



The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 8

Have a Safe and Happy Spring

May 2005

Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**
MONDAY May 9th
at **7:00 p.m.**



- **Local Memorial**
- Your lodge Officers
- General Information
- Dues - Last Call
- Last meeting highlights
- Corner of History
- Lodge # 19 Raffle
- About Meetings
- Hero Spotlight
- "Crack" Special two part Editorial
- Historical Quote

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.

May - A Time to Remember Our Fallen Officers

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
★★★★ **May 15-21, 2005**

It is an ongoing effort of the FOP both on a National scope as well as the local level, to honor our brothers and sisters who have given their

lives in the line of duty. Each year, the FOP sponsors the National Law Enforcement Memorial service in Washington, D.C.. May 15th was designated and signed into law by President John F. Kennedy to provide a day of recognition to the brave men and women of badge, who lay down their lives in the performance of their duties. It has since grown to encompass more effort toward providing peace of mind for the surviving families, and reassurance that the brotherhood of police looks after its own.

**This year, our lodge will be sending 10 members from a variety of agencies to the memorial in Washington, two of which are motorcycle officers chosen for the coveted positions in the motorcade. Next year we hope to send as many again. (See www.nleomf.com for event schedule.)

By the time you read this article, our lodge Chaplain David Lee will have assembled, coordinated and brought to fruition our third annual Lowcountry Police Memorial service. He, along with a team of other officers from different departments, will pay tribute to fallen officers of the Lowcountry, at the Park Circle complex in N. Charleston on May 3rd. Memos have been sent to all Lowcountry agencies and we look for a good showing of law enforcement professionals. I have little doubt that the event will be first class and I am grateful further that we do not have the number of fallen officers to pay tribute as did our last service.

April 6th of this year saw the groundbreaking of the police memorial on the statehouse grounds. It is the culmination of many years of effort and made history in the process (it was vetoed by a Republican Governor, and overridden by a Republican majority in the house.) Next year, we look forward to properly honoring our fallen brethren at a much deserved permanent memorial at our state's capital.



Dan Isgett - President

Know Your Lodge Officers

Dan has been a member of lodge 3 since 1995. Dan was elected as Vice President of Lodge 3 in 1999 and served until elected President in 2001. Currently he is serving his second term as Lodge President. Dan currently serves also as the State FOP Lodge Treasurer which he was elected to in 2004. He previously held the office of 2nd Vice President for the State Lodge from 2002 – 2004.

Dan is a twenty year veteran of Law Enforcement, serving with the City of North Charleston Police Department and the last 17 with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. He is currently a lieutenant assigned as the Accreditation Manager. Dan is married and has two children and resides in Goose Creek SC.



The food committee delivered another excellent meal, prepared by the culinary staff of Trident Technical College. Tasty *shrimp creole* was enjoyed by all, complimented with a variety of sides. No one left the meeting hungry. Great job once again!

24 names read for new active membership.

Paula and Eddie (representatives from Lowcountry Special Olympics) gives thanks to members for their support.

Memorial Committee reports that the local memorial will be at Park Circle in North Charleston on May 3rd.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 16,809 "hits" the previous month. Also reports on last state meeting. Solicits sign up for electronic newsletter through state website. New recruitment brochures are out.

Vic Nico to head the new "Membership Services Committee." Will coordinate recreation events and visit infirmed or distressed police officers and families.

Ric Dean - President of *Law Riders* motorcycle club, presents lodge with \$500 for the *Distressed Officer's Fund*.

Motion passed to sponsor Summerville Police Cadets for SCALE competition.

National Lodge in the process of creating a bank for its members. To be modeled after the Dutch Police Bank. More info to come.

The national lodge has produced several new benefits: 10% off any *Gall's* purchases, discounted *Avis* rentals and a health savings plan. See website for details - also info should be in next National publication.

Brother Keys had a death in the family, Deputy Newcomb also death in the family, Trooper Welch still out of work with burns, Brother J.C. Brown's wife recovering from surgery

Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.



Crunch Time

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.

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 have been sent. 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 reinstatement.

At our next meeting, those members still in arrears will be processed for suspension to be sent with the new member paperwork. You have until that date (on the extreme) to make good.

As a reminder, we do have dues payment capacity on-line at our website.

General Info - FAQ

Our lodge has grown tremendously in the past four years. We are now over 500 members strong. Some members become very active within the lodge and some would rather provide limited support.

It is important for the membership to understand the structure of your local FOP. This lodge was founded in 1977 and has seen our membership expand to include the local, state and federal officers from across the tri-county area. The lodge receives the bulk of its revenue from our Bingo located on College Park near Highway 78 at Beacon Plaza. We also use a professional fund raiser, Corbett Processing to solicit funds for us. They are a very well respected telemarketing service.

From your dues, \$10 goes to the state lodge and \$6.50 to the Grand Lodge. However, all monies raised for the Distressed Officers Fund is only spent for to assist officers and their families. Our Beneficiary account (in which we pay a death benefit in a timely manner) is a fund created and maintained by the lodge. *Members must have a beneficiary listed and only the beneficiary listed will receive the funds. Our lodge officially supports the Easter Seals and the South Carolina Special Olympics. Each year our lodge sends members to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC and to a state or national conference. We have a full time lobbyist in Columbia and Washington, D.C assisting our legislative agendas. All the information anyone would ever need about any level or the FOP can be found at these websites: www.scfop3.org , www.scfop.org and www.grandlodgefop.org .



Lowcountry Hero Spotlight

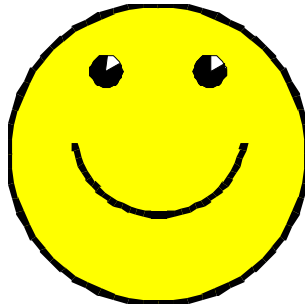
Steven B. Hiott Jr. Charleston County Police Department

End of Watch: Friday October 29, 1982

Around 1:00 am, Patrolman Steven Hiott, 31, and Patrolman Michael O'Connell, 34, made a traffic stop at an abandoned gas station at Highway 162 and Highway 165 in the Hollywood community. They believed a man suspected of stealing beer from a nearby convenience store occupied the car. The twenty-year-old suspect fought with the officers, disarmed one of them and fatally shot Patrolman Hiott and critically injured Patrolman O'Connell.

Citizens passing by saw the shooting and stopped to render aid to both officers and used one of the police car radios to call for assistance.

Patrolman Hiott, a seven-year veteran of the Police Department, is survived by his wife, Pamela Nelson Hiott, his son, Steven Gregg Hiott, his parents, two brothers, a sister and maternal grandmother. *May his sacrifice not be forgotten!*



** Special Editorial**

Having dealt recently with a large number of "crackheads," I chose crack as the theme for this month's editorial columns. Most active cops and detention staff, frequently see the horrors of this drug. Ruined lives, wrecked careers and splintered families are the attributes of this creation - no doubt spawned from hell. The article below was written some five or six years ago, but never published. It is tongue and cheek parody at its darkest, and meant only to provoke thought on the situation. To that end, it is necessary to make disclaimer that it does not reflect the views of The Fraternal Order of Police, members, affiliated lodges or any police agencies.

The Death of a Crack Dealer by R.E. Sharpe

What happens when a crack dealer dies? Let us first understand what happens when he lives.

The crack dealer is a purveyor of misery. Whether it was stolen outright, was family food money, the payoff for stolen goods or sexual service, every dollar handed to him in payment for drugs is a dollar produced from ill gain. The price is high, the profits are great, as are the repercussions. The impressionable kid who envies the dealer's easy money, sets himself up to fill in as the ranks rise and fall. The addicts who support their habit through theft, wreak havoc upon all those with whom they come in contact. With ten cents on the dollar for stolen goods, the \$100 a day junkie must steal \$1,000 a day worth of merchandise. The prostitute addict, who cares much less for hygiene than getting high, spreads around whatever untreated or neglected diseases she has. The local, state and Federal governments through great taxpayer expense, attempt to seek out and arrest these cancers of society. Further expenses include incarceration, food, medical care and legal counsel.

Recently, a crack dealer who was arrested for a driving offense, decided to "beat the system" and swallow his crack to avoid detection by the police. He was taken to jail (his plan worked, the crack was not detected) and he died shortly thereafter as a result. Poetic justice if ever there was. "A taste of his own medicine" as the cliché goes. A crack dealer is dead and I imagine that the usual accusations and legal actions will commence. Most likely the family of the deceased will "smell money" and pursue the "police neglect" suit that "caused his death." The arresting officer, his agency, the jail and all present will be named in the suit. This in itself will add to the enormous expense on the government's tab for this crack dealer. It is likely that the suit will not get far, but nonetheless there is always the chance someone along the line may find it cheaper to give settlement rather than see the courtroom. Common sense would overwhelmingly place the blame for the dead crack dealer in his own hands, but common sense is no longer a reasoning tool of the court.

Perhaps if we consider the following: Most crack dealers who get caught are repeat offenders. A good portion of these dealers are on probation or parole. Most crack dealers operate across multiple jurisdictions. Taking this into account, I would propose that the government set up a special "dead dealer's fund." This fund would set aside monies for the families of dead dealers. Rather than initiate the ritualistic lawsuits, they would receive an amount automatically, like an entitlement or benefit. Perhaps even a college fund for their offspring. Depending on the age of the dead dealer, the cost of the benefits would be far less than the money involved with a live dealer. Over the lifetime of a crack dealer, figuring costs for investigation, incarceration, stolen goods, adjudication and other costs direct or indirect, conservative estimates could easily approach a million dollars. So even if the average "dead dealer benefit" was \$250,000 the savings could still be about \$750,000. The exact benefit would be figured on a case by case basis and calculated on an age over rap-sheet ratio.

Personally, I would wish no harm or ill will upon any human. But, if there are people whose death can be viewed as having a positive impact on society, drug dealers are the prime example. The death of a crack dealer should not be looked upon in sorrow or pity, but rather as an event to be celebrated.

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We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org

Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

Interesting Quotes

Unquestionably, it was going to be highly dangerous. Yet I felt it was quite natural to jump at the task. After all, if you don't like action and excitement, you don't go into police work. And, what the hell, I figured, nobody lives forever! - *Eliot Ness*



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 546 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.

Sufferre Protractus

The twelve hour shifts went by a lot faster for me when I talked to the inmates. It was interesting to hear all the stories, about how everyone got "set up" by the cops, were "framed" and on and on. I believe they would practice their stories on the detention officers. If the officer hinted it sounded like bullshit, they would polish it a bit and come back with a revised version. Sometimes it was almost comical. Rare was the guy who would admit guilt and say he "did it." I learned a great deal of things during this period of my career.

I remember meeting this guy in jail when I was a rookie detention officer. He had been in jail a couple months before I started working there. He was in for a crack possession charge. Over several months, his story changed from total innocence to full confession. Complete with great detail of actions attributed to crack addiction. Thievery and lying. First with family and later with everyone... He went on to swear that if he got a break (probation) he would change his life. He had seen the light. Finally, he saw his day in court and got his break. I was there to see him out the door and wish him well. After a year, he was a free man.

Four days later I saw him being booked in. He was dirty, wearing the same clothes he left in and looked like death warmed over. I looked at his booking report and saw a glaring "possession of crack cocaine" in the charge column. I couldn't believe it. A year of being clean and this guy lasted only four days. "It must be a horrible drug" I remember thinking. He would not even look me in the eye. It was a month or so before he would talk to me again.

He confided in me this analogy about his addiction. "Have you ever had to pee really bad, but couldn't because you were in a car or somewhere you couldn't go and had to hold it a while?" He asked. "Of course" I told him. "You can talk to people and carry on a conversation, but in the back of your mind you keep thinking I gotta go." "It's just like that" he said. "No matter what you are doing, you just keep thinking about it." He went on to tell me that within hours of his discharge from jail, he was getting high and continued for days until he got caught again.

Drugs are all bad in varying degrees I guess, but crack has got to be the quickest and most destructive. I can go to bond court and pick out the "crackheads" with decent accuracy. The arrest charges may range from theft to prostitution, but they all seem to have that common "look" about them. Thin and sallow faces. Dirty, with personal hygiene being dead last on the list of "things to do." It is sad really. Misery - compounding more misery. Burning the end of bridge after bridge, leaving but two paths - death or incarceration.

Now it seems that our legislators are considering revising the penalties for crack offenses. They are likely to either raise the penalty of regular cocaine offenses or lower the crack sentences to make them equal. I would submit instead that they raise the stakes for *dealing* to equal that of homicide. At least with most homicides, they happen quickly. With crack, they are slowly tortured to death and leave a wide wake of victims.

- R.E. Sharpe