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Next State Board Meeting:

The next state board meeting is scheduled for July 17 in Columbia at the Hampton Inn on Harbison at I-26.

South Carolina Lodge hosts Southern States Conference

The Southern States Association meeting was held in Myrtle Beach this year. The meetings rotate each year with the host FOP State Lodge chairing the meeting. There are 11 Southern States that belong to the Association. This years meeting was chaired by the South Carolina State President, Jerry Wright.

All FOP State Lodges belong to either the Southern, the Western, or the Eastern States Association with the exception of Texas, which belongs to neither of the associations. The purpose of the Associations are for the FOP states with similar backgrounds and interests to meet and share ideas about how to make each state lodge stronger.

Some of the delegates came in Thursday to enjoy the nice weather in the perfect resort location. There was golf games set up on Friday for those members wishing to enjoy the 100+ available courses. There was a very good bar-be-que dinner provided Friday night and a seafood stew provided for Saturday night. A hospitality room was set up and manned each afternoon and night during this 3 day per period. Practically every lodge in South Carolina sent members to assist with the hospitality room and to coordinate any service or request made by members from out of state.

This years meeting brought in delegates from each of the Southern States, members from New Jersey, National Committee Members, and National Officers. National President Chuck Canterbury, National Secretary Jerry Atnip, and National Treasurer Tom Penozza addressed the delegates assembled. National Committee Members reported on the Education Committee, Easter Seals Committee, Memorial Committee, and the Ways & Means Committee. Delegates from each state shared with the others on what was going on in their states on such topics as legislation, fund raising, membership recruitment, etc. There was also a seminar on Critical Incident provided by Mike Hallet. This seminar was well attended by the membership.

The Chairman selected for next year was Don Penix of North Carolina and the Vice Chair was Martin Scott of Kentucky. Charlotte Stephens from South Carolina was elected as the Secretary. Congratulations Charlotte. It appears that the next host city will be Wilmington, N.C. If you have never attended a Southern States meeting, now is the time to plan for this worthwhile event for next year.

Coastal Carolina Lodge to host State Convention

The 2004 South Carolina FOP Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach from October 7 - 10, 2004 at the Crown Reef Hotel. The room rate will be \$98 + taxes. There will be dinners at Benjamin's and Medieval Times included. The State holds its convention every other year. State Offices are up for election at every State Conference. Coastal Carolina Lodge 12 has been chosen by the State Executive Board to host this year's convention. Lodge 12 hosted the last convention and the membership reported being well pleased with the accommodations. As in previous years, several State office holders seeking election will be invited to speak before the membership. Our State Sgt. at Arms and Coastal Carolina Lodge President Bob Carr will be coordinating the accommodations and events.

Subsistence increase approved for another year

Last year, through the hard work of our lobbyist Donna Freeman and our membership, we were able to see the subsistence allowance increase for the first time in twenty years. The subsistence allowance allows Law Enforcement Officers to deduct \$5 per day worked from their taxable income for State taxes. The allowance level was \$5 per day worked until last year when a compromise was reached at \$ 6.67 per day worked. Due to budget woes, this was one time only budget proviso. We are pleased to announce that the state legislature approved the \$6.67 amount again for the 2004 tax year.



Across The State

Tri-County Lodge 3

Tri-County Lodge 3 continues to grow and remain active. The lodge currently has 380 active members and we have averaged 8 new members a month this year. The lodge voted this year to suspend meal donation requests at meetings. Monthly meetings attendance averages approx. 50 members each month. We hosted our 5th Annual Law Enforcement appreciation night on Superbowl Sunday which turned out to be a great success. The lodge sent our secretary to training in Nashville, TN. This training was specifically designed for lodge secretaries and treasurers. For the 3rd consecutive year the lodge participated in the Cops and Lobsters program to raise money for the Special Olympics. Our lodge surpassed our goal of \$2500 by raising \$3300. We will also be competing in the annual Bocci tournament in May for the 3rd year to support the Special Olympics. Members manned a booth at the Flowertown Festival in Summerville for three days. The lodge raffled off a new computer and two paintings. The event provides tremendous exposure for the FOP. Our lodge along with Lodge 5 and Lodge 19 will be coordinating the 2nd Annual Tri-County Police Memorial on May 4, 2004. Last year's memorial was a fitting tribute to our local heroes and this year's memorial is expected to be very well received. Lodge 3 is sending 12 members to Washington, DC this year, most of which have never seen the memorial. The lodge sent 8 members to the Southern States to attend and assist with the conference. The conference was a learning experience for our newer members. Lodge 3 will be

hosting a golf tournament in July to raise money for our Distressed Officer Fund. We are requesting the support of the other lodges to assist with sponsoring holes.

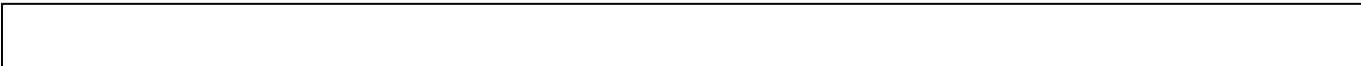
Charleston Metropolitan Lodge 5

Charleston Metropolitan Lodge mourns the loss of Detective Roger Myers who died as a result of a heart attack while in the line of duty shortly after making an arrest. The lodge sent 3 representatives to the National Leadership conference in Nashville, TN and sent 3 members to Southern States in Myrtle Beach. The lodge will participate in sending 12 members to Washington, DC for National Police Week. Members raised \$794 for Special Olympics at its annual Cops and Lobsters event. The lodge is sponsoring a Bocci ball team in order to raise funds for Camp Happy days and Special Times. McGruff sponsored by the lodge participated in The College of Charleston annual Mascots night basketball game.

CSRA Lodge 6

Since December 2003, our lodge has been meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Aiken each month on various dates, with our lodge paying for our member's meals. Our members seem to like this idea, and our attendance has picked up during the past four (4) months. We have also had an increase of one (1) new member, for the past two months, and will vote on another new member this month as well, due to contact/hits on our State Lodge web site, and these new members, downloading the application form and submitting them for active membership. During our Christmas program this past year, our members came up with a new idea of trying to feed more people

with the amount of money we had for our program. We contacted two (2) different restaurants in two (2) different counties, and explained who and what, we are, and doing, and they even liked the idea from the start, and assisted us with their information/ideas as well for our program of Feed the Needy 2003. We contacted all of our Police, and Sheriff agencies in Aiken, and Barnwell Counties, and explained to each of them our plan, and goals, with their help, and assistance, and while explaining our plan, and goals, we were overheard by a good friend of ours which works in both of these same counties, in the television cable industry, which just happened to be looking for types of Dona table groups that they could also assist. We sat up a meeting with them, and their out of town management, and they agreed with us that our ideas were in line with theirs, so they have come on board with us for our Christmas 2003 program, and more future programs like this, with us. So, our Christmas 2003, Feed the Needy program was a great success in both counties with the feeding of 315 people inside the restaurants, and the deliveries of 130 meals to the folks in the two (2) counties, that were not able to attend one of the restaurants for various reasons. Due to this new way, which was chosen to be done this past year, the same \$2500.00 we usually spend for food baskets to deliver for 75 families, we were able to feed 445 people throughout these two (2) counties, which in turn amounted to quite a few more households/people. At our



CSRA Lodge 6 Continued

March monthly meeting, we had two different groups in Aiken County requesting monetary donations, which both of these groups assist our children in our communities, through their programs, with our monetary donations, so we were able to assist both of the following groups, New Ellenton Middle School "Washington Group", and "Celebration of Character of Aiken Group". At our next monthly meeting April 15, we will take up a request for monetary donations, considered during this meeting to South Carolina Special Olympics program.

Coastal Carolina Lodge 12

Coastal Carolina Lodge 12 has not missed a beat with the ushering in of 2004. The Lodge has purchased eight tickets to 35 MB Pelicans games this season; the tickets are in turn being donated to youth groups within our community. This comes as the result of the overwhelming success we had in donating season tickets to the inaugural season of Coastal Carolina University football to local youth organizations. Year to date, over \$5,000 has been donated to worthy causes within our community. We invite everyone to our annual "Day at the Pelicans" on June 19. A mere \$5 donation gets you a seat at the game, food and drinks during the tailgate party, and unlimited fellowship. All proceeds from this event will be used to help fund the construction of a law enforcement memorial to be erected in Horry County in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The FOP/Robert Dorman Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 21 at Myrtlewood Golf Club. The \$60 entry fee includes golf, an embroidered shirt and hat, food and beverages during play, and a post-tournament dinner catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill. The proceeds from the tournament are used to fund the FOP Scholarship at Horry Georgetown Technical College. The Lodge leadership continues to seize upon the educational opportunities provided by the Grand Lodge. In February the Lodge Treasurer attended the Leadership Matters seminar in Nashville, TN. In April the Lodge Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer attended the Blueprint to Success conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Lodge 12 has long recognized that such training provides for a more efficiently run organization. These seminars are also imperative for any lodge wishing to play an active role in securing better wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members, as is one of the primary goals of Lodge 12. We invite all members to join us at Ryan's Steakhouse in Surfside Beach on the 4th Thursday of every month for our monthly meeting. You can also stay up to date on our activities by visiting us on the web at SCFOP12.org.

Greenville County Lodge 17

Here in Greenville we are still active in our child safety ID program where we provide parents with IDs of their kids in case of a missing child situation. We are exploring methods of funding to improve the system and provide more to the community. We continue to look for fundraising ideas and ways to increase membership. We appear to be in competition with the union trying

to represent the Greenville City officers and trying to get a foot hold in the county. As you know WE are the organization best suited to represent fellow officers and will strive to make that happen. If we can be of any assistance to the other lodges, please do not hesitate to ask.

Scott Stoller, President - Lodge 17
864-525-8661

Please take the time to attend your local lodge meetings. Your input is very valuable to the lodge. The FOP is membership driven. What is voted on at lodge meetings sets the direction for the lodge. To be effective, many points of you should be heard and new ideas brought forth. These are the lodges and the nights they meet. Visit our website at www.scfop.org for more information about meetings and times in your area.

Lodges and Meetings

Midlands	#1	3 rd Monday
Tri-County	#3	2 nd Monday
Charleston	#5	1 st Monday
CSRA	#6	Varies
Foothills	#9	3 rd Tuesday
Anderson	#10	2 nd Monday
Coastal	#12	4 th Thursday
York	#15	1 st Tuesday
Lowcountry	#16	3 rd Monday
Greenville	#17	4 th Monday
Berkeley	#19	3 rd Tuesday
Cherokee	#20	3 rd Tuesday
Twin Lakes	#24	2 nd Thursday
Pee Dee	#25	4 th Thursday

Welcome Game Warden Lodge 27!

From the Executive Director**Mike Loftis**

Our membership continues to grow. Our State secretary reports membership at 2333 and with the addition of our newest lodge, Game Warden Lodge 27, it should push our total membership to 2450. By you making contacts locally and notifying me of potential members, we will continue to grow. If you have any contacts outside your area please send me their names and addresses and I will get information to them concerning the FOP. With the addition of new members our legal defense plan is also growing. Some 50% since last year. You must continue to encourage your membership to join this plan, to protect their future. The Carolina Bingo Expo was held in Greenville, SC on May 22nd from 10AM – 2PM. At the Crown Plaza. This was a great opportunity to meet people who run bingo operations and get a first hand view of how it may benefit your lodge to apply for a bingo license. Legislators, promoters were in attendance to answer questions.

Concerning the State memorial, I just received notice that the go ahead with the design and contract documents have been approved. This puts us on schedule to begin construction in August of 2004 with estimated completion April 30th 2005. This is great news for a project we have been working on for so long. If you need my assistance call me toll free 1-866-347-2367 and have a safe summer.

From the National Trustee

Darrell Lewis

Sec. Chao announced 1.3 million officers will receive overtime, and she also awarded President Canterbury a proclamation for his efforts in securing law enforcement officers jobs back after they return home from their Armed Forces duties. Two deadlines were announced. Any information for the History book should be received by July 1, 2004 And Member of the year nominees need to be received by July 21, 2004. Presidential Screening Committee named Dave Nixon Chair Indiana JD Cordoba Colorado Randy Hagler N.C. Department of Labor awarded a 2 million dollar Grant for Police survivors in the name of Past President Steve Young. A Liaison from DOL will contact the spouses. Program development committee AFA Pharma- prescription drug access from Grand Lodge gets \$1.50 per Canada. NO CO-PAY Nationwide advantage mortgage. Home mortgages. Application 10 min. Total closing cost \$150.00 Grand lodge gets \$35.00 per app. John Hancock- Long Term care insurance. Grand Lodge gets 8% of premiums.

From the WEB WWW.SCFOP.ORG

Our website is a complete source of information for the membership. Our site is regularly updated with the latest news from around the state. Membership and legal defense applications can be downloaded and members can be kept informed of the status of our legislative priorities. Our website has the most extensive information for South Carolina In-the-line-of-duty deaths. Photos and details are provided for all the heroes in whom this information could be found. We encourage all members to visit the website and stay informed.

The Stats:**Hits**

Total - 379,622

Avg per day - 4,171 Jan - 135,497 Feb - 106,611 Mar - 137,514

Most downloaded files Application – 647 BTB 1 – 305, BTB 2 – 228,

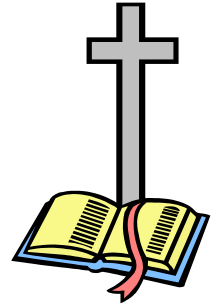
Legal Defense app – 86, How a bill becomes an act - 32



Chaplains Corner

While serving as your State Chaplain over the last eighteen months, it never ceases to amaze me how well law enforcement officers handle problems, both personally and professionally. I was in a conversation with an officer just a few days ago and made the statement that officers can't let minor irritations bother them, that by in large, officers that I've had the opportunity to deal with, have mastered the art of "when given lemons, make lemonade". We all have times when things mount up, we feel overwhelmed and may even get depressed. When I start to feel this way, I try to think like an oyster. When a grain of sand gets under his shell, he covers it with the most precious part of its being and makes a pearl. The irritation is stopped and it has become a thing of value. That pearl is a victory over a problem. I hope that as we grow and mature in the midst of difficulties, that we will take them as opportunities to grow pearls instead of ulcers.

If I can be of assistance to you or your lodge, please don't hesitate to contact me at Rayers@ppp.state.sc.us or (864) 282-4500.



True Blue Departments

At our last State meeting in March, the State lodge voted to name departments with 100% membership as True Blue Departments. This was unofficially called gold star departments in the past. This will be the official designation in the future. There is no size requirement or any criteria of member paid or agency paid. We will publish those agencies in each issue.

- Charleston Police Department
- Berkeley County Sheriff's Office
- Hanahan Police Department
- Bonneau Police Department
- Jamestown Police Department
- Blacksburg Police Department



If you have a True Blue agency in your area, please let us know so we can recognize them in our newsletter.

True Blue Departments