



North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge #9

September 2008 Newsletter

2008, Number 9

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- Next membership meeting: Tuesday September 2nd at 1830 hours: Dinner will be served at 1745 hrs
- **NO smoking during the membership meetings!**
- Important issues for all: Reorganization within CMPD; Golf Tournament; Upcoming State FOP Conference
- 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.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER FROM YOUR LODGE PRESIDENT, RANDY HAGLER

Greetings,

Hello and welcome to September's Newsletter. I apologize for you receiving this Newsletter so late. It's hard to believe the summer is almost over and September is just around the corner.

Lodge #9 members that work for CMPD are going through some significant changes within CMPD. The reorganization that is taking place has many officers changing assignments, some to areas they have requested and many that have not been requested. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way with your transition to a new assignment. It's more important than even to make sure your FOP dues are paid on time and there is no lapse in coverage, for you or the officers around you. Your 2009 dues cards have been mailed out; if you did not receive one please let us know. Fill it out and get it back to us at the lodge so your coverage does not run out.

Recently a survey was sent out to all CMPD Sergeants asking how they felt about sergeants being classified as exempt employees or non-exempt employees. I hope all the sergeants completed the short survey and sent it back. This type of information is vital to determine if this is a fight you (as sergeants) want fought. There are many sergeants around the department willing to fight the fight against the city over an issue that has been wrong for many years. It's my sincere hope that when all the surveys are in the results will be you want the city to do what's right and pay ALL sergeants for their overtime.

We're still looking for some members to attend the NCFOP State Conference and Board Meeting in Greensboro September 18-21. If you can't make it all four days consider coming up on Saturday to vote for State Lodge Officers. During the state conference we believe a number of candidates running for state

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 (08)
Scott Geiler (08)

Guards:

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

SHOP WITH A COP 2008

Shop with a Cop was held on Saturday, August 23rd at the Target at University in Charlotte. Sixty-two (62) children from the local community were sponsored by FOP Lodge 9 and treated to back to school supplies.



wide offices this will fall will be present to ask for the FOP endorsement. Each of these candidates will make themselves available for questions and answers from the membership before a vote is taken on endorsement.

- 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) 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.)

- Chairman of the Election committee Don Penix reported John Melekian won the run-off election. Congratulations to John.
- Heidi Hazrati advised that the April 5 Foundation thanks the Lodge and the 10-13 Club for their help and support. The April 5 Foundation is dedicated to assisting officers injured in the line-of-duty and a support group for these officers and their families. Presently, they are assisting Officer Gary Brown, who was injured in an auto accident.
- The Physically Disabled Adults picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th at Marion Diehl Park on Tyvola Rd at 12 noon. All members are welcome to assist in this event.
- Dennis McCrary advised that the State Conference is September 18th thru 21st and the election for officers is Saturday the 20th at 10 am. Members are needed to vote. Transportation and lunch will be provided to ride up that morning and vote. Anyone able to travel with us, please contact the Lodge.
- Cathy Hope thanked everyone for the support she



received during the election and advised that any help she can provide to the Lodge please call on her.

- Mike McGinnis and Rich Hattendorf will be conducting a training class on officer's rights and other issues about your job on Thursday, September 18th in the afternoon at the State Conference in Greensboro. If you are interested in these matters or attending the conference please contact the Lodge.
- The Public Safety Pay Plan committee met with Chief Monroe about the sergeant's exempt status. The chief is in support of the sergeants. He feels the sergeants are non exempt and they should explore their options. There will be more on this issue. Please contact the lodge if you have some information about this matter or would like to participate in the matter.
- Attorney Chuck Morgan contacted the legal defense committee and asked to be placed back on the list as a FOP attorney to represent our members. The committee and the Board of Directors felt Morgan should not be used as an FOP attorney.
- 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.
- You should have received your membership dues card for the 2009 year. Please complete the card and return it. October 31st is the deadline.

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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- **Effective now** – Kat's Karaoke every Friday night at the Lodge from 9:00 1:00. We have had a lot of fun. Come and join us.
- 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

- Pastor Scott reported that Pastor W.C. Caldwell, Father of Retired Officer Wilch Caldwell passed on July 21st. There was a great turnout at his funeral service by the Lodge.
- Clarence Lee Thomas (CMDP Retired) passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 with his wife Mary and daughter Taylor by his side. Please keep the Thomas family in thoughts and prayers as they cope with the loss of a loved one.
- Larry Walker reported that Tara Morrow's Father is very ill.
- Harvey Kaitowitz reported that Officer J. D. Russell is sick and is having some problems.
- Dick Thompson reported that Shirley Europa had knee surgery and is having some problems with it.

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.cpcpsafetytraining.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.

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