



The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 6

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 2005

Special Points

• NEXT MEETING

MONDAY March 14

at 7:00 p.m.



- **Record Membership**
- Local Training
- Corner of History
- Patch Collecting
- Last meeting highlights
- Cops and Lobsters
- Award Recipients
- Glock Winner
- Donald Dulin
- Victor Nico
- Debbie A. Witz
- Frank Nigro
- FYI
- Editorial

Welcome aboard To our new members!

Members are encouraged to use the forum through the State website www.scfop.org. It can only be accessed by FOP members and is an excellent resource to network securely with officers around the state.

February - Record Month for New Members

Aside from having a packed building for our awards ceremony, we were pleasantly shocked to read in 43 new memberships. The applications spanned the law enforcement spectrum from the Federal to the many varieties of State, County and local departments. Ten new members from Colleton County alone was a testament that our far reaching efforts are paying off.

Like any organization, ours is sustained by action from its members, positive leadership and most importantly - word of mouth advertising. We have seen continued growth the last several years, but certainly we were not expecting such a record response in a single meeting!

As a lodge, we hope to live up to all expectations that our members may have. We are constrained only by lack of effort or input. Every member is reminded that our organization works from the bottom to the top. Every lodge is allowed to choose its own direction through membership guidance. To ensure the continued success of our lodge, your input is vital. Every member has equal voice and vote. You are the FOP!

Local Training

"The Mount Pleasant Police Department is conducting an 8-hour Biased Based Profiling: Issues and Dilemmas Class through the Carolina Institute for Community Policing. The course will be held on multiple dates at the Mount Pleasant Police Department. The dates are: January 16, February 6, March 5, March 26, April 10, and May 28. This course is approved through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026 for registration and questions. There is no cost for the class. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited."

"The Mount Pleasant Police Department is conducting a 40-hour Composite Artist Level 1 Certification Class on the dates of April 18-22, 2005. This course is approved through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the International Association for Identification. Subjects covered are: drawing faces and facial features, methods of drawing composites, interviewing techniques, setting up forensic composite units, and hands on skill development. Interested agencies should contact Carrie Parks Studios directly at 208-682-4564 (or fax 208-682-4773) to register. The contact at the Mount Pleasant Police Department is Sgt. Brad Anderson, Training Coordinator at 843-856-3026 for questions. The cost of the class is \$650.00 each, two or more from the same agency will be \$600 each. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited."

If any one is looking for training, they can feel free to call me at the MPPD Training Unit 843-856-3048 direct line.

Information respectfully submitted by Brother Pat Carter - Training Division Mt. Pleasant Police Dept.



The food committee delivered an excellent meal of roasted beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, biscuits and a host of trimmings. The house was packed despite the terrible weather. Great job again from the food committee!

Guests:

Bob Carr - State FOP 2nd Vice President, President Coastal Carolina Lodge # 12
Radio Free Rocky "D"
News Channel 4

Awards Ceremony

43 names read for new active membership.

Motion made to sponsor 4-man golf team and hole for DARE golf tournament. (\$320)

Motion made to sponsor *Healing Fields* slain veterans tribute project. (\$500)

Motion made to sponsor Hanahan youth basketball league. (\$500)

Motion made to sponsor FOP National President Chuck Canterbury's re-election campaign (the only SC Policeman to ever hold this office) \$2,500

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 17,867 "hits" the previous month.

Legislative report - Tom Botchie, pending legislative projects.

Memorial Committee - David Lee, memorial date set for May 4th.

The following members properly nominated as candidates for Sgt. At Arms:
Frank Nigro, Debbie Witz, Vic Nico and Donald Dulin

Brother Jim Ward currently in the hospital. Matt Euper injured this date from accident during vehicle pursuit. Ed Taylor of the Trident Technical College Dept. of Public Safety passed away.

Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.

Police Patch Collecting - Frank A. Nigro

Police shoulder patches are popular collectibles among law enforcement officers. Perhaps some of their popularity is due to the fact that they are easy to obtain. They are colorful, very inexpensive and most available. There is a very large group of collectors specializing in this particular item only. Their collections are probably built more from trading than buying. The variety of patches representing law enforcement agencies is endless.

Many patch designs express the spirit and color of the old historic heraldic shields of the knights of old. Next to the lawman's badge, the patch is the insignia that is the most visible means of identification of the police officer. The wearing of patches is not really an old idea; patches were introduced in the 1930's. In California the first known patch was worn by the San Diego Sheriff's Department. It didn't take long for the idea to spread throughout the state. Another group known as the County Patrol in the 1920's, which later became the California Highway Patrol, wore a small round sleeve patch. As the idea gathered more popularity, more departments adopted this new colorful means of identification, and each became more original and colorful. The value of patches can start at 50 cents and go to about two or three dollars, sometimes more if it is an expensive rare patch.

Silver Anniversary S.C. Highway Patrol

*75th
Anniversary*



Happy anniversary to the South Carolina Highway Patrol! This year marks their 75th year of patrolling the highways. In the beginning, the highway patrol had a very extensive training period - it consisted of a few verbal instructions and well.. that's it! On the troopers first day they were issued the following equipment: badge, gun, uniform, motorcycle and a summons book.

In 1932 formal training took place at Fort Jackson in Columbia, the training lasted for three months. At the end of WWII, people began to purchase more vehicles which meant more people were traveling the roadways. So to keep up with the demand, the training was streamlined to 8 weeks to get more troopers out on the road. Also, about the same time, 2-way radios were installed in the vehicles. By this time all the motorcycles had been eliminated.

In 1972 the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy opened in Columbia. All troopers were trained there and continue to this day. The training period for troopers today is 20 weeks of instruction. The first female class of troopers graduated the academy in 1977. In 1994, the highway patrol reintroduced the motorcycle back into operation. The state is broken up into 7 different troops or divisions. The highway patrol is responsible for 64,000 square miles of highway. In 1930 the area was only 6,000 square miles of highway. The SCHP is one of the premier agencies to work for in the southeast because of their knowledge and professionalism. Finally, they are the best dressed troopers as well. In 1993 they were named "Best Dressed" by the National Association of Uniform Manufacturers.

BILL VANHORN'S



Corner

**Of
T-101-1**

Cops & Lobsters



Special Olympics

As a reminder, we will be having our Cops and Lobsters event on Thursday March 17th at the Red Lobster Restaurant on Mall Drive in N. Charleston. This event is lots of fun and supports the worthy *Special Olympics* cause. If you can assist, please contact Brother Harold Phillips at 740-3109 (office), 296-1171 (cell) or 728-3109 pager. If you can't come out to help, you can do your part by having lunch or dinner there that day. Encourage your friends and family as well. They will get to see a new aspect of protecting and "serving."

The individuals listed below have expressed desire to serve you in the recently vacated Sgt. At Arms position. All candidates have been properly nominated and would like your vote. Votes to be cast on March 14th.

Donald Dulin

My name is Donald Dulin. I am employed with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. I am a Sergeant assigned to the Warrants Unit. My entire law enforcement career has been with the Charleston County Police Department / Sheriff's Office which began in October 1988.

I was born and raised in the Low Country area and have had the opportunity to serve the community where I grew up. I have had the opportunity to work and serve with many of you. I love being a police officer. I love the FOP. I look forward to the opportunity to serve my brothers and sisters in blue. Thank you in advance for your support.

Debbie Amick Witz

Since I joined our lodge, I have enjoyed many opportunities to serve the membership, fellow law enforcement officers, and the community. My participation on the Memorial Committee has taken me to Washington, DC where I experienced the compassion and camaraderie of law enforcement officers, not only from around the nation but around the world.

It is an honor to be on the State Lodge Membership Committee. I look forward to working with other FOP members from around the state to make our organization even stronger.

Since my retirement from SC Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services in 2003, I have enjoyed the luxury of having more time to devote to FOP matters. It has been my pleasure to be a part of many of the special events sponsored by Tri-County Lodge #3.

I would be proud to serve our lodge in the capacity of Sergeant at Arms and respectfully ask for the support of the Executive Board and the Lodge membership in my endeavor to be elected.

Victor F. Nico

I was a member of the NYPD, where I was retired when I was injured in the line of duty during a drug raid and execution of a narcotics warrant. There I served in the Narcotics Div., the Boro wide Street Anti Crime Unit, the 72nd Pct and also I was a proud member of the elite Brooklyn South Task Force. As well I served on patrol as every NYC cop must. The last 5 years I have worked for the DCSO as a member of the Sheriff's Cold Case Homicide Squad. I was honored last year for my work on the Cold Case Squad where among many other arrests and extraditions of murders from NYC to here and visa versa, we assisted in solving and made arrests in the Britt and Cricket Surreal homicide cases. I am actively working on other cases at this time.

I have been a life long member of the NYPD union as well as a member of many of the NYPD line organizations. I was a member of the NYS FOP, and the NYPD NYC-FOP, Robert Machette lodge. I have also been a past member of both the Berkeley County Lodge and the Chas. Lodge #5.

I would like to extend my involvement and ask that if the members see fit they allow me to serve them as their next Sgt. at Arms. I thank everyone for their consideration for this important position.

Frank A. Nigro

My name is Frank A. Nigro Jr, and I am running for the position of Sergeant at arms for F.O.P. Tri County Lodge #3. I am with the Summerville Police Department and have been for the past 19 years. I have had the opportunity to work within the department through each rank, as well as working each division from patrol, traffic, detective, and I was the first K-9 handler for the town back in 1987.

I am currently the third senior ranking officer in the department and hold the rank of Captain I serve as the Uniform Division Commander, which encompasses patrol, traffic, K-9, and warrants.

Since joining the lodge I have had the opportunity to work with other members on projects such as Christmas with a cop, the Christmas party, the 2004 golf tournament, and I am currently on the sign committee. I have researched and written articles for our monthly newsletter and plan to do more. I serve as the F.O.P. liaison for my department and have been very active in recruiting new members into the lodge. I am currently trying to have our department become a 100% department.

If given the opportunity to be the Sergeant at Arms I will carry out my duties in a professional manner and in accordance with the by laws, and as directed by our lodge officers. I appreciate the nomination and I hope to be your next Sergeant at Arms. Thank you for your support.

Lowcountry Hero Spotlight



James Owens Jr.

Charleston County Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday May 11th, 1968

On Saturday, May 11, 1968, at approximately 1:25 am Patrolman James Owens, age 34, was driving the county crash-wagon. He was transporting a prisoner when he was sent to work an accident with injuries. He picked up the injured female and her boyfriend and transported them to the hospital. At the hospital, he arrested the

boyfriend, Cornelius W. Atkinson, age 25, for Disorderly Conduct. During the transport, Atkinson produced a .22 caliber pistol and shot Owens four times in the neck killing him. *May his sacrifice not be forgotten!*

Glock Contest Winner



Talk radio celebrity *Radio Free Rocky "D"* was on hand to draw the winning ticket for the prize in the recruitment drive.

Officer Maria Leahy of the Charleston County Aviation Authority was the lucky winner. She had joined the lodge on November 8th, 2004.

We gained 80 new members since the start of the contest in September. Recruitment has been going well. We hope that 2005, will again be a record year for our lodge growth.

Congratulations to 2004 Award Recipients

The following individuals were given formal recognition and awards by the Tri-County Lodge on February 21st. These officers and individuals were chosen by their lowcountry law enforcement peers as worthy of honor. They are as follows with a very brief description of the merits.

Katherine L. Hare – *Chas. Co. Sheriff* - **Lifetime Achievement** (for a lifetime devotion to the law enforcement profession, becoming the highest ranking female officer in the state, opening many doors for women who may follow.)

Byron Guidry - **Outstanding Citizen Award** (risking life and limb tackling a dangerous fugitive fleeing the police, resulting in capture.)

Alfred (Trey) Hardy - *Summerville PD* - **Special Recognition Award** (amassing thousands of service calls, hundreds of arrests, seizures of over \$100,000 in drug money, successful lethal force encounter.)

Stephen Young – *Summerville PD* – **Special Recognition Award** (successfully investigating and shutting down a criminal enterprise dealing in large quantities of illegal drugs, credit card fraud and links to counterfeit currency manufacturing.)

William T. Salters Jr. – *Chas. Co. Detention Center* – **Special Recognition Award** (consistent success in the high stress/ high liability position dealing with inmate records and releasing, averaging sixty daily with flawless results.)

Andre Bowser - *The Post & Courier* – **Special Recognition Award** (management of the “Mugshot Monday” column in the newspaper, in collaboration with *Crimestoppers*, resulting in the apprehension of dozens of dangerous elusive criminals.)

J.T. Manley – *SCHP* – **Special Recognition Award** (investigation beyond the average scope, resulting in the apprehension and confession of hit-and-run suspect who struck a six-year old girl at a bus stop.)

Mark L. Evans Jr. – *Hanahan PD* – **Award of Valor** (successful apprehension of fleeing armed robbery suspect - while under gunfire from the suspect.)

David Lee - *SCHP* – **FOP Member of the Year** (successful stewardship of the *Distressed Officer's Fund*, creation of annual Golf Tournament to generate revenue for the fund, successful chairmanship of the Lowcountry Police Memorial and humble services rendered to those in need as his position as Chaplain.)

William Lang - *N.Y.P.D. (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

Victor Nico - *N.Y.P.D. (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

Jimmy Ward - *Charleston Co. Sheriff (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

Thomas Botchie - *Charleston Co. PD (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

(these four individuals make up a core backbone of all lodge endeavors, enabling the success of our lodge for the benefit of all. Often they operate behind the scenes with little fanfare. Their contributions are immeasurable)

William VanHorn - *Charleston Co. Sheriff* **Appreciation Award** (creating and authoring *Bill VanHorn's Corner of History* in the lodge newsletter. Providing our members with some good police reading from a historical perspective.)

Thomas Campbell - *Charleston Co. Sheriff* **Appreciation Award**

Dana Herron - *Charleston Co. Sheriff* **Appreciation Award**

Richard Keys - *North Charleston PD* **Appreciation Award**

(these three individuals created, manned and/or marched with a Christmas parade float called “Letters from Home.” A float paying tribute to our brethren serving in foreign conflicts. It offered the public a positive view of the police as well as the FOP. The float took first place in three of the five parades it was featured.)

Debbie Witz - *S.C. Probation and Parole (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

Phil Cahoon - *Citadel Dept. of Public Safety (ret.)* **Appreciation Award**

(these two individuals as members of the food committee, always ensure that our meetings have good food prepared and follow through with cleanup. Always unsung, their contributions are tangible, tasty and enjoyed by everyone who attends our functions.)

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

The Informer

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We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org

Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

FYI



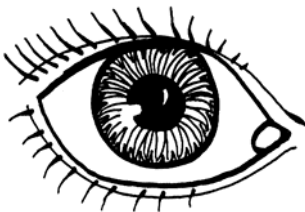
"Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in
mouth of friend and stranger." *St. Patrick 432 A.D.*



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 519 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.

Window to the Soul



Not long ago, a friend of mine called and told me he had gotten a speeding ticket. He wasn't upset at the ticket, he was driving a hobby car he had put together and the speedometer wasn't calibrated properly to the transmission. He took his chances and got nailed. He was however, upset that the officer who issued his citation spoke briefly and harshly, and never once looked him in the eye while speaking. I tried to justify to my friend the officer's actions, but was at a loss to do so. Yet I think I understand.

Years ago as a wet-behind-the-ears rookie, I handled my first suicide call. A fourteen-year-old girl had been having typical teenage problems (boyfriend breakup, declining school grades etc..) and had opted to hang herself in her bedroom. It was a gruesome discovery when her mother went to say goodbye before she went to work and found her dangling dead with bodily substances dripping. It was rough for me, I had to console the family (mom, dad, little brother) and deal with the situation as an authoritative figure that knew what he was doing. I called the detectives, the Chaplain, the medical examiners and an hour or so later, I left the scene with a headache and a rotten feeling in my gut. About twenty minutes later, an old lady passed me in opposite direction going sixty in a thirty mile an hour zone. I pulled her over, approached her window and snatched her license from her hand. I went to my car and wrote a ticket with such force that the paper nearly tore. When I went back, I gave her the ticket, the court date spiel and fired off a few sentences that would make a Marine Corps drill instructor proud. I never once looked her in the eye....

Several hours later, I thought the traffic stop over. I called my Sgt. and told him to expect a complaint on me and that I was guilty. I had been rude and crass without any provocation from the lady whatsoever. I waited several weeks for an opportunity to apologize to the lady but never got the chance. She was from out of state and mailed in her fine. It still bothers me to this day. She had no idea where I had just come from, nor did she deserve the feelings that I harbored. I vowed to never again let such an event occur.

In our profession that entails dealing with the worst that society can offer, we must never forget the human aspect of the job. It is easy to become cynical over time, but if we become robotic and unfeeling - we will cease to be protectors and servants. We will instead be viewed as an occupying army, to be despised, lied to and circumvented at every chance. Always practice vigilance, but leave the feelings of each call - at the call. Start fresh every instance.

Most importantly, always look folks in the eye. It forces them to view you as an individual human as well as you them. Failing to do so could be detrimental in many ways. It can bring you down to a level equating you with the worst. It can also present a potential cop killer with a "target" rather than a "human." A more profound result of "de-humanization" can be found in the history books. Or if you are so inclined, speak with some older Jews. A bit abstract maybe, but all relative....

- R.E. Sharpe