



The Informer

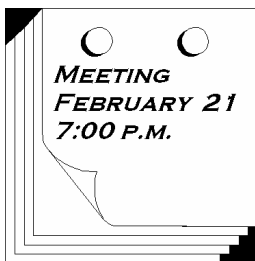
Volume 4, Issue 5

Remember our brethren serving abroad!

February 2005

Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**
MONDAY February
21st 7:00 p.m.



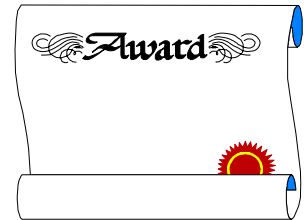
- **Awards Ceremony**
- Cops and Lobsters
- Corner of History
- Hero spotlight
- Last meeting highlights
- Christmas with a Cop
- Drawing for Glock
- Special Election
- Editorial
- Stories Needed
- Pin Project
- FYI
- Law Enforcement Appreciation Night

Welcome aboard To our new members!

Our organization exists to serve all the members. All have equal voice and vote in lodge proceedings. Member input is encouraged to help steer the direction of our lodge. Be active and participate.

Awards Ceremony February 21st

Our February meeting will be our annual awards ceremony. We will recognize those officers and individuals who have made a positive impact on the Lowcountry community. We will be giving awards of appreciation, awards for valor, lodge service recognitions and achievement awards.



It is the belief of our organization, that recognition by one's professional peers amounts to the highest form of praise that can be bestowed. It is our honor to provide such formal recognition. If possible, make time to attend this event and show your support for all the award recipients!

Cops & Lobsters March 17th



On March 17th, 2005, we will be participating with Red Lobster for the annual "Cops and Lobsters" fund raiser that benefits the Special Olympics. During this event, uniformed law enforcement personnel assist Red Lobster employees waiting on tables. At the end of the meal, patrons are offered an opportunity to donate a "tip" in an envelope marked for Special Olympics. Last year we raised a record breaking \$3,300.

For those of you who don't know, Special Olympics is the State FOP lodge's designated charity as well as our lodge's designated charity. The beauty of the "Cops and Lobsters" fund raiser is that all the money raised stays in the Tri-county area. I want all of you to know that the folks at Special Olympics really appreciate all we do for their organization. I have worked with Special Olympics for

several years and it impacts me personally. I have a five year old son with down syndrome and he has started ice skating with Special Olympics and will compete when he is old enough. It is fantastic that programs (at no cost to the parents) exist for these very special kids.

If you wish to participate in this year's "Cops and Lobsters," we will have the following shifts: Lunch 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and dinner 5:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m.. The event will be held at the restaurant located at 2460 Mall Dr. in North Charleston. We need all the help we can get, we are flexible with the hours for those of you with tight schedules. I can be contacted at 740-3109 (office), 296-1171 (cell) or 728-3109 pager. **as always, volunteers will be rewarded with many smiles and some great food**

- Harold Phillips



Highlights - Last Meeting

The food committee delivered once again, a wonderful meal. Tacos, burritos, re-fried beans, Mexican rice. Complemented by cheeses, salsas, and fiery jalapenos. A delicious change of pace with a south of the border flair. Excelente!

9 names read for new active membership.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 18,224 "hits" the previous month. Encourages sign up for the FOP weekly electronic newsletter via the state lodge website and use of the forum also on the state website.

Brother Charlie Sparks won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Brother John Wilson announces that the new legal defense cards are in.

February meeting moved to third Monday due to Valentine's Day.

Secretary solicits input for nominations for awards ceremony. Deadline for submissions will be end of January 2005.

Plans for lodge sign are in full swing.

President and Treasurer to attend leadership conference in Nashville, Tenn. In February.

Volunteers needed for booth at the gun show in Ladson on the 15th & 16th

The FOP National "Day on the Hill" will be February 14th - 16th in Washington, D.C. Our National Legislative Office and Committee will meet with legislators and likewise with state FOP representatives.

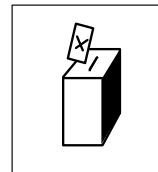
Motion passed to sponsor the National Criminal Enforcement Association's 6th Annual Winter Conference in Myrtle Beach Feb. 1st-4th. \$300 allocated.

Brother Ed Kaney - President of CSRA Lodge # 6 passed away. Russell Fickett NCPD (our previous Chaplain) recovering from a stroke, Trina Parker Charleston County Detention passed away, J. Amanti Hanahan PD back to full work status.

Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.

Special Election - Sgt. At Arms

Our current Sgt. At Arms - Matt Woodall has formally resigned his position. His father is in failing health so Matt has opted with honor, to put down his badge for a while and save the family business. Matt has been a vital part of our order since he has joined and has served the membership well in his position as lodge officer. Matt has been the chairman of the merchandise committee and all of our unique merchandise has been a direct result of his efforts. He will be missed by our lodge as well as by the Hanahan Police Department.



As per our by-laws, we must elect another to fill the vacant position in the Executive Board. To comply, we will accept nominations for the position at our February meeting and will hold elections at the March meeting. To qualify for eligibility you must be nominated by a member in good standing and you must be:

- Active member in good standing for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months or more immediately preceding the holding of any election
- All dues current with no monies in arrears
- Attend at least 50% of the previous year's meetings
- Assist with at least one lodge sponsored event

Dead or Alive



In 1789, President George Washington created the first federal law enforcement agency - the U.S. Marshal's Service. The following is a list of duties performed by the service: serving warrants, locating fugitives, courtroom security and inmate transports. One of the service's least known historical responsibilities was to conduct the first census in 1790 and collecting tax on whiskey.

As our country moved westward, the Marshals were appointed to keep the peace and enforce the laws of the new frontier. The Marshal's were also tasked with carrying out federal death sentences. The first execution was conducted by U.S. Marshall Henry Dearborn in 1790. The condemned man was Thomas Bird - for murder on the high seas. The Marshall was given a budget for construction of the gallows and a coffin.

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which required the Marshal's Service to return fugitive slaves back to their owners. Many agents did not personally believe in the law but they kept their oath and enforced all the laws. Ironically 100 years later, the Marshals were there to escort black children to schools in the South. They were also at the University of Alabama to provide access and protection to the students. Today, the President appoints the U.S. Marshal and is confirmed by the Congress. Additionally, there are over 4,000 Deputy Marshals and civilian staff. I do not know who came up with the saying "dead or alive" but that motto does not pertain to the Marshals. In 1896 the agents were paid a sum of \$2.00 if the fugitive was brought back alive. If the fugitive was brought back dead, the agent received no compensation and had to fund the cost of burial. So I guess you could also add undertaker to the many duties of the Marshal's Service.

BILL VANHORN'S



Corner

Of History



Tri-County Lodge #3 is giving away 12 slots to attend the Street Survival Tactical Edge Seminar to be held in Charleston during October 4 & 5, 2005.

To be entered to win, all you have to do is be present at a lodge meeting between January 2005 and June 2005, be a full time law enforcement officer below the rank of Sergeant in Charleston, Dorchester or Colleton county and not a member of another FOP lodge.

You DO NOT have to be an FOP member to win!

The more meetings you attend; the more chances you have to WIN!

Dues Notices Mailed

Dues notices for 2005 were mailed out in January. Please be attentive if you get one as we can no longer allow folks to slide past the mandatory payment date.

The response so far has been good and limited second notices are expected. With every payment, the secretary is checking for beneficiaries on file. Importantly, if you get a beneficiary form back with your 2005 card, please complete it and return it promptly.

Should you receive notice in error, or have questions about your status, contact the lodge secretary.

Stories Needed

Your lodge secretary writes as a hobby and has enjoyed publication on local as well as national venues. So far it has been limited to articles and short stories.

I have contemplated for years on the notion of writing a book. I have been in contact with a small publishing firm that has reviewed some of my material and will likely award me a small print-on-demand contract if I produce enough material for a book. Since this will be my first go at such a project, I will opt for a compilation of "true" police stories. Such endeavors have met with varying success across the country. I don't foresee any real financial rewards from this project. For me, it will be a practice run for a future project.

My request is simple. If you have a good "true" story you would like to have published, get it to me and I will try to include it. I will properly credit all stories given. My role will serve only as editor and will include a few of my own stories. I would ask up front, that any stories submitted be as void as possible where actual names are concerned to hold down any embarrassment or potential liability.

There is no deadline to speak of. If you have a story, get it to me through any means possible. Electronic files are preferred, but handwritten stories will be welcomed. I am open for suggestions for a title as well.... Should it actually make any money, I will split any proceeds equally among all contributors. - R.E. Sharpe

Police Pins for Project

The response on the call for patches to make our border display was overwhelming. The display adds a unique decorative touch to the lodge that will likely be duplicated by others.

We have purchased a nice display case to hold a collection of police pins. Currently we have around twenty five or so in the case, but many more are needed to complete it. If you have any pins to donate for the project, they would be welcomed. The pins in question are FOP or Police Dept. lapel pins, police conference/seminar pins or the small badge type used for tie pins.

If you have some collecting dust in a drawer somewhere, donate them so that we can finish our project and display them for the enjoyment of many.

Christmas with a Cop

As has become an annual lodge tradition, we try to locate needy families throughout the tri-county area around Christmas. These families are those encountered by rank and file officers whose state of affairs are such that without financial intervention - there would be no presents.

Belated thanks and recognition to Donald Dulin, Frank Nigro, Angie Palmer, Sandy Williams, Ann Hansford, Wilbert Cotton, John Rodriguez, and Ric Piersol. They volunteered their time at Christmas and assisted 11 families with a total of 23 kids. The lodge gave \$100 per child. The volunteers, while in uniform, met with these families and provided a police escorted shopping spree at the Target Dept. store west Ashley, and Wal-Mart in Summerville

It is difficult to describe the depth of appreciation and the memories the children will carry with them. Kudos to all the officers involved. Sometimes Santa wears a badge!

Lowcountry Hero Spotlight



Steven Anthony Breland

Colleton County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: Monday Sept. 19th, 1977

Deputy Breland, 26, was shot and killed during a 20 minute shooting spree. Deputy Breland, Chief Deputy Ron Crosby and Deputy Johnny Beach were trying to arrest a 62-year-old man at his home. Crosby and Beach were also wounded.

Deputy Breland had served with the Colleton County Sheriff's Department for 2 years and was survived by his wife, daughter, parents, brother, sister, and grandmother. *May his sacrifice not be forgotten!*

Glock to be given away



At the conclusion of the meeting on February 21st, we will draw from a pot containing all the names of our new members who joined since September 2004. The pot also contains the names of the sponsors of each new member.

To avoid any legal issues or liability in the future, we will accompany the winner to the store, allow him/her to provide registration and the lodge will pay for the weapon. Good Luck!

“My Biggest Arrest” - editorial

When people find out that you're a police officer, often you get a pack of the same old questions and comments. Quizzes on traffic laws, “my (insert relation here) is a cop”, “I got this ticket and etc.....” you know the drill. One that always gets me is the “what's your biggest arrest?” question. That usually gets me thinking - most violent criminal? the most drugs? the most warrants? Biggest..hmmm.... Never really had a ready answer for that one. Until now.

About ten months ago, a call came over the radio that Goose Creek Police had a subject in custody we had an open General Sessions bench warrant for. They needed a warrants officer to handle the situation. I was clear, so I answered up that I would take the call. While en-route to get the paperwork, I was advised that the officers who were out with the suspect had noted that “accommodations needed to be made, that the suspect could not fit into a police vehicle.” What? I thought. I asked for more information. “She weighs 750 lbs.” came the answer over the radio. Surely I didn't hear it right, so I asked again. “She weighs 750 lbs. and will not fit in a police car” was the reply. Damn. Now what?

I was at our jail already, so I met with the transport Sgt. and asked for a prisoner transport van. When I explained what I needed it for, he showed me the van (that had a partition in the middle to separate males/females) and the space inside was actually smaller than a cruiser. No good. I wasn't sure just what to do. Never had academy training for this. The Sgt. suggested that I get the community service van and remove the seats, surely she could fit in there. Good idea - I got the van, removed the seats and off I went to get this suspect. The warrant itself was two years old, and at that time the suspect was listed as 550 lbs. I then realized that 750 lbs. just might be true.

I'll never forget the grin on the face of the officer when I showed up at the store to get my suspect. She had been caught shoplifting all sorts of stuff (including frozen chicken) by placing the items in the rolls of her fat. A courtesy summons was issued for the charge when it was discovered there were outstanding warrants in Charleston County. Yep, he was smiling as he directed me to the suspect. Now I have seen such people on the TV talk shows, but this was real life. Wow, she was huge and was wearing what appeared to be crudely assembled homemade clothes. I tried to be as calm and cordial as I could, and managed to get the suspect to waddle to the van. Acting like it was just another day, I linked two sets of waist chains, then three or four pairs of handcuffs and finally got them to click together around her waist. But then her wrists would not fit into the cuffs. So, I undid the mess and opted to place leg shackles on her hands. She was being pretty cool during the ordeal, but I was about to come apart like a two dollar watch. She reeked horribly of smells that are difficult to put into words. Something along the line of rotten potatoes and exotic European cheeses. I have a strong stomach, but the gag reflexes were almost impossible to contain.

With great effort, she flopped into the van and finally cleared the door path by rolling to and fro. The grinning officer looked amazed as I bid him good bye and took off. The suspect began to explain that she could not sit upright because it impaired her breathing and that she would just lay on the floor. She then asked about her bond hearing and noted that she always gets a “PR” bond because of her “condition.” I then made the error of being honest - I told her she had a bench warrant and would likely be in jail for months. She started wailing and shifting about. It was difficult to control the van, and on several occasions I honestly thought I might wreck. No doubt the drivers behind me assumed I was drunk or having a seizure.

Just before I got to the jail, I called for assistance from the jail staff. I was met in the sally port by a musclebound member of the TACT team. “You need some help with someone?” he asked. I nodded and asked him if he had some more folks coming. He just laughed - until I showed him my prisoner. His jaw dropped. “A 750 lb. woman I told him” He then called for assistance. After providing some details, the help came. She was examined by medical staff who determined that the smells were from infections between her various folds (they actually looked.) She was exhausted from all the previous thrashing about and could not walk. Someone had a stroke of brilliance and acquired a large flatbed dolly (used for moving trash cans) so she was loaded up and wheeled in. What a spectacle, I can't even begin to describe it.

So now after all these years, I have my answer. I have checked with the powers that be, and as far as can be determined, I hold the record for “the biggest arrest in Charleston County.” My biggest arrest - 750 lbs.

- R.E. Sharpe

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We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org

Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"



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 479 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.



FYI Misc. jail populations for Feb 13th 2005

Colleton Co-----54 inmates
 Berkeley Co.-----248 inmates
 Charleston Co. ----1432 inmates
 Dorchester Co -----220 inmates
 Georgetown Co. --- 179 inmates

6th Annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Night



Sunday, February 6th saw our sixth annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Night. The event was well attended by about 150 Lowcountry officers and their guests. The officers represented a wide spectrum of agencies from the Federal to the local. Carol Smith provided an excellent catered meal with something for all tastes. All enjoyed the SuperBowl and had a memorable time. The lodge wishes to thank all those officers who acquired the door prizes for the event. It is truly nice for us to be able to provide a free night of R&R to the officers of the tri-county area. This event grows better each year.

David Lee won the coveted "Dillard's half-time free throw contest."

Specifically, we wish to formally thank all the local businesses and organizations who contributed to our event. We are honored that you felt us worthy of your generosity. In Random order:

Applebee's, Outback Steakhouse, Law Riders Motorcycle Club, Sam's Wholesale Club, Bootjack, Kiawah Island Community Association, T-Bonz, Edwin Watts Golf, Ryan's Steakhouse, TuTu's Pleasurebaskets, Gerald's Tires, Tom Portaro's, Chick-Fil-A, Mega Pawn, Residence Inn, Hurricane Electronics, Aunt Bea's Restaurant, Perkin's Restaurant, Cactus Carwash, West Marine, Shoney's, Madeline Carol Gallery, Gene's Pawn Shop, Henry J. Lee Distributors, Wild Wings, Command Uniforms, Yorktown/Patriots Point Complex, Stylettes Salon, The Plex, Dillard's Dept. Store, Shadowmoss Golf Club, Michael Chevrolet, Skatell's Jewelry, The Barbershop at Northbridge, Noisy Oyster, Pearlstine Distributors and Truck Supply Co. of S.C. .

Please show your appreciation for their support when you patronize these businesses!