



North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

June 2008 Newsletter

2008, Number 6

In This Issue

- Next membership meeting: Tuesday June 3rd at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1745 hrs
- **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Tickets are on sale for \$10,000 Grand Giveaway; FOP Golf Tournament being planned; Election Day for Local officers; nominations for offices (state and local)
- 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.

FOP Lodge 9 \$10,000 Grand Giveaway: May 31st (Formerly known as the "Truck Raffle")

- Tickets are on sale for the \$10,000 Grand Giveaway (formerly known as the Truck Raffle). There will be 325 tickets available at a cost of \$100 each. The giveaway itself will be held again at the Oasis Shrine Temple at University on May 31st starting at 6:00 pm, with a steak dinner for two and an open bar.
- Our first annual golf tournament is well in the planning stages for 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) 1 st Place Prizes
(4) 2 nd 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.)

A letter from our Lodge President, Randy Hagler:

Hello and welcome to the Charlotte Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9 Newsletter for June 2008. Hopefully many of you plan to attend the upcoming meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 3, meeting

2008 FOP LODGE #9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Randy Hagler
Vice President:	Skiddie Hurd
Secretary:	Ronnie Stinson
Treasurer:	Ken Clark
State Trustee:	Dennis McCrary
2 nd 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 (06)

Guards:

John DeCatsye (07)
Karl "Stretch" Haynes (07)
Paul Ensminger (06)
Ben Pepitone (06)

FOP Lodge 9 \$10,000 Grand Giveaway May 31st (Formerly known as the "Truck Raffle"

Tickets are still on sale for the newly named \$10,000 Grand Giveaway (formerly known as the Truck Raffle). There will be 325 tickets available at a cost of \$100 each. The giveaway itself will be held again at the Oasis Shrine Temple at University on May 31st starting at 6:00 pm with a steak dinner for two and an open bar.

starts at 6:30pm and dinner is at 5:45pm.

Another important date to remember is June 19, 2008. FOP Lodge #9 will be holding local lodge elections that day; please make plans to drop by the lodge between the hours of noon and midnight to vote for lodge officers. Some of the seats are unopposed but several have opposition, take a look at whose running and who you think can lead the FOP in the future and vote accordingly.

The National FOP and its Board of Directors has the responsibility to make an endorsement for the office of President of the United States. The National Lodge takes this responsibility very seriously and wants to be sure to make the decision that best represents our membership. The election this November promises to be eventful either way it turns out, we can't afford to waste our endorsement. We must look at the candidates and select the one that will best support law enforcement officers and the difficult job we do.

Here's how the process works:

- The National FOP Screening Committee sent out a questionnaire several weeks ago to the three major candidates that asked questions of concern to law enforcement. The candidates responded to the questions asked in writing to our committee.
- The committee will meet and prepare a written report for publication in the July issue of the FOP Journal. All the questions and the candidates' responses will be published in the Journal. Please take the time to read what each said about all the issues addressed and decide for yourself which would be best for law enforcement.
- In August every member will receive a letter from the North Carolina FOP along with a ballot for you to mark and send back to the State Lodge indicating which candidate you want North Carolina to endorse. The ballot will be on a post card for you mark and send in; it will only cost you a stamp.
- All of the ballots received at the State Lodge will be counted and the candidate receiving the majority will be endorsed by NC FOP.
- In September, at the FOP National Lodge Fall Board Meeting, the Board of Directors will be polled. Being the NC National Trustee from NC I will vote according to the outcome of our in-state election process. A candidate will need two thirds majority of the National FOP Board of Directors to gain our endorsement.
- The National FOP will have a press release on the outcome of the endorsement process.

This process is vital to our organization; we must ensure the candidate selected best represents our membership. Please take the time to consider what each candidate has to offer police officers and make your voice heard through your vote in August.

If you have any questions about this process please give me a call.

When do you need an FOP attorney?

- Police radio: B220 10-33 I got one down. Sent me a back-up! Advise my Sergeant. Dispatch: Are you OK? 10-4, send Medic, 10-33! This is a call we do not wish to hear or make. You arrive on the scene and see that your partner is fine. You immediately see that he needs an attorney. You get out your FOP card and make the call: "Jerry needs an attorney." Todd Walther says, "Is he a member?" For the first time, you never thought anyone was not a member. You assume everyone is a member. Don't be either one of these officers. Make sure your dues are paid and ask all of your partners, too. Applications are available at the Lodge or you can call me. Ronnie Stinson. rstinson1208@bellsouth.net or 704 724-5536.
- What about this conservation? The FOP membership meeting is Tuesday, June 3rd at 1830hrs with dinner at 1730hrs. "You need to go!" "I don't have time and those guys are doing a good job." There are a few issues about our insurance that you may be interested in. Did you know that while you are active and would happen to pass away, your family's health insurance is cancelled? I heard that an officer that was recently shot in the line of duty received a letter from the city that his family would be put on COBRA. Later someone from the city called and said that they would be on retiree's rate. A widow found out that she was not covered and she was not able to get her meds or go the doctor. If you don't think you don't have time, do you have time for your family? How long could it take for any of us to get into one of these situations?
- The following members announced their intention to seek the following **State** offices at the state conference.

President:	Terry Mangum
Vice President	Randy Hagler
2 nd Vice President	Travis Robinson
	Buddy Moretz
Chaplain	Phil Wiggins
National Trustee	Dennis McCrary

Chairman of the Trustees: Johnny Overby


- The following members were nominated for **Lodge** office for the 2008 / 2009 year. The nominations are as follows:

President:	Randy Hagler
Vice President:	Skiddie Hurd
Secretary:	Ronnie Stinson
Treasurer:	Ken Clark
2 nd Vice President:	Don Penix
State Trustee	Dennis McCrary
Guards:	Ben Pepitone, Paul Ensminger, Kathy Hope, Will Parker
Trustees:	Scott Geiler, John Melekian

Elections will be held Thursday, June 19th from noon until 2400 hours at the Lodge on Hawthorne Ln.

- The Benefit Committee is looking for a benefit book before 1987. The committee asked the city personnel for the benefit 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 national presidential screening (Grand Lodge) committee sent questionnaires to each of the three remaining candidates and the results will be printed in the next journal. The State Lodge will mail a ballot to each member in the state and the members will vote for the candidate of their choice, put a stamp on the post card and mail it back to the State Lodge.
- PBA is making false reports about the legal defense plan for the FOP. They are reporting that the FOP has a \$25,000.00 cap. This is **not true**. NCFOP has its own program, which is controlled by the State. There are no limits.
- The National Journal is going back to a magazine format.
- The State Conference is September 16th through 21st 2008 in Greensboro, NC.
- Collective bargaining is coming. We need to prepare as we are responsible for our own future. Southern States are sponsoring a training session for labor negotiators in Charlotte or Mississippi as soon as possible. Each state will have 5 slots to field. NC State Lodge is also planning a training session for about 50 officers.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Doris Kirby! After many years of service with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office, the NC FOP State Treasurer will be retiring on May 23, 2008.
- 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 will be available at the July 2008 membership meeting and at the bar at the Lodge anytime. 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.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

Gas pump cheating:

- 1 out of 4 gas stations have calibrated their pumps to show more gas had been pumped than a person actually got. Here is how to check a pump to see if you are getting the right amount: Whichever grade you are using, put EXACTLY 10 GALLONS in your tank, then look at the dollar amount, if the dollar amount is not EXACTLY 10 times the price of the fuel you have chosen, then the pumps are rigged. In my case as I said the mid-grade was \$3.71 9/10 per gallon, my dollar amount for 10 gallons should have been \$37.19. It doesn't matter where you pump gas, please check the 10 gallon price. If you do find a station that is cheating, contact the North Carolina Agriculture Department.
- Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, 'Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter.' Esther always replied, 'I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars' One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, 'Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance.' To this, Esther replied, 'Morris that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars.' The pilot overheard the couple and said, 'Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars.' Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, 'By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!' Morris replied, 'Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, fifty dollars is fifty dollars!'

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: Tara Murrow, Blue Light Lounge Manager @ 704-616-2453
-

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

- Retired Officer Gene Catoe caught a staff infection at Lake Norman Medical center. His doctor sent him home to recuperate. He was put on an I.V. for two weeks and is now in Iredell Memorial hospital and went back in for



surgery. Gene had a set back from all of this. He developed a blood clot and it went to his lung. The cardiologist wants to give him blood thinner. His back doctor won't let him because of his incisions. Gene is kind of between a rock and a hard place. He is in room 523 at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville. He is still in the hospital and they are giving him breathing treatments since he cannot take any blood thinner for the clot. He said he is hoping to go home soon because he is ready.

- April 29th 2008 former CMPD and current CFD employee Paul Taylor had a stroke about a month ago. I believe that he is at home now doing rehab. He also needs to find a home for his cocker spaniel.
- May 5, 2008 Reserve/Retired CMPD Officer Harold Huffling is in Presbyterian Orthopedic Hospital room 325. His horse rolled over on him Saturday night and broke 2 bones in Harold's leg. He's not in any pain right now and they say he may get to go home on Tuesday, May 6th. His telephone number up there is 704 316-5325 if you'd like to call him and cheer him up. Please pass this on to everyone that may know Harold. Thanks.
- May 12, 2008 Lana Cobb, Jimmy Cobb's wife had knee replacement surgery last week. After a rough time in the hospital because of a reaction to anesthesia and the meds she (and Jimmy) are home recuperating
- May 10, 2008 Lt. Scott Rogers with the Burke County Sheriff's Office (Morganton-Burke FOP Lodge #23) informed me this past Thursday that Burke County Deputy Martin Lawing has won the America's Most Wanted All-Star Contest! The America's Most Wanted website www.amw.com and television show will feature Deputy Lawing's win within the next few weeks. Deputy Lawing is due to return to Burke County from his rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, Georgia the third or fourth week of this month. We expect a huge homecoming!
- May 6, 2008 Brother Matt Shells' newborn son, Colton is presently in the hospital under going tests in Asheville. Matt and his family are under a lot of stress, along with the financial burden that comes with the illness of a newborn child. He is still in the hospital and they are unsure of his medical issues. They are completing a chest CT scan because they think he may have some form of lung disease. If they find something then they will do a biopsy of his lung and send it to Texas for analysis. I

would venture to say that our stay in the hospital will be a lengthy one. He is still on O2. His thyroid is still not working appropriately, but they don't feel the thyroid and breathing issues are related but are two separate problem. Just let everyone know that we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their prayers, phone calls, and cards. We know with great medical treatment and the prayers of our friends and family. Our family will be home together again very soon. If any lodge would like to assist the Shell family you may do so by sending your donation to: Matt Shell 50 Margaret Lane Waynesville, NC 28786

Deaths

- Diane McLean, wife of retired Mecklenburg County Charlie (Shaky) McLean, died Thursday evening, May 22nd after a battle with lung cancer. She was born October 5, 1945, in Mecklenburg County, NC. Dianne was a member of Grace Covenant Church and retired as a dispatcher for the Charlotte and Davidson Police Departments. Please keep Charlie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Mr. John Andrew Bailey of Charlotte, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer won a new body with Christ on May 15, 2008. John was an officer with Charlotte Police department in the 70's.
- Death of Chip Hearne, son of retired MCPD Tony Hearne's son, Chip was killed in a wreck on Little Mountain Rd in Catawba County last night. The car flipped over killing hi. Please keep Tony and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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Stanley 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.