



The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 7

Have a Safe and Happy Spring

April 2005

Special Points

• **NEXT MEETING**

MONDAY April 11th

at 7:00 p.m.



- **Local Memorial**
- Cops & Lobsters
- Pay Your Dues
- Lessons In Blood
- Last meeting highlights
- Corner of History
- *special Issue*
- Hero Spotlight
- Local Training
- Humorous Quotes
- 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.

Note— this issue is late as a result of editor vacation. The first in 45 issues. - Ed.

Lowcountry Law Enforcement Memorial May 3rd



This years' Law Enforcement Memorial will take place on May 3rd at 10:00 am at the Park Circle facility in North Charleston. We have decided to involve the community in this years' event. To that end, we have Nina Sossamon as our Master-of-Ceremonies, a local children's choir to do some opening music and lead us in God Bless America.

Our keynote speaker this year is Pam Zaresk, the Area Port Director - U.S. Customs and Border Protection. We have been in contact with some of the local schools and they will have some of their forensic science classes attending. Rick Keys will be performing again for us this year and Eddie Bush has also agreed to do the "Thin Blue Line" for us. The Mt. Pleasant

Color Guard will be presenting the Colors, the Charleston City P.D. will have their Pipe and Drum Corps there and the SCHP Honor Guard will present the 21 Gun Salute.

We hope this will bring to the forefront of the community, the sacrifice these officers have made in the line of duty, honor their memory and their loved ones. I think I speak for everyone on the committee when I say - I hope you will make a special effort to attend this event.

- Chaplain David Lee

Cops & Lobsters 2005, another success

Under the guidance of Brother Harold Phillips, the lodge participated again this year in "The Cops and Lobsters" fundraiser hosted by *Red Lobster*. This event benefits the local chapter of the *Special Olympics*. For our new members and readers who may not be aware of the program, "Cops and Lobsters" is where uniformed police officers act as waiters and waitresses. The patrons are given a special envelope to "tip" the cops and the proceeds collected are given to *Special Olympics*. The event is a blast, and certainly gives one a new perspective on wait staff. Overall, the patrons are amused at the sight, with many expressing gratitude not only for the food service, but our service in general. Many are touched by our efforts during the shift and offer healthy "tips." *Red Lobster* treated all participants to a wonderful meal.

The lodge as well as the Low Country Special Olympics wish to thank all the members who participated in generating this year's total of \$3100. It is appreciated.

Special thanks to Chairman Harold Phillips, Dan Isgett, Thomas Botchie, Jesus Ossa, Naomi Morris, James Bateman, Vic Nico, Chris Nuss, Harry Long, J.C. Brown, David Owen, David Lee, Maria Leahy, Donald Dulin and Doug Delong.

The time volunteered for this event is a testament to the generosity and high caliber of our members. It afforded the public a positive and personal view of their lowcountry police officers.



The food committee delivered an excellent meal, prepared by the culinary staff of Trident Technical College. An assortment of pastas and salads and garlic bread. Phil Cahoon provided desert to compliment the fare. Great job yet again from the committee!

4 names read for new active membership.

Memorial Committee reports that the local memorial will be at Park Circle in North Charleston on May 6th.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 18,136 "hits" the previous month.

The sign committee reports that we are awaiting final approval from the city of Hanahan

Motion passed to sponsor the Juvenile Arbitrators program \$250.

Motion passed to sponsor 4-man Bocci team for Special Olympics fundraiser \$400

Motion passed to sponsor 4-man team of detention officers for the Dept. of Corrections golf tournament to benefit Special Olympics.

Ballot results - Frank Nigro declared majority winner.

Steve Morelli involved in vehicle accident, Allen Welch burned in propane accident, Debbie Cattell released from hospital, Robert Horne recovering from surgery, and Doris Asbell recovering from knee surgery.

Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.



April 30th is our cut-off date for dues payment. Response so far this year has been excellent. We still have a small percentage of members in arrears. Please check to see if you have a 2005 active membership card. If you do not, chances are you are due for payment.

As our membership grows, so does our expense. Our annual dues are among the lowest you will find for just about any organization. We will continue offer the low dues so long as it practical and we can afford to. It is imperative that everyone's dues are paid. After April, we will have to suspend membership of those in arrears (or eat their payment from our coffers.) We will have to act in accord with our by-laws in this matter.

We have worked diligently to recruit and retain all our members. We do not wish to lose anyone over an oversight for payment.

If you are unsure of your status, contact the lodge secretary for clarification. Secondary notices will be mailed shortly. If by chance, vacation or other reasons prevent the timely receipt of your mail and you get notice of suspension, worry not. Simply make payment for full re-instatement.

Lessons In Blood

Policies, procedures, check this, document that - will the madness ever end? It seems that we are constantly having to do more, and do it in a certain way. Or else we stand to suffer disciplinary action, lawsuits or internal affairs investigations ad nauseam. Is it all worth it? I would submit that most of it is.

As recently as last year, I heard of an incident that happened (in another state) where an arresting officer was killed while booking a suspect. The suspect had grabbed the officer's gun, shot him as well as a dispatcher before escaping. The dispatcher survived, the officer did not. No jail in South Carolina allows officers to bring a gun into the facility. This is because somewhere in the past, someone lost their life from doing so. Learn from your mistakes, or better yet, learn from other peoples mistakes. A pain in the ass to remove all your weapons after an arrest. Small price to pay.

Pick up an arrestee from another officer, search'em. The other officer surely searched him, or did he? A videotape recently found its way on the internet where a suspect (from an officer murder) was apprehended by a municipal police dept. He was turned over to the Sheriff's Office on their warrant. The videotape is from the interview room and shows the suspect (who is uncuffed) pull a large handgun from his waist (appears to be a .45) and blow his brains out. Any of the officers along the timeline could have caught that same bullet. A pain in the ass to search someone already in custody, might piss off the other officer. So be it. Small price to pay.

Do you know how we came to have the partitions or "cages" in our lowcountry cruisers? Ask some old timers what a "Smitty cage" is. The first President of our lodge - Gilbert Smith, suffered a gunshot from an arrested suspect inside his cruiser. It left him paralyzed to this day. Cages are expensive? Ask Gilbert. Small price to pay.

The horrible loss of life recently in an Atlanta courthouse. One officer (armed) in a small area with uncuffed (large musclebound) suspect? A lesson that had already been paid for in blood. Double or triple payments are not needed. A sad story indeed.

Countless reports, lawsuits, injuries and stacks of bodies - culminate to those who take heed, into operational policy. Without research into the origins, some policies on their face seem like a petty waste of time. I have complained about it myself. But, the deeper you look, the more common sense some petty things become.

Write the reports, call in the mileage during transports, warrant check every contact, shake down everyone again, dot the "i", cross the "t", bitch and moan along the way, but do it all. Cutting corners to save you time can often result in saving time for the grim reaper instead. Gallons of blood have been spilled. Let it not be wasted.

- R.E. Sharpe

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BILL VANHORN'S



Corner Of History

Everything Has A Starting Point

The middle ages gave us the “watch system” of police work. This system relied upon volunteers to patrol the streets and guard the cities from thieves, vagabonds, and gypsies. The lawlessness was so great that the volunteers were unable to combat the criminals. One solution proposed was the citizens banding together to form vigilantes. As the society became more organized they began to appoint supervisors. The forces were divided into ten hundreds or also known as a “shire.” The next supervisor was the “shire-reeve.” Today we would know that person as the *sheriff*.

The colonial era probably gave us the most in regards to police technology and professionalism. The first detectives were commissioned in England in 1750. Sir Robert Peel formed the Bobbies and were considered the first professional police force in the world. He also implemented discipline, uniform appearance, and visibility. In America, we adopted most of the same police systems. The first full-time, salaried, professional police force was in New York City in 1845. The individuals were known as “Coppers” because of the copper stars they wore on their Peelian uniforms. Another first in the 1800's was the invention of the state police. Some argue the Texas Rangers were the first state police, but the Pennsylvania Constabulary was the first professional state agency. They were originally formed to break coal mine strikes. Because of the California Gold Rush in 1848, most of our federal agencies were created.

The 1900's saw a paradigm shift in police work from muscle to brain. Police work had become more than standing guard. Many in the profession began to introduce ideas on crime fighting. They were trying to work smarter not harder. This era also produced unions to protect the rights of the worker. Some of the organizations mentioned were the: FOP, IACP, and the teamsters.

The Sixties was tumultuous time for everybody, including the police. This decade saw some new trends such as mass murder and serial killers. Also police officers killed in the line of duty were very high. The job was not getting any easier when the Supreme Court came out with two decisions that heavily impacted police work. The first was the exclusionary rule that excluded evidence against a defendant. Secondly was Miranda. This required the police to read the criminal his rights from a little card.

The 1970's brought us the softer and gentler police officer. This idea of police community relations did not exactly take off. The concept was to get away from paramilitary style of operating. Uniforms were replaced with blazers and patrolman and detectives worked side by side without a rank structure. Obviously this idea did not last very long. The latest system that we are attempting to perfect is the community oriented policing (COP). COP is “ a philosophy based on citizens and police working together in creative ways to help solve contemporary problems related to crime, fear of crime, disorder, and decay.” COP is more than just arresting the criminals; there is neighborhood beautification; quality of life issues; and misconceptions of police corruption.

Just like most things, police work has started off elementary and has graduated to advanced learning. But the law enforcement community must continually evaluate and change with society to keep up with the new trends. One hundred years from now the society will probably comment on how rudimentary the concept of COP was. By studying history, hopefully we will not make some of the same mistakes in crime fighting.

Lowcountry Hero Spotlight



Leon W. Gooding

Charleston County Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday March 27th, 1948

On Saturday, March 27, 1948, at approximately 7:02 pm, Sgt Leon Gooding and Patrolman Robert McNaughton responded to a disturbance on the Johns Island railroad tracks. Upon arrival, they encountered Oscar E. Schneider, age 30, who was armed with a rifle.

The officers were able to obtain the rifle from Schneider and take him into custody. During the transport, Schneider produced a .22 caliber pistol and shot Gooding in the head and McNaughton in the face. Gooding died from his wounds.

May his sacrifice not be forgotten!

New Sgt. At Arms

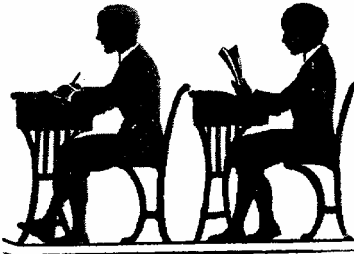
The election last month to fill the vacancy in the Sgt. At Arms position, resulted in the largest voting response in many years. It was nice to see the in person turn-out, as well as several hundred absentee and mail in ballots.

After all votes were tallied, Frank Nigro Jr. - Captain Summerville Police Dept. was the winner.

Frank has vowed to conduct his position on the executive board with honor and fervor.

It is with sincerity that we say "welcome aboard" to our new Sgt. At Arms!

Local Training



The Mount Pleasant Police Department and the Goose Creek Police Department are conducting the Standardized Field Sobriety Test and DUI Detection course (Advanced DUI) on May 5 – 7. It will be held at the Mount Pleasant Police headquarters. This is the state certified course. Instructors are Sgt. Chip Gooze and Cpl. Pat Carter from MPPD and Sgt. Shawn Laffey from GCPD. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026. There is no cost for the class. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited. An additional course will be scheduled this summer, dates to be announced later.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department and Goose Creek Police Department are conducting the Police Speed Measure Device course (Radar/Lidar) on May 9 – 12. It will be held at the Goose Creek Police Department. This is the state certified course. Instructors are Sgt. Chip Gooze and Cpl. Pat Carter from MPPD and Sgt. Shawn Laffey from GCPD. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026. There is no cost for the class. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited. An additional course will be scheduled this summer, dates to be announced later.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting the Building Clearing for Patrol Officers (8 hrs) on June 15 and on June 16. This is a one day course held two times. It will be held at the Mount Pleasant Police Department. This is through the Carolina Institute for Community Policing. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026. There is no cost for the class. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting Spanglish for Law Enforcement: Overcoming Cultural and Language Barriers on May 23. It will be held at the Mount Pleasant Police Department. This is through the Carolina Institute for Community Policing. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026. There is no cost for the class. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting Firearms Instructor School on May 30 – June 3. It will be held at the Charleston City Police Range. This is the state course. You must be a Specific Skills Instructor or Basic Instructor to attend. Interested agencies should contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department training unit at 843-856-3026. There is no cost for the class but there is a list of required ammunition that must be provided by the student. Early registration is encouraged, seating capacity is limited.

As always, if I can help anyone with any training needs, feel free to contact me at the MPPD Training Unit 843-856-3048.

Respectfully submitted,

Cpl Pat Carter - Mount Pleasant Police Department

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"

Humorous Quotes

If you ever see me getting beaten by the police, put down the video camera and come help me.

-- Bobcat Goldthwait

A recent police study found that you're much more likely to get shot by a fat cop if you run.

-- Dennis Miller



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 523 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.



The *Post & Courier* has recently featured a series on officers that have been accused of various misconduct, mishaps and odd circumstances. The focus was on the ability of those officers to be re-hired by other agencies, escaping any checks and balances by the Criminal Justice Academy to moderate the situation. Certainly, it has caused a negative spotlight to be cast upon career cops. It will likely result in changes on how the system operates.

It has been a mixed bag of responses from my badged brethren. It would appear that the information presented in the paper was obtained from internal department reports through the FOIA. As I pen this article, "ticket fixing" is the topic of current media debate. It will be interesting to see how that plays out. While I have no great words of wisdom to impart, I will however offer below an article I originally published in June, 1997 (in a publication called *The Badge*) dealing with this general topic.

Tarnished Brass

During my tenure as a deputy, it has put me in contact with citizens from all walks of life

– the rich, the poor, the good, the bad, and of course the ugly. All of which I am sworn to serve and protect without prejudice, favoritism or bias. I have taken an oath to uphold these principles and carry them with me as I perform my duties. The public on the other hand, has taken no oath to view or treat police officers with such high standards. They are often prejudiced from the sensationalized "bad apples" that the media publicizes and stereotype us accordingly. This in itself presents a unique problem that can be solved only by consistently presenting an image different from that

of the negatives.

The bottom line of the bad image is simple – jeopardy to economic livelihood and career longevity. The more "bad apples" that surface (whether totally rotten or just worm infested,) the more public scrutiny will be heaped upon us – creating tighter restrictions and make an already difficult job even tougher. I for one feel that it could all be avoided by simply doing the job you are paid to do, doing it in the manner you are sworn to, and presenting the best possible image at all times. To be respected, you must act respectable and look respectable. Is your badge polished?

- R.E. Sharpe