in our state: 2 in Beaufort, one in Horry County and one in Charleston, it has been proposed that South Carolina should pass a law that would provide the death penalty to anyone convicted of killing a police officer.

As of this writing, the author has little information about this issue. Since this is a legislative issue of great concern, it is expected that the state lodge will soon be providing us all information that may come available. We will be following this issue closely.

It is known that several other states have already enacted such laws and have met with some success. It is relatively early yet to evaluate deterrent effect.



This issue has produced much discussion amongst our brethren. It is interesting to see various state laws enacted and the public reaction to certain crimes. Please support this bill in any way you can. Perhaps someone will be spared in the future if a solid sentence is foreboding and carried out.

As food for thought, recently a suspect (in Charleston) was arrested for beating a dog with a hammer. The bond hearing was jam packed with reporters and television cameras. The very next case heard was that of a suspect charged with two counts of threatening the life of a public official and two counts of assaulting a police officer - no reporters found this newsworthy, the court was devoid of all news media. **“Criminals don’t need longer sentences, they need longer necks.”** - Judge Roy Bean

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 215 active members and we are steadily 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. ****Disclaimer**** This publication does not necessarily represent the views of any or all of our members or affiliated lodges. Editorial comment solely that of the editor.

** Since the Sept. 11th attacks, we have been asked to try and acquire some of the Blue Line badge covers / mourning bands produced by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.. We finally received our back order of fifty. They will be available on a first come, first serve basis at \$ 5 each.

Special Thanks From The Lodge



The lodge wishes to formally recognize those individuals and businesses without whom our Law Enforcement Appreciation Night could not have been so special. Please thank these people personally when the opportunity presents itself. We could not function as a lodge without such thoughtful support.

Home Depot of Summerville, Lowe's of Summerville, Dillard's Dept. Store, Friends of the H.L. Hunley, Edwin Watts Golf, Cypress Gardens, Radio Shack, The Old Exchange, David Gobel, Alligator Adventure, South Carolina Sting-

rays, Palmetto Carriage Rides, Carolina Polo Carriage Rides, The Barber Shop at Northbridge, Carolina Rust-proofing, Tom Potarios, Stylettes, Ciscos Café, Texas Roadhouse, O' Charley's, Jersey Mike's, Gerald's Tires and Brakes, Wild Wing Café, Applebee's, Phoenix Rising Photography, The Plex, Red Lobster, Perkins, In and Out Car Wash, Delux Car Wash, Wingate Inn, The Courtyard by Marriott, Sticky Fingers, Piggly Wiggly, Shogun Japanese Restaurant, Magnolia's, High Cotton, Wal Mart of West Ashley, Wal Mart of Summerville, Outback Steakhouse, ATP

Gunshop, Regal Cinemas, The Crab Shack, Cathy Bowers, John Wilson, Christian Bunce, Donald Dulin, Harold Phillips, Carol Smith, Doug Wright, Timmy Glover, and George Knowlton.

We again thank those sponsors and individuals who assisted. We are truly grateful for your support and encourage our members to patronize your establishments.