



# The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 11

August 2005

## Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY August 8th**  
at **7:00 p.m.**



- **National Conference**
- Tancredo's Speech
- Your lodge Officers
- Last meeting highlights
- Project Bluepages
- By Laws Change
- Corner of History
- United Way
- Hero Spotlight
- Local Training
- Historical Quotes
- Editorial

*Welcome aboard To our new members!*

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

## 57th Biennial Conference New Orleans, LA.



Our lodge was lucky to be able to send 10 lowcountry delegates to the 57th biennial Fraternal Order of Police conference held this year in New Orleans, La. 7-31 through 8-5

Every conference includes the voting process for the National offices. Lowcountry Brother Chuck Canterbury remains President without opposition. The heated contest was for Vice President, which found newcomer David Hiller from Michigan victorious by over a 1000 votes.

The delegates were treated to several events while there which included Mardi Gras World, Irish Night and an evening at the superdome.

**Congressman Tancredo gives speech** On Tuesday August 2nd, Congressman Tom Tancredo (R) Colorado was a guest speaker at our lodge. He spoke about current legislation dealing with the onslaught of illegal aliens and the heightened possibility of terrorist activity. This event was reported nationally by numerous media organs (CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS etc..) Our Lodge name appeared in 48 newspapers than I can account for across the nation.

The membership turnout for this event was light, considering the gravity of the topic. The event was a success nonetheless. Thanks to those who attended and assisted. - Ed.

## Know Your Lodge Officers



**Cathy Bowers**  
**Treasurer**

Cathy has been a member of Tri-County Lodge 3 since 2000 and has served as The Treasurer for the past four years.

She retired from law enforcement in 2001 after serving the State of South Carolina for 28 years. She began her law enforcement career in 1980 as the first female police officer at The Citadel Military College. After serving there for 10 years in the capacity of Sergeant, Firearms Instructor, and Training Officer she moved to The Medical University and College of Charleston (which was then a joint department.) In 1994 she moved to Trident Technical College and once again served as a Sergeant, Firearms Instructor, and Training Officer. She is a certified Crisis Negotiator and serves as the Election Chairperson of The South Carolina Crisis Negotiators Association. She has been a member of The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association for more than 25 years and is a State Constable.

Cathy serves our lodge as the State Trustee, representing our lodge at State FOP meetings, is the current Chairman of The Magazine Committee for The State Lodge, and has represented our lodge at many functions, to include The Police Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, the State Conferences, National Conferences, and Southern States Conferences. She is our Food Committee Chairperson with responsibilities of monthly meal planning for our lodge meetings, and provides food services to other lodge functions that include the Christmas Party and Law Enforcement Appreciation Night. She works part time at The Culinary Institute of Charleston at Trident Technical College.



The food committee provided a twist for a summer meal. A variety of salads to suit every taste. Chicken, ham, Ceaser and pasta salads were offered with compliments of vegetables and cheeses. A delightful surprise. Great job yet again!

14 names read for new active membership, 2 associate applications.

Building committee - roof leak is fixed and sign to be completed within a week. (Special thanks to Bill Lang, Chris Nuss and Frank Nigro)

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 15,622 "hits" the previous month. Solicits sign up for electronic newsletter through state website and solicits for photos for both the local and state website.

Brothers Pat Carter and Brad Riley win prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Training Committee - Buddy Isgett: 12 members have been selected to attend the *Street Survival Seminar*

Golf Fundraiser Committee - David Lee: still need some more sponsors and players.

Recruitment Committee - Frank Nigro reports recruitment going well.

Jamie Corson speaks on behalf of the Juvenile Arbitration program.

Merchandise Committee - Matt Woodall shows new items that have arrived, *thin blue line* wristbands should be in shortly.

Member vote on proposed by-law changes.

Motion passed to sponsor the first *Palmetto Police Motorcycle Skills Competition*. Emmy Loyd (Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy) gives overview of the program.

Brother Tom Botchie presents the lodge with 20 flags from the *Healing Fields* veteran memorial.

Deputy Brennan Wallace (Dorchester Co. Sheriff) injured in suspect scuffle. Officer J. Amanti (Hanahan P.D.) wife in hospital, unknown ailment.

*Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.*

## By-Law Changes - Vote results



Four by-law changes were proposed and voted on by the membership at the July meeting.

The results are as follows:

Article III section F **was amended** to insert the (italicized) wording - "Any member who leaves law enforcement *for more than one year*, other than retiring, shall lose his/her active membership, and may become an associate member if application is made in writing and approved by the general membership."

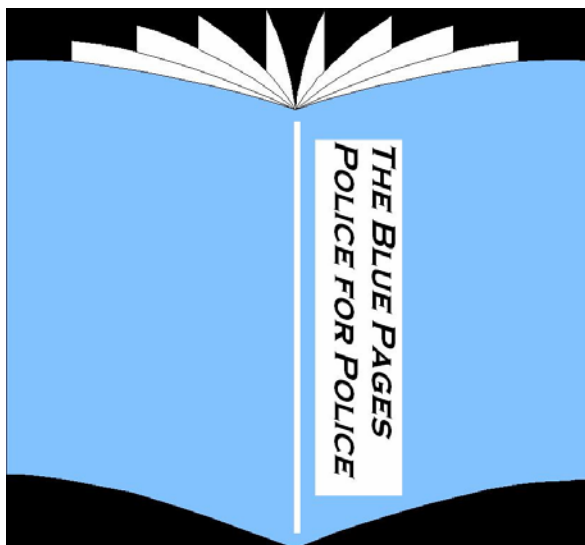
Article X section E subsection 2 was proposed a change to exclude absentee ballots. Majority vote **declined** the change. The article will stand unchanged to allow for absentee votes.

Article X section F subsection 2 **was amended** to read as follows:

No more than two (2) of the following positions shall be selected from any single agency (including retirees): President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Second Vice President, Sergeant At Arms and Chaplain. If more than two members from any one single agency are elected to a lodge office, only the top two positions, in descending order, will be seated.

Article XII was created and **passed**. It reads: The selection of members to participate in out-of-town duties will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

## Project Blue Pages



A lot of police officers have talents beyond the badge. Some have other trades and many have their own businesses for a secondary income. I would rather give my money to a brother in blue, than a total stranger. So when I need help on different projects, I look among my ranks first. Several times over the years, I've heard cops kicking around the idea of creating a list of such officers. I have yet to see it culminate.

I have offered to compile and publish such a list on a bi-annual basis. If you have a special trade, talent or business that you would like to have in the "Blue Pages" please contact me with the following information:

1. Your name and/or Business name.
2. Description of business and/or service. (it should read like an advertisement)
3. Contact number and e-mail address (if you have one)

If you have a family member or close friend that has a trade or business and you would strongly recommend them when asked by a fellow officer "do you know someone who does.....?" I will include them as well.

I will publish the first edition of *The Blue Pages* when and if I get enough entries to make it a feasible endeavor. Just as a reminder, our mailings go out to over 600 recipients!

**Computers Are Everywhere!**

**BILL VANHORN'S**



**Corner  
Of  
T-0-0-1**



How did we ever get by without the computer? Computers are everywhere - from the work place to the grocery store. Generally these machines have made life a bit easier. Police work is far from being exempt from being exposed to the use of computers.

One of the most important tools to combat crime is the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), computer system. The FBI created NCIC to help all law enforcement agencies to input and receive valuable information pertaining to crimes and criminals. NCIC became operational in 1969 and in two years all fifty states were accessing information. Initially, the database contained about 95,000 records. Today that number has increased to 10 million records and over 24 million criminal histories.

The same year NCIC went on-line the first success was reported in New York City. A police officer investigating an abandoned vehicle, requested an NCIC search on the vehicle's license plate. Approximately a minute later the dispatcher relayed to the officer that the car was reported stolen out of Boston. The officer responded over the radio, "It works!" Two of the most well known investigations relating to NCIC are the Oklahoma City bombing and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The suspects in both cases were apprehended by the aid of NCIC.

As I stated earlier, computers have made most of our lives run smoothly, that is - until they malfunction, then the "fun" starts. On occasion when I arrive at our local jail with a prisoner to be processed, the booking officer states " I can't book your prisoner in because the computer is down." So I say, "what did we do before computers?" They do not know the answer. Even though technology is going faster than the speed of light, the NCIC system is trying to keep up and is an invaluable tool to law enforcement.



The Fraternal Order of Police, Tri-County Lodge 3 created a Distressed Officer Fund in 2001 to assist Law Enforcement Officers (including detention officers) and their families when an Officer is killed or critically injured in the line of duty or otherwise faces a time of crisis. The fund assists officers anywhere in the State of SC and they do not have to be members of the Fraternal Order of Police to receive assistance. Since it's formation, our lodge has given thousands of dollars to assist officers in a time of need. Our assistance has ranged from incidents involving line of duty deaths to officers who have lost their homes in fires.

The United Way has assisted us with our fund raising efforts for this fund. It is easy to assist this fund and help your fellow officers in need. At the bottom of the form is an area to name a non-profit organization that is not listed. They require a minimum of two dollars a pay period donation to forward the money to our account. The fund then receives a quarterly check from the United Way for the full amount donated. To assist in this most helpful cause. Please fill in this information in the same provided:

Fraternal Order of Police  
Tri-County Lodge 3  
PO Box 62469  
North Charleston, SC 29419



Every penny donated is given to the fund and only used for the purposes of assisting distressed officers. Thank you for your assistance.

[ many S.C. police agencies participate in United Way payroll donation programs, the "form" mentioned above is for this program ]



## Lowcountry Hero Spotlight

### Gary Douglas Blackwood    Dorchester County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: Sunday February 7th, 1988

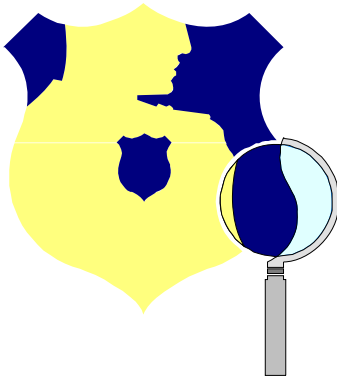
On February 7, 1988, South Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Terry Richards was investigating an accident involving a drunken driver. The suspect hit a utility pole supporting electrical distribution lines. The impact snapped the "pole top pin" which attaches the wire to the pole. The unbroken wire swung down over a curve in the road and came to rest several inches above the center line, blocking the eastbound lane of traffic. The Dorchester County Sheriff's Department was contacted for assistance with traffic control, and Deputy Gary Blackwood arrived at the scene.

Upon Blackwood's arrival, Trooper Richards informed him he needed help getting traffic around the downed power line. Blackwood picked up the line to move it, and as he stepped off the road, he was

electrocuted and died.

*May his sacrifice not be forgotten!*

## Local Training Opportunities



The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Basic Instructor Development Course** taught by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy August 1<sup>st</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Firearms Instructor School** taught by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy November 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class but there is a list of ammunition required for the class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting an **At-Scene Collision Investigation Course** taught by the South Carolina Highway Patrol MAIT unit October 10<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup>. Interested officers should contact Academy Regional Registration LETS.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Child Abuse Interview Course** taught by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy September 13<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Academy Regional Registration LETS.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Rave Investigation Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group October 14<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Money Laundering Investigation Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group October 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Clandestine Lab Investigation Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group October 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting a **Domestic Interdiction Investigation Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group November 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting an **Interview and Interrogation Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group November 21<sup>st</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting an **Undercover Tech Course** taught by the Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training group November 28<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for this class. Interested officers should contact Sgt. Brad Anderson, Mount Pleasant Police Training Supervisor, at 843-856-3026 or [mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com](mailto:mptraining@townofmountpleasant.com).

*Respectfully submitted - Pat Carter M.P.P.D.*

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

*The Informer*

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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 548 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.



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

Tri - County Lodge # 3

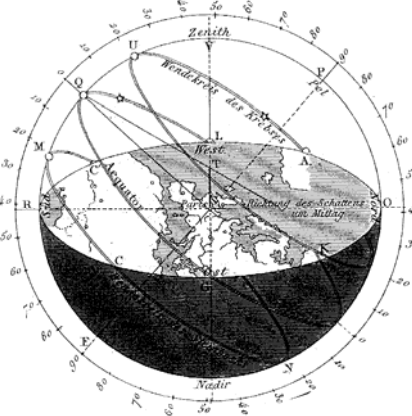
*"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"*

### Interesting Quotes

"There are not enough jails, not enough police, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people." - *Hubert H. Humphrey*

"Police are not all bad guys. Nobody is all bad guys."  
-*Karl A. Menninger*

### Looking without seeing



I took an oath to enforce the law, in equality and impartiality. Words I took to heart and have tried to apply during my career. Like most cops, I chose my career not for great financial reward (it doesn't happen when done right) but for the greater concept of maintaining law and order. Making a difference perhaps.

On that fateful day of 9-11, 3000 some odd American people lost their lives to 19 persons wielding "boxcutters." Persons who were in our country unlawfully a.k.a. "Illegal aliens." Illegal – an interesting word, meaning "contrary to the law." The base on which our occupations are founded. Bring justice to bear on those found to be in "violation of the law."

Here in the lowcountry, I have seen the very "rule of law" broken. Laws not enforced with "equality" or "impartiality." I have seen admitted "illegal aliens" released from traffic stops that would send an American citizen to jail. Time and time again, illegal aliens (because they cannot be identified) receive "first offense" citations, while Americans receive increased penalties for their subsequent offenses. I have seen Americans harmed at the hands of intoxicated illegal drivers. Yet the "illegality" continues. They produce "illegal" fake documents. They are "illegally" hired by employers, drive "illegally," vote "illegally" - on and on ad nauseam.

Perhaps the "illegal" aliens who want to kill us, aren't smart enough to do exactly as the ones we consistently encounter. I wouldn't bet the farm on it, considering just 19 of the 18 million that are here, masterminded our greatest internal atrocity ever – with "boxcutters?"

How is it possible to uphold a creed, when in so doing you run against the grain? Is it in keeping with your charge of duty to arrest some, while others go free? Can we pick and choose which laws to enforce? Can we pick and choose which laws to obey? Do we enforce some laws on specific races and not on others? The questions themselves are absurd, yet they beg to be answered.

I took my oath with the understanding that I might have to give my life to uphold something greater than myself – the rule of law. I fear that indeed the rule of law is broken and those I am sworn to "protect and serve" are in danger as a result. I am left wondering that without the greater cause to pledge my life, what then would I be willing die for? A paycheck? Some dilemma...

Just some rambling thoughts from a lonely soul - who believes the world is round when all others say it is flat.

- R.E. Sharpe

"In an age of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act." - George Orwell