



The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 9

Have a Safe Summer!

June 2004

Special Points

• NEXT MEETING

MONDAY June

14th 7:00 p.m.

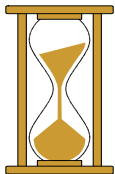


- **Police Week 2004**
- FOP Bingo Night
- Shotgun Raffle
- Corner of History
- Lodge Repairs
- Close to 400
- Last meeting highlights
- County Councilmen
- Editorial

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

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

**PAY
YOUR
DUES**



You can now pay online via our website

Police Week 2004 Washington, D.C.

This past May 13th-15th, our lodge sent a lowcountry contingency of 10 officers to the National Peace Officer's Memorial held in Washington, D.C. The agencies represented were, S.C. Probation and Parole, S.C. Highway Patrol, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Summerville Police Dept, Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, N.Y.P.D. (retired), Trident Technical College Public Safety (retired) and Charleston County Police Dept. (retired.)

The trip was reported to be wonderful by all who went. The first order of ceremony occurred on May 13th at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial where thousands attended. The keynote address was given by the Honorable John Ashcroft (U.S. Attorney General) and included a presentation to Ben "Nighthorse" Campbell (of the U.S. Senate) for favorable police legislation. The event culminated with a candlelight vigil for our fallen, bagpipes, song and the impressive "thin blue line" laser show.

Brother Jim Ward (with the help of S.C. Representative Henry Brown -Dist. 1) acquired tickets for all to attend the "Evening Parade" at the Marine Post at 8th and I on May 14th. The event was at the oldest Marine Corps Post in America and featured the President's own "Marine Band" as well as the infamous "Silent Drill Team." The parade show was excellent and showcased what has to be the finest military drill experience in the world. Uh-Rah!

May 15th was the highlight of the memorial week and took place on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Thousands upon thousands of our nation's finest, turned out in dress uniform for this event. The keynote speaker was President George W. Bush and included Emerald Society bagpipers, song by Patti LaBelle, and a host of dignitaries. FOP President Chuck Canterbury opened the ceremony which concluded with a roll-call of fallen officers, a "Fly Over" by military aircraft and "echo" taps by buglers.

All who attended report a renewed sense of police camaraderie and are thankful to the lodge for sending them. Want to go next year? Get involved with lodge activities.....

Special Bingo for Lodge Members - Friday, June 11th



Our lodge is supported in a large part by BINGO revenues. The *Beacon Bingo* located at Beacons Plaza in front of the fairgrounds on Highway 78, supports our Tri-County Lodge. It allows us to have the funding necessary to carry out our goals - such as sending members to the National Memorial in DC, assisting local officers or their families in a time of need and allowing us to maintain our building in Hanahan.

We have decided to sponsor an FOP Bingo night on Friday, June 11, 2004. Please invite your friends, family and co-workers for a night of fun. The games start at 8 PM. Lodge officers will be on hand with prize giveaways. The facility will recognize FOP members and guests with a program discount. The entire program will cost \$16 and features many \$300 games and will conclude with a \$2000 cover-all jackpot. Come early for choice seating and good luck! We are grateful for the support this venue provides. Come see what it is all about.....



The evening meal was provided by Brother Bill Collins. Delicate marinated chicken breasts complimented with great side dishes. Many "seconds" and little leftovers were a testament to taste. Good job Bill!

5 names read for new membership and 1 new associate application.

Motion made to accept new amended by-laws.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 6,300 "hits" the previous month. The "events" section reported to have the most visits.

Brothers Jim Ward and Dexter Washington won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Kudos to Chaplain David Lee for excellent job on the Lowcountry Police Memorial.

Brother Rick Dean presents check for \$300 to the *Distressed Officer* fund on behalf of the *Lawriders* motorcycle club. A result from their oyster roast fundraiser. The lodge appreciates their efforts and support.

Motion made to go forward with police patches wall project.

Congratulations to Brother Chris Brokaw (Chas. Co. Sheriff) on promotion to Lieutenant.

Prayers out to Brothers Ralph Hudson (cancer near his eye,) Ric Piersol (viral infection,) Shawn James (appendicitis,) Jasper Amanti (struck during traffic stop,) Todd Knight (broken hand,) northern Brother Mikey O' (more tumors discovered during surgery.) Welcome back to Sisters Amanda Lounsbury (N. Chas. P.D.) and Debbie Cattell (Hanahan P.D.) both back to active service. Sister Ann Hansford's son due for eye surgery.

****Keep 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.

As reported earlier, we are selling the raffle tickets to our police brethren. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for seven.

The shotgun is a *Mossberg* 12 gauge pump, model 91 "Maverick." Our proceeds to benefit our "Distressed Officer fund." We will have more tickets available at our next lodge meeting.

The drawing will be held July 12th.

Lodge Repairs

The Hanahan Police Dept. Explorer post repainted the meeting hall area of the lodge. Great job! We appreciate their efforts. This will allow us to begin our new "thin blue line" patch project.

Nearing 400 mark

We are fast approaching having 400 active members with our lodge. We hope that this will be accomplished within the next several months. In so doing, we are poised to become the largest lodge in the State. We are already, the largest lodge where all members pay dues out-of-pocket (not dept. paid as are some.) This is attributed to the diligent efforts of our members, lodge activity, and member benefits. It is our hope that we will continue to move forward and strive to better our chosen professions with the voice of all our members.

Origins of the "Police Car"



Bill Van Horn's



Corner of Tenth

One of the first police departments in the United States to utilize the automobile was the city of Detroit in the early 1900's. Before the invention of the automobile the police patrolled the neighborhoods on foot or by horse. Foot patrol had some great advantages, such as the closeness between the beat cop and the public. Some of the disadvantages were slow response times, and a lack of supervision.

Prior to the automobile, the criminals were transported by horse-drawn covered wagons known as "paddy-wagons". "Contrary to popular opinion, the name was not a slur on immigrant Irish but referred to padding on the walls and floor of the wagons to prevent the prisoners from injuring themselves." In the early 1900's the automobile was beginning to take shape and was seen as an improvement for the environment because of the pollution and congestion produced by horses and people. Author Rudi Volti wrote, " In those days horses in New York City deposited 2.5 million tons of manure annually." So from that statement, I can only assume somebody's job title was *master horse manure measurer*.

The police were not the only ones using cars. The criminals had cars as well and were usually much faster. Additionally with the advent of the automobile new crimes were being committed such as speeding, vehicular homicide and other gangster related crimes. Even though the police had cars to quickly get to a call for service, the criminals were still getting away because of delayed response times do to the fact of no radio communication. To answer that problem a " booth car" system was deployed. Two officers were assigned to a car. One officer stayed in the booth (size of a phone booth) and the other officer patrolled on foot. Headquarters would receive a call for service and via the telephone contact the booth to dispatch the officers. As with any new idea there will be problems. When the officers were dispatched to a call they were sometimes out of contact with headquarters for hours.

So to combat the problem, Detroit police commissioner William Rutledge began to equip some of the cars with radios. The radios were one-way, so after receiving a call for service the officer had to then look for a phone box to acknowledge the call. This process delayed the officers response once again. Finally in 1933, the Bayonne police department in New Jersey was the first agency to establish two-way radio communications in police cars. Police chiefs everywhere thought this new technology was the "silver bullet" to fighting crime. With the advent of the two-way radio, response times greatly improved, criminals were being caught in the "act" and it made the police appear omnipresent. Also, the down side was that the officers were spending a lot more time in their cars than on the foot beat. The police no longer knew the community. So after a century of inventions and technology to assist law enforcement, it appears we have come full circle. It looks like we have gone "back to the future."

Charleston County Councilmen - Tim Scott & Curtis Bostic



For many years, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office has submitted budget requests for additional detention officers to help manage the critically overcrowded conditions at the Detention Center. The overcrowding, coupled with the inability to staff positions, created substantial safety concerns.

In December of 2001, Sheriff Cannon advised County Council of those concerns, in writing; advised that the jail was going to mandatory overtime to ensure that critical posts were covered; and requested the hiring of a consultant for a staffing/population study. When no response to our request for a consultant was forthcoming, Chief Novak learned that the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) conducted these studies for free. We forwarded our request for a staffing/population study to SCAC and in May of 2002, Robert Benfield - who is a Risk Manager with SCAC - came to the Detention Center.

The staffing study was finalized in May of 2003 and the results presented to County Council. Overall, the study identified the need for over 160 extra positions to meet minimum staffing needs and to ensure an adequate relief factor. According to Mr. Benfield; **"I believe that the staffing needs of the Charleston County Detention Center have reached a critical level and a plan to alleviate this situation should be implemented as soon as possible."** Recognizing the tremendous financial impact of Mr. Benfield's study, the Sheriff's Office approached County Council asking that we receive staffing to fund the critical posts - which were those posts assigned to the housing units of the adult facility. To adequately staff the critical posts (24 hours a day, seven days a week), and to ensure an appropriate relief factor, we identified the need for 86 additional detention officers.

With the help of Robert Benfield's study, we were finally successful in getting County Council to recognize the severity of the situation at the jail. Council authorized the hiring of 20 additional detention officers effective April 1, 2003. After that initial hiring, we came back to County Council seeking authorization to hire 20 more positions at the start of the FY 2004 budget (July 1, 2003). When it began to look like Council was not going to fund additional positions at the adult facility, and Council began to talk about closing the Juvenile Detention Center, Sheriff Cannon advised Council that he would be willing to transfer control of Detention Center operations to them. While there were several reasons behind the Sheriff's offer, the primary reason centered around the Sheriff's belief that County Council would adequately fund the Detention Center if they were responsible for it. He saw this proposal as the only option he had in terms of ensuring adequate funding at the Detention Center.

Following the Sheriff's offer, things between the Sheriff and Council became a little contentious. The Sheriff met with Detention Center staff to explain the rationale behind his proposal. The chairman of County Council (Tim Scott) and the County Administrator (Roland Windham) also met with Detention Center staff to talk about the proposal from their standpoint. It was clear from those meetings that while Detention Center staff understood the Sheriff's motives, they were not interested in losing their connection to the Sheriff's Office. As the meetings with Detention personnel progressed, and their dissatisfaction and unhappiness became more apparent, the lines of communication between Council and the Sheriff were re-established. Ultimately, County Council agreed to fund 20 additional positions effective July 1st and agreed to postpone any actions that would result in closing the Juvenile Detention Center until a consultant could be hired.

In October/November 2003, Chinn Planning Inc. provided County Council with recommendations relative to the Juvenile Detention Center. Although Council has yet to make any final decision on this matter, the consultant ultimately recommended against shutting down the Juvenile Detention Center.

Additionally, during recent budget deliberations, County Council agreed to fund the remaining positions needed at the Detention Center to staff the critical posts. The Detention Center is now authorized to hire 20 more detention officers effective July 1, 2004 and the remaining 16 on October 1, 2004.

While all of County Council unanimously supported the requests for the remainder of the positions identified in the SCAC staffing study, two council members deserve particular thanks - Tim Scott and Curtis Bostic. Following the meetings with Detention Center staff, Tim Scott came to understand that Detention Center matters were best left to the Sheriff. Mr. Scott, who has long been an advocate of the Sheriff's Office, was instrumental in re-opening lines of communication with the Sheriff's Office, getting Council to agree to re-visit the Sheriff's request for additional staff and postponing any action on the Juvenile Detention Center until a consultant could be hired. During recent budget deliberations, Tim Scott and Curtis Bostic - another long time advocate of the Sheriff's Office - worked together to ensure County Council support for the remaining staffing needs of the Jail. Their efforts resulted in the unanimous approval of the last 36 positions needed to ensure minimum staffing of the critical posts. **Although we have pledged our lodge to remain politically neutral**, based, in part, on their tireless efforts on behalf of the Detention Center, as well as their long term commitment to the Sheriff's Office and public safety, **we recognize these two to be worthy of the law enforcement vote.** Their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

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 392 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.

Cops are Cops



My tenure in law enforcement has brought me in contact with many people - the good, the bad and of course the ugly. The last few years has afforded me the opportunity to meet professional policemen/policewomen from all over our nation, as well as from other countries. Shared stories of experiences have been enlightening.

I have discovered that regardless of whether you wear a star or a shield, drive a Crown Vic or ride the shoe-leather express, go "10-95" or "make a collar," cops are the same. I claim staples such as shrimp, grits and iced tea, where others tout corned beef and beer. When you remove the minor differences and dialects, break them down to their basic elements, cops are inherently more similar than different.

Crime is crime, regardless where it manifests itself. Those sworn to uphold the law, likewise, face the same dangers. The patrol district may be snowed and frozen or sweltering hot, yet the call must be answered. It is remarkable that when cops from abroad share stories, all can relate. Criminals are equally similar and commit the same crimes.

Sadly, we all bleed the same red blood and leave behind the same grieving families. Attend a funeral service for a fallen brother and you will find a sense of closeness that people outside our professions could not possibly comprehend. Speak with the partner of a slain officer from out west, wearing blue jeans and a cowboy hat. His pain is just as real as that of the suited northern detective - it crosses all boundaries.

We are all members of the same National brotherhood, International brotherhood really. English "Bobbies" can relate to us as much as we can relate to them. The same with cops around the world. I am grateful however, that I am an American cop, enforcing American law. In that sense, I am among the best that the world has to offer. In the scheme of things, I am proud to say that I am a lowcountry cop. I like my shrimp and grits, but I will admit that corned beef and beer ain't so bad either.

- R.E. Sharpe