



The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 9

May 2004

Special Points

• NEXT MEETING

MONDAY May
10th 7:00 p.m.

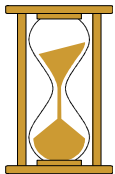


- Police Memorials
- Rewarding Journey
- Patches needed
- Legislation Update
- Corner of History
- Website Information
- Last meeting highlights
- Special Contribution

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

**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. Check to see if you have a 2004 card.



You can now pay online via our website

May - Time to remember fallen Brothers



It is an ongoing effort of the FOP both on a National scope as well as the local level, to honor our brothers and sisters who

have given their lives in the line of duty. Each year, the FOP sponsors the National Law Enforcement Memorial service in Washington, D.C.. May 15th was designated and signed into law by President John F. Kennedy to provide a day of recognition to the brave men and women of badge, who lay down their lives in the performance of their duties. It has since grown to encompass more effort toward providing peace of mind for the surviving families, and reassurance that the brotherhood of police looks after its own.

**This year, our lodge will be sending 12 members to the memorial in Washington. Next year we hope to do likewise. (See www.nleomf.com for event schedule.)

By the time you read this article, our lodge Chaplain David Lee will have assembled, coordinated and brought to fruition our second annual LowCountry Police Memorial service. He, along with a team of other officers from different departments, will pay tribute to fallen officers of the lowcountry at the performing arts center in N. Charleston on May 4th. Memos have been sent to all lowcountry agencies and we look for a good showing of law enforcement professionals. I have little doubt that the event will be first class and I am grateful further that we do not have the number of fallen officers to pay tribute as did our last service.

Godspeed our fallen brethren, you are not forgotten!

Rewarding Journey

The past five years or so has seen tremendous advances for our lodge. We have grown both in numbers and political strength. We are now poised to be the premier lodge of South Carolina.

We have created or installed new and lasting "traditions" such as our Annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Night, participation with Christmas with a Cop, Cops & Lobsters, Law Enforcement Day at the Mall and The Flowertown Festival. We have created a perpetual benevolent fund (Distressed Officer) that has given thousands of dollars to police families across the state. We have a website, second to none, to help keep members informed.

We continually sponsor little league ball teams, police and detention sports teams and send our members abroad to various events throughout the country. We have recently seen gains from a good influx of state and federal members, further indication of our progress.

We are constrained only by our imagination and participation. Our growth has been reflective of the hard work of our dedicated members and leadership. May the next five years bring equal success. *Recruit a new member and bring them aboard this winning team!*



The evening meal was provided by brothers Vic Nico, Bill Lang and Bob Smith. An Italian delight that certainly lived up to expectations as an encore from their last meal. Great job again, *magnifico!*

8 names read for new membership.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 5,382 "hits" the previous month.

Brother Jim Ward and Vic Nico 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 4th 10:00 a.m. Brother David Lee chairs this event on behalf of the lodge.

Motion passed to sponsor 4 man golf team of Detention Officers (\$55) each, to participate in SCDC Olympics.

Motion passed to sponsor 3 man team (\$300) to participate in Bocci tournament held to assist Special Olympics.

** Congratulations to Brother Chris Ross (N. Chas. P.D.) on recent promotion to Lieutenant. **

Police Cadet Jason Will thanks the lodge for our assistance in sending his troop to the Police Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Detective Roger Myers with the Charleston City P.D. recently passed away from a heart attack while on duty. Deputy Frank Thompson (Dorch. Co. Sheriff) involved in vehicle collision, circumstances unknown.

**Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.

Legislation Update By Tony Rahaim

There is way too much going on to condense into one article, so here are the primary web sites where folks can get some information, register to vote (through the NRA's site) and otherwise stay involved and informed.

<http://www.grandlodgefop.org/legislation/index.html> for things at the **National level**

<http://www.scfop.org/legislation.asp> and http://www.myscgov.com/SCSGPortal/static/government_tem1.html for things at the **State level**

<http://www.nraila.org/CurrentLegislation/State.aspx?ST=SC> Good supplemental web site for legislative issues affecting us.

It's an election year so please get the word out to 1 - register to vote, 2 - write their representatives, and 3 - go VOTE!

Our legislative chairman Tony Rahaim has been activated for military duty but continues in keeping us abreast on legislative issues.

Lodge Website FYI

Our website (thanks to our webmaster John Blackmon) continues to serve us well. In the month of April, the site had 6,333 hits. The most visited pages are the "Events," "Informer," and "Lodge Officers" sections. Our application was downloaded 30 times. This newsletter *The Informer*, was downloaded 34 times.

Our website is a valuable tool of communication, it is great to see it being used so frequently.



We need donations of police patches for the new project at the lodge. We have a few, but need many more to complete the display.

The idea is instead of having a "patch board" as so many departments do, we will create a unique wall border. It will be slightly higher than an average chair rail. Two strips of moulding about six inches apart will be mounted on the walls with the inside painted blue (signifying the thin blue line) and the patches affixed inside similar to the illustration above and run the length of walls.

Any donations appreciated!



Bill Van Horn's



Corner Of History

Cops and Doughnuts?

Have you ever wondered why cops are associated with doughnuts? If I never hear another joke about cops and doughnuts, it will be too soon! So why can the rest of mankind eat doughnuts but if you're a cop your marked with a scarlet "D" on your chest, for doughnut eating cop?

One explanation for this unfair characterization of "cops and doughnuts" is that McDonalds and Wendy's did not arrive until the early sixties. Since doughnut shops had to make the dough early in the morning they were pretty much open all the time. So the cops would take their mid-shift snack at the doughnut shop. Also cops didn't and still don't have the money to eat out daily at restaurants. So if health food stores were the only ones open all night I guess we would all be healthy.

The following joke about cops and doughnuts seems to be the most popular on the internet: A cop stops a man for DUI, the cop says to the man, "sir your eyes look glossy have you been drinking?" The man says to the cop, "officer your eyes look glazed over, have you been eating doughnuts?"

Since we probably wont be able to drop the stereotype of "cops and doughnuts", here is my favorite order at Krispy Kreme: one glazed with maple icing and a large black coffee. So what's your favorite doughnut to order?



Many police agencies taking advantage of NCMEC resources.

I would like to introduce my fraternal brothers and sisters to a remarkable resource that is available to you and your department at no cost to your department. Although it is a non-governmental agency, the majority of its funding is provided by the United States Department of Justice. The agency has been endorsed by most of the premier law enforcement and investigative agencies in the country. I am speaking of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Hereinafter, I will refer to the agency as NCMEC.

Let me begin by describing a typical police incident that most, if not all, South Carolina police officers will encounter, sooner or later. Assume that you are the first responding officer. Think about the situation and ask yourself if you are confident in your ability to properly conduct the investigation.

* Scenario #1: "All available units – Respond 'Code 2' – to Wal-Mart, 7400 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston. The manager reports that a young woman has just told him that her 5 year old daughter, Maria, has gone missing. Maria is described as being a thin Hispanic girl with long, brown hair and brown eyes. She is wearing pink shorts, a white tee shirt and sneakers. 'Code Adam' has been initiated. No further details available."

In the vast majority of cases the child will be located within several minutes, safe and sound. But, what if she isn't found? What if this is that "one in a million" instance wherein the child has been abducted? Are you confident in your ability to take charge? Do you know what to do? Have you trained and prepared for this sort of emergency? Do you know what agencies and resources are available to assist you? Do you know who should be summoned immediately? Do you know what a "Code Adam" is? Would you request an Amber Alert? Are you familiar with South Carolina's requirements to authorize implementation of an Amber Alert?

The first arriving officer's actions during the first few minutes following notice of the incident will dramatically impact on the successful return of the victim. Statistically, if the perpetrator is a child killer, the child will likely be killed within the first three hours of her abduction. You are probably already one-half hour behind by the time you arrive at the scene. Proper planning and training are the keys providing the best chance of the safe return of the child. Otherwise, the incident could have dire consequences for the victim and her family. Public confidence in your department's ability to "serve and protect" will be undermined.

* Scenario #2: "Unit 5 – proceed to 3200 Rivers Avenue. Meet Mrs. Jane Smith. She reports that her 14 year old son, Trevor, never returned home from school. When she called the school she was told that Trevor was absent today. Be advised that Trevor ran away from home once before; but, he left a note then. None was found today."

This is one of those calls that most officers dread, feeling all of their efforts will be wasted time. The child has probably willfully left home. There is no reason to believe he is in danger. Odds are that the child is somewhere within a few miles of his home, and he will be located or return home within a few days. Often, a runaway child is back before the officer has completed all of the required reporting. These reports are usually voluminous and time consuming. They include NCIC entries; cancellations; etc. Many officers exert limited efforts in locating the child, justifying their restraint by expressing their belief that the child "... is probably better off ..." away from the dysfunctional home that the officer knows to exist because of prior incidents.

What if this is that one case in a thousand wherein the child does not return? What if you, the investigating officer, have exhausted all reasonable leads? What if a month has passed and there has been no contact with the child? Do you know what legal requirements apply to you as the official investigator? Do you know what resources exist that you can access to broaden your search? What if the child is found murdered a couple of counties away? Can you say with confidence that you know you would have used all of the resources available, and that you conducted a diligent search that cannot be discredited?

These are just a couple scenarios involving missing, abducted, runaway, exploited or murdered children. Police officers respond to a variety of other child incidents every day including custody matters, parental abductions, internet crimes against children, etc. Such cases often involve interpretation of court orders; communications with out-of-state authorities; requirements for special technical services like computer forensics experts; etc. These cases can drain manpower and financial resources. With all of the budget cuts and constraints that have been placed on law enforcement agencies all around South Carolina and elsewhere, one major case can quickly deplete a department's annual budget. NCMEC can help!

So, what is NCMEC? Simply stated, NCMEC is a national clearinghouse for information on cases involving abducted, runaway, and sexually exploited youth. NCMEC does not investigate these cases. NCMEC receives leads and disseminates them to the department or agency with primary jurisdiction. However, NCMEC does have specially trained, experienced personnel who offer assistance (including investigative assistance) to any requesting agency in the form of technical assistance, information dissemination, and advice.

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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 387 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.

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Most police agencies are capable of solving these investigations, provided that they have the resources and manpower to devote to the case. However, most of the 18,000 police departments across the nation are comprised of 14 officers or less. They do not have the luxury of placing two, three or more officers on a case for an extended period of time. Special expertise and technicians may not be readily available to assist; or, the investigating department might not have the funds to cover costly investigations.

One example of technical assistance offered by NCMEC is the Photo Imaging/Distribution network that has been instrumental in the recovery of more than 934 missing children. NCMEC has developed many corporate partners who voluntarily assist in the production and distribution of flyers of missing children. This can be a considerable cost saving measure for your department. NCMEC also has developed a network to disseminate these flyers quickly to a targeted area as designated by the police.

NCMEC's Age Progression Unit provides computerized age progression or regression of long-term missing children, reconstruction of facial images of unidentified deceased juveniles, computer assistance in creating artist's composites of victims or suspects, and training in imaging applications and techniques.

The Case Analysis and Support Division provides analytical support to law enforcement that enhances their chances of recovering a missing child. NCMEC receives hundreds of leads and reported sightings every day.

Other special services include the Exploited Child Unit, Family Advocacy Division, Minority Outreach, International Division, Training and Outreach Division, Publications, Team Adam, and Project ALERT.

Details about contacting NCMEC are provided at their web site at www.ncmec.org. Presentations describing NCMEC services can be provided to police departments or interested public groups upon request.

About the author: Rich Graham is a volunteer Project ALERT Representative for NCMEC. He is a retired Pennsylvania State Trooper. He is the founder and president of Ross-Graham Investigations, LLC, which is a small private investigative agency in Mount Pleasant, S.C. He can be reached via email at rich@ross-graham.com.