



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

Volume 1, Issue 1

Wishing All A Safe New Year!

Winter Quarter 2005



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State Lodge Meeting held December 11, 2004

The last quarterly state lodge meeting was held in Charleston on December 11th, 2004. The following lodges were represented:

Midlands Lodge # 1: Sister Barnwell - trustee
 Tri-County Lodge # 3: Sister Bowers - 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: Sister Blanchard - trustee
 Cherokee Lodge # 20: absent
 Twin Lakes Lodge # 24: Brother Coleman - trustee
 Pee Dee Lodge # 25: Brother Gainey - trustee
 Game Warden Lodge #27 absent
 Western Piedmont Lodge #28 absent

Issues discussed at the state meeting included the legislative agenda, the National Conference, the S.C. Police Memorial at the State House, contracts with Calibre Press, re-election campaign for Chuck Canterbury, legislator of the year award and the switching of lodge banking services to Bank of America.

New Committees and Members appointed at state meeting

Legislative: Chairman - Striewing, Todd Cox, David Burns, Tom Botchie, Melissa Blanchard

Member of the Year: Chairman - Bob Carr, David Lee, Sherri Rowan

Magazine: Chairman -Cathy Bowers, John Carpenter, Andrew Perry

Memorial: Chairman - Loftis, Charlotte Stephens, Jeff Cain

By-Laws: Chairman - Fair, Debbie Barnwell, RoseMary Sanders

Information Technology: Chairman - Blackmon, Reggie Sharpe, Jim Bell

Membership/Retention: Chairman - Naomi Morris, Joe Turner, Debbie Witz, Andy Hayes, Harold Sherbert

State FOP Webservices



In an ongoing effort to better inform our membership, we have available to our members a first class website. The website contains information about our purpose as well as updated information on different activities. Various lodge forms can also be downloaded from the website.

There is also an electronic newsletter that is produced weekly. It contains current news articles that can be selectively read by simply clicking on a story that interests you. Also in the newsletter, upcoming lodge meetings are listed. As a tribute, there is listed the names of South Carolina Officers who paid the ultimate price, whose end of duty date corresponds with the mailing. To receive the newsletter, simply sign up through the website

www.scfop.org.

An electronic forum has also been created for each of the lodges throughout the state. It is offered as a free way to share information among individual lodge members or correspond with many readers in the general discussion areas. Sign up is easy, just go to the website and follow the step by step directions. It is hoped that all of our members utilize these resources.

As you browse the site, you will see photos of our members in action. They are changed frequently. We would openly solicit your photos for inclusion. Contact our webmaster to have your photo featured.

Executive Director Mike Loftis - legal defense

Legal Plan update:

The legal plan, Inc is offering a **new option** to the membership. Under the Administrative coverage, there is a **salary reimbursement option** which allows a member to choose up to 3-days actual loss-of-pay (based on regular hourly rate) or \$500.00, whichever is less. This option can be taken once a suspension has been imposed. **This option is in lieu of legal costs for an appeal to the suspension.** To receive the option, a claim must be made, pursuant to claims procedures. A claim form, supporting documentation, and a copy of the most recent paycheck stub must be submitted to the office for coverage determination. Once the claim has been accepted for coverage, payment can be made. No further claims can be made after taking the option for that specific incident or the specific suspension. For addition information contact Cara Webb toll free at 1-866-920-6600.

Does this plan cover me off-duty?

Yes, the plan also covers off duty incidents, which are directly related to course and scope of employment where the actions are **required or approved of by the employer.**

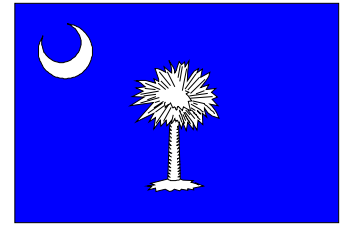
How to file a claim or if you have a question concerning a possible claim?

Contact Cara Webb toll free at 1-866-920-6600 ASAP

Do I get to choose my own attorney?

Yes, If you choose a plan attorney, there is no deductible and no limit on attorney fees. If you choose a non-plan attorney, there is a \$250.00 deductible and a maximum limit on attorney fees. A non-plan attorney can become a plan attorney by simply enrolling and meeting the Plan's requirements at the time he or she begins to represent you. Contact Cara Webb for an attorney enrollment packet.

Memorial Report



As of this writing we are within two weeks of naming our stone work manufacturer. Once this is done construction will begin. We have met with Rep. Shirley Hinson concerning the groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies. These dates will be sent to you as soon as they are set.

Chairman - Mike Loftis

It is our hope that when the groundbreaking day comes, as many of our brethren possible will attend the ceremony. The fight to make a permanent Police Memorial on the Statehouse grounds has been slow and many obstacles have been overcome. Please offer your support in this historic dedication to the fallen heroes of the Palmetto State.

From the 2nd Vice President

My fellow members, first I want to thank you for continuing to allow me to represent on the State Board. It has been my pleasure to serve you as your Sgt.-at-Arms since 2002, and I will continue to be there for you as your Second Vice-president. During my campaign it was a pleasure to meet many of you throughout the state, and I want to continue to travel to as many lodges as possible for the next 2 years. If any lodge needs me to attend a meeting please let me know and if possible I will attend. Always remember that in numbers we will succeed and continue to climb all the obstacles that we may confront. There were great strides in our State under the previous E-Board, and I feel confident that this new board will achieve even greater accomplishments. Please feel to contact me at anytime for any assistance.

Fraternally,
Bob Carr
Second Vice-president

From the Sgt. At Arms

I wish to express my gratitude for those who felt me worthy of their vote. It is an honor for me to represent each and every member of the FOP in my new position. I will strive to do my best.

I am available to help or assist in any manner. Please always feel free to contact me personally anytime. I can be reached at (843) 556-1908 or (843) 554-2487. I can also be reached via e-mail at nmorris@scfop.org .

During my campaign I was treated to much hospitality in lodges across the state. This afforded me the opportunity to meet many members and bolstered my belief in the cause of the FOP.

Thanks again for your support and belief in my ability to serve you on the state e-board.

Fraternally,

Naomi Morris
Sgt. At Arms

Legislative Agenda 2005 - 2006

The following is a synopsis of our legislative initiatives for 2005-06:

Administrative Due Process



This legislation would ensure a law enforcement officer's right to engage in political activity while off duty and relates to due process disciplinary procedures for officers.

Representative Phil Sinclair (R-Spartanburg) has introduced this legislation for us and has been assigned to committee

Drivers License Bill



Would require a "code," identifiable by a law enforcement officer only, to be placed on the driver's license of a violent felon. FOP feels this would alert officers more quickly and possibly save lives.

Rep. Shirley Hinson (R-Berkeley) has again introduced this legislation for us in the House of Representatives. Senator Larry Martin (R-Pickens) will introduce the Senate version for us. As was the case last year, I feel confident this bill will pass the House, but will run into stiffer opposition in the Senate. Passage of this legislation is a priority for FOP. I am trying to collect as many legislative sponsors as possible who endorse the concept. We want to be a leader in the country in getting this legislation passed. No other state has a law like this one.

Dual Office Holding



Would have allowed municipal law enforcement officers to participate in political subdivisions in another county other than the one in which he/she exercises law enforcement responsibility.

Senator Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley, Colleton, & Dorchester) has introduced the Senate version and Rep. David Umphlett (R-Berkeley) has done so in the House. They have been assigned to committee and I am now trying to get them scheduled for debate.

Heart Bill



This language would make it possible for law enforcement officers to receive worker's compensation benefits under the "presumption" that a heart attack arose out of the stress of the profession.

I feel we have an excellent chance to get this passed in the 2005 Legislative Session. I am working with the Sheriff's Association and the SC Law Enforcement Officers Association to get it done this year. The House sponsor is Rep. Kenny Bingham (R-Lexington) and Senator Jake Knotts (R-Lexington) will introduce the Senate version.

ID Theft Bill



Would make it unlawful to use the identity of another person for the purpose of obtaining employment.

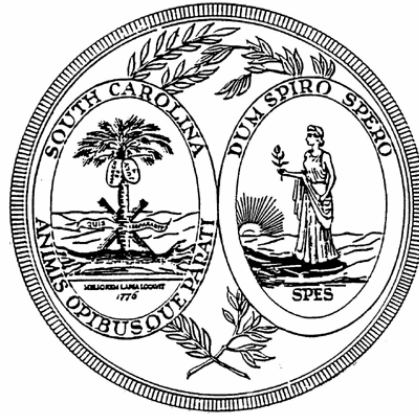
Jeff Moore, lobbyist for the Sheriff's Association, and I will work together on passage. Senator Jim Ritchie (R-Spartanburg) is the Senate sponsor and Chairman Jim Harrison is the House sponsor.

Subsistence Deduction



Budget provisions were added to allow another year for law enforcement officers, EMTs, and firefighters to receive \$6.67 per day for subsistence.

Rep. Annette Young (R-Charleston & Dorchester) will champion the effort to get our current increase of \$1.67 per day a recurring budget item. I have also asked her to try to find additional money for even more of an increase. Rep. Shirley Hinson, as a new member of the House Ways and Means Committee, will be helping in this search as well. Representatives Hinson and Young are staunch advocates for law enforcement. I know they will do their best for our men and women.



Lodge reports

Midlands Lodge #1:

Meet 3rd Monday at SCLEOA
We have a new Chaplain – Lee Wright and Sgt. At Arms – Rayford Miller. Our Shop with a Cop is Dec 18th.

Tri-County Lodge #3:

Proud to have two members on the E-board – Dan Isgett and David Lee. Holding Christmas with a Cop. Sponsored a parade float – “Letters from home” – which won awards in 4 of the 5 parades entered. Member Ralph Hudson died. Working on a permanent lodge sign. Held concert featuring Mark Chesnut to benefit distressed officers fund and raised \$700.

Charleston Metro Lodge #5:

Working on ways to recruit. Letting officers know what the FOP does and member benefits. Planning an oyster roast for regional recruitment. Held Thanksgiving turkey giveaway with telemarketer. Child safety handbook was delivered. Fair participated in pre-

senting Legislative Member of the Year award to Sen. Harrell. Rev. Jimmy Carlett – police chaplain is recovering at home. Sponsored Spider Man appearance in Christmas parade. Thanks to Sister Rowan in her help in retaining members.

Coastal Carolina Lodge #12:

Will surpass goal of 300 members by the end of the year. Sponsored child fingerprinting at Wal-Mart. Co-sponsored interrogation seminar with the Solicitors office. Season tickets to the Pelicans and Coastal Carolina football games for youth. Thanks to National Trustee Lewis for getting the brochures from National.

Low Country Lodge #16:

Dec 19th will distribute 100 food baskets. Dec 20th holding Shop with a Cop. Sponsoring Alpha Kappa Alpha project and the Delta Theta sorority elderly care project. Will have a business liaison to help make business atmosphere safer.

Greenville Lodge #17:

Continuing with kids ID program. Adopted

two law enforcement families who are struggling. Dec 20th is Christmas party. Cruise tickets are still for sale. Drawing will be Dec 20th.

Berkeley Lodge #19:

Sent 12 members to the State conference. 10 children and 10 seniors adopted for Christmas. Property is cleared. Dec 18th Christmas party at the Shrine Club. Holding a membership drive in Williamsburg County.

Twin Lakes Lodge #24:

Raised \$271 hosting a turkey shoot.

Pee Dee Lodge #25:

Sent 5 to the State conference. Will have recruitment cookout with leftovers from the Yam festival. Looking for a highway for the Adopt a Highway program. Sent four to Street Survival training. Member James Joye passed away. Co-sponsored Darlington/Hartsville Fire Dept. Toys for Tots.

Lodge Report - Anderson County Lodge # 10

The Anderson County Lodge 10 held their elections in December. The following members were elected: Mike Loftis - *President*, John Carpenter - *Vice President*, John Chambers - *Secretary*, Robert Murphy - *Treasurer*, Mike Mitchell - *2nd Vice President*, Mark Coyle - *Sgt at Arms*, JJ Jacobs - *Chaplain*.

Lodge 10 continues to add to their membership every meeting. We are expanding our shooting match event this year and are working to qualify retirees that were effected by HR218.

We will be sending four persons to the “Leadership Matters” Seminar in Nashville, Tenn. February 11-12. We are also sending two members to the National Criminal Enforcement Association meeting in Myrtle Beach Jan 31 – Feb 4.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 PM, if your in the area drop by and break bread with us and join in on our meeting.

Mike Loftis,
Lodge President

Lodge Report - York Co. Lodge # 15

On Thursday, December 16, 2004 York County Lodge #15 held its annual Christmas Party at the VFW Club on West Main Street. Over 200 members and quests attended our party.

Our Lodge is currently attempting to open a class C bingo operation in York County. We are still in the application process. Our Lodge meets the first Tuesday of each month at our Lodge located at 954 West Main Street in Rock Hill. We have a meal at 6:30 P.M. with the meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.

Our annual "Get Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs" Youth Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp Lake on Neely's Creek Road in Rock Hill, S.C. This tournament is for Boys and Girls 6-17 years of age. No fee's for this tournament.

Lash LeRoux,
Lodge President

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Behind The Badge
Editor - R.E. Sharpe
P.O. Box 62469
N. Charleston, S.C. 29419
Email: rsharpe@scfop3.org



Official Lodge website - www.scfop.org
Webmaster - John C. Blackmon

President - Jerry Wright.....jwright@scfop.org
Vice President - Jimmy Mixson.....jmixson@scfop.org
Treasurer - Dan Isgett.....disgett@scfop.org
Secretary - David McClure.....dmclure@scfop.org
2nd Vice President - Bob Carrbcarr@scfop.org
Sergeant at Arms - Naomi Morrisnmorris@scfop.org
Chaplain - David Lee.....dlee@scfop.org
Executive Director - Mike Loftis.....mloftis@scfop.org
National Trustee - Darrell Lewis.....dlewis@scfop.org
Past President - Chuck Canterbury. FOPChuck@aol.com

Farewell Brother Kaney

We mourn the loss of Brother Ed Kaney, President of Central Savannah River Area Lodge #6. He had suffered from heart problems.

Ed was a respected lawman and a longstanding member of the FOP. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.
Godspeed Brother Kaney!



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.

Line of Duty Deaths 2004 The *NLEOMF* and *COPS* have both compiled and published their respective reports on the line of duty officer deaths for the year 2004. **154** officers lost their lives nationwide in duty related deaths in 2004. We hope that 2005 sees many fewer deaths. The 154 officers died from the following means:



72 officers were killed in traffic related accidents

(12 killed when struck by a car during traffic stops or working an accident scene)



(9 killed in motorcycle accidents)



57 officers were shot to death



1 killed by falling object



1 was electrocuted



11 died from job related illness



3 killed in bomb related incidents



3 killed in aircraft accidents



1 beaten to death



3 drowned



(8 female officers were killed in 2004)



2 fell to their deaths