

# The Informer

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2002

## Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY Dec. 9th**  
**7:00 p.m.**
- **Brother Bell - slain**
- Awards ceremony
- Dues notices out
- Beaufort officer injured
- *Thin Blue Line*
- Officer Distress Fund
- Christmas Party
- State Newsletter Contest
- December meeting held in honor of Brother Bell.

Let us not forget as we celebrate, that "Christ" is the root word in Christmas. May you and yours have a merry and safe holiday.

### \*Special Kudos\*

Our lodge is greatly indebted to the work of the building committee. In the past month they have made major repairs to the lodge building, created cabinets for the kitchen and installed our dishwasher. Thanks to members Lester Eckert, Russell Fickett, Chris Ross and Jim Ward for all their hard work.

## Brother William Bell - killed on duty



**William Boland Bell**  
**Summerville Police Department**

Brother Bell was a fine officer and loyal lodge member. He was father-in-law to Sgt. Doug Wright also of the Summerville Police Dept.. His ultimate sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Brother William Bell a lodge member from the Summerville Police Dept. was, along with Deputy Marion Wright of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, struck and killed roadside Hwy. 17A. It was around 1800 hrs. on Tuesday November 19th, 2002. Bell and Wright were assisting a stranded motorist when another motorist left the roadway striking both officers killing them instantly.

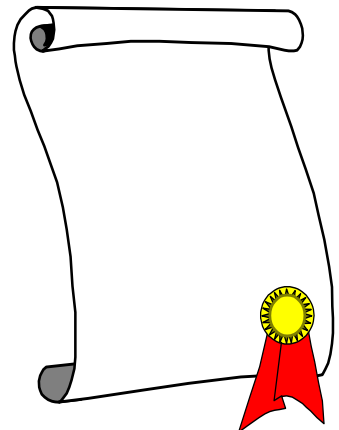
A witness to the event held the suspect motorist (who attempted to flee after the wreck) until other officers arrived. He was arrested and charged with felony DUI. We will not publish further details as to not jeopardize the prosecution's case. *May justice be served well.....*

Patrolman Bell had been in law enforcement for about two and one-half years. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren. Please say a prayer for them during this holiday season.

*Godspeed brother Bell, you will be missed*

## Awards Ceremony December 9th

There has not been many officers submitted to the lodge to be recognized by our lodge on awards night. You may submit a person or a group. They do not have to be members of the FOP. Any law enforcement officer (includes Detention Officers) can be submitted for performing their duties above and beyond the call of duty. Please submit your recommendations to Dan Isgett at [LTDANCCSO@AOL.COM](mailto:LTDANCCSO@AOL.COM) as soon as possible.



## **The Thin Blue Line by Eddie Bush CD single**

The CD single "*The Thin Blue Line*" by Eddie Bush will be available by the Dec. 7th meeting. Our lodge wants to thank Steve Bollinger, owner of Blue Line Productions that owns the copyright to The Thin Blue Line and the Black Blue Black logo, for allowing us to use the name and logo for the cd. The cd is being pressed at this time. 1000 cds have been ordered. Eddie Bush, who is an associate member of our lodge, has stated that he wants to donate all the proceeds from the *Thin Blue Line* at the State Board meeting and his Dec. 13th concert at The Plex to the families of William Bell and Gene Wright. If the lodges around the state will take orders for the cd from their membership, they will be available at the Dec. 7, State Board Meeting.



## **State Newsletter/Motto contest**

Name the State Newsletter / State Motto contest. It is not too late to enter. Submit your suggestions to LTDANC-CSO@AOL.COM. The State will pay the winner \$50. All entries received prior to Dec. 6th will be taken to the State Eboard. The top 5 as voted on by the State E board will be placed on the Tri-County 3 website at [www.scfop3.org](http://www.scfop3.org) as the poll question. You can only vote once. The poll will determine the winner. Only the suggestions will be posted not the person. \$\$

## **Beaufort City Officer injured in procession**

Lt. Clifford Schlegelmilch of the Beaufort City Police Department was critically injured when he wrecked his motorcycle during the funeral procession of Summerville Patrolman William Bell. He is currently at the Trident Medical Center in North Charleston in the intensive care unit. Please take the time to visit with his family there and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Officer Distress Fund**

Last year our lodge created a special fund called the Officer Distress Fund. This fund was created so that our lodge can assist officers and the families of officers killed or critically injured in the line of duty or in a time of crisis. We have used numerous fundraisers to fund this account to include the United Way, Bi-Lo bonus program, the sales of CD singles from Eddie Bush and Charleston Express. A fund raiser at Bourbon Street Cafe also helped fund this account. So far this year we have assisted 13 officers and donated over \$3400. These officers were from all around the state and most were not FOP members. The response we have been given from the families has made this effort very worthwhile. Tri-County 3 wants to thank all of you that have assisted with this fund. We strive to uphold our creed "serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry."

## **Lodge Christmas Party - December 14th**

The Tri-County 3 / Berkeley 19 will be having their Christmas party at the lodge on Saturday December 14th, 7PM till Midnight. The tickets are \$10 per person and will include food, beverage and entertainment. The Liaisons will have the tickets for sale. They will be available at the Dec. 9th meeting. The tickets will be available to the first 100 persons. Make sure to come join the fellowship of this night.

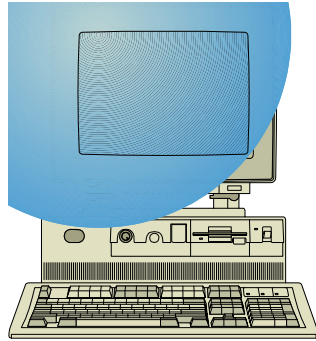
## **Bad Press**

We recently were featured on the news concerning our telephone solicitations. It was pointed out that we receive only a small portion of these donations. This is completely true as we have yet to find any telephone solicitors who will work for free. We will elaborate on this our next meeting as well as next Informer issue.

## Lodge website upgraded

Our lodge website of [www.scfop3.org](http://www.scfop3.org) has recently seen a major upgrade. The worthy Sgt. John C. Blackmon of Hanahan P.D. has shown considerable talent in our new format. He is to take sole credit for the new website and we extend kudos for the hard work expended.

The website, aside from the new look, features a "fallen heroes" section. We will attempt to gather as much information as possible about our fallen brothers within the Tri-County.



Here we would enlist the help of anyone who may have information or pictures of any one of the brothers listed. We will use this data to keep an updated website, but more importantly we would like to make a permanent

and accurate display at the lodge. Please submit any direct information you may have, or the source of any information you believe is available.

The website also includes some "new" links, and we would encourage you to check them out. It also contains an improved "upcoming" and "previous" events section. We will make every attempt to keep the website current, informative and would hope to see it to be a valuable resource to our members.

## Yard sale for Deputy Hurn a success !

This lodge assisted the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Yard Sale to benefit Deputy Steve Hurn.

This event was very successful and raised more than \$4600 dollars to assist Steve. There is still a long way to go to assist Steve in his recovery from his stroke he suffered earlier this year.

Please contact our lodge if you would like to assist this deputy. Our Lodge is planning on an upcoming fundraiser and we will announce this event when the details are set.

## S.C. State F.O.P. Conference - Myrtle Beach Oct. 4th - 6th



### South Carolina Lodge Fraternal Order of Police

This was the 25th anniversary of the State Lodge. The event was held from October 4th thru October 6th in Myrtle Beach. Coastal Carolina Lodge 12 was the host lodge and performed an excellent job providing for all the needs of the conference. Members were entertained at the conference with a trip to Medieval Times and the appearance of performing artists. Delegates heard from State and local candidates seeking election in November and also elected State FOP Officers. 89 delegates and approximately 50 other alternates and guests attended this year's conference making it a very successful event.

Local recording artist Eddie Bush performed on October 4th "Spirit of America" and debuted his new song "The Thin Blue Line" to the delegates at

the 2002 State conference and received an overwhelming response. All the delegates and National Officer guests were in attendance for this performance. This was the first public performance of "The Thin Blue Line" and Eddie Bush advised he will be recording the song within the upcoming month.

The Charleston Express performed on October 5th for the delegates their new version of "Behind the Shining Badge". They also received an immediate standing ovation from all delegates. They returned at the hospitality room later that night and performed for over an hour for the delegates. Both artists were brought to the convention on behalf of the Tri-County lodge in support of the "Distressed Officer Fund". Through their efforts, the lodge raised several hundred dollars for the fund.

Cd singles to benefit The Distressed Officer Fund are available. "Behind the Shining Badge" by The Charleston Express and "Spirit of America" by Eddie Bush are available. Send a check or money order for \$5 per cd made out to:

FOP Tri-County Lodge 3  
P.O. Box 62469 North Charleston, SC 29419  
or contact President Dan Isgett at [Ltdanccso@aol.com](mailto:Ltdanccso@aol.com) to get a copy of these cds. The radio station WEZL will also be selling these cds for us.

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

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Tri - County Lodge # 3

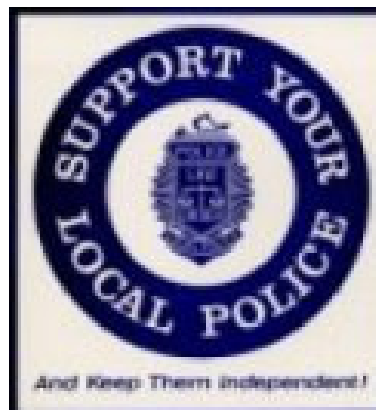
*"Serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry"*

***We are on the web!***  
***www.scfop3.org***

The Tri-County Lodge (founded in 1976) is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Currently we have 251 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.



## Dues notices are out



With this issue of the Informer, if your dues are up for renewal you should have received a notice. If you did not receive a notice, then you are good until the 2004 dues cycle. For those who did receive notice, please take the time to fill out the questions on the form. Pay particular attention as to whether you have a beneficiary on file with us. As we have recently had to deal with death claims, this issue is of particular importance. We would certainly not wish anyone to die, but in dealing with the inevitable, we would want to handle your affairs as you wished and eliminate any guesswork. This applies not only to active police officers who have line of duty death benefits, but to all our active members who are covered by our exclusive self-insurance benefit paid regardless of manner of death. If there is any doubt as to who you have listed as your beneficiary or if you would like to update your file, please contact secretary Sharpe via lodge telephone 744-7255 or via pager at 728-6363. Do not put this off. I have recently attempted to add this information to our computer database. If I indicated that you do not have a beneficiary on file and you are certain that you have submitted one, make contact with me to be sure that I have simply not placed it on this record. All records are intact in paper file and I may just need to add yours to the computer file. All help in this matter appreciated.

**\*Note\*** I included a comment/suggestion area on the dues notice. Make your feelings known. All will be taken into consideration. As your lodge officers, we are accountable and aim to please.