

The Informer

Volume 2, Issue 5

January 2003

Special Points

• NEXT MEETING

MONDAY Jan 13th

7:00 p.m.

- **Mike Loftis - guest speaker**
- Recruitment challenge
- 2002 in review
- President in the Paper
- Awards night success
- 4th Annual LEO Appreciation Night
- Christmas with a Cop
- State Motto Contest
- Deadly year for officers

Congratulations to Officer Jimmy Clites of Walterboro PD who won the \$50 for the newsletter contest. The State Newsletter will be named "Behind the Badge."

****Welcome****

New Members

We appreciate your affiliation and hope to live up to any and all expectations you may have of our lodge. We are constrained only by our efforts and look forward to a productive new year on behalf of all our members. Get involved and have some fun in the process.

Executive Director to speak Jan. 13th

Michael Loftis is the Executive Director of the S.C. Fraternal Order of Police. He is primarily our State level lobbyist and is the only paid F.O.P. employee in S.C.. He will be our guest speaker at our next lodge meeting. Mr. Loftis provided the following about himself:

I began my law enforcement career in 1977 with the Anderson Police Department, left in 1980 for a position with then S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept. now known as The Department of Natural Resources. Retired December of 2001. I was hired as the SCFOP Executive Director in July of 2002.

I am married, have 2 sons, one is an officer with the Anderson Police Dept. I have been involved with the FOP since 1978. I have held every position except Secretary in Anderson Lodge #10. I have been the President of that lodge for the Past 10 years. I have served as the Chairman of the SC Law Enforcement Memorial for the passed 10 years.

**** We are proud to have Mr. Loftis on our team and are looking forward to his visit. Your attendance is encouraged for this next meeting. He is available anytime via written correspondence at 602 Walnut Way
Anderson, S.C. 29626**

Below is his latest report as our Executive Director:

As we begin a new year we must look back at our accomplishments in 2002 and be proud of the leadership and the work they have done. We got three pieces of our legislative package passed, something that had never happened before. An executive director and a lobbyist were hired. Three new persons joined our board of directors. But we also have to remember our losses, the officers who have died in 2002 and our good friend Ray Franklin.

As we enter 2003 we must all work together to bring those officers who are not members in our lodges into the fold. The membership committee has given you the tools to go out into the areas you work and recruit within all the departments in your area. That's what it takes the one on one with the officers in your area, explaining the FOP and its goals. I hope each one of you will take this material and reach out to your fellow officers.

We have a great legislative package going into 2003, but we will need your assistance in contacting your local legislators. Take time to attend meetings locally, introduce yourself to them and ask for their support. That one on one contact does a lot. I am excited that hopefully in January the appropriations bill for the memorial will be approved and we can begin construction on our memorial this spring. Thank you for letting me serve as your Executive Director and if I can ever be of any assistance, feel free to contact me.

Recruitment and Retention

The past several years, our lodge has seen steady growth of membership. Retention has been good overall, which is an indication that we are noticeably headed in the right direction. We have made recent gains in several departments and would hope to see more. As our numbers grow, our voice in the State as well as the National lodge grows stronger. This also assists in being able to help advance favorable legislation. We would challenge every member to sponsor at least one new member for the new year. As the numbers go, we could double in size in 2003.

The following is a breakdown of Tri-County Depts. and numbers of our active members (excluding retirees from abroad)

Aviation Authority - 0	State Ports Authority - 1
Charleston Co. Sheriff - 103, jail - 12	Sullivan's Island P.D. - 0
Citadel Public Safety - 3	Trident Tech. College Public Safety - 7
Colleton Co. Sheriff - 7	U.S. Customs - 2
Cottageville P.D. - 0	U.S. Marshall - 1
DHEC - 4	
V.A. Police - 4	
Dorchester Co. Sheriff - 0	
FBI - 0	
Folly Beach P.D. - 0	
Hanahan P.D. - 9	
Isle of Palms P.D. - 3	
Lincolntonville P.D. - 0	
Mt. Pleasant P.D. - 6	
M.U.S.C. Public Safety - 3	
N. Charleston P.D. - 25	
S.C. Dept. of Corrections - 3	

As you can see, there are many agencies that operate in or around our respective jurisdictions and lodge charter districts. It is even likely that I may have omitted an agency (unintentional.) It is obvious that there are many potential members. If we can tap these resources we can accomplish many goals. Foremost, we can help bring about a greater flow of interdepartmental information to benefit the public as well as the individual agencies. Secondly, we have the capacity to grow fraternally to become not only the leading voice of law enforcement in South Carolina but a competitive voice on a national scale.

President Isgett in Post & Courier

Fallen heroes - by Dan Isgett

This year has been one of law enforcement's deadliest years in the Lowcountry. Four officers were killed in the line of duty and two were killed in off-duty accidents. The dangers faced by our men and women officers are not fully recognized by many of the public they serve and protect.

Every day these officers face dangers that may critically injure them or take their lives. Domestic disputes, civil disturbances, traffic stops. Many of their everyday duties pose risks to them. Yet, these heroes of our community report to work every day to perform their duties. Not only do they have to perform their normal duties but now are the first line of defense against terrorism.

These same officers are overworked and underpaid. They seem to be the last in line for pay raises, are requested to work overtime for comp time or less than time and a half, while continually facing a cutback in benefits. Of course, not all agencies are the same.

Please take the time to commend those officials at cities and counties that do provide for their officers. Also, the next encounter you have with one of the Lowcountry's finest, thank them for the job they do and the risks they take on our behalf.



The above article was featured as a letter to the Editor in the *Post & Courier*, Wednesday Jan. 1st, 2003 and subsequently posted on the web at <http://www.charleston.net/pub/news/letters/01letters.htm>
Well done - Ed.

4th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night - Jan. 26, 2003

The Tri-County Lodge will be hosting it's Fourth Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night on January 26, 2003. The night is always set on Superbowl Sunday Night. This event is free to all Law Enforcement Officers and their guest. The lodge will provide food, beverages and door prizes. The lodge will open at 5 pm. The purpose of the event is to show our appreciation to all of the law enforcement officers in our community for the jobs they do. It provides a time for these officers to get together with officers across the tri-county in a social setting and enjoy a night of fellowship. Officers do not have to be a member of the FOP to attend.

Go to www.scfop3.org for directions. This event gets better each year, don't miss out !

Deadly Year for Lowcountry Officers



This past year was a tragic one for the Lowcountry Law Enforcement community.

In January, PFC LaPage of the Charleston City Police Department was shot and killed by a suspect who went on a shooting spree following a three car accident he was involved in at Cannon Street and Courtney Drive. Later in the year, State Trooper, Corporal Johnson was shot and killed while conducting a holiday-weekend public safety checkpoint in Berkeley County. In August, Charleston City Police Officer, Anthony Brown was killed when a tanker he was driving overturned and exploded along a stretch of Hwy. 78 in Dorchester County. He was working off-duty at the time. In November, two officers were killed during the same incident. Deputy Gene Wright of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office was off duty assisting a motorist with a flat tire and was assisted by Patrolman William Bell of the Summerville Police Department when a truck struck the Summerville police car then the two officers. Then in December, North Charleston Police Officer Ernest Barnette was killed in a single car accident in Moncks Corner when he was returning home from an off-duty assignment. PFC. LaPage and Officer Brown were members of Charleston Metropolitan Lodge 5, Trooper Johnson and Deputy Gene Wright were members of Berkeley Lodge 19 and Officer Bell was a member of Tri-County Lodge #3. The Tri-County area has never had a year with as many Officers killed. Please remember these officers and keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Awards Night

At our previous meeting on December 9th, the lodge dedicated the meeting to the memory of Summerville Officer William Bell. Officer Bell was the only Tri-County 3 member to ever be killed in the line of duty. 144 people attended this meeting. This meeting we held our annual awards ceremony. Members are asked to submit their fellow officers they feel deserve recognition. The following persons were given Certificates of Meritorious Service: Deputy Jason Dandridge, Dorchester Co., Chief Roy Whitehead, Summerville PD, Deputy Alan Williams, Charleston Co., Sgt. Doug Wright, Summerville PD, S/Sgt. Brian Freeman, Colleton Co., Deputy Terron Grant, The Tri-County Motor squads; Charleston County – Sgt. Ollie Puckett, Deputy Robert Grimsley, Deputy Bobby Nesbit, Deputy Paul Kisloski, Deputy Chris Schwerin, Deputy Mike Burrell. North Charleston Police Department – Rick Dean, Billy Brinson, Todd Morgan Summerville Police Department – Timmy Glover. Two citizens were honored: Bruce Godwin and Ray Marshall. Certificates of Appreciation were given to: Dillards Dept. Store Northwoods Mall, The Plex, Trey Hardee, Lester Eckert- Retired Chas. Co. PD, Russell Fickett- NCPD, Chris Ross-NCPD, Billy Hitchinson- Charleston Co., Phil Cahoon - Retired Citadel Public Safety and Carol Smith. Special Recognition was given to Sgt. John Blackmon- Hanahan Pd, Reggie Sharpe- Charleston Co. and Eddie Bush. Cathy Bowers was present the Member of the year award. Please go to www.scfop3.org to our website to read these awards. They will be posted until our next

New Poll on lodge website

The Motto for the State Lodge. Due to the length of some submissions, the entire motto could not be entered.

1 should read "America's largest and South Carolina's best Law Enforcement Organization."

#3 should read "We serve with love, Stand with pride, SC Law Enforcement."

You can vote at www.scfop3.org. The poll will be up till the end of January 2003.

"Christmas with a Cop"

Lodge 3 participated in their first Christmas with a cop. On Guard services assisted with the fund raising for the event. The lodge targeted families in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Members met with families at the Wal-Mart in Summerville at I-26 and the Wal-Mart in Walterboro. We were able to assist Law Enforcement families in crisis and other needy families in the community. We would like to thank all the Officers who participated to make it a success; Dan Isgett, Donald Dulin, Madeline Findlay, Anderson Polite, Allen Inabinett, Alyssa Bodison, Thomas Neese, Stephanie Bridges and Al Lewis. We also want to thank DSS workers, Tina Bridge and Andrea Miley and the Wal-Mart stores for

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 265 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 an evolving lodge endeavor. Any comments, criticisms or ideas for improvement are welcomed. ****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.

2002 - The Year in Review

Tri-County 3 has had a very successful year. We have added new Officers to the lodge that have brought with them energy and enthusiasm. We have started a new tradition of having a high profile Law Enforcement related person speak at our meetings. Our Lodge has created a Distressed Officer Fund to assist Officers all across South Carolina that have been killed or critically injured in the line of duty or other crisis. Our Lodge has had several fundraisers to support this program to include the Bi-Lo Boosters program and the sales of CD singles "The Thin Blue Line", " Spirit of America" by Eddie Bush and "Behind the Shining Badge" by Charleston Express. Both artists have agreed to donate all proceeds from the cd to the Officer Distressed Fund. We also started participating in Cops and Lobsters with the assistance of Red Lobster and raised \$2000 for the Special Olympics. Our lodge participated in an Anti-Drug / Gang awareness magazine campaign and participated in the "Christmas with a Cop" program. Members again this year participated in Law Enforcement Day at Northwood's Mall, which provides great exposure for our lodge. We continued to assist our youth by sponsoring baseball teams in our area. We also supported our elderly residents by gift baskets during thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays. This year our lodge also played a major role in the 9-11 tribute to honor our local heroes in Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS departments. This event was held at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center and was a very moving experience with speeches by local mayors, clergy and line officers of the Police, Fire and EMS departments. We have our website up and running. WWW.SCFO3.ORG. It has very helpful information and includes a memorial section that documents every officer killed in the line of duty in the tri-county area. If a picture is available it is there and also the account of the event is there. We are very proud of this site and ask you take the time to visit the site.

Our lodge experienced the loss of member William Bell, in a line-of-duty death. This incident greatly affected our lodge. This was the first Tri-County 3 member killed in the line of duty. The lodge dedicated the December 9th meeting to him and will hang a photo portrait of him in the lodge. Tri-County Lodge 3 is very