



North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

August 2008 Newsletter

2008, Number 8

In This Issue

- Next membership meeting: Tuesday August 5th at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1745 hrs
- **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Lodge Election Run-off Vote on August 5th ; FOP dues renewal; Presidential Screening Process; FOP Golf Tournament; State Conference; Stanly Community College presenting a FREE seminar, Visions of Courage on August 27th
- Become involved-join a committee!

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Contact Us

Ronnie Stinson-Lodge Secretary

rstinson1208@bellsouth.net

- Please visit the National FOP web site at <http://www.fop.net/> to check your membership status and make sure we have your correct address.

A letter from our Lodge President, Randy Hagler:

Hello, and welcome to the August edition of the Charlotte Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9 Newsletter. We apologize for you not having received a July Newsletter as we had some technical difficulties that could not be avoided. We think we have those issues worked out and it shouldn't be a problem in the future.

Lodge Elections

In June, local lodge elections were held and the majority of your board of directors was re-elected. We do have a new member to welcome; Will Parker was elected to the position of Guard. Will is a retired CMPD officer that brings many years of law enforcement and FOP experience to the board. We also had a tie for a position of Trustee, John Melekian and Amy Brady ended the election with exactly the same number of votes. There will be a run-off election on Tuesday, August 5th to determine who will get the position. The poles will be open from Noon until 7:00pm for voting so please come out and vote. Since you'll be at the lodge voting you might as well stay for the meeting.

FOP Dues

FOP Lodge #9 continues to grow; currently we are representing more than 1,500 law enforcement officers across Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. We have members working in every police department in the county, the Sheriff's Office and many state and federal agencies. No officer should be without the protection the FOP offers. Can you imagine being in a situation where legal defense is needed and either having to call an attorney yourself (and pay for it by the way) or just using your FOP card to call a member of our legal defense committee that will locate and send an attorney to assist you? It might be a situation where you are suspended and are just not sure if you have been treated fairly, that's what your FOP Legal Plan will do for you. If you are receiving this email then you should be covered. Help another officer out by making sure they are. It only takes a second. If you have any doubt about whether you are

2008 FOP LODGE #9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Randy Hagler
Vice President: Skiddie Hurd
Secretary: Ronnie Stinson
Treasurer: Ken Clark
State Trustee: Dennis McCrary
2nd Vice President: Don Penix
Past President: Larry Walker
Chaplain: Tyrone Scott

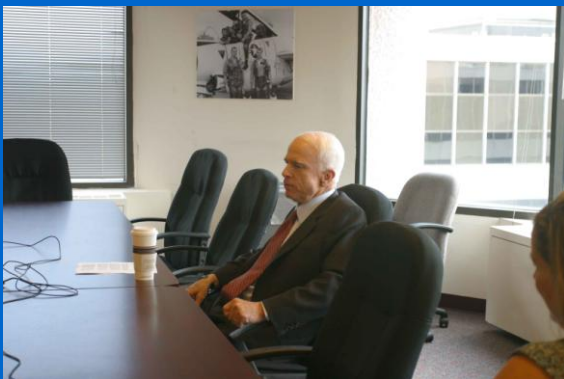
Trustees:

Andy Martin (07)
Mark Michelac (07)
Buster Tanner (07)
John Melekian (06)
Scott Geiler (08)

Guards:

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

The below pictures are from the interviews conducted by the National Presidential Screening Committee with the candidates.



covered or not gives us a call at the Lodge at 704-376-3838.

Your dues cards for 2009 will be coming out soon; please don't wait to send them in. When the card arrives in the mail, fill it out, attach a check and mail it back. Every year we lose a couple hundred members that are not covered because they put the dues card up and forget to send it in until after the new year starts. By the time they remember they are without FOP coverage, it takes a month or two to get re-established. Of the \$100 you send in, we send \$56.50 of it to the State and National Lodge for your membership and we must have those funds submitted by early October, so please don't wait.

Presidential Screening

I was pleased to have been selected by the National FOP President and Vice President to serve on the Presidential Screening Committee again this year. I served in 2004 when the National Lodge voted to endorse George Bush, this year's endorsement was much more involved. We sent questionnaires to both candidates to get their views on issues important to law enforcement. We purposely stayed away from issues outside law enforcement. Both candidates responded with very different views on our issues. The completed questionnaires and the candidate's responses can be found at www.fop.net. Look for "Choosing a President" and just follow the link. The candidates' responses can also be found in the FOP Journal that many received this past week in the mail. Either way, please take a look and see what you think. As part of the screening process our committee sat down with both candidates individually and asked some candid follow-up questions. Their responses were as different as you might imagine. Sen. Obama made it clear he supported law enforcement and the ideology of the FOP as a law enforcement union representing hundreds of thousands of police officers all over the country. He stated several times during our conversation with him at his headquarters in Chicago that he couldn't imagine a more important endorsement than from the FOP. Sen. McCain on the other hand never asked for the FOP endorsement and said quite frankly that it would be okay if he didn't receive it. The meeting with McCain was held in Arlington, Virginia at his campaign headquarters. When Sen. McCain was asked directly if he would, as President, sign a bill granting Collective Bargaining rights to all law enforcement officers if one was passed by Congress he said; "I don't know; I'll have to get back with you on that."

I realize that many things will go into our decision on who we will vote for in the upcoming election, law enforcement issues are not the only thing to consider. However, it's important all of us know how these candidates stand on issues important to our members. Please take the time to educate yourself on both candidates, and then vote for who you think can best lead the country.

With this all being said, your National FOP will be voting to endorse a candidate at our September board meeting. As part of that process,



as your National Trustee from North Carolina. I will be voting on who we (NC) should endorse. North Carolina FOP will ask every active NCFOP member whom we should endorse. You will receive a ballot in the mail; it will be in post card form. Simply mark the ballot with your vote, place a stamp on it and put it in the mail. All ballots should be post marked by August 20th to be counted. Please take the couple of seconds it will require and let us know what you think; our endorsement is too important to not take seriously.

Take Care and be Careful,

Randy Hagler, President
FOP Lodge #9



- Our first annual golf tournament will be on Monday, October 13th at Cowans Ford Country Club. You can help. Call “Stretch” Haynes (704)807-2776, for more information. Rick Hendricks is donating an autographed racing helmet and we are trying to get an autographed football from the Panthers. The entry fee for the tournament will be \$80.00 per golfer. The Golf Tournament Committee has obtained a package that includes the following:
2x6 Welcome Banner (18) Hole Sponsor Signs
Longest Drive Contest
Closest to the Pin Contest (4) 1st Place Prizes
(4) 2nd Place Prizes
\$ 50,000.00 Shootout Putting Contest
Hole in One Package Outdoorsman

(The committee has the letter with our Lodge President’s signature for the golf tournament for the members when they are soliciting for prizes.)



- The 2008 Mark Tucker Memorial Award will be presented at the 2008 State Conference in Greensboro, September 16-21, 2008. Nominations are open and will be accepted until Monday August 4th, 2008. The Mark Tucker Memorial Award honors and celebrates our Brothers and Sisters for their contributions to the FOP. If you know of someone worthy from Lodge # 9, please nominate them by August 4th. The NCFOP State Awards Committee Members are: Arthur O’Brian, Wake County Lodge #41, Byron Highland, Pitt-Greenville Lodge #69, Andy Martin, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Lodge #9, Lynn Wilson, Harold C. Enloe Lodge #1, Rick Eades, Iredell County Lodge #10, and Phil Wiggins, Committee Advisor, Durham County Lodge #2.
- The Benefit Committee is looking for a benefit book before 1987. The committee asked the city personnel for the benefit

Stanly Community College is presenting a FREE seminar, *Visions of Courage* by Dr. Bobby Smith on August 27th, 2008 at Stanly County Agri-Civic Center, 26032-B Newt Road, Albemarle, NC 28001

Stanly Community College presents:

Visions of Courage

The Bobby Smith Story

How to deal with the aftermath of traumatic events in our lives.



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE & CAREER OBJECTIVE "In 1986, working as a Louisiana State Trooper, I was shot in the face and blinded in the line of duty. As a result of my shooting and the aftermath of trauma, I realized the need for law enforcement officers to have assistance in dealing with post trauma. In 2001, I founded and currently serve as the Director of FORTE (Foundation for Officers Recovering from Traumatic Events). My on-going goal is to provide training and counseling for law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, and their families going through various traumatic events. Based on my education and experience, I have become a renowned author and speaker, providing training and motivating people to overcome adversity. I have spoken in every major city across the United States and in several countries abroad. I average approximately 150 speaking engagements yearly and have addressed over one million people in my career." From <http://www.visionsofcourage.com/>

Please join **Stanly Community College** as we present Dr. Bobby Smith.

When: August 27, 2008

Where: Stanly County Agri-Civic Center 26032-B Newt Road, Albemarle, NC 28001

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cost: This presentation is free to Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Service personnel, \$50.00 cost to non-protective service personnel.

His on-going goal is to provide training and counseling for law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, and their families going through various traumatic events. He has written two books, "Visions of Courage" and "The Will to Survive" and speaks worldwide motivating people to overcome adversity. With a unique blend of seriousness and humor, he teaches people how to deal with the tragedies of life and the importance of not taking a single day or person for granted. From <http://www.visionsofcourage.com/>



For more information please contact Kim Hammett at 704-991-0154 or by e-mail khammett8303@stanly.edu or Christi Almond at 704-991-0269 or by e-mail calmonds263@stanly.edu


To register please use the following link <https://networking.stanly.edu/seminar/seminar.html>

book and they advised that they did have a copy. The committee will consult with an attorney on their next step.

- For the last four or five years, the Lodge has been helping the Physically Disable Adult (PDA) conduct an annual picnic for 300 handicapped persons in Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas. For many of these people, this is the only outing that they have except visiting a doctor or clinic. Each of them will win a prize at bingo or some other game that they will play for about 3 or 4 hours. They will talk with the Panther's "Top Cats", have popcorn, and eat hamburgers and hot dogs. This will be their day out. Several companies and other individuals make many donations for this picnic. Many of these handicap persons work to raise money. They sit out in front of grocery stores, selling candy and other items. They call companies for donations and other items. At this picnic, there will be about 300 others that are volunteers, caretakers and other persons that help with the picnic.

Because of the economy, everyone is cutting back including the Lodge. The Lodge's biggest expense was renting 90 tables and 300 chairs. We need help in getting these tables and chairs. If you know someone that can make a donation or let us borrow theirs, let us know at the Lodge. The picnic is Saturday, September 13th at the Marion Diehl Center on Tyvola Rd. and all of you are invited.

- The State Conference is September 16th through 21st 2008 in Greensboro, NC. If you are interested in attending as a delegate from Lodge 9, you need to attend the Lodge meeting on Tuesday, August 5th!
- Steve Kearney made a presentation at the July Membership meeting asking for support in his bid for District Court judge. Barry Dodd also spoke at the membership meeting and asked for support for the Physically Disable Adult annual picnic.
- Effective July 1st 2008, Tara Morrow resigned as bar manager and Tina Parker will resume these duties. President Hagler presented a plaque of appreciation and thanked Tara for her outstanding work with the bar.
- 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 Lodge will hold a handgun raffle for members. Tickets are available at any membership meeting and at the bar at the



Lodge. Five (5) tickets and a return self addressed envelope will be mailed to each member with their 2009 membership card in December 2008. Each member is asked to support the Lodge by purchasing the tickets and mailing a check for the five tickets. The drawing will be at the March 2009 membership meeting. The tickets will be \$5.00 each and 5 tickets for \$20.00. The raffle will be available to all Lodge # 9 members and other FOP members. The winner must be able to obtain a gun permit.

- Stanly Community College is presenting a FREE seminar, *Visions of Courage* by Dr. Bobby Smith on August 27th, 2008 at Stanly County Agri-Civic Center, 26032-B Newt Road, Albemarle, NC 28001. In 1986, while working as a Louisiana State Trooper, he was shot in the face and blinded in the line of duty. His on-going goal is to provide training and counseling for law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, and their families going through various traumatic events. For more information please contact Kim Hammett at 704-991-0164 or by e-mail khammett8505@stanly.edu or Christi Almond at 704-991-0269 or by e-mail calmond5263@stanly.edu To register please use the following link:
<https://networking.stanly.edu/smithseminar/smithseminar.html>

The newsletter is produced each month. All articles should be e-mailed to rstinson1208@bellsouth.net. The newsletter will be delivered a week before the membership meeting. Articles are welcome and encouraged.

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** (Chair 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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WE STILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO CONTACT SENATE OFFICES!!!

It is CRITICAL that members make contact with their Senators and ask them to support H.R. 980

FOP members can reach their Senators at their Washington offices (or through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121).

REMEMBER: the bill does *not* require binding arbitration, protects existing right-to-work laws, and specifically prohibits strikes and lockouts. The legislation merely requires that States “substantially provide” for the following rights and responsibilities:

- the right to form and join a labor organization;
- the right to bargain over hours, wages, and the terms and conditions of employment; and
- the availability of an “interest impasse resolution mechanism such as fact-finding, mediation, arbitration, or comparable procedures”.

Additional talking points to use when making your case:

- Last July, H.R. 980, was favorably reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor on a 42-1 vote. Later that same month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill on a 314-97 vote.
- The House bill won a majority of votes from ***BOTH*** party caucuses.
- The bottom line for both public safety employers and employees is not profit for shareholders, but to best ensure the safety of the officers, to bring them home safely at the end of their shift and to deliver emergency services in the fastest and most efficient way possible.
- It is irresponsible and offensive to suggest that collective bargaining would impede or jeopardize the ability of law enforcement officers to do their jobs. Their lives are on the line everyday, agreement or no agreement and to suggest that response to a critical incident would be used as a bargaining chip is reprehensible.

You can get additional information on the bill, and can direct Senate staff to, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Grand Lodge website: <http://www.fop.net/legislative/issues/bargain/hr980faq.pdf>

If any of the Senator's staff that you speak with have additional questions about the legislation, tell them to contact Tim Richardson at in the FOP's National Legislative Office at 202-547-8189

The short session starts on May 13th at 12 noon. To track these bills and other visit: www.ncleg.net

BLUE LIGHT LOUNGE at the FOP

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- 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@BELLSOUTH.NET 704-724-7752 or 704-263-2016

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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Please continue to pray for our sick and distressed Officers

- Brother Wilch Caldwell's father, Rev. Wilch H. Caldwell Sr. died on Monday, July 21, 2008. He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife of 62 years, Moease Caldwell. Two daughters; Gisele Bryant (John) of Aiken, SC., and Wilhelmina Burton of Charlotte, NC; two sons, Wilch H. Caldwell, Jr., of Charlotte, NC and George E. Caldwell (Rebecca) of Havelock, NC; two sisters, Lilea B. Allen of Pittsburgh, PA and Ruby Mitchell of Charlotte, NC; nineteen grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, one great-great grandson and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Services were held on Saturday, July 26, 2008 at Faith Memorial Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Scholarship Fund at Faith Memorial Baptist Church.
- Retired CMPD Sergeant Roy King suffered a serious stroke on July 4th in Asheville, NC. He has been moved to a rehabilitation hospital in nearby for continued care. We do not think Roy is able to have visitors right now but when that changes we'll let everyone know. Please keep Roy and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Shirley Europa had knee surgery Monday, July 7th at Ortho Carolina. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.
- Carolyn Williams' mother passed during the month of May. Carolyn is the wife of John Williams, retired DC officer and member of our Lodge.

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- On June 17, 2008 NCSHP Trooper Shawn Blanton was killed near Canton, North Carolina while making a traffic stop. The suspect was from Florida and was arrested a short time after the shooting, he is currently in jail awaiting trial. Trooper Blanton left behind a wife and two week old baby. His son, Tye Blanton is still in the hospital where he has been since his premature birth. An account has been established to help Shawn's wife Michaela with the mounting medical bills as their son slowly improves. Please keep Shawn's family in your thoughts and prayers and if you would like to make a contribution to the fund that has been established the information is as follows: State Employees Credit Union, c/o Michaela Blanton, Acct. # 60460003

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>

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.