



North Carolina: Charlotte- Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

April 2009 Newsletter

2009, Number 4

In This Issue

- Next membership meeting: Tuesday April 7th at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1730 hrs
 - **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Collective Bargaining, Legal Defense, Pay Issues, Political Endorsements.

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Contact Us

Ronnie Stinson-Lodge Secretary

ronniestinson@att.net

Letter from Lodge # 9 President Randy Hagler

Hello, and welcome to the April issue of the FOP Lodge #9 Newsletter. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7th, dinner is at 5:30pm and the meeting starts at 6:30pm. I hope to see you there.

Collective Bargaining

As most of you know, a national collective bargaining bill has been introduced in Congress, HB 413 "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009" Most feel with the current congress there is a likelihood that the bill will be passed within the next two years. With that in mind, NCFOP feels strongly that we must prepare ourselves for when this happens. At the FOP State Lodge Spring Board meeting this past weekend the Board of Directors voted unanimously to host a Collective Bargaining seminar. This will be a hands on seminar that will give students the opportunity to actually bargain contracts. Students will experience first hand the bargaining process from beginning to end. The training will be provided to our membership by the FOP National Lodge Labor Services Group. The seminar will be paid for by the North Carolina FOP and the only costs charged to the local FOP will be hotel and per diem. Our state lodge is working closely with South Carolina State Lodge to co-host this seminar and we are working to identify a date and location. We are looking at Myrtle Beach hopefully in late October or early November. Please give some consideration to who should attend this seminar, most feel the members / officers that attend should be working cops / deputies that will be involved in the bargaining process when it happens. Now is the time to get involved with the FOP so we can have our team in place when HR 413 passes.

2009 FOP LODGE #9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Randy Hagler
Vice President: Skiddie Hurd
Secretary: Ronnie Stinson
Treasurer: Ken Clark
State Trustee: Todd Walther
2nd 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)

NEW LODGE CHAPLAIN DAVID WRIGHT BEING SWORN IN BY NCFOP STATE PRESIDENT TERRY MANGUM.



Legal Defense

Our legal defense plan is one of the best plans available to FOP members in the country. But you have to be a member to have access to it. Please check and make sure your FOP dues are paid every year. We begin the dues process in early August and hope to have everyone's dues by late September. If there are any doubts about your membership, give the lodge a call at 704-376-3838.

Pay Issues

We are in the process of preparing a letter to City Manager Curt Walton, to request that he look harder for ways to allow CMPD Officers to receive their step increase and not get further behind than they already are. Officers have missed step increases before and as you know that's money lost that can never be made up. Please plan on attending the meeting to provide input on what you think we should do. We understand that economic times are tough and no one wants to see any city employee lose their jobs. Let's discuss our response so we can attempt to achieve the most from budget talks without appearing to be greedy.

Political Endorsements

This is an election year for many races including Mayor. FOP Lodge #9 will again have a political screening committee to interview and make recommendations to the membership on who we should endorse for this race and others. The committee will draft the questions for the candidates and then hold meetings with any one wishing to obtain the endorsement of the FOP. If you are interested in serving on this committee please send me email at rlhncfop@bellsouth.net. We will appoint the committee in the next two months to allow them time to develop the questionnaire and prepare for the process.

New Board Member

FOP Lodge #9 recently lost our Lodge Chaplain, Tyrone Scott. Chaplain Scott passed away at his home and will be missed deeply by our Lodge. Chaplain Scott was a good friend to everyone that knew him and provided our lodge with a spiritual presence that we had not enjoyed before. After Chaplain Scott's passing, we realized we needed someone else to provide what was lost. Thankfully we found Officer David Wright of the Independence Division. Chaplain Wright was sworn in at the March meeting as our newest board member. Look for articles from Chaplain Wright in this

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

UPCOMING EVENTS BY THE AUXILIARY!

- The FOPA will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt April 11th 2009 10am till 12:00 at the Lodge.
- To Honor all Fallen Officers, the annual FOPA Memorial Service will be on Friday May 8th 2009 at Sharon Memorial Cemetery 8:15 pm.

Newsletter in the future and in the meantime give him a call at the Independence Division in if he can be of any assistance. Welcome to the FOP Chaplain Wright!

Our organization can only be as strong as our membership, so please consider attending our membership meeting and making your voice heard.

Randy Hagler, President
FOP Lodge #9

Letter from Lodge # 9, State Trustee Todd Walther

North Carolina State
Fraternal Order of Police
2009 Spring Board Meeting

Friday March 27th was filled with meetings and a training session on Collective Bargaining in Wilmington. I met on this evening with the State Trustee's, to both review and discuss the new state budget and new business. The main topic on this evening from State President Terry Mangum was the fundraising for the state's future. The State E Board is now reviewing new contracts with three solicitation companies, A.B.I, C for C, and J.A.K. Productions. A.B.I. is a well known company that numerous local lodges are using now for their solicitation in their own counties, including Lodge # 9. There are many reasons for the change in companies, but both the State Lodge and current company C. D. G. have agreed not to renew a contract for 2009.

Saturday March 28th we started the day with a very full agenda for that day. We were honored and joined on this day by National President Chuck Canterbury and National Secretary Patrick Yoes. There was standing room only as President Canterbury spoke of the FOP's Legislative priorities with H.R. Bill 413, Collective Bargaining and the Officers Bill of Rights. Collective Bargaining is coming to the south, just the word Union scares so many in office, but it is our job to convince our elected officials around the state that this is for the better of state, regional and local employees in North Carolina. Unity and communication seemed to be the theme for this weekend in Wilmington. Only we as members can make things happen, but only if we work together showing power and pride in numbers

The FOP has struggled for years to be appointed a position on the Criminal Justice Training Standards Commission. This is a long deserved seat that is being opposed by the Sheriffs Association. Somehow 100 Sheriffs have made their voice carry over the 4000 members of the FOP. North Carolina FOP President Terry Mangum addressed this issue along with the Sheriffs Association opposing numerous bills like the Bill of Rights and Collective Bargaining. President Mangum has set out to contact each and every 100 Sheriffs in North Carolina to address their views on such matters.

FOP National Secretary Patrick Yoes echoed the need for unity in these days of hard times; this economy has struck home to all of us. Secretary Yoes also cautioned all members on the use of new technology with the internet "Facebook" and other such blog's. A caution on the use of the FOP Logo or the FOP name. When using ones like "Facebook" the logo or name can become the property of "Facebook" and that is not what we want to see happen.

FOP State Attorney Rich Hattendorf spoke regarding the rise in Worker Compensation Claims and disputes. The biggest point made by Rich was not to wait so late in asking for assistance. There are many attorneys' that specialize in this area of law but to wait or hesitate can cost you in benefits.

On the last note here about legal issues, Lodge # 9 leads the state membership in usage of the Legal Aid Plan, we are not the most costly due to the advantage of having Rich Hattendorf in our area. But there has been a trend among the membership to wait or hesitate to call for assistance. I have received calls from members after they have gone to Internal Affairs with questions on their minds or sat down with detectives, supervisors and Chiefs conducting criminal investigations. Once you have given that statement it can't be taken back, there is no do over. Now this does not mean that the membership is always wrong in their actions or being deceitful. Legal Aid is there for the membership to assist them in protecting your Rights as an employee.

In conclusion I can say that the Spring Board Meeting in Wilmington was truly a working meeting lasting all day on Saturday as we worked through lunch until almost 4pm.

God Bless and Stay Safe.

Todd Walther, Lodge # 9 State Trustee

- The 2009 Membership Off-Duty Weapon Raffle was a great success. The winner was a Charter member of the Lodge, James G. Brown, Jr. Congratulations Jimmy.
- A camera is needed to record events at the Lodge. We are looking for a good working digital camera that can be donated to the Lodge. Contact the Lodge at 376-3838 if you know of a business or individual who could assist with this.
- The FOP annual \$10 Grand Giveaway (formally known as the Truck Raffle) is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th 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 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

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BLUE LIGHT LOUNGE at the FOP

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- 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

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

Questions about the FOPA may be directed to Jackie Stinson, jstinstar@att.net 704-724-7752 or 704-263-2016

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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Stanly County Community College

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

Stanly Community College will offer a new online in-service course, Cyber Threats: Tracing an Email, from Monday, April 6th until Saturday, April 25th. It is free to sworn law enforcement officers. CMPD's Sergeant Walt Suarez is the instructor. To register, contact Christi Almond at calmond5263@stanly.edu or 704-991-0269. Class size is limited, so register early!

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 for more information. ***Further your career! Increase your pay! Call today!***

Central Piedmont Community College

<http://www.cpccsafetytraining.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 2007. To find out about all of CPCC's law enforcement in-service classes, e-mail Doug Norwood at Douglas.norwood@cpcc.edu

STATE LODGE NEWS

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

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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/>

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- 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

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- 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.