



AMERICA'S LARGEST AND SOUTH CAROLINA'S BEST LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring Quarter 2005



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State Lodge Meeting held April 2nd

The last quarterly state lodge meeting was held in Columbia, S.C. The following Lodges and representatives were present.

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Midlands Lodge # 1: | Sister Barnwell - trustee |
| Tri-County Lodge # 3: | Brother Blackmon - trustee |
| Charleston Metro Lodge # 5: | Brother Fair - trustee |
| CSRA Lodge # 6: | Brother Cooper - trustee |
| Foothills Lodge # 9: | absent |
| Anderson Lodge # 10: | Brother Striewing - trustee |
| Coastal Carolina Lodge # 12: | Brother Cox - trustee |
| York County Lodge # 15: | Brother Turner - trustee |
| Low Country Lodge # 16: | Brother Bell - trustee |
| Greenville Lodge # 17: | Brother Sherbert - trustee |
| Berkeley County Lodge # 19: | Brother Houser - trustee |
| Cherokee Lodge # 20: | absent |
| Twin Lakes Lodge # 24: | Brother Coleman - trustee |
| Pee Dee Lodge # 25: | absent |
| Game Warden Lodge #27 | absent |
| Western Piedmont Lodge #28 | absent |

State Officers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| President Wright | Present |
| Vice President Mixson | Present |
| Secretary McClure | Present |
| Treasurer Isgett | Present |
| 2 nd Vice President Carr | Present |
| Sgt. At Arms Morris | Absent |
| Chaplain Lee | Absent |
| Past President Canterbury | Present |
| National Trustee Lewis | Present |
| Executive Director Loftis | Present |



On April 6th members of the General Assembly, officers and survivors gathered at the site of the Law Enforcement Memorial in Columbia for ground breaking ceremonies. State FOP President Jerry Wright welcomed the group and thanked the members of the General Assembly for making this long awaited dream a reality. State Representative Shirley Hinson, who led the fight for the funding for the memorial, also thanked the members of the General Assembly and the FOP for never giving up on this project. Within a week after the groundbreaking, construction had begun. The stone was being prepared and the site was being readied for the construction to begin. We look forward to the completion of the project by the first of August.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or submissions for this newsletter, contact the editor. All will be considered.

Networking plays a vital role in our daily duties

In today's age of technology and state of the art equipment, one item comes to mind that does not cost a dime and has proven to be one of our most valuable assets in our armory: *Networking*. Networking, A.K.A. "Information sharing", has taken a back seat to egos, silence and break downs in communication. I'm not speaking of the bad "rumor spreading" kind of networking, either. I am talking about the kind of information that puts bad guys in jail.

Be honest with yourself and think back to the last time you shared information with the oncoming or off going patrol shift? When was the last time you called any type of detective, whether it's narcotics, warrants, juveniles, persons or property crimes? Now ask yourself; "Do I just take the report?", "Do I ever go that extra mile to tell the right officers about this incident?" Do you think that there is no need follow through? Have you ever caught yourself thinking that "it's not my responsibility to tell the detectives?" That is what happens in many cases, but in many others it is simply because we do not go that extra mile to share important information. The ball gets dropped and that information is wasted. The information that I am referring to could be something as simple as having uniformed patrol units watch out for a particular type of car or person matching a certain description or MO in a burglary case you might be working. It could just as simple as a trend that you are seeing out on the street, such as new forms of drugs and new packaging or concealment methods. It could also be something as important as "homemade" weapons or the I.D. of suspects known to carry them. Make-shift weapons are popping up all over the streets and being taken off of suspects by officers. Instead of sharing this information with other officers, this information usually gets wasted on a few sheets of paper in an incident report that only a few of "higher-ups" will read. That information will often go nowhere else.

We all know about the proverbial, "Code of Silence." Well how about the concept of not sharing information because of egos and attitudes? This should concern all of us as cops because this is something that could get another officer injured or worse, killed. There are times when some of us have information about a case or intelligence about a person that cannot be shared with officers that are not close to the case due to the possibility of that officer jeopardizing the investigation, but there are a lot of times when this is not the case and detectives / patrol officers do not share vital information. There are simply not enough of us "the good guys" out there to not pass the torch on. This in itself could be detrimental to a case where there are officers that could have helped out were never asked to. It saddens me to hear other officers say things like, "Don't tell the other squad about that hiding place," or "Let's keep this info on the down-low for us only." Share the wealth. You cannot be out there all of the time. We can sometimes be our own worse enemy.

There is other information sharing that often drops to the wayside. This is the most dangerous by far in our business. If another officer makes you aware that someone is known to carry a weapon, you know to look out for that person and that weapon. Without that information, people sometimes don't go home at night. Take for instance the death of Sgt. Christopher Wouters of the Warren Police Department in Warren, Michigan. A suspect was arrested on suspicion of selling drugs and was brought in to detectives for questioning. Numerous officers were involved in his chain of custody, and each of them failed to search the suspect until he arrived for booking. The booking officers found a holster during the pat-down and asked the suspect, "What happened to the gun?" The suspect replied, "They got it on the street." The suspect was taken from booking to interrogation, and the detective was told that a gun was taken from the suspect on the street. When Sgt. Wouters entered the room for questioning, he was asked if he knew which officer had the gun from the suspect. Sgt. Wouters last words would be, "What gun?" A struggle broke out and spilled into the hallway. As Sgt. Wouters was wrestling with the suspect in the hallway, a single shot went off striking Sgt. Wouters in the neck, killing him instantly. He left behind a wife, a teenage son, and 2 and 4 year old daughters. Disseminating information saves lives. More recently, many of you may remember seeing a graphic scene take place in an interview room in California. In this incident, a suspect that had just shot a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy was brought in for questioning carrying a concealed .45 caliber pistol stuck down the waistband of his pants. Luckily the only person that was harmed in that incident was the gunman himself, but the loss of life could have been great that day. None of the deputies involved in this incident bothered to search the suspect because they assumed that the previous officer had already searched him. The ball got dropped in this incident, but fortunately the price was paid by the gunman---this time.

Closing cases and locking up bad guys is the name of the game. So why not resort back to the oldest, most valuable resource that we have---information sharing? The results of an information break down could prove disastrous. This nation learned a tremendous lesson in the failure of information sharing on 9-11-01. Many of the three-letter agencies in Washington were conducting investigations into the suspects of those attacks, but none of the agencies saw fit to exchange that information with the other agencies involved. As a result of this communication failure, the US Department of Homeland Security and Boarder Protection was born. This new Department serves to eliminate the walls between these agencies in order to protect the country.

Each one of us has taken a job in law enforcement knowing that it would be hard work, little pay and even less respect. When we don't work together and share our resources with other officers, we make our job harder, if not all together impossible, to do. Let this article be a reminder that we are not alone in this "fight". The detective division cannot operate without the uniform division and visa versa. Don't let information die. Information is a valuable asset to everyone in "our" business. When we do not share with one another, we are only hurting ourselves.

Doug Wright *Second Vice President*
Tri-County Lodge #3

Doug is a Sergeant with the Summerville Police Dept. and also serves as the Executive Director of *The National Criminal Enforcement Association* in addition to his FOP position.

Legislative Committee Report - Chairman Striewing



Driver's license bill S296 – designation for convicted violent felons. Budget being debated has taken attention away from our bills. Has passed Senate subcommittee and will now go to full transportation committee. Canterbury suggests to have survivor of officer killed in traffic stop to be present.

Heart Bill – No opposition. Need to get to subcommittee debate.

Subsistence - \$6.67 recurring is in good shape. Asking for \$5 million to get increase to \$9.50/day.

Dual Office Holding – Need a Constitutional change. Waiting the preparation of a resolution.

FOP tag sales – residual amount of money from tag sales will come back to the FOP to pay for member insurance benefit. Ryburg introduced. Has passed committee.

It is so important to become involved – call representatives and tell them who you are. Your vote, opinions, support is important to them. Go to legislative delegation meetings. Invite them to be guest speaker at your meeting. Pick one who does not support FOP issues and ask them to speak on that issue.

There is talk of increasing contributions to police retirement and having retirees who have returned to work to contribute. Nothing has happened on this issue.

President Wright states we need to make contacts with legislators and hold them accountable. If the retirement system's unfunded liability reaches 30 years the system becomes unstable. PORS is at 27 years now so a 20-year retirement is unreasonable. The unfunded liability was at 7 years when we moved from 30 to 25 years. We have to wait until the economy is better than try to get annuity factor increased. We need to stand strong and participate. We are the leadership.

Canterbury states we need to take authority over our retirement away from Budget and Control Board. The Governor controls them. We need a board of trustees. Need to invest more money and monitor it. Need to think about legislation that will allow for payroll deduction if 30% or more officers are members. This will help to stabilize membership.

Freeman will work with Brother Blackmon to get grass roots manual on the web site.

You can type in 9-digit zip code in citizens interest of state house web site to learn representatives.

Can e-mail National representatives on National FOP web site.

Executive Director's Report - Mike Loftis

On April 6th we joined together with family members and friends to observe groundbreaking for The Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on the Statehouse grounds. Construction has begun at the site and in the granite shop. We will keep you updated on the progress.

It is very important that you notify me if you change your address or banking information if you are on the state bank draft for legal defense. Invoices will be going out in July, so I need the correct information. If you have moved or your banking information has changed, e-mail me at mloftis118@bellsouth.net and let me know.

We welcome officers from the Federal Prison in Williamsburg County into the FOP. Berkeley County Lodge # 19 is working with these folks to get them signed up in their lodge.

We also formed a new lodge in Laurens County on April 28th - we welcome these officers into our organization and look forward to working with them.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Lodge reports

Midlands Lodge #1:

Meet 3rd Monday at SCLEOA. Held Shop with A Cop. Supported Special Olympics. Cops and Lobsters will be held April 22nd.

Tri-County Lodge #3:

Next meeting will have shrimp creole provided by Charleston culinary school. Added 43 new members in Feb. Had 150 at Christmas party. Had 100 persons at law enforcement appreciation night. Held awards ceremony in Feb. David Lee was named member of the year. Added 95 members from the Glock give-away membership drive. Held Cops and Lobsters for Special Olympics. Sent Treasurer to leadership conference. Had a booth at the Ladson gun show. Bought \$350 worth of Buc-A-Cup buttons for Easter Seals. Support youth teams. Will be sending 8 to the National Memorial. Will be paying expenses for two motor cop escorts to attend. Will have local memorial May 3rd in Charleston. Will be providing 10 registrations to Calibre Press Street Survival for local police. Will be holding golf tournament in mid July.

Charleston Metro Lodge #5:

Had 87 persons at Christmas party. Sent 2 representatives to Day on the Hill. Rep Brown was receptive. 2nd Vice President Carr attended meeting and donation was made to Canterbury campaign. Hosting Donuts and Cops for Special Olympics. Will be sending 8 persons to National Convention.

CSRA Lodge #6:

President Ed Kaney passed away. Thanks to the E-board for all their help. A flag was presented to his widow and it will be put in a display case. Will be hosting dinners and raffles to establish an Edward Kaney scholarship fund for a student at USC-Aiken or Aiken Techni-

cal College. Dinner will be held at Shriners Club for \$16 per ticket. Talking with Carol Carol about a bingo. She is opening one in Aiken and will see how it goes. Ed Kaney's wife expresses her appreciation.

Anderson Lodge #10:

Thanks to lodges for support during loss of Deputy Burdette. Held a Polar Bear jump for Easter Seals. Continuing to hold pistol match. Memorial service will be held May 19th in Anderson.

Coastal Carolina Lodge #12:

Had 100 toys donated at Christmas party. Sponsor 14 kids at the Wacamaw youth center. Sent 3 to the leadership conference. Sent 2 to National Board meeting in IN. April 30 tickets to Pelican's game for \$5. Will tailgate at 3pm. May 23 will have Horry Co. Law Enforcement Memorial unveiling. Thanks for support of lodges. Golf tournament will be held September 27th.

York County Lodge #15:

Will host Hooked on Fishing in May. In the final stages of opening a bingo. Will have Memorial service in May

Greenville Lodge #17:

Meet at Ryans in Simpsonville. In process of setting up a meeting with the Greenville Sheriff. Thanks to Art Alloy for working with Laurens Sheriff's Office. Law books still available for \$21.95. The National Law Enforcement Memorial Golf tournament will be held Nov 6th in Myrtle Beach. It will be 4 rounds of golf.

Berkeley Lodge #19:

Will be raffling a 2005 Harley Davidson Road King. Tickets are \$20. Will be sending 18 persons to National Conference. Will start building within 90 days. Donated \$500 to Colin Lacey

Children's Home. Donated \$1500 to Relay for Life Cancer Society. Sent President and Vice President to training seminar. Will be sending a group to the Police Memorial. Donated \$2000 to Roscoe for Reading program.

Twin Lakes Lodge #24:

Had a successful Christmas banquet. Holding poker run today. Annual golf tournament will be announced soon.

Pee Dee Lodge # 25:

We have continued our growth in membership with the additions of the SC Dept. of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. In addition, our list of lifetime members have been steady rising. Lodge #25 recently chose to sponsor a Dixie Youth Baseball team. This not only helped with our name recognition but also assisted our fellow brothers who have children on the team, and they themselves are coaches. Pee Dee Lodge is currently looking at several fundraising and special events to participate in. Lodge #25 will soon Adopt a Highway and help South Carolina with its litter problem. Your lodge may also want to consider helping keep SC beautiful and Adopt a Highway as well.



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BEST LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION**

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The South Carolina State Lodge (founded in 1977) is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in all capacities within South Carolina.

We are the largest law enforcement organization operating in the state and will continue to seek ways to improve the law enforcement profession through legislation and fraternalism. We have a long history of accomplishments and are proud to serve our members represented through sixteen local lodges chartered throughout our state. South Carolina's Fraternal Order of Police is dedicated to the advancement and protection of law enforcement officers, the promotion of officer benefits and the fostering of law and order.

****Disclaimer**** This publication represents the views and opinions of those parties contributing. It does not represent the views and opinions of all members or affiliated lodges. Editorial comment solely that of the editor.



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From the Grand Lodge

May 24, 2005

**U.S. Parole Commission Votes to Release Cop-Killer
F.O.P. Vows to Appeal to Attorney General**

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, had only the harshest criticism for the U.S. Parole Commission, which voted late last week to release convicted cop-killer Veronza L. Bowers, Jr.

"I was appalled to learn that the Commission approved the release of this unrepentant murderer," Canterbury said. "Allowing this killer back in the streets puts the public and police officers at risk. We will exhaust every legal avenue in an effort to keep Bowers where he belongs--behind bars. To that end, we intend to ask the U.S. Attorney General to have the National Appeals Board review the case and correct the decision of the Commission."

Bowers was poaching deer with two other men in August 1973 when he was confronted by U.S. Park Ranger Ken Patrick. Bowers shot Patrick three times with his 9mm handgun, killing him. The killer has never expressed any remorse, nor has he admitted to killing Ranger Patrick. To this day, he maintains that he was framed by government authorities. Far from being a model prisoner, he was shot and wounded during an escape attempt, and was implicated in the murder of two fellow inmates.

"There is no way that a reasonable person can believe that this killer, who describes himself as a political prisoner, in fascist America, has earned his release," Canterbury said. "The Commission should have denied his parole based on his conduct as a Federal inmate and the strong likelihood that he will commit further crimes once he is free. They have willfully ignored the facts of his case in what is a clear case of dereliction of duty. If the Commission fails to protect the public from criminals like Anthony Kelly and Veronza Bowers, then we must act to protect the public from the U.S. Parole Commission."

Canterbury's remarks referred to Anthony Kelly, an inmate released in 2001 by order of the U.S. Parole Commission five years before the completion of his sentence. Within nine months of his release, he had assaulted a police officer, stolen numerous cars and firearms, committed two rapes and left three people dead--including a six-year old girl. It was very clear from his file and the information available to the Commission that he never should have been paroled in the first place.

"We are going to make our views on this decision very, very clear to the Attorney General," Canterbury said, noting that the authorization for the U.S Parole Commission expires at the end of the year. "Ken Patrick left behind a wife and three children. Their lives were irrevocably changed on the night of his murder. Bowers was sentenced to life in prison--and life in prison is what he should serve."

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 318,000 members. For more information or elaboration, please do not hesitate to contact the National F.O.P. Legislative Office at (202) 547-8189 or via e-mail.