

The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 2

October 2003

Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**
MONDAY October 13th
7:00 p.m.
- **Looking for youth teams**
- Law Enforcement Day at the Mall
- United Way
- Last meeting highlights
- Survivor info needed
- Christmas Parades
- Cursillo for Cops
- Golfing Cops
- Building renovations
- Editorial



Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Christmas Party

Sgt. John Blackmon of the Hanahan PD. has agreed to Chair the Christmas club committee. We will have it at our lodge on a date to be determined. If you want to assist, please contact him at:

jblackmon@comcast.net

or the lodge at 744-7255 and leave a message. Your input is needed.

Lodge Seeks Youth Athletic Teams to Sponsor



Since our lodge began, we have tried to give back to the community by way of supporting our youth. In the past we have sponsored little league athletic teams. Lately, because of attrition and kids reaching adulthood, we have not met our goal in this regard.

We are now actively recruiting "little league", "small fry" teams to sponsor. We are open for all types of sports - football, baseball, basketball, soccer and etc.

Our criteria is simple:

An active member of our lodge must have a child on the particular team to be sponsored. The ages are 14 and under. The teams must play within our areas of charter - Charleston County, Dorchester County, Colleton County and the City of Hanahan. Only one team per age group (per sport) can be sponsored in a particular geographic area. Our lodge name and/or logo will be featured on the jerseys or a field banner on the area of play.

We will offer this as a member/community benefit for so long as interest and finances hold out. It will be on a "first come, first served" type basis. If you are interested, please consult the lodge executive board with a complete proposal. We would ask that wins/losses be submitted to the lodge for publication in this newsletter.

United Way

The Fraternal Order of Police, Tri-County Lodge 3 created a Distressed Officer Fund in 2001 to assist Law Enforcement Officers (including detention officers) and their families when an Officer is killed or critically injured in the line of duty or otherwise faces a time of crisis. The fund assists officers anywhere in the State of SC and they do not have to be members of the Fraternal Order of Police to receive assistance. Since it's formation, our lodge has given thousands of dollars to assist officers in a time of need. Our assistance has ranged from incidents involving line of duty deaths to officers who have lost their homes in fires.

The United Way has assisted us with our fund raising efforts for this fund. It is easy to assist this fund and help your fellow officers in need. At the bottom of the form is an area to name a non-profit organization that is not listed. They require a minimum of two dollars a pay period donation to forward the money to our account. The fund then receives a quarterly check from the United Way for the full amount donated. To assist in this most helpful cause. Please fill in this information in the form they provide:

Fraternal Order of Police
Tri-County Lodge 3
PO Box 62469
North Charleston, SC 29419

**** Every penny donated is given to the fund and only used for the purposes of assisting distressed officers. ****



Highlights - Last Meeting

The evening's meal was provided by our "Iron Chef" Brother Phil Cahoon, who did an excellent job with Cornish hens (BBQ & baked) with trimmings and a nice salad. *Special thanks to Sister Mary Majure who surprised us with some wonderful cookie confections.

Mr. Noah Moore the CEO of Lowcountry Crimestoppers - was the guest speaker. He gave a nice overview of how the program works and some statistics on its success.

20 names read for new membership.

Sister Ann Hansford won the prize in the recruitment drawing.

A lodge coffee mug was given to each member who attended. They will now be offered for sale. A different (mystery) item will be given away at the next meeting.

Motion passed to sponsor Charleston Braves AA youth Baseball team.

Motion passed to allow E-Board to make (athletic) sponsorship decisions if they occur between monthly meetings.

Motion passed to sponsor a team of City Police Officers to play in the C. O.P.S. (Concerns Of Police Survivors) golf tournament fundraiser.

Special prayers for Steve Hurn, still incapacitated in care home.

Motion passed to allow Crimestoppers to move into one of our offices temporarily. Final vote pending research on legalities and practical issues at the October meeting.

Golfing Cops



As of late, the lodge has assisted with local fundraisers, by sponsoring teams of police to play in golf tournaments. We feel that this is excellent way for our lodge to take part in local fundraising efforts and provide some fun for our members as well.

If you are a golfer and would be interested in playing under lodge sponsorship in the future, please contact us so we may compile a list. With various work schedules, it would be easier to help coordinate the players if we maintained a list or player pool.

If you already have a "team" of police or detention officers that you play with, let us know this as well.

Information needed on fallen officer survivors

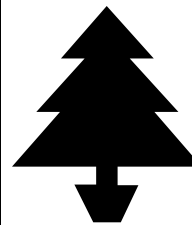
Information is needed for fallen officer survivors.

Our lodge is dedicated to the memory of our fallen officers. It is important that we identify and locate local survivors of our fallen officers so we may properly contact them for memorials and etc. If you have any information about such survivors, please contact Dan Isgett at ltanccso@aol.com or leave a message at 744-7255.

We dedicate a portion of our website to our fallen heroes, www.scfop3.org. If you have a picture of an officer that does not have a photo on the web, please contact us.

We must ensure that the memory of our brothers who gave all are not forgotten, and equally that their families are reminded that their sacrifices are appreciated.

Christmas Parades

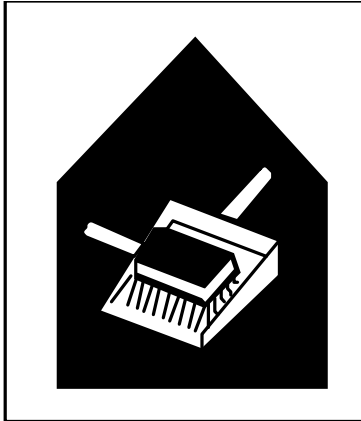


The lodge is interested in participating in Christmas parades this year. Eddie Bush has agreed to perform "The Thin Blue

Line" on a float if we can arrange it. If you can participate or help in any way, please contact us.

We are certainly open for any ideas or thoughts you might have on this endeavor and hope that it can be successfully installed as an annual lodge tradition. Tell us what you think....

Building renovations



Shortly, we will begin some much needed work to the lodge. We will be cleaning, painting, upgrading both restrooms and offices, as well as touch up in the main hall.

If you have any skills or time you would like to donate to this worthy endeavor, please contact the building committee chairman Brother Chris Ross, or leave word via the lodge phone. We would appreciate any and all effort you may give. The results of your labor will be enjoyed by all our members.

Mall Law Enforcement Day 2003

Tri-County Lodge 3 had a successful day at the 2003 Law Enforcement Day at Northwood's Mall. Eddie Bush performed his signature hit *The Thin Blue Line*. The lodge also raised \$250 from CD sales to benefit the Distressed Officer Fund. Members gave away over 150 FOP balloons to the kids and several hundred FOP pens. Members spoke with officers throughout the Tri-County area about the benefits of the FOP and handed out many applications. The lodge was able to show off its new table banner identifying the lodge.

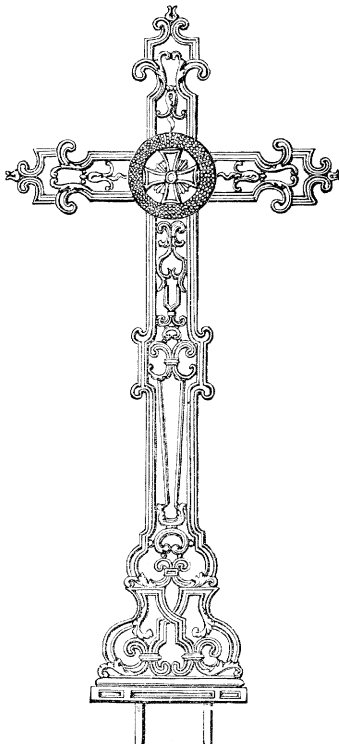
A big thanks goes to *Harold Phillips, Dennis Turner, John Blackmon, Donald Dulin, Mary Majure, Don Owen, Ric Pier-sol, Mike Ringley, Jason Cain, Joyce Kephart, Ann Hansford, Jim Ward, Chuck O'Shinsky, Bill Shephard, Tim Glover and Dan Isgett* for assisting in this very important day for us. Special thanks to *Tom Botchie* who worked the entire day. The exposure of this event is immeasurable.



This year marks our third participation. It gets bigger and better each year. Thanks again to those who made it possible.

(editorial apologies to anyone who was erroneously omitted from recognition)

Cursillo for Cops



The Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy is offering a Christian retreat for law enforcement personnel and their spouses. It will be held November 6th through November 9th.

You and your spouse (if married) are invited to join in and experience the joy of Christian renewal. *Cursillo* in short, is a plan for living a Christian life. Our goal is to help you more fully understand God's incredible redeeming love and healing power. The strength of this knowledge will enable you to carry this wonderful message to others in your daily lives.

Since September 11th, 2001, the Episcopal Church has become even more aware of the unique environment and problems of the law enforcement profession. In an effort to aid law enforcement officers and their spouses in their spiritual growth during this critical time in America, the *Cursillo for Cops* program was created.

Registration for the event will be 1600-1700 hrs. Thursday November 6th. The program will end at approx. 1700 hrs on Sunday November 9th. The cost for the event is \$50 per single person and \$100 per married couple. This will include food and lodging for the four day event.

The event will be held at Saint Christopher Camp and Conference Center located on Seabrook Island. For further information, please call 724-1212 or 762-7518. Check out the website at: www.stchristopher.org The event is sponsored on behalf of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy by the Episcopal Cursillo Movement, Episcopal Diocese of S.C.

This is presented to our membership as an open invitation only. We make no claim to preference of Christian denominations and would hope that all our members benefit with guidance from God.

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 330 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 - Selective Enforcement

You respond to a domestic call - a live-in girlfriend / boyfriend relationship. The CDV statute 16-25-10 clearly define both cohabitants as being covered in 16-25-20. Your investigation reveals that the elements are not there to make an arrest, no law broken. The elements are there under 16-15-60 to arrest for fornication. Why are there never any arrests for breaking this law?

California is currently in the process of allowing "illegal aliens" to obtain driver's licenses in their state. Immigration law is "federal law, not state law" and cannot be enforced by local authorities - is the reasoning behind the lax stance from the state. If Californians were to quit paying their "Federal" income taxes, a large portion of which gets returned to the state via highway funds and social programs, it is likely that the same folks would be clamoring to enforce federal law. The same could be said for any state.

A person (including a group of persons, business, organization or local government) commits a federal felony when he:

- assists an alien whom he should reasonably know is illegally in the U.S. or who lacks employment authorization, by transporting, sheltering, or assisting him to obtain employment,
- encourages that alien to remain in the U.S., by referring him to an employer, by acting as employer or agent for an employer in any way, or
- knowingly assists illegal aliens due to personal convictions.

So just exactly which laws should be enforced and which should not? There are many examples of laws that go un-enforced. This sends mixed signals to the populace. What if everyone chose a law to break, shouldn't they get an exception as well? We, as a Nation, need to either enforce all the laws or repeal the ones that go un-enforced. Exceptions for all or exceptions for none. If this type of selective enforcement keeps up, they will probably repeal the sodomy laws...

- R.E. Sharpe