



*S.C. Fraternal Order of Police Tri-County Lodge # 3
"Serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry"*

The Informer

Volume 2, Issue 12

August 2003

Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**
MONDAY August 11th
7:00 p.m.
- **Capt. L.C. Knight - guest speaker**
- Reminders
- Last meeting highlights
- Mon. Night Football
- Law Enforcement Day at the mall Sept. 6th
- Frisbee Golf at Park Circle
- FAQ
- Merchandise
- Pool Party
- Editorial

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.

Capt. L.C. Knight - S.L.E.D. to speak at meeting



Captain L. C. Knight of S.L.E.D., the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, will be our guest speaker for our Aug. 11th meeting. Captain Knight is a 28 year Law Enforcement veteran with S.L.E.D.. Captain Knight is a lifelong resident of Dorchester County, a Graduate of Summerville High School and the Baptist College. He is currently the Captain assigned to the lowcountry region of South Carolina - which includes the lower 12 counties of the State. His division investigates all man-

ners of crime in those counties and investigates officer involved incidents. Captain Knight will provide our members with insight as to the many services that S.L.E.D. offers.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with Capt. Knight on an informal level and ask any questions you may have concerning S.L.E.D. functions. Captain Knight is a noted professional and held in high regard amongst his peers. Make every effort to attend.



The State Lodge "Glock Giveaway" contest will end on Sept. 16th. If you have not already submitted your information to participate, enter online at www.scfop.org and click on "glock giveaway."

Reminders

August is the last month to participate in our summer recruitment drive, recruit a new member to enter the drawing for Regal Cimenas gift certificates. Also there is no charge for the meeting dinner if you bring a new member application.

This newsletter is available from our website as well as legal defense forms, membership applications and beneficiary forms that can be printed out.

Last Meeting - Highlights

Our guest speaker was talk radio host "Rocky D." He spoke of his personal feelings in support of us "coppers." He had attended the Police Academy in Illinois, but opted instead for a career in the media. His speech was comical with hard hitting common sense on some serious issues. He was enjoyed by all present.

Brother Ed Ott produced the meal for the evening - Texas chilli with all the fixings. Excellent dinner! Kudos Brother Ott, well done.

Ten new members were voted in. Good results on the recruitment drive.

Sister Kephart and Brother David Lee won prizes in the recruitment drawing (\$20 gift certificates to Regal Cinema .)

Motion passed for lodge to vote 100% for Chuck Canterbury in the National election for FOP President and likewise for Darrell Lewis as National Trustee.



Motion passed to provide \$350 to pay for postage to send care packages to soldiers serving in Iraq in the 101st Airborne Division. Brother David Lee (SCHP) his wife Sandy, along with several others, make up the care packages. * Sgt. Beiderman of the 101st was present at our June meeting and expressed gratitude for the care package he had received from our earlier efforts. They are very appreciative.

Read thank you note from family of injured officer upstate. We had provided assistance through the distressed officer fund.

Law Enforcement Day Sept. 6th



The lodge will again have a table at Law Enforcement Day at NorthWoods Mall. We will have brochures, applications and information about the Lodge. We will have pens and other merchandise to give away. This provides a great opportunity to meet with the public as well as talk to other officers about the benefits of our organization.

We will need volunteers for this event and we are trying to coordinate as early as possible. If you have any experience with or ideas for a display, please come forward. *We try to improve on all our endeavors each time. Please contact Dan Isgett via e-mail at ltidancso@aol.com if you can assist. Any time or effort you could contribute will be welcomed.

Monday Night Football



The lodge will be open for Monday Night Football starting with the first regular season game. The lodge will have chips and beverages for members (adult beverages are allowed, however will not be provided by the lodge.) If anyone is interested in being a host (to open and secure lodge) please contact Dan Isgett via lodge telephone 744-7255 or e-mail ltidancso@aol.com. Come watch the game on the big screen and enjoy some fellowship!

Disc Golf at Park Circle

I am seeking input about launching a lodge sponsored event in the near future. For those unfamiliar, disc golf aka "frisbee golf" is a recent sport, gaining strength and popularity nationally.

At Park Circle in North Charleston, there is an "18 hole" course. The game is similar to golf in that you attempt to get the frisbee in the basket (hole) in the least amount of throws (strokes.) The course has obstacles—trees / bushes and the basket is an elevated chain apparatus that catches the frisbee, with each hole having its own par. Those serious about the sport have regulation "discs" which are specific sizes and weights. Some even have heavier or lighter ones, mimicking the "woods," "drivers" or "putters" of golf.

For the novice such as myself, a good old Whamo frisbee works just fine. The game is inexpensive (the frisbee is the only expense) and incredibly fun. If you think you might enjoy such a game, let me know. If it looks like enough interest is there, I will secure the course and line up an FOP day. Contact me Reggie Sharpe via pager 728-6363 or e-mail bodysnatcher@rovin.net

The F.O.P. , our lodge and answers to frequently asked questions

In response to questions from officers concerning exactly who we are and what we do, President Dan Isgett submitted the following on a lowcountry police website <http://realcpd.infopop.cc> This is a good overview and can assist every member when they are asked “what is the FOP?”

“There have been comments and questions about the FOP and PBA on this board. We are not a union state and cannot force collective bargaining. The FOP does work well with Law Enforcement agencies locally as a partner, helping assist our officers and our communities. I cannot speak for the PBA but I can provide some of the things your local FOP does:

Legislative: The State FOP through the hard work of their lobbyist was able to have the resolution to build the Law Enforcement memorial built on Statehouse grounds passed and then have the governor’s veto overturned. The officers of SC will finally be able to have their own proper memorial for our fallen heroes. We also had the subsistence deduction (S.C. State tax) raised from \$5 per day to \$6.67. Our local lodge was responsible for the \$5 per day deduction over 20 years ago. This means money is your pocket that you would otherwise be paying in State taxes. We assisted with the blue light bill that makes all lights other than white, red and yellow illegal on motor vehicles except emergency vehicles. Also, the FOP was able to stop four of the At-Will bills and we are continuing to support the Heart and Respiratory bill, the Drivers License Felony Alert bill, the Spousal Support Bill and the Law Enforcement Due Process Bill among others.

Fallen Officers: The FOP has always honored those officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice. In addition to our fight for the memorial in Columbia, all our websites have information on our fallen officers and we sponsor the local Tri-County Police Memorial in May. Each year we send members to Washington, DC and this year, with the assistance of Summerville PD, we sent the co-workers and family of our fallen lodge member to DC for a week for the National Police Officers Memorial.

Distressed Officer Fund: Our Lodge created a Distressed Officer Fund to assist officers and their families across SC who have been killed or critically injured in the line of duty or face a crisis. Our lodge has spent thousands of dollars in this effort.

Legal Defense: The Legal Plan pays legal defense costs on behalf of participating members for the following actions and proceedings: Coverage A - Administrative, Coverage B - Civil , Coverage C - Criminal. Coverage is provided when a participant is acting within the scope of their law enforcement employment duties. Andy Savage, Sandy Senn, Jack Sinclair and Glenn Churchill are current FOP Plan attorneys. Each FOP attorney agrees to respond anytime, night or day, to an officer emergency such as an “in the line of duty” shooting. We encourage all members to obtain legal defense, either through the FOP or PBA.

Recognition: We give annual awards to those officers who have performed above and beyond the call of duty. These officer’s awards are posted on our website.

Community: Our lodge raises thousands of dollars each year for the Special Olympics and donates to other causes throughout the year. We also sponsor youth sports teams throughout the tri-county area.

Fraternalism: We provide activities throughout the year for officers and their families to come together for social events. With the high stress of our occupation, this is a much needed part of our organization.

Benefits: Our lodge offers a \$2500 death benefit and the State Lodge provides insurance policies of \$5,000 for accidental death or \$12,500 for line of duty death.

There are currently over 300,000 FOP members nationally, over 300 members in the tri-county lodge and 1000 FOP members total in the tri-county area. Members meet once a month and are able to meet and share information with other officers with other departments across the tri-county. “

Merchandise

By popular demand, the lodge will shortly have merchandise available that is Tri-County Lodge specific. We currently have t-shirts and will shortly have coffee mugs, key chains, license plates and “member” stickers. Other items to follow.

* We now have the most recent *Gould’s S.C. Criminal Law and Traffic Law* books with FOP cover available \$21. (discounted price) They are selling quickly, the first order of twenty is gone!

FOP Pool Party

The turnout for the family pool party was great. Everyone ate well and had some nice “fun in the sun.” Special thanks to Brother Mike Ringley for setting up the event and cooking the food.

Special thanks also to Randy McGuinness and the Caromi Fire Dept for the use of their huge cooker.

S.C. FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE TRI-COUNTY LODGE # 3
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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 307 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.

Editorial - No exceptions for "illegals"

On several occasions, I have arrested or participated in arrests of persons for various crimes who were "illegal" aliens. In attempting to report the illegals to the appropriate authority (INS) I was met with difficulty in playing phone tag, only to discover that the interest lay only in "hordes" of great numbers or an individual only when charged with a high degree felony. It seemed hardly worth the bother. Since the terrorism attacks on 9/11 by "illegal" aliens, I had to re-evaluate my thought on the matter.

To date, I have not been personally given any information through chain of command in matters dealing with "illegal" aliens. I did find posted, an active number to contact the immigration enforcement division of the new Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. It is 1-877-409-6264 . Leave a number and the duty agent will call back. Again, this is only to report "illegals" who have committed a felony. I recently used the number to report one I arrested for not appearing (skipped bond) in General Sessions Court. I will follow to see what, if anything becomes of it.....

I have witnessed more than once, officers "giving a break" to motorists who have no ID, no driver's license and even some admitted "illegal" aliens. Language barriers (or claim thereof) presents a problem to many officers, and some avoid the headache by letting the person go. An english speaking American subjected to the same type traffic stop, usually will not fare as well. Clearly this is not acceptable.

Being an "illegal" alien does not come with "diplomatic immunity" as some seem to think. As they are afforded protection in our country by our Constitution, they are equally bound by our laws. We must police everyone in accordance to the charge of our duty - equal for all, special privilege for none. Give no "breaks" to "illegal" aliens, "illegal" being a key word in our line of work. I will publish the outcome of the above mentioned case when I know the results.

- R.E. Sharpe