



The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 8

Happy Easter !

April 2004

Special Points

• NEXT MEETING

MONDAY April

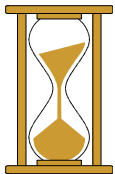
12th 7:00 p.m.



- Cops & Lobsters
- Flowertown Festival
- Shotgun Raffle
- Corner of History
- Last meeting highlights
- Lodge Growth stats
- Encore meal
- Crime Stoppers
- Editorial

**All available past issues of this newsletter are being put on our website.*

We are nearing the time when we must act in accordance with our by-laws and suspend delinquent members. Second notices will be sent shortly, please be attentive.



You can now pay online via our website

Cops & Lobsters - Overwhelming Success

We are proud to report that this year's *Cops & Lobsters* fundraiser for the Special Olympics exceeded our initial hopes. Last year we had raised \$2,200 through our efforts and had hoped to top \$2,500 this year. This year with the help of many member volunteers and some generous patrons, we finished the night with \$3,300 for the Lowcountry Chapter of The Special Olympics.

* Special thanks to Harold Phillips for coordinating and to all those who donated their time and talents for this most worthy endeavor.

Lunch Shift-

Sgt. Harold Phillips, Sgt. Naomi Morris, Deputy Shawn James, Deputy David Owen, Deputy Mike Ringley and Deputy Kevin Joyce - Charleston County SO.

Officer Ann Hansford - North Charleston PD

Tradd Crawford - Hanahan PD

Debbie Witz- Retired SC Probation and Parole

Carroll Brown - Retired SCHP

Dinner shift-

Sgt. Harold Phillips, Sgt. Naomi Morris, Lt. Dan Isgett, Deputy Shawn James, and Deputy Reggie Sharpe - Charleston County SO.

Officer Ann Hansford- North Charleston PD

Sgt. John Blackmon, Officer Debbie Cattell - Hanahan PD

Vic Nico, Bill Lang, Bob Smith - Dorchester County SO



Thanks also to the officers and families who chose to have their lunch or dinner at Red Lobster on this date, WTMA radio for their announcements and to Red Lobster for the use of their facility and reward of wonderful food for the volunteers.

Flowertown Festival 2004



On April 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the lodge had a booth at the Flowertown festival in Summerville (our second year participating.) Our purpose was twofold. First, we seek community recognition and secondly, we seek to raise funds to assist with sending officers to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial ceremony held in Washington, D.C..

We are proud to report that this year's endeavor was successful . We raffled two fine art prints and a complete Hewlett Packard home computer system. Brother Tom Botchie (ret Chas Co. PD) is to be commended for heading up this event (he participated all three days.)

The lodge wishes to thank Brothers Bill Van Horn CCSO, Bob Smith - ret- NYPD, Bill Lang DCSO ,Vic Nico DCSO, Doug Delong CCSO, Bill Dean CCSO Detention, Carroll Brown -Probation and Parole ret., Ralph Hudson- CCSO ret., Jim Ward - CCSO ret. and Eddie Whitlock - Ridgeville PD for their hard work and efforts for this most important event. The benefits of our exposure in this event is immeasurable. Kudos to our brothers for their efforts!



The evening meal was provided by Cathy Bowers and Phil Cahoon. Southern fried chicken at its best, they demoted Colonel Sanders . Great job once again from the food committee!

4 names read for new membership.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 6,377 “hits” the previous month. (219 per day average) The *Informer* was downloaded 134 times.

Brother Bill VanHorn and Sister Cathy Bowers won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

We will be heading up the local police memorial to be held at the performing arts center May 12th 10:00 a.m. Brother David Lee chairs this event on behalf of the lodge.

Motion passed to sponsor 4 man golf team for the Sheriff’s annual golf tournament (\$310.)

Belated award presentation to prior V.P. Donald Dulin for past service.

Sister Eugenia Smalls home from hospital, Brother Buck Gossett home from hospital, the four City P.D. officers involved in accident all home from hospitals, Brother John Blackmon recovering from surgery, Brother Tim Hinman (N. Chas. P.D.) injured in motorcycle accident , retired Troopers Funderburk and Yarborough recently passed. Please keep all these officers and their families in your prayers.

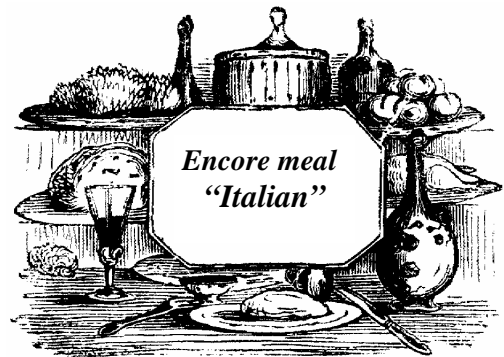


Shotgun Raffle

Our local telemarketer *On Guard Services*, recently donated a shotgun between three local lodges (ours) lodge #5 and lodge #19 for the purpose of fundraising.

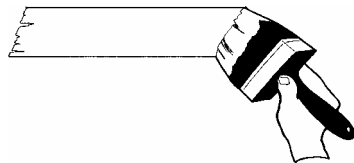
Commencing immediately, we will begin selling raffle tickets to our police brethren. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for seven. The drawing will be held July 12th.

The shotgun is a *Mossberg* 12 gauge pump, model 91 “Maverick.” Our proceeds to benefit our “Distressed Officer fund.” Good Luck!



After surprising us with a wonderful meal several months ago -Brothers Bob Smith, Bill Lang and Vic Nico will be blessing us again with an Italian spread in April. All are retired N.Y.P.D. officers (Yankees notwithstanding) these fellows can cook. Come to the meeting with an appetite. You will not be disappointed !

Lodge Renovations



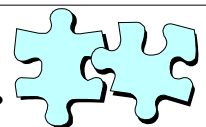
The first stage of major lodge renovation is complete with the men’s

restroom. Finishing touches were recently made with some police artwork. (What is it? Come see!) Before summer’s end, the women’s restroom will also see a similar overhaul. Also in the plan for the summer is the removal of the withered “redtips’ around the building and planting of more hearty hawthornes in their place. Drywall work is currently ongoing in the main hall and the walls will need repainting. If your hand can fit a paintbrush we will need your help....

We are also planning an impressive patch display and would ask that anyone having extra police patches (any and all) donate them to the lodge for this purpose.

The lodge building belongs to us. We are working to make it nicer for the benefit of all our members.

Law Enforcement Families



Having trouble fitting all the pieces together?

Whether you’re an officer, spouse, parent, sibling, etc., you and your family are invited to join us in a weekly group designed specifically to provide help and hope for police families. Based on police family resources and twenty-five years of experience as a law enforcement family, we will address issues such as surviving shift work, priorities, fear, traumatic events and relationships. Join us for an eight week journey of discussions, questions, encouragement and prayer.

When: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. , Beginning April 21 - June 9

Where: Cathedral of Praise, 3790 Ashley Phosphate Rd.

Cost: \$2 per meeting (total \$16)

Childcare will be provided. The group will remain open for new members throughout the session.

For additional information, please contact Guy Van Horn at 552-2442 or Cindy Van Horn at 821-2752.

E-mail: gvanhorn@bellsouth.net



Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry was founded in June of 1983 as a non-profit organization. It's purpose is to act as an intermediary between the public and police departments in the solving of crimes. Crime Stoppers allows citizens to provide information to the police while remaining anonymous. Rewards are paid for information that leads to an arrest, for recovery of stolen property, for seizure of illegal drugs, or for seizure of a weapon in a public place (especially a school). The good part is that the reward is not dependant on a conviction- just an arrest of a criminal is all that's necessary.

Crime Stoppers got it's start in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1976. A detective, Greg MacAleese was trying to solve a homicide that occurred during an armed robbery of a gas station. The victim was a college student who worked part time. MacAleese believed if there was a reward offered and the tipster was assured that his or her identity would not be revealed, someone in the public would give helpful information. With the help of his superiors, a hotline was set up and a reward was offered. Within 24 hours vital information was received and arrests were made. Crime Stoppers was born.

Today Crime Stopper organizations are found in 22 different countries, both small and large. There are more than 1100 chapters in the United States alone. To this day the identity of a tipster has never been revealed. Thousands of criminals have been taken off of the streets as a result of an interested citizen picking up the telephone and calling Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry represents police departments and sheriff's offices in five counties- Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Georgetown. The Board of Directors is comprised of 23 local volunteers. In the year 2003 Crime Stoppers received 777 tips that lead to 58 arrests. A total of \$10,350 in rewards were authorized by the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors.

So how does it work and how do you call in a tip? If you are at a local phone, the number is 554-1111. If you are out of the local area, we have an "800" number- 1-800-452-1111. We also have a website. It's <http://www.cirmstopper-sc.org>. The office is operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When no one is present in the office we have an answering service with trained operators to take you call. Once your information is taken, you will be assigned a computer tip number. You **must** remember this number since it is the only traceability to the tip. No caller I.D. is used on any phone. If you hear of an arrest being made in the case that you called about, contact Crime Stoppers for further instructions concerning a reward. Crime Stoppers works through a number of local businesses to get the reward to you anonymously. You will be told what business to go to and who to ask for. The reward will be paid in cash. You will not have to sign anything or produce any identification. Just pick up the money and leave. The money will be available at the business for a thirty day period. If you don't get there in thirty days, contact Crime Stoppers and we will reissue the money a second time.

The public has an opportunity to profit though this program both financially and through a better community. So let's get busy and call in those tips!
(contributed by Brother C.F. Bowie)

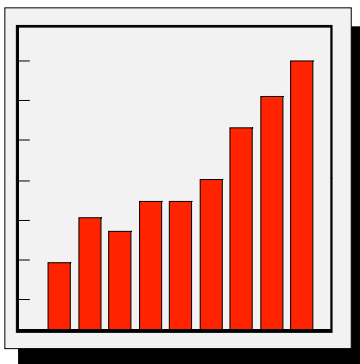
We at Tri-County lodge # 3 wholeheartedly support the efforts of The Low Country Crime Stoppers. We encourage all law enforcement officers to utilize this resource both for follow up on the leads they provide, as well as giving their telephone number out to citizens who may be apprehensive about giving information directly to the police.

Lodge Growth Chart

Over the past couple of years, our lodge has seen tremendous growth. It can be attributed to many factors, all of which indicate that our current direction is sound.

Listed below are breakdowns of our growth:

- November 2001 (211)
- January 2002 (215)
- March 2002 (225)
- May 2002 (228)
- July 2002 (237)
- September 2002 (220)
- December 2002 (251)
- January 2003 (265)
- March 2003 (287)
- July 2003 (296)
- December 2004 (350)
- March 2004 (376)
- April 2004 (380)



We are pleased to see a continual rise in our membership. We look forward to further serving our members and would hope that more of our professional brethren will come to know the family that is the Fraternal Order of Police. Sponsor a new member!



As members and associates of the FOP I think it would be a good idea to learn about the history of this great organization. The FOP was created by two Pittsburgh police officers, Martin L. Toole and Delbert Nagle. The year was 1915 and police officers worked grueling twelve-hour days. Also the officers were sometimes forced to work without days off and overtime pay was unheard of.

The two officers knew they had to organize in order to accomplish, "justice for their plight." So on May 14, 1915 twenty-three men met to organize and the name Fraternal Order of Police was adopted. According to research, twenty-three was the first password utilized by the group.

So the next time you're watching Jeopardy you'll know where and when the FOP was founded - What is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1915?

The following are some interesting numbers about the FOP: "From the original 23 members the membership now totals over 310,000 and there are 2,100 local lodges and affiliate lodges in Ireland and Canada." Additionally Tri County Lodge #3 has approximately 380 members.

Resources: <http://pittsburghpolicefop.com/history2.htm>
<http://grandlodgefop.org/history/index.html>

S.C. FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE TRI-COUNTY LODGE # 3
"SERVING THE LAWMEN OF THE LOWCOUNTRY"

The Informer

Editor - R.E. Sharpe Lodge Secretary
P.O. Box 62469
N. Charleston, S.C. 29419
Phone: 843-744-7255
Email: bodysnatcher@rovin.net (secretary)
Official Lodge website www.scfop3.org - webmaster John C. Blackmon
President - Dan Isgett disgett@scfop3.org
Vice President - John C. Blackmon jblackmon@scfop3.org
Treasurer - Catherine Bowers cbowers@scfop3.org
Secretary - R.E. Sharpe rsharpe@scfop3.org
2nd Vice President - Doug Wright dwright@scfop3.org
Sergeant at Arms - Matt Woodall mwoodall@scfop3.org
Chaplain - David Lee dlee@scfop3.org



Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

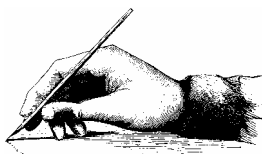
We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org



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 380 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.

The weight of paper



Paperwork. Most of us hate it. With all the decision making, chasing, scuffling and rides of adrenaline, it must be the worst part of it all. Like the "fat lady" singing, it ain't over till the paper work's done. How important is it? If you have ever been called to testify in court, you quickly realize that aside from going home with your ass intact, it is the second most important thing we do.

Nothing is quite as embarrassing than being questioned why you suddenly reveal important details on a case years later, when you didn't put it down on your report earlier. It is a credibility issue that will be raised every time by defense attorneys. It is paramount that you document "everything" well in your reports.

We have all experienced the "pending calls" from dispatch, the barking of supervisors to clear the call and the longing desire to go home. Despite all this, we must remember that when we put pen to paper our words become "official" public record. Our reports can and **will** be read by many people. If you write a sloppy report because you are tired or hurried, it will cause grief later on. Lawyers, who as a general rule have years more education than the average cop, will have months to pick apart your case. If your report is lacking, it only makes their job easier. (A prominent defense attorney once revealed to me that ill written reports were the first to be challenged at pre-lim, the better written are usually waived)

With the liberal courts turning out criminals as fast as we can lock'em up, we owe the public the best we can provide. Remember the details on your reports - "who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how." If you forget, you **will** be reminded.....

-R.E. Sharpe

Special note - your editor writes as a hobby and has been published many times in different forums. My largest circulated printing will appear in the May 2004 issue of *American Police Beat* magazine.