



# The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 1

National Votes Tallied - George W. Bush wins FOP Endorsement

October 2004

## Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY October**  
**11th 7:00 p.m.**



- **Crime reporters to speak**
- Street Survival drawing
- Corner of History
- Hero spotlight
- Last meeting highlights
- 2005 Drawing!
- Law Enforcement Day 2004
- Ballots Counted
- State Conference
- Mark Chestnut fundraiser
- Eddie Bush signs label
- Editorial

### "Welcome Aboard ! To our new members."

We are South Carolina's largest and fastest growing lodge. Our direction and activities are steered from the bottom to the top. We are limited only by our ideas and efforts. Be active and participate!

## Crime Reporters to Speak at Oct. Meeting



### The Post and Courier

This October meeting we are fortunate to have as guest speakers, three of the most prominent crime reporters of the lowcountry. All are staff reporters with the *Post and Courier* and have among them, years of experience reporting events dealing with police and the courts.

Glenn Smith has covered crime and police for The Post and Courier for the past five years. Prior to coming to South Carolina, he worked for 11 years at various newspapers in his home state of Connecticut. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut.

Steve Reeves covers crime and police in Charleston County. Prior to coming to The Post and Courier in April 2003, he reported in Tuscaloosa (Ala.), Birmingham (Ala) and Sebring (Fla). He is a native of Andalusia, Alabama and a University of West Florida graduate.

Nita Birmingham covers crime and police in Berkeley and Dorchester counties. She has worked as a reporter for 15 years at newspapers in Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida. She has spent most of her career covering police, courts and prisons. She is a native of Alabama and a University of Georgia graduate.

We are honored to have them as guests and we hope that much can be gained by all through this informal exchange. This is your chance to ask questions of "the media" that you may not otherwise ever get. All three guests are very personable and well respected in the highly competitive field of journalism.

### "Street Survival" Tactical Edge Seminar - free to one !

On December 6th and 7th, Calibre Press will be presenting the highly sought *Street Survival - Tactical Edge Seminar* in Myrtle Beach, S.C.. The Street Survival Seminar is one of the most exciting, informative and motivational training experiences an officer can attend.

We are proud to announce that we will give away one complete package to an officer at our Oct. 11th meeting. The package will be all-expenses paid, to include seminar fees as well as food and lodging.

To be eligible to participate in the drawing you must be:

- a full time Law Enforcement Officer in Charleston, Colleton or Dorchester County
- Not a member of another FOP lodge
- Below the rank of Sergeant
- Be present at the Oct. 11th meeting.

You do not have to be an FOP member to participate!





Brothers Vic Nico, Bill Lang and *Iron Chef* Phil Cahoon provided the evening meal. Rotisserie chicken was delicious and plentiful with all the side dishes to compliment. No one left hungry.....

15 names read for new membership.

Guests: David McClure - *Secretary* S.C. FOP State Lodge  
Sherri Rowan - *Secretary* Charleston Metro Lodge #5

Guest Speaker - James K. Schweitzer *Director* S.C.Dept. of Public Safety

David McClure speaks on re-election bid for State Secretary.

Sherri Rowan bids platform for State Sgt. At Arms office.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 15, 854 "hits" the previous month. Also, reports new "forum" section added to State website.

Brothers Frank Nigro and Jim Ward won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Matt Woodall outlays new lodge merchandise.

Brother John Wilson gives legal defense report.

Received "thank you" letter from upstate officer we had assisted via the Distressed Officer Fund (his home had burned.)

Prayers out to the friends and family of Brother James Shealy who passed away on 9-10-04. He was a respected policeman and a founding member of our lodge. *Godspeed Brother Shealy.*

### **Mark Chestnut Fundraiser**

With the assistance of Cat Country 107.5, we were able to raise over \$750 for the *Distressed Officer Fund*. Members met at *The Plex* in N. Charleston, took donations at the door and sold "I support local law enforcement shirts". Mark Chestnut sang many of his hits such as "Bubba shot the jukebox," "Too cold a home," "Going through the Big D," his new hit "God loves the drinkin man" and many others. He autographed any FOP t-shirts purchased and posed for pictures with our FOP volunteers. After his show, Eddie Bush took the stage and played for over an hour. We would like to thank our volunteers who assisted us:

President Dan Isgett, Vice President John Blackmon, Sgt. at Arms Matt Woodall, Chaplain David Lee, Tom Botchie, Vic Nico, Bill Lang and C.J. Thompson.

We are grateful for the support to our *Distressed Officer Fund* that Cat Country 107.5 has offered. Thank them whenever possible!

### **Presidential Ballots Talled**

After counting the ballots submitted from the members who participated, current President George W. Bush won the majority vote. As such, the Fraternal Order of Police on the National level has given endorsement to President Bush in his campaign for re-election.



### **Law Enforcement Day 2004 - successful**

The lodge participated in Law Enforcement Day at The Citadel Mall on September, 18th this year. We had a high profile spot and had balloons, gunlocks and bumper stickers to give away. We had "I support local law enforcement" T-shirts for sale, along with Eddie Bush cds, to support the Distressed Officer Fund. Through this effort were able to raise \$300 for the fund. We also had a *PowerPoint* presentation providing information about our lodge. We were also able to meet with officers from other agencies and provide information about our organization and our lodge. We would like to thank our many volunteers who made this possible. Special thanks to:

President Dan Isgett, Vice President John Blackmon, Sgt. at Arms Matt Woodall, Chaplain David Lee, Jim Ward, Tom Botchie, Bill Vanhorn, Vic Nico, Bill Lang, Jim Riley, C. J. Thompson, Bob Tague, Shawn James, Mark Bryant, Ann Hansford, Doug DeLong, and Naomi Morris of Lodge 5.

### **Eddie Bush signs with major label**



Our musical benefactor and associate member Eddie Bush, who wrote and performs "The Thin Blue Line," signed a national recording contract with Infinity records in September. Eddie will soon be filming a music video and will have a national release of his new cd in January, 2005. Coming to your favorite radio station soon! Eddie is a strong supporter of law enforcement and has actively assisted our *Distressed Officer Fund* since its inception. We are proud of his achievement and would hope to see great success in his future.

## Lowcountry Hero Spotlight



### William Dawson Breland III Walterboro Police Dept.

End of Watch: Sunday, Oct. 15th, 1978  
Patrolman Breland, 22, was killed in an automobile accident during a pursuit.

He had served with the Walterboro Police Department for 2 years and was survived by his mother. *May his sacrifice not be forgotten.*

### State FOP Conference 2004 - Myrtle Beach

State office elections are held once every two years. This year the conference/election is being held in Myrtle Beach, Oct. 7-9. Our lodge will be sending 17 delegates to vote (one allowed per 25 lodge members.) We are also proud to endorse two of our own lodge members as candidates to state office. Dan Isgett will be seeking the office of State Treasurer, and David Lee will be seeking the office of State Chaplain (good luck!) This conference will also allow our delegates to meet with law enforcement professionals from all over the state and cultivate many professional contacts.

## Special Drawing for 2005

In an effort to introduce more line level officers to the FOP and our meetings, we are pleased to announce:

In following with the positive response we have already received on the drawing for the free Street Survival Seminar, we have upped the ante somewhat....

Starting in January 2005, all meeting participants who qualify (as outlined in the article on page 1) will have their name put on a drawing slip. For each meeting they attend, another drawing slip with their name will be placed in the pot. A drawing will be held at our July meeting and (12) twelve names will be selected.

The lodge will pay for those twelve selectees to attend the 2005 Street Survival Seminar that will be presented in Charleston, S.C. in October, 2005. To find out more about the seminar, check out [www.calibrepress.com](http://www.calibrepress.com).

We are committed to preparing law enforcement professionals to fulfill their responsibilities safely and proficiently. We view this as an opportunity to uphold our creed "serving the lawmen of the Lowcountry."



### The "Manacle"

What is the most important tool we have in our arsenal to apprehend the criminal? I'll give you a hint. They are mostly made from steel, are round, and are connected by a chain or a hinge. Yes, of course I'm referring to the handcuff. The term "handcuff" in the old English, means to catch or manacle. The origin of the handcuff goes back to the dawn of the dark ages. While searching for

treasure, modern Greeks found several restraint systems in buried chariots. The Bible also makes reference to handcuffs in the Book of Psalms, "To gind their Kings in chains and their nobles in fetters of iron." Around the 16<sup>th</sup> century the terminology was changed from handcop to swivel manacle and shackbold.

In the 1800's, England was using two types of handcuffs, the "figure 8" and the "flexable". The former had no room for movement and was used on violent prisoners to inflect pain upon them. The latter is more like the handcuff we use today in law enforcement. As we already know, handcuffs do not fit on all subjects. I know from my own experience I have had to use leg irons as handcuffs on certain individuals. Back then, if the cuffs did not fit they would use the "bracelets." The instrument would be placed in the hands of the offender and he would receive blows to the stomach by a "knuckle-suster." Most individuals complied with this method. In the modern era, the American handcuff was more readily accepted because it is lighter weight, less clumsy and more easily concealed. Inspector Maurice Moser of Scotland Yard prefers handcuffs, but also suggests another alternative. He proposes a instrument that " grips the criminal tightly across the back, imprisoning the arms just above the elbow joint. Such an instrument would cause him no unnecessary pain, while relieving officers from that part of their duty which is particularly obnoxious to thieves., having a prolonged struggle with low and savage ruffians." A French detective who did not like using handcuffs used a knife to secure his prisoners. No he did not stab them with the knife. But he did use the knife to sever the buttons of the prisoners clothing, therefore he had to use both hands to keep up his trousers. If you're using both hands to hold up your clothing, it's hard to run from the police. I think the detective would welcome the baggy clothes worn in today's culture. So the next time your prisoner complains about the cuffs being too tight just tell them, "be grateful you're not wearing the "figure 8." Special thanks goes to the warden (my wife) for this months topic.

Bill Van Horn's



Corner  
of  
History

*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



**We are on the web!**  
[www.scfop3.org](http://www.scfop3.org)

Tri - County Lodge # 3

*"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"*

**FYI** Area jail populations for October 1st, 2004.

Colleton County - 77 inmates  
Dorchester County - 304 inmates  
Charleston County - 1436 inmates  
Berkeley County - 294 inmates  
Georgetown County - 205 inmates



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 453 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.

## Winning While Losing?

Early on in my career, I guess I went down the same path of many who had come before. I was a man on a mission - to make a difference in the world. I took my training to heart, applied it with precision, then coupled it with the job fervor known as "rookieitis." A great road I had chosen, and I drove it headlong with considerable speed. Then it happened. Like getting the wind knocked out of you when you are a kid, or taking a spill at the roller rink with everyone watching - embarrassment. I lost my first big case in court.

I don't recall now exactly the case. Only, that I thought I had the case nailed shut. My paperwork was done well (or so I thought) and as knowledgeable as I had recently become at the academy, I lost the case like a one legged fireman trying to kick down a door. I was devastated.... Later that day I was comforted when a senior officer shared with me some pearls of wisdom.

"What happened in your case?" he asked. "I lost it" I told him. "Did you really?" he asked. I did, or so I thought. "You put him in jail didn't you?" he barked. He then went on to explain that I had jailed the guy, seized his dope, towed his vehicle, cost him time and money. "You didn't really lose, either way you look at it. So what, you didn't put him away, you'll get another chance."

I was even more relieved when this same "old school" deputy gave an analogy of the job that I try to share with new officers every chance I get. When we as cops are called for service or happen upon an incident, we must take everything we know, see, hear, smell and feel into account - then take action. You may have several minutes to analyze everything if you're lucky, but chances are you may only get few seconds to make a decision and take an action. The action may result in an arrest or even the loss of life. In either case, your actions will be looked at closely. In more instances than not, an attorney with years more education than the average policeman, will have months to pick apart your thirty second decision. Given enough time, any *armchair quarterback* can sound sensible if you give him a platform and an audience.

Since then, I've never really sweated the prosecution of a case. I give my best effort, and let it fly. As said by the infamous Yogi Berra, "win some, lose some, and some get rained out." If I'm still breathing, creating cases and collecting a paycheck - I reckon I'm ahead of the game. I've gained far more than I've ever lost.

- R.E. Sharpe