



# The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 5

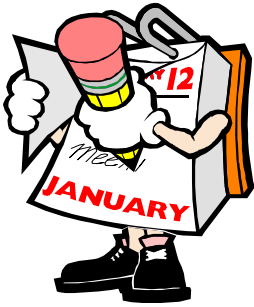
Happy New Year!

January 2004

## Special Points

### • NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY January**  
**12th 7:00 p.m.**



- **New Officer Installation**
- 4th Annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Night.
- 2003 in Review
- Christmas with a Cop
- Last meeting highlights
- Awards Submissions
- Critical Incident / Legal Defense
- Editorial

*Have you recruited a new member this year?*

This is advanced notice that dues invoices will soon be sent out for 2004

**PAY  
YOUR  
DUES**

## New Officers to be Installed

After the recent nominations and subsequent elections, the lodge officers will be installed for their two year terms at the January 12th meeting. S.C. State Lodge President Jerry Wright will be on hand to officiate. The line up offers a diverse mix of lowcountry officers with many facets of law enforcement experience.

Dan Isgett (Charleston Co. Sheriff) - will serve as President for a second consecutive term.

John Blackmon (Hanahan Police Dept.) - will serve as Vice President in his first term as a lodge officer.

R.E. Sharpe (Charleston Co. Sheriff) - will serve as Secretary for a third consecutive term.

Cathy Bowers (Trident Tech. Public Safety [retired.]) will serve as Treasurer for a second consecutive term.

Matthew Woodall (Hanahan Police) will serve as Sgt. At Arms in his first term as a lodge officer.

Doug Wright (Summerville Police) will serve as 2nd Vice President in his first term as a lodge officer.

David Lee (S.C. Highway Patrol) will serve as Chaplain in his first term as a lodge officer.

\*All of the officers have pledged to conduct their offices with vigor and continue to move our lodge forward. All are proud to have your support and will do their best to represent the membership with honor.\*

## 4th Annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Night



On February 1st (aka. Superbowl Sunday) the lodge will host its Fourth Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night. All lowcountry police (need not be FOP members) are invited to attend with a guest if they choose. Adult beverages are permitted for this event (BYOB) and the lodge will furnish heavy hors d'oeuvres and finger foods. The lodge will also offer many door prizes as has become a hallmark of this event.

This event is of course entirely free for those who attend. This is our way of giving special recognition to our brothers and sisters in badge. Please pass the word and make plans to attend.

\*we still need assistance in obtaining this years door prizes. If you can help, please contact President Isgett.\*



### Highlights - Last Meeting

The evening meal was a true Italian delight with pastas, sauces, Italian sausages and a host of trimmings. Provided by brothers Bill Lang and Vic Nico (ret. NYPD.) An great dinner that left everyone full and questioning when these two will cook again. It is lucky to have such talent in our midst. Good Job!

9 names read for new membership.

Brother Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 4100 "hits" the previous month.

Brothers David Lee and Bill Lang won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Motion passed to discontinue \$5 meal donation practice. Meeting meals are free to all with no donations required.

Treasurer reports that lodge building mortgage is paid in full.

Dec. 20th the lodge will again participate in the "Christmas with a Cop" program.

Prayers out to Brother Joel Gamble (due for surgery on the 16th,) Deputy Eugenia Smalls with Berkeley Co. Sheriff (involved in serious collision), Brother Chris Ross (father-in-law passed away,) Deputy John Nelson of the Dorchester Co. Sheriff (formerly NYPD Ret.) who died from a heart attack, Brother "Chuck" McCraw (mother suffering from serious diabetic condition), the Deputy and Constable in Abbeville who were shot to death. Our prayers are with our brothers/sisters and their families. May God provide comfort in these difficult times.

David Lee (SCHP) won the election for lodge Chaplain.

### "Christmas with a Cop" a success

The "COPS who care" Christmas Program also known as "Christmas with a Cop" was a success again this year. Members of the lodge met in Walterboro on December 13, 2003 at the Wal-Mart and assisted needy families in the Colleton County area. On December 20, 2003 members met at the Wal-Mart in Summerville to assist needy families in the Charleston and Dorchester County area.

This program allowed our lodge to assist families in troubled times who were unable to provide Christmas this year for their kids. This also allowed an opportunity for our Law Enforcement Officers to spend time with these children and create a positive experience and bond with them. This program was made possible through the generous donations of the businesses in our community solicited by *On-Guard* services. We appreciate all the assistance from the officers who participated to make a difference in these family's lives.

### Awards submissions

We are still accepting submissions for awards to be bestowed at our February meeting. We seek to recognize those professionals who may have excelled in a single incident or those who are generally regarded as "top notch" by overall behavior. This includes "units" as well as individuals. Please make your submissions to the executive board (include a synopsis as to the merits.)

### Review of 2003 for our Lodge by President Dan Isgett

Tri-County Lodge 3 has had another successful year. We now have over 350 members in the lodge. We began 2003 with our Third Annual Law Enforcement Officers Appreciation Night on Superbowl Sunday. This has become a great way introduce officers to the lodge and allow us to show our appreciation. Each year approximately 100 officers from various agencies attend. In 2002, the lodge lost member William Bell in the line of duty. The lodge held a fundraiser at the Summerville Flowertown Festival in Summerville to raise money to assist with sending his family and co-workers to Washington DC. Ten Lodge members attended the National Peace Officers Memorial. An honorary associate member, Eddie Bush, was selected to sing "The Thin Blue Line" at the National Memorial, May 15th. He was heavily promoted for this selection in our local news as well as appearing on the FOX Morning News National program featuring the song. Our lodge along with Charleston Metropolitan Lodge 5 and Berkeley County Lodge 19 sponsored our first local memorial at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. This event was well organized and was a fitting tribute to our fallen heroes. We honored our lodge member William Bell, Lodge 5 member Dennis LaPage and Lodge 19 members Jeff Johnson and Gene Wright who were lost in the line of duty in 2002. The lodges plan on making this a yearly effort. Our members again volunteered for the Cops and Lobsters Special Olympics fundraiser. Members raised \$2200 for the Special Olympics. Six members attended the National Conference in Rhode Island as delegates of the lodge. For the third year, members participated in Law Enforcement Day at Northwoods Mall. Members gave away balloons, writing pens and applications. This event was well attended and many members assisted. The lodge again assisted with holiday food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas for needy families. The lodge concluded the year with the COPS who care Christmas program. Again the lodge assisted many area families who were unable to provide for Christmas.

This lodge is very fortunate to have a so many hard working officers and members that are dedicated to their fellow officers and the community. We look towards a bright 2004.

## Critical Incident Management, Legal Defense and You by Tony Rahaim



WOW! You have just been involved in an incident where your (or your partners) use of force went past officer presence and verbal commands. Now what do you do?

First, secure the scene and the suspect(s). Provide first aid and or call EMS as necessary. Establish a perimeter and initiate crime scene procedures, including a rally point/entry control point/command post for the scene. Now breathe.

What I mean is, walk out of the action for a few minutes and calm down. Your adrenaline is pumping, and you and your brain needs to slow down and start thinking, not reacting by training and or instinct.

If you have not done so already, get a supervisor enroute to the scene. Next, call your spouse/significant other (or have someone do it), tell them you are okay, and will be late getting home. Nothing more. The news media may or may not show up, but you do not want your family hearing about this incident from the media first and not you. Next, call the legal defense team - your FOP representative, and or your attorney. Have someone come to the scene and or hospital where you and the other officers involved are located.

By this point, either a supervisor or an investigator is going to want a quick synopsis of what happened verbally. Given them one, as long as there are no other witnesses, note taking or other type recordings of the conversation. Two or three sentences should suffice. Give this one time only. Do not answer direct investigative questions, and do not put anything onto paper or into a recording device. Then politely state that you are waiting for your legal representation to arrive on scene. You have rights too.

Now, go back to your patrol car or to the office (after having been medically cleared) and review your agency policies and procedures regarding what just happened. Then, after all this, start making notes on what happened and why.

Remember when you write a use of force report to include: your legal reason for being at the scene (dispatched, observation, investigation, etc.), who was with you, where you and others were located, what the subject(s) did, what you did and why using the use of force matrix for your agency (officer safety, fear, etc.). To the best of your abilities, this report must be in clear, chronological language. Write out abbreviations, acronyms and police jargon terms. Remember that this report is going to be read by non-law enforcement or legal people (as in a jury). Take your time and do it correctly.

Unless your reports are computer generated, writing a report like this by hand is cumbersome at best. This is the first impression the legal beagles are going to get of you, your partners and the kind of officers you are. You want it to be a good one.

After you have completed your report, and before you turn it in; I cannot over emphasize having either your legal defense representative, or one of the plans attorneys review it. Protect yourself.

The scene is secure, the paperwork is done and you are released from work for the day. Go home! Go home and tell your spouse/significant other what happened. If you have children at home and they are in school, explain it to them. By doing this, it will help secure the facts in your head, greatly assist you (and them) in dealing with a severely stressful event, and put things back into perspective.

If you are offered administrative time off, take it. Even if it is just one day, use it to spend time with your family, go to a follow up doctors visit, visit with an attorney, or just sit back and relax. If you need to, talk to a peer from another agency, a counselor or a minister of your faith. There is help out there, and we are no longer in the dark ages where cops must not express their emotions. We must take care of each other. Stay Safe!

*Tony is a Senior Inspector with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Charleston, SC. He has been in law enforcement since 1984 and has served as a military, local and now federal officer. He has had assignments including: patrol, training officer, tactical team member, negotiator, intelligence, shift supervisor and several staff positions. He also serves on the legal defense and legislative teams for his FOP lodge, and is a union steward at his office. He may be reached at arahaim@leo.gov The views expressed are his alone, and are not the official views of any U.S. Government official or agency.*

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 359 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, ideas for improvement or member submissions 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 - Real Low Country Police***

On Sunday December 28th, 2003 an incident occurred in the lowcountry that was captured on video. That incident vaulted lowcountry policemen again onto the national media spotlight. That incident is of course, the end of a pursuit involving a suspect in a stolen vehicle. It had started in Hanahan and ended in North Charleston with the video footage that has been played and replayed by all the major television networks across the country.

In the video from the "cruiser cam" we saw the suspect ram into brother Jason Barbare's cruiser, strike sister Debbie Cattell (who was in the apex of her cruiser door) and run over brother Samuel Chapman who is a respected Sgt. with the Hanahan Police Dept.. All officers are members of our lodge and all are real cops. By the grace of God, none were seriously injured.

The talking heads on the television were quick to each put their "spin" on the story, some making it sound as though they themselves were there when it happened. Over and over I watched the video. Then I had a moment of realization. Here was an incident that involved folks that I knew, in an area that I was familiar with, doing their jobs as the professionals they are and damn near getting killed in the process. I say "Bravo" brother Chapman!

Thank you for risking your life to make our community safer. Thank you for living to see another day to continue your good works. Thank you for playing the lead role in a production that showed the uncaring public just what policeman do on their behalf. When the public gets bombarded with police videos of "high school raids," roadside "ass whoopings" and dispersal of "liquid hell," you show up to remind the public of the exact dangers that we all face daily. You faced it as a true professional - head on.

Indeed this incident was refreshing for the morale of the lowcountry cop. I make no light of the seriousness of the incident or the possible ramifications. I write this truly to honor my brothers/sisters with whom I am proud to associate, and even more so that they made it possible for the entire nation to see a brief glimpse of the real life of "real cops" dealing with real criminals. My hats off to you.....

- R. E. Sharpe