

# The Informer

Volume 2, Issue 9

May 2003

## Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY May 12th**  
**7:00 p.m.**
- **Sally Guerry - guest speaker**
- Low Country LEO Memorial
- Cops & Lobsters
- SCV make donation
- C.O.P.S.
- Unique Brotherhood
- Attend a meeting
- State website forum

*Have you recruited a new member this year?*

**\*\*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.

## Tri-County Police Memorial 2003

Tri-County Lodge 3, Charleston Lodge 5, Berkeley County Lodge 19 along with the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy sponsored the Tri-County Police Memorial. The ceremony was held on May 6th at 10:00 AM at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. This is the first time the FOP has sponsored the ceremony. Chuck Canterbury was a guest speaker and Eddie Bush performed "The Thin Blue Line." Most of the agencies in the Tri-County took a part in assisting with the ceremony. There has been excellent cooperation in putting this event together. A committee was formed with members from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police Department, Charleston City Police Department, Charleston County Aviation Authority, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, Summerville Police Department, The South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy. This committee made this ceremony possible. There are plans to have the event each year at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center the first Tuesday of May.

We would like to thank, The City of North Charleston, The North Charleston Performing Arts Center, Kinkos, Charleston Printing, Creech's Florist, Eddie Bush and FOP President Chuck Canterbury for their assistance. *Godspeed* our fallen brothers.

## Cops & Lobsters a great success

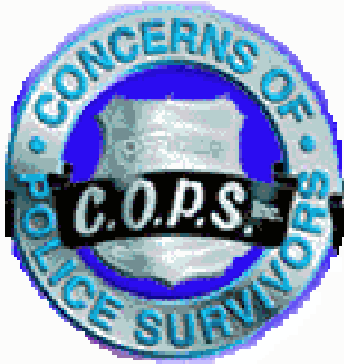


On April 30, 2003, members of Tri-County Lodge 3 volunteered for the *COPS and Lobsters* fundraiser for the Special Olympics. The members raised \$2211.

We would like to thank brother Harold Phillips for chairing the event and the following member volunteers: Dan Isgett, Joyce Kephart, Johnny Wilson, Reggie Sharpe, Cathy Bowers, Harry Long, Angie Palmer, Delmar Powell, Mike Ringley, Ralph Hudson, Kevin Joyce, Denice Schwerin and \*Shawn James (who proved to be very adept in this endeavor.) We would also like to thank the assistance of lodge 5 members, Naomi Morris, Robin Oliver and Mike Knox. This was our second year and we raised \$200 more than last year.

We consider the Special Olympics to be a worthy charity and are grateful to Red Lobster for assisting us in raising money for the local chapter. Everyone had a wonderful time and some great food. Come out next year and join in!

## C.O.P.S. President to speak at May meeting



Sally Guerry will be the guest speaker for our May 12 meeting. Mrs. Guerry is the President of Carolina COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors). She has served as president for the last 6 yrs. Her husband, Spencer Guerry of the Georgetown Police Department was killed in the line of duty, March 9, 1994. She will address the membership of issues that the National and State Level COPS become involved with.

### About C.O.P.S.

On May 14, 1983, on the eve of the second annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service, ten young widows gathered around a table and talked about the tragedies that had fallen on their families that year and truly shattered their lives. Each and every widow had suffered the loss of their law enforcement spouse in the line of duty.

After hours of sharing their burden of grief and their tales of abandonment by the law enforcement agency, a young widow from Eau Claire, WI, Lynn Bolton (now BeBeau) approached Suzie Sawyer, then FOP Auxiliary National Secretary and Memorial Service Coordinator, and stated, "This is the greatest thing that has happened to me in the past year. I have finally found people who understand what I am having to deal with. Next year couldn't we have a seminar?" Suzie Sawyer replied, "And what would we talk about -- death?"

"Yes," the young widow replied. "Somebody needs to talk about death in law enforcement!"

That was the birth of the concept of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., which was officially organized on May 14, 1984. On that day 110 law enforcement survivors from all across the country gathered for the first annual National Police Survivors' Seminar held in Washington, DC. At that activity, the survivors voted unanimously to organize COPS as a totally separate entity from any police organization so the needs of any law enforcement surviving family could be met regardless of what police political affiliation the officer had with various police labor organizations. (source : [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org))

## State Lodge website forum

If you haven't checked out the State lodge website [www.scfop.org](http://www.scfop.org), you should. The talented Sgt. Blackmon of Hanahan P.D. has included a "forum" section where members can post messages and receive replies. He updates news entries frequently and quite often from sources not readily available locally.

Give it a try, find out what others around the state feel on certain issues or have questions answered by professionals around the state.

### Come to a meeting

Our lodge continues to grow each month and it speaks volumes for our success. We would like to see higher attendance at the monthly meetings.

We have for the last two years, been offering a guest speaker at each meeting. Always a wonderful meal and on several accounts, some musical entertainment.

Each meeting offers the opportunity to meet a wide variety of professionals, ask questions, voice concerns and make friends on an informal level.

Your presence may just benefit someone else. Come to a meeting and have some fun, you may be surprised.

## Brotherhood like no other .....

It is difficult to describe to others, how I - a policeman feel, when I hear of a fallen brother. The feeling that I get when I listen to the eulogies, see the spectrum of uniforms and see the faces of the families involved. The chill and the raised neck-hairs when taps is played. The lump in my throat and the tears that are difficult to choke back... The non-policeman just cannot understand.

I have been to many police funerals, too many. I have come to understand why I feel as I do. For every officer I see that has fallen, I tend to see myself in his place. I do what he does, as he died doing what I still do. We all understand that our lives are literally on the line each tour of duty. The Patrol Officer assisting a disabled motorist, the officer working an off-duty gig, the Deputy on his way home. Death awaits at every turn, from the high risk warrant service to the mundane. You never really know when and how it will culminate, only that it can.

I do not cry at the death of a stranger. I have never met a "cop" who was a stranger. We are all brothers and sisters. I cannot help but to proudly shed a tear for the death of a family member.

- R.E. Sharpe

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***



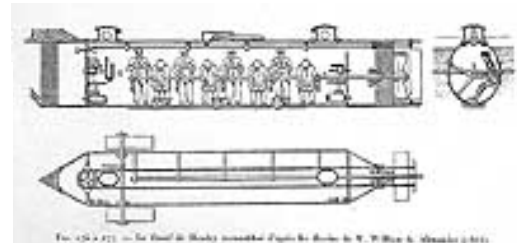
The Tri-County Lodge (founded in 1976) is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Currently we have 281 active members and we are steadily growing. Our mission both local as well as national, is to better our profession through fraternalism 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.



## SCV H.L. Hunley Camp #143 donates to lodge

[www.hlhunleycamp143.com](http://www.hlhunleycamp143.com)



During our fundraiser at the Flowertown festival in Summerville, several members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans - (H.L. Hunley Camp) took note of our activities. They were impressed to see members of our lodge as well as officers of the Summerville Police Department, raising money to send surviving family members of fallen officer William Bell to the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C..

At our lodge meeting held March 14th, Mr. Walker Wright, Mr. Larry Jameson, Mr. Walter Bailey and Mr. Joe Willis, presented the lodge with a check for \$500 on behalf of the H.L. Hunley Camp. This was done as an unsolicited act of benevolence and we are grateful for their support.

William Bell was the first lodge # 3 member in 25 years to die in the line of duty. Our distressed officer fund, combined with assistance from caring community members will enable us to send the family of William Bell and several Summerville Policeman on Bell's squad, to this year's memorial to be honored by President George W. Bush and thousands of our Nation's finest.

Thanks again on behalf of our lodge, the family of Brother Bell and the Summerville Police Dept..