



# North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

June 2009 Newsletter

2009, Number 6

## In This Issue

- Next membership meeting: Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1730 hrs
- **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Lodge Elections; The Blue Note; FOPA Candlelight Service; Police Week; Collective Bargaining
- **Make sure to read the letter at the end of this newsletter that your Lodge President wrote to Charlotte City Manager Curt Walton!**

### Lodge #9 News (click on links)

Legislative Report

Blue Light Lounge at the FOP

Lodge #9 - Auxiliary

Sick and Distressed

Educational Opportunities

State Lodge News

Grand Lodge News

Merchandise

### Contact Us

Ronnie Stinson-Lodge Secretary

[ronniestinson@att.net](mailto:ronniestinson@att.net)

## Letter from Lodge # 9 President Randy Hagler

Hello and welcome to the June 2009 FOP Lodge #9 Newsletter. Please try and attend our June membership meeting on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. As always, dinner is on us at 5:30pm and the meeting starts at 6:30pm. Also, as a reminder, the bar closes prior to the start of the meeting and there is no smoking during the membership meeting. Please make plans to attend.

### **Lodge Elections**

As many of you know June always brings lodge elections. It's your opportunity to decide who the leadership should be for Lodge #9 over the next two years. This year's elections will involve the positions of Guard and Trustee. We have a number of qualified members that have been nominated over the past two meetings and you will have an opportunity to hear from them at the meeting and decide who to vote for on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Election Day. Elections are held at the Lodge on Hawthorne Lane; you can stop by and vote between 1200-2200 hours.

### **The BlueNote**

The latest edition of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police newsletter is now posted on the state lodge web site, [www.ncfop.org](http://www.ncfop.org). If you haven't received a copy electronically please visit the web site and take a look, it's full of information from around the state as well and the country. The BlueNote will be published every other month for the membership of NCFOP.

### **FOPA Candlelight Service**

On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary hosted the 2009 Candlelight Service at Sharon Memorial Park. This service honored all the law enforcement officers that have been killed in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County. We would like to thank Chief Rodney Monroe of CMPD for his remarks at the service. We would also like to thank all the officers and their families that attended this year's service to honor our fallen officers, thank you.

**2009 FOP LODGE #9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Randy Hagler  
Vice President: Skiddie Hurd  
Secretary: Ronnie Stinson  
Treasurer: Ken Clark  
State Trustee: Todd Walther  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Don Penix  
Past President: Larry Walker  
Chaplain: David Wright

**Trustees:**

Andy Martin (07)  
Mark Michelac (07)  
Buster Tanner (07)  
John Melekian (08)  
Scott Geiler (08)

**Guards:**

John DeCatsye (07)  
Karl "Stretch" Haynes (07)  
Ben Pepitone (08)  
Will Parker (08)

**The FOP annual \$10 Grand Giveaway (formally known as the Truck Raffle) is scheduled for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the same location as last year, the Oasis Temple, University City area.**

**Lodge #9 Sends Eight Officers to DC for Police Week**

Once again this year Lodge #9 sent eight officers to Washington DC for National Police Week activities. The eight officers as picked by the membership traveled to DC on May 13<sup>th</sup> and attended the National Candlelight Service and the National Memorial Service on the May 15<sup>th</sup>. Each year FOP Lodge #9 sends officers to our Nations capital to honor all the officers that have been killed the previous year from across the country. All the events scheduled in Washington during Police Week serve to bring officers together for a few days of remembering and celebrating the officers that were killed, but to also honor all those still serving. If you're interested in going next year, it's helpful if you will attend a few membership meetings during the year so we'll know who you are when it comes to vote.

**Collective Bargaining Seminar**

We continue to move forward with the plans for our first Collective Bargaining Seminar this fall. The dates will be October 23-28, 2009. The Coral Reef Hotel, Myrtle Beech, SC will be our host hotel. This collective bargaining seminar is brought to you by the South Carolina and North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police. Students will arrive on Friday evening and the class starts on Saturday and runs until about noon on Wednesday. The NC State Lodge will pay for the training and Lodge #9 will pay for hotel, per diem, and travel to the seminar. If you think you might be interested in attending please keep an eye on this newsletter for more information. Our goal is to send ten officers from Lodge #9 and we would like to have many police departments across the county represented. There will be more in the next month or two on how to apply.

Take Care and we'll see you at the meeting.

Randy

- 
- The Flower Hut located at 5208 E. Independence Blvd. is offering a 20% discount to FOP members with 1% back to the Lodge. When you order mention the FOP Lodge and we all benefit.  
704-535-1041
  - The Latin dance lessons are continuing at the lodge. You are invited to attend and learn. These dances are great exercise routines.
  - Shop-with-a-Cop / Back to School will be held on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at Target on University Place at 0900 hrs. You are invited to share in the excitement and see dreams come true. Uniformed officers are welcome!

- The Lodge now has a variety of female shirts with the Lodge logo for sale. Various other items are also available. If you are looking for a special gift for someone special, remember the Lodge.
- It's that time of the year. The weather is great and the water is cool. Come join us as we celebrate the summer at the lake. There is always great fun and food. The kids can play with little worry. Our property at the lake is a wonderful place to spend the summer. Call the Lodge for directions.
- The FOP annual \$10 Grand Giveaway (formally known as the Truck Raffle) is scheduled for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 same location as last year, the Oasis Temple, University City area.

Upcoming North Carolina FOP events:

2009 Fall State Board	Winston-Salem	Date
to be determined		
August 2009 National Convention	Long Beach, CA	

- Hendricks Honda is offering to pay \$400.00 to the State Lodge for any member that purchases a vehicle on line through the link on the State website. The State Lodge agreed to keep \$200.00 and give \$100.00 to the local lodge and \$100.00 to the member.  
<http://www.ncfop.org/>

The newsletter is produced each month. All articles should be e-mailed to [ronniestinson@att.net](mailto:ronniestinson@att.net) Note that this is a new address for Ronnie Stinson, Lodge Secretary.

---

## Become involved: Join a committee!

We continue to work on placing people willing to work on the various committees which are listed below:

- **FOP Lodge 9 Club** (Chair Skiddie Hurd, Larry Walker and Don Penix) This committee is responsible for the bar and acts as mediator for the Club and the Board of Directors.
- **Political Endorsement** This committee will examine the political environment in Mecklenburg County as well as all of the cities and towns in the county. Information gathered through this committee will be used by the membership to

endorse candidates that will best represent law enforcement in our county.

- **Recruiting** This committee will be asked to coordinate the recruiting efforts of Lodge #9. The more members we recruit, the more power we have as a group. The more representatives we have in the county, the more effective and beneficial our discussions are with those who are listening.
- **Lake** The lake property is important to the membership, especially those that use the property. This committee acts as overseer of the lake property and deals with issues such as concerns of misuse. (If anyone has a riding lawnmower that they would like to donate to the Lodge for use at the lake, please contact the lodge.)
- **Awards** For too long our members have not been recognized for outstanding work. This committee will examine ways to recognize officers for outstanding work.
- **Fund-raising** (Chair Ken Clark) This committee will examine ways that the Lodge raises money and recommend other projects.
- **Newsletter** (John DeCatsye, Ronnie Stinson and Randy Hagler) Communicating and keeping the members of the FOP Lodge informed is critical; please consider serving on this most important committee.
- **Merchandise** (Buster Tanner, Meba Thompson) FOP Lodge #9 attempts to keep merchandise available to the membership for purchase.
- **Community Affairs** This committee will examine our work in the community. How are we giving back to the community?
- **\$10,000 Grand Giveaway** (Chair Andy Martin) This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Help plan this event.

**Please consider serving one of these committees, you can make a difference.**

---

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

## Legislation Supported by the National Fraternal Order of Police

- **H.R. 18** (*Bartlett, R-MD*), the "Powder Crack Cocaine Penalty Equalization Act," would eliminate the disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine offenses by changing the applicable amounts for powder cocaine to those currently applicable to crack cocaine;
- **TOP PRIORITY H.R. 235** (*Berman, D-CA*), the "Social Security Fairness Act," would repeal both the "Windfall Elimination Provision" and the "Government Pension Offset" in current Social Security law;
- **H.R. 248** (*Green, D-TX*), the "Law Enforcement Officers Flag Memorial Act," would provide the families of deceased law enforcement officers with a flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol;
- **TOP PRIORITY H.R. 413** (*Kildee, D-MI*), the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act," would recognize the right of law enforcement and other public safety officers to bargain collectively with their employers;
- **H.R. 583** (*Lee, D-CA*), the "Community Partners Next Door Act," would establish a housing program that would provide a fifty percent (50%) discount for teachers, teacher assistants, administrators, and public safety officers purchasing certain eligible asset properties for use as their primary residence, including a \$100 down payment on any related insured mortgage, and a higher Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limit for such purchases in high cost areas;
- **H.R. 673** (*Filner, D CA*), the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act," would provide 6 (c) benefits to approximately 30,000 Federal law enforcement officers who currently do not have them;
- **H.R. 675** (*Filner, D-CA*), legislation which would grant statutory arrest authority to law enforcement officers employed by the U.S. Department of Defense;
- **H.R. 958** (*Moran, D-VA*), the "Federal Employee Retirement System Sick Leave Equity Act," would allow Federal employees under FERS to be credited for unused sick time;
- **H.R. 959** (*Murphy, D-PA*), the "Officer Danny Faulkner Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act" would provide increased Federal Pell Grants for children whose parent or guardian died as a result of performing duties of a law enforcement or other public safety officer;
- **H.R. 1006** (*Stupak, D-MI*), the "Secondary Metal Theft Prevention Act," would require secondary metal recycling agents to keep records of their transactions in order to deter individuals and enterprises engaged in the

- theft and interstate sale of stolen secondary metal;
- **H.R. 1139** (*Weiner, D-NY*), the "COPS Improvement Act," would provide full funding for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the programs it administers;
  - **H.R. 1221** (*Brady, R-TX*), the "Public Servant Retirement Protection Act," would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and replace it with a more equitable, individualized calculation of Social Security benefits;
  - **TOP PRIORITY H.R. 1972** (*Stupak, D-MI*), the "Law Enforcement Officers' Procedural Bill of Rights Act," would protect the due process rights of officers during internal investigations;
  - **H.J.Res. 8** (*Emerson, R-MO*), would amend the Constitution to give Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States;
  - **S. 132** (*Feinstein, D-CA*), the "Gang Abatement and Prevention Act," is a comprehensive, national approach to the problem of gang violence which would establish a High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Area (HIIGAA) program to facilitate greater cooperation between local, State and Federal law enforcement in identifying, targeting, and eliminating violent gangs in areas where gang activity is particularly prevalent and define new offenses which will enable law enforcement to fight gangs and gang-related activity more effectively;
  - **S. 167** (*Kohl, D-WI*), the "COPS Improvement Act," would establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and reauthorize the law enforcement officer hiring program, as well as reauthorizes funds for technology grants and community prosecutors;
  - **S. 252** (*Akaka, D-HI*), the "Veterans Health Care Authorization Act," specifically, Title VII, which would expand the arrest authority of the VA Police Service and increase the uniform allowance for these officers;
  - **S. 256** (*Feinstein, D-CA*), the "Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act," will strengthen Federal law by improving the self-certification process for retail sales of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;
  - **S. 258** (*Feinstein, D-CA*), the "Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act," would increase penalties on those who tailor market illegal drugs to entice children to purchase them;
  - **S. 386** (*Leahy, D-VT*), the "Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act," which would strengthen the ability of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute fraudulent activity in connection with bailout and recovery legislation;
  - **TOP PRIORITY S. 484** (*Feinstein, D-CA*), the "Social

Security Fairness Act," would repeal both the "Windfall Elimination Provision" and the "Government Pension Offset" in current Social Security law;

- *S. 490 (Hutchison, R-TX)*, the "Public Servant Retirement Protection Act," would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and replace it with a more equitable, individualized calculation of Social Security benefits;
- *S.J.Res. 2 (Vitter, R-LA)*, would amend the Constitution to give Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States;
- Legislation to provide Federal law enforcement officers with a rebuttable presumption that a causal connection exists between their occupation and heart, lung, and hypertension disorders;
- Legislation which would protect the personal information of law enforcement officers and their families from public access;

For more information, please feel free to contact the National Legislative Office at (202) 547-8189 or via [e-mail](#).

---

### **BLUE LIGHT LOUNGE at the FOP**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

- Latin lessons are free most every Friday, however please call to confirm at 378-3636 or at Bar Manager Tina Parker's cell phone 622-2288 from 7 pm till 9 pm
- Please help support the lodge lounge as we are open to suggestions to help improve business and what hours you would like to see the lounge open for business!
- Open 5:00 PM Tuesday – Friday
- Free Pool on Tuesdays – Drink Specials every night
- **Rent the lodge!!** It's available to all members.
- Excellent facility! Great rates!
- Graduation Parties, Weddings, Birthdays
- Contact: Tina Parker, Blue Light Lounge Manager @ 704-376-3838

---

### **AUXILIARY #9**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

- FOPA meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- Membership dues are \$35.00 per year.

Questions about the FOPA may be directed to Jackie Stinson, [jstinstar@att.net](mailto:jstinstar@att.net) 704-724-7752 or 704-263-2016

## **SICK AND DISTRESSED**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

- Bob Rieser was on vacation with his wife in Indiana when she became ill and is in ICU in Indiana.
- Rachel Thompson, Dick's wife had hip replacement and is doing very well. She was at the last meeting.
- Bob Andretta is being treated for cancer and is resting at home after a stay at Presbyterian hospital.
- Doug Bruce had a heart attack on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed away. Doug will be greatly missed.
- Jim Hurd had another bout with his legs and was in the hospital for a short stay. Skiddie advised that they were going to the VA hospital for treatment.
- Garland Painter's daughter is ill and in the hospital.
- John DeCatsye's daughter has been the hospital recently but she is now at home and recovering.

***Our prayers and deepest condolences for our members & families that have lost loved ones.***

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

### ***Stanly County Community College***

<http://www.stanly.edu/cjc>

### **Criminal Justice Associate's Degree— ENTIRELY ONLINE!**

Stanly Community College was the first community college in NC to offer its entire CJ Associate's Degree completely online. Contact former CMPD Sergeant Kim Hammett, at (704) 991-0164 or at [khammett8505@stanly.edu](mailto:khammett8505@stanly.edu) for more information.

***Further your career! Increase your pay! Call today!***

### ***Central Piedmont Community College***

<http://www.cpcpsafetytraining.com/>

CPCC is offering many of the criminal justice and OSHA mandated classes for law enforcement on-line. To register for

these classes, or to learn more about taking these classes on-line, please go to <http://www.cpccsafetytraining.com/> . You can access information about the courses by clicking on the registration link. CPCC will be offering these courses each semester in 2009. To find out about all of CPCC's law enforcement in-service classes, e-mail [christopher.hailey@cpcc.edu](mailto:christopher.hailey@cpcc.edu) or [mary.ferracci@cpcc.edu](mailto:mary.ferracci@cpcc.edu)

### **STATE LODGE NEWS**

<http://www.ncfop.org/>

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

The State office is located at 1500 Walnut Street Cary, NC 27511 The phone number is: 919-461-4939 (Office) and 800-628-8062 Fax number is: 919-461-4958

### **GRAND LODGE**

<http://www.fop.net/>

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

- The National Lodge has contracts with the following companies that should provide cost savings to our members while raising money for the FOP:
- Avis Car Rental
- Enterprise Car Rental
- FOP Prescription Drug Program
- Caliber Press Discounts for Street Survival Seminar
- FOP-RHS Retirement Health Savings Program
- John Hancock Long Term Care Program

All of these programs are now in existence and information can be obtained by logging on the Grand Lodge Web Page

<http://www.fop.net/>

### **MERCHANDISE**

[\(click to return to top\)](#)

- National FOP merchandise is available at the Lodge.
- Merchandise is on order for the Lodge. The committee is asking women for sizes so that they can order items for them and have some of the most popular sizes for the show cases. Contact the Lodge. Thank you for your support.
- FOP Auxiliary has a wide variety of merchandise also on display.

**Blue Line** Merchandise is now available at the Lodge.