



# North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

May 2009 Newsletter

2009, Number 5

## In This Issue

- Next membership meeting: Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1730 hrs
- **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Overtime pay for Sergeants; RAC positions; Collective Bargaining; Lodge Elections; Police Week
- **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 our May 2009 Newsletter.

Our next membership meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 6:30pm at 1201 Hawthorne Lane.

We have had many phone calls over the past couple of weeks regarding the overtime pay issues with Sergeants and Response Area Commander (RAC) Sergeants. This week CMPD announced the decision that from May 2nd forward Sergeants would be eligible for overtime, the same memo advised the RAC's would not be getting overtime and would remain in the exempt category. This has angered many on both sides of the issue. We would like to invite any FOP member that has ideas on this issue to please attend the FOP meeting where you will have the opportunity to express your views (pro or con) on this situation. We hope to have FOP State FOP Attorney Rich Hattendorf at the meeting to respond to your questions and concerns on this matter.

There are other issues that surround the RAC position and our lodge should develop a response that will represent what the FOP majority wants to happen. If this effects you please plan to attend and let your voice be heard. The FOP cannot move forward on this if we don't know the memberships' desires. Some of the issues as we see it are:

- As mentioned, the overtime pay for sergeants but not RAC sergeants.
- Civil Service protection for the RAC position.
- Does the FOP membership want to pursue Civil Service protection for the RAC?
- If Civil Service protection is obtained for RAC how to you wish to handle that?
- Will the membership be content allowing the current 39 RAC's to remain in their position or do you think there needs to be a "process" for selecting them?
- What do you do with the 39 current RAC's?

**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 same location as last year, the Oasis Temple, University City area.**

**UPCOMING EVENT BY THE AUXILIARY!**

**To Honor all Fallen Officers, the annual FOPA Memorial Service will be on Friday May 8th 2009 at Sharon Memorial Cemetery 8:15 pm.**

If you are a sergeant in CMPD and have an idea on any of these issues I encourage you to attend this meeting and let us know what you think and how we should proceed. Remember, if a motion is made and a vote is taken at the meeting, the results will be carried out by the FOP. We must know what position you want us to take. You can't stand on the sidelines forever, stand up and be heard!

**Collective Bargaining**

We continue to work with the South Carolina State FOP and are close to a confirmed date for the collective bargaining seminar in late October in the Myrtle Beach area. Collective Bargaining is coming and it's imperative that we prepare for when it arrives. Lodge #9 hopes to have ten seats at the seminar and we want to send members that have an interest in the negotiations process. Keep an eye in this newsletter for more news on how to be included in the process.

**Lodge Elections**

Nominations will be open for one more month for positions on the Lodge #9 Board of Directors. If you think you would like to serve on the board please attend the May meeting and have a brother or sister nominate you.

**Police Week**

Please make plans to attend the Candlelight Service hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 Auxiliary. It will again be held at Sharon Memorial Gardens (Sharon Amity and Monroe Rd) at dusk on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The service will last about 30 minutes and is a very meaningful experience. Please plan to join us.


FOP lodge #9 will be sponsoring the following officers to attend National Police Week activities in Washington DC: Mark Michalec, Donnie Penix, Jeff Spalding, John Melekian, Todd Walther, Paul Ensminger, and Larry Walker.

Thanks,

Randy

- 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.



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- **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.**

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## **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 downpayment 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](#).

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### **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
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### **AUXILIARY #9**

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

- To honor all Fallen Officers, the annual FOPA Memorial Service will be on Friday May 8th 2009 at Sharon Memorial Cemetery 8:15 pm.
  
- 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**

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

***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.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 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.

**THE BELOW LETTER WAS SENT TO MR. CURT WALTON, CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, ON APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 BY NC FOP LODGE PRESIDENT RANDY HAGLER**



Charlotte Mecklenburg Fraternal Order  
Of Police Lodge #9  
1201 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28202

April 9, 2009

Mr. Curt Walton, City Manager  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center  
600 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Mr. Walton,

My name is Randy Hagler and I'm the President of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9. The FOP represents more than 1,500 police officers in Charlotte-Mecklenburg that are working hard every day to reduce crime in our community and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone living and working here. We watched with interest the news story from earlier in the week about how crime is decreasing in our area and

the hard work by officers within CMPD seems to be the major factor. Chief Monroe has asked the men and women within CMPD to do more with less, and they have. He has challenged officers to work together with the community and other officers to reduce crime and they have. Now you want them to continue to perform at an exceptional level while paying them at the median rate.

Now, we find in your recommendation to City Council there will be no increases for any city employee, this includes step increases which the city uses when hiring police officers to map the path they will take to reach top pay. While you may say the officers are not promised or guaranteed these step increases you can't deny the increases are used to lure good police officer candidates to the city, as well they should be. All we are asking is that you honor the offer made when these officers were hired and give them the 5% step increase they are due and not let them fall farther behind. You will remember this is not the first time they have been asked to forfeit a step increase. In 2002 when they were denied the step increase, CMPD went from an 11 year step plan to top pay to a 12 year plan. Now, with this proposal an officer not at top pay and employed by CMPD in 2002 will fall 10% behind and can never recover the money they will lose. Many of these officers we are talking about are struggling to raises families and are counting on this small increase in pay. Some may only break even with the anticipated increase in insurance cost, which have risen every year for the past eight years.

We understand the dilemma you are in as City Manager; we don't want to see any city employee lose their job during these tough economic times. On the other hand these men and women are out in the community every day risking their lives to make Charlotte-Mecklenburg a safe place to live, work, play, and raise a family. Please show them you support and appreciate their effort and find a way to allow them the step increase they deserve.

Sincerely,

Randy Hagler, President  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

CC: Mayor Pat McCrory  
Anthony Foxx  
Susan Burgess  
Edwin Peacock  
John Lassiter  
Patsy Kinsey  
James Mitchell Jr.  
Warren Turner  
Michael Barnes  
Nancy Carter  
Andy Dulin  
Warren Cooksey  
Chief Rodney Monroe