Message From The President
By Randy Hagler

I have been honored and privileged to have served as your State President of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police for the past four years. It truly has been a blessing to serve with and for so many of our state’s finest law enforcement officers. I think anyone that serves in a leadership role with their lodge understands how important service is to our organization. It is truly what separates the FOP from other law enforcement organizations. Recently, at our Board of Directors Meeting in Burlington, as I watched one public official after another come forward seeking the support of our membership in various races for state office I could not have been more proud of the FOP and what our organization has come to mean to so many people. I am writing today to ask you to allow me to continue the work we have started as I seek your support for the Office of State President when our State Biennial Conference convenes in Asheville from August 10-14.

This year’s conference will be a little different from conferences in years past. We have a number of good FOP members running for offices that will also be seeking your support. I encourage you to carefully consider every candidate and listen to what they say. Our organization has some very tough decisions in front us about important topics such as legal aid and death benefit to name just two. The decision about how to address these problems should be made by our membership at the conference and only after meaningful debate. We must all understand the issues and how to best resolve them for our members.

I would like to tell you a little about my background in law enforcement and the FOP so when you consider who you will support for State Lodge President you have all the information. I have been a police officer since 1978 serving in three police departments, Hickory Police (9 months), Charlotte Mecklenburg Police (29 years), and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Police (8 years and still serving). I first joined the FOP in Catawba County Lodge 26 in 1978 and frankly did not know much about it at the time. It was during my time with CMPD that I joined and became active in the FOP. I have served on my local lodge board since 1995 and was Lodge 9 President from 2002-2008. I have been the Immediate Past President of Lodge 9 since then. I began my service to the NC State Lodge Board of Directors in 1999 when I ran for National Trustee and stayed in that position until 2008 when I ran for State Vice President. I have been State Lodge President since

Continued on P. 3
Chaplain’s Corner
By Phil Wiggins

During the months of April and May our country will be remembering the men and women in law enforcement who made the ultimate sacrifice. No matter how bad it has been for law enforcement this year, may we never lose sight of our calling, which is to serve and protect those that are in crisis, and maintain the THIN BLUE LINE.

I think Abraham Lincoln said it best:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nations wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

I hope everyone will attend your local and state Peace Officer Memorial Services. The NC State Peace Officer Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, May 5th at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, 6051 Tryon Rd. Cary, NC 27518 at 11:00AM. I look forward to seeing you there.

God Bless!!

Phil Wiggins
N.C. State FOP Chaplain
Message from President…

2012. The position of National Trustee gave me the opportunity to get involved with our organization on a national level and allowed me to see firsthand all of the good work being done across the country by the FOP. It also allowed me to see how other state lodges operated so I could hopefully bring some of the things they were doing right back to North Carolina and our membership. I am very fortunate to have served both on the National FOP Board of Directors and the North Carolina FOP Board of Directors combined since 1999.

NCFOP has a rich history of strong FOP leaders and it’s through all of their hard work that those of us that are serving now are able to accomplish good things for our members and law enforcement officers across the state. We must continue to recruit new members by showing them the FOP is the best law enforcement organization available and all the reasons they should join. We need to continue to lobby our elected officials both in Raleigh and Washington for legislation that will make our officers safer, with better working conditions, and better pay. We need to continue to encourage our members to become involved with their local, state, and national lodges and accept leadership positions in the FOP. Hopefully, by us all working together we can make a difference for all of the law enforcement officers who serve now and in the future.

It is with a great deal of respect for all you do for your communities, your departments, and the FOP that I again ask for your vote to reelect me as your North Carolina State Lodge President this August at our State Biennial Conference in Asheville.

You’ve Got Mail, And They’ve Got It Too!

By Phillip Ferguson – Chairman of State Trustees

I’ll admit there was a time not so long ago when I was the worst offender on the issues I’m writing about today. Namely the use of work email for non-work related correspondence, the creation and storage of non-work related files on work owned devices, and receiving and sending non-work related messages and data on work owned devices. This is a no brainer, right? Yes, but convenience and familiarity breed contempt. I stopped doing all these things in January 2015, but not before a certain defining moment. I admire those who have always had the discipline to completely refrain from using work devices for anything other than work. Because we are Fraternal Order of Police members and may hold various offices within our Order we deal in Lodge related business and data. We have a duty to our Brothers and Sisters to ensure that Lodge information is not compromised.

In every business, and certainly in law enforcement, using email, cellular service, smart phones, and tablets is a part of doing business every day. As we might expect questions have arisen as to the legal rights of employees who use work devices, particularly governmental devices, for personal purposes. We are all likely governed by written policies regarding technology usage, and most agencies have the discretion to monitor and restrict employees’ personal technology usage as they see fit. As a result, you may be subject to discipline, or even discharge for violations of such policy.

The NC School of Government says, “Personal email is not subject to the public records law, even if it is made or received on a public computer or email system... Even though personal emails are not subject to the public records law, if you use a public computer or email system for personal use, it’s possible that your employer will have or may demand access to them”, and the check’s in the mail, it’s only a cold sore, yada, yada, yada. Don’t fall for it! Employers and the public have a strange way of determining what is and what is not personal and private, and once it’s out there you will find scant comfort in a later court ruling that the data in question was in fact personal.

“But Phillip, I know people who use their work computers, phones, tablets, and internet for everything and they never get in trouble.” I don’t doubt that because device monitoring is a lot like random drug testing, it’s expensive and since we all pretty much work for some form of government we also know that they will go on the cheap. The person(s) being monitored will likely be targeted, maybe for good reason, maybe not, but either way probably because someone wants them gone. But even if you are a great employee and everyone loves you they may not be able to defend you if a technology audit or public records request reveals sensitive personal information or excessive time spent using technology on non-work related matters while on duty.

What should you do to ensure your safety, the privacy of personal data, and the security of Fraternal Order of Police information left in your keeping?

Adhere to your agency technology policy.

Don’t use your work email for any
You’ve got mail…

Continued from P.3 something other than work, period. If your work email is listed as part of your F.O.P. contact information then have it removed. If you have used your work email for personal business then consider sending an email to all of your contacts reminding them not to use your work email for anything other than work related correspondence. Delete all personal emails, sent and received, from your work email. Yes, this is legal, remember that even if it’s on a work device it’s not public record if it does not concern government business.

Remember that even if an email is sent or received on your personal email account it may be public record if it concerns government business. Don’t use your personal email account for business and tell others not to send business messages to your personal email account.

Do not surf the web on your work devices.

Do not create or store non-work files on work devices.

Do not use a work device, such as a phone or tablet, to view, send, or receive anything that you would not want to become public and do not want to become public record.

If you have used any work device for non-work related matters and don’t know how to completely clear that data after you remove it, then learn how and do so immediately being certain that you adhere to agency policy and North Carolina public records law.

With that being said I’ve got to go, I’ve got mail.

Sister Jessica Zinobile – FOP 2016 Officer of the Year

By Phillip Ferguson – Chairman Awards Committee

We had two nominations for the 2016 Officer of the Year Award; Brother Marshall Ruppard of the Caldwell County Lodge #83 and the Lenoir Police Department and Sister Jessica Zinobile of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Lodge #9 and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. It was my great honor to present the 2016 Officer of the Year Award to Sister Jessica Zinobile at our Spring Board Meeting in Burlington.

Sister Zinobile began her career with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, and her membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, in September 2004. First assigned to the Freedom Division as a patrol officer she then transferred to the Street Crimes Task Force and currently serves on the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team tasked with locating and apprehending the most violent of felons. In 2015 VCAT located and apprehended over 400 violent felons, 26 for First Degree Murder, 22 for Attempted Murder, 177 for Armed Robbery, and other violent felony offenses. Sister Zinobile was directly involved in most of these apprehensions. Detective Zinobile has one of the highest response rates to after-hours callbacks in the unit.

Her hard work over the past year culminated on the evening of January 3rd, 2016 when the Team was called out to locate and arrest a subject wanted for a brutal homicide. That evening Sister Zinobile and the Team encountered the subject while canvassing the area of Watson Drive. When they attempted to speak with the subject he pulled a handgun and began shooting. During the gun fight Sister Zinobile was struck in the ankle by one of the suspect’s shots, yet she remained in the fight, continued to return fire, and shot the suspect. After the suspect was down, as the Team closed in, the suspect again began firing at the officers. The Team returned fire stopping the subject without any additional Team members being injured. Sister Zinobile was treated on scene by her teammates and transported to the hospital. Though she was released the next day, the wound in her ankle was in a critical joint and she has a long road to full recovery and return to full duty.

Sister Zinobile gives it her all to make a difference in the community; she puts her life on the line each day to bring the most violent criminals who commit the most violent acts to justice. She does this to bring closure and justice to the victim’s families. Congratulations to Sister Zinobile on being the 2016 Fraternal Order of Police Officer of the Year Award recipient!

Please remember that the nominations for the 2016 Mark Tucker Memorial Award are now open, I will be sending out the nominations notice soon.

Your Awards Committee Members are: Jimmy Wingo, Harold C. Enloe Lodge 1, Rick Eades, Iredell County Lodge 10, Greta Philbeck, Cleveland County Lodge 18, Jesse Jernigan, Wayne County Lodge 62, Byron Highland, Pitt-Greenville Lodge 69, Robert “Reo” Griffith, Avery County Lodge 91, and Phil Wiggins, Committee Advisor, Durham County Lodge 2.

Awards Chairman Phillip Ferguson presents the FOP 2016 Officer of the Year Award plaque to Sister Jessica Zinobile during the State Board of Directors meeting in Burlington. (Photo courtesy of Lodge 92 State Trustee Zach Neefe).
Alamance County Lodge 92 Hosts State Board of Directors Meeting

By Terry Mangum – Immediate Past President

I would like to thank Lodge 92 President Mike Hoover and the members of Alamance County Lodge 92 for hosting this most important meeting on April 8-10. We had a wonderful time and much important State Lodge business was handled.

In addition to the business we conducted, we were afforded the opportunity to thank and bid a fond farewell to a true friend and dedicated FOP attorney, outgoing State FOP Counsel Rich Hattendorf. As I am sure you know, Rich retired on December 31, 2015 and has moved to God’s country in Haywood County. It had been decided that during the Legal Aid report we would recognize and “roast” Rich. President Randy Hagler, on behalf of the State Lodge, presented Rich with a gift and gift card in appreciation of his many years of dedicated service to the members of the North Carolina State Lodge since Rich’s early days of FOP service beginning in 1994. Many in attendance spoke of Rich’s service to the FOP and sang his praises. It was supposed to have been a roast but, if the truth be known, I believe everyone was afraid to roast Rich because they believed what they dished out would return to them three-fold from Rich. We wish Rich the very best in his retirement!

I would also like to thank Lodge 92 member Joey Holmes for his photography work during our State Board of Directors meeting. I have included some of his photographs of the meeting for your pleasure.

FOP Attorney Mike McGuinness praises Rich for his talent and many years of dedicated service to the FOP cause.

Nimble fingers Rich Hattendorf begins opening his gift.

State President Randy Hagler presents gift to Rich Hattendorf. Note surprised look on Rich’s face.

Lodge 92 President Mike Hoover welcomes and addresses the Board of Directors.

Alamance County Sheriff’s Office Honor Guard
Greetings to all brothers and sisters here in North Carolina. It has been a busy time since my last BlueNote article. The Grand Lodge Board of Directors’ meeting was held March 10-12 in San Diego. We have also completed the North Carolina Board of Directors’ meeting in Burlington April 8-9. I completed a four page report for the Burlington meeting and it was in the booklet given to all board members. I realize that most members do not attend the North Carolina board meetings so I will be repeating some of the information that State Trustees have already received. My apologies to the State Trustees but I do think the information needs to get to our members.

Perhaps one of the most continuous issues handled at the National Board of Directors meeting was the issue of the election that was held at the National Conference in Pittsburg. As most of you know, there were sixteen more votes cast than delegates scanned in to vote in the 2nd Vice-President’s race at the 2015 conference. This became a significant issue as the race was ultimately won by six votes. It should be noted that in the Vice-President’s race there were four over votes but the margin of victory was six hundred and sixteen votes. A committee was formed to try and ascertain how or why this happened, and most importantly to come up with suggestions on how to avoid this problem in the future. The committee found that the same company and process has been used for our elections since 2011. It was also discovered that there had been some over votes in prior elections but they were extremely small and no races were close. The voting computers in Pittsburgh were set for 30 seconds to expire before the next person could vote. Lines began to backup and a member of the election board had the vendor cut the time to 5 seconds. The time was quickly reset to 10 seconds but this was still deemed to be too quick so it was changed to 15 seconds. The 5 and 10 second delays were so short that some members believed that their vote had not been cast. The majority of voters experienced the 15 second delay. The committee was unable to say if the over votes resulted from people voting more than once, people not being scanned in properly, or a combination of both. At least several members advised that the person scanning their ID had difficulty getting their card to scan and had them proceed on to vote.

While there were decisions made by members of the election committee that may have enhanced the possibility of over votes occurring, it was the opinion of the Election Process Committee that those decisions were made with the best of intentions. The chairman of the Election Committee and one other member of the committee did step down. The review committee found that the election process was flawed and needed to be fixed. The Board of Directors passed a motion to use a professional company that specializes in conducting elections and make certain that some type of paper backup is included. There was much debate about the makeup of the review committee, thoroughness of the investigation and the findings. The final consensus was to put this matter behind us and make certain it does not happen again by the use of this new process.

Numerous members are taking advantage of the great benefits offered through the National Police Credit Union. Over 500 members have taken out loans through NPCU. The Grand Lodge was able to refinance our office building in DC with NPCU and will save $2800 per month. This is saving our members several hundred thousand dollars. Also this credit union is offering no collateral signature loans to FOP members for up to $20000 at interest rates as low as 3.9%. If you have any banking needs, check their website to see if they can work for you.

The Grand Lodge staff and other technical experts are working diligently to get the new FOP data system up and running. The office is getting very close and most membership cards have been printed and should be on the way to your lodges. This week the IT director for the Grand Lodge office left to take a higher paying job with more advancement opportunities. This does not help the roll out of the new system but it should not hinder our progress much at this point in time.

Plans are now being finalized for the National Memorial Service in Washington on May 15. It is unknown where the candlelight service will be held this year as Memorial
Wall site is not available because of construction on the Police Museum. Members will still have access to the wall but the candlelight service will be changed to a site to be announced. Members attending the May 15 service are URGED to please stay for the entire service so survivors will not see a lot of empty seats.

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) is currently trying to get police departments to voluntarily adopt use of force standards that are considerably more restrictive than the US Supreme Court has required. This is policy that would be very harmful to police departments and dangerous for officers. The FOP is leading the fight to oppose this effort and hosted a summit of numerous law enforcement organizations that are willing to help us fight PERF on this issue. Many organizations voiced their strong opposition to PERF’s initiative. PERF produced another 160 page document that clarified and tried to explain some of their recommendations but we are still very much opposed to most of their suggestions. The groups on our side and attending the summit included IACP, National Sheriff’s Association, NOBLE, Major City Chiefs’ Association and many others. It is rewarding to see a position supporting law enforcement officers on which we can all agree. Maybe we can find some others to help our officers not move backwards on pensions, benefits and other issues.

President Canterbury asked me to serve as chairman of the National Disaster Assistance Committee. It was a great honor to chair this important committee and I appreciate the confidence President Canterbury and Vice-President Jay McDonald placed in me. The committee provides assistance to members that suffer substantial losses and are displaced from their homes by a disaster. We hate to see members needing help but it is rewarding to be able to provide emergency assistance to our brothers or sisters. Please consider making a donation to the National FOP Foundation and earmarking it for disaster relief.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Trustee. I have many friends on the Grand Lodge Board of Directors and Executive Board. Many times they have commented on how well North Carolina members and delegates represent our State and have thanked me for their support. I believe these relationships help me to be very effective representing you on a national level. I will be running for re-election to the position of NC National Trustee at our State Conference in Asheville and I would be honored to have your support.

Please contact me if I can be of service to you or your lodge in any way. My numbers and email information are on the State Lodge website.

National Disaster Assistance Committee Chairman Dennis McCrary presents the Committee's report to the National Board of Directors in San Diego.

National Constitution and By-laws Committee Chairman Terry Mangum delivers the Committee's report during the National Board of Directors meeting in San Diego.
Durham County Lodge 2 Memorial Service and Other Activities
By Terry Mangum – Lodge 2 State Trustee

Durham County Lodge 2 will hold our annual Peace Officers Memorial Service on April 29. Our service will be held at Grey Stone Baptist Church located at 2601 Hillsborough Road in Durham (the Zip code is 27705 for your GPS). The service will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. and you are all invited to attend.

The election of Durham County Lodge 2 Officers was conducted on March 31 with the following individuals being elected or reelected:
- President Mike Evans
- Vice President Bobby Gaddy
- Recording Secretary Maria Stevenson
- Financial Secretary Tom Navarre
- Treasurer Mark Sykes
- 2nd Vice President T.J. Douglass
- Sergeant-At-Arms Greg McGee
- State Trustee Terry Mangum
- Lodge Trustee Chuck Davidson
- Lodge Trustee Jackie Werner
- Lodge Trustee Larry Van De Water
- Chaplain Phil Wiggins

On March 31 during our regular monthly membership meeting, Durham County Lodge 2 was presented a fundraiser check in the amount of $941.00 from Stephanie, the General Manager of the South Point Jersey Mike’s Subs store. The way this fundraiser worked was the store provided Lodge 2 with cards to pass out to our members. The card entitled the holder to a free sub for a $3.00 donation and 100% of these donations were then given to Durham County Lodge 2. This was a very successful three-day fundraiser for our Lodge. Durham County Lodge 2 would like to recognize and thank Stephanie and Jersey Mike’s Subs at the South Point store for their generous support in offering to provide this service to our Lodge as a fundraiser.

Catawba County Lodge 26 Annual Peace Officer’s Memorial Service
By Carl Pope, Lodge 26 President

Catawba County Lodge 26 will be holding our annual Peace Officer Memorial Service on May 20th at 1300 hours (1:00 p.m.) in front of the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Monument. Our FOP Memorial Monument is located at the Catawba Memorial Park, 3060 US Hwy 70, Hickory, NC 28602.

This year’s Guest Speaker will be North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Sam J. “Jimmy” Ervin, IV.

All law enforcement agencies and the public are invited to attend this Memorial Service. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 828-994-4044 or visit our website www.ncfop26.org.

24th Annual Angel Bowl
By Carl Pope
Catawba County Lodge 26 President

Catawba County Lodge 26 and Catawba County Lodge 26 Auxiliary, helped raised money for the 24th Annual Angel Bowl. The event was held at George Pappas Liberty Lanes in Gastonia, NC on March 5th 2016. Over 1,300 bowlers came out to support Holy Angels mission of love, living and learning for the differently able. More bowlers came out this year and helped Holy Angels reach their $160,000 goal.

Pictured left to right: Auxiliary Secretary Alycia Abee, Lodge 26 President Carl Pope, Auxiliary President Jammie Pope, Lodge 26 Vice President Robert Pruette, and Auxiliary Vice President Lynn Pruette.
Cleveland County Lodge 18
Community Activities
By Randy Carothers – Lodge 18 Secretary

Lodge 18 has been very active supporting community initiatives and activities. Cleveland County School Social Worker Theresa Jones received a check from Cleveland County Lodge 18 to help with the FOP, Cops and Kids program. Additionally, each elementary school in Cleveland County was presented a check from Lodge 18 to assist with the FOP, Cops and Kids program.

After a local family was displaced by a fire in Shelby, Candice Thomas from Graham Elementary School conducted a fund-raiser for the victims. Cleveland County Lodge 18 was able to help this family by providing gift cards from Ingles.

To further demonstrate our commitment to our community and our youth, Cleveland County Lodge 18 presented a check to Mike Grayson to sponsor youth athletics at Shelby City Park.

Nash County 2016 Law Enforcement Memorial Service
Greg Brown - State Sergeant at Arms and Lodge 46 State Trustee

On Friday May 6 at 3:30 p.m., members of law enforcement from across Nash County will gather for a Memorial Service at the Nashville Police Department to honor and remember local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

This year’s law enforcement memorial service is sponsored by Rocky Mount FOP Lodge 46, Rocky Mount FOP Lodge 46 Auxiliary, the Nash County Sheriff’s Office, and the Nashville Police Department. Nash County Sheriff Keith Stone will give the Memorial Address, along with Nashville Chief of Police Thomas Bashore and Spring Hope Chief of Police Anthony Puckett.

As we gather to honor and celebrate each life that was tragically lost, we must not forget that these men and women chose to be on the front lines. They wanted the responsibility of protecting others and they sought the opportunity to make the world a better place by taking action, not by wishing it so. They did not exist in the margins. They put themselves on the lines to keep guns, drugs and other threats out of our neighborhoods and away from our children. People get into police work to help others and make change; they stay in because of a dedication to the community. They defend the community with their lives, and for that people cannot express enough thanks.

These Memorial Services are always a gathering of love for family members. Special services like these have more impact coming together as a large group. Our lives must honor them through a commitment to law enforcement, to insure that their sacrifice was not in vain. They will remain in our hearts forever.

President George W. Bush said it best, “It takes a special kind of person to serve in law enforcement. Most people run from danger law enforcement runs toward it. You’ve chosen one of the toughest jobs in the world. And I suspect during times of dangerous duty or lonely patrols, it might seem like the only person you can depend upon is each other. Days like today I hope not only helps our families, but helps those who serve remember that a larger community here in this country stands with you, that we’re grateful for your service.”

Members of Law Enforcement United are also scheduled to stop at our Memorial Service. Law Enforcement United will be riding through Nash County on their way to Washington, D.C. for the National Law Enforcement Memorial Service. They will be making the 800-mile trek beginning in Florida and will be stopping at various locations throughout North Carolina.

Law Enforcement United is founded upon and committed to honoring officers who have died in the line of duty, and ensuring that their surviving family is supported and not forgotten. Together these riders will go the extra mile to honor these heroes and help their surviving family members always have the support programs they need to begin to rebuild.
THE POST-FERGUSTON EFFECT

By Terry Mangum (BlueNote Editor In Chief) and FOP Legal Counsel

Since Ferguson, Missouri, life on the beat has become vastly more difficult for us. Despite being cleared by the grand jury, Officer Darren Wilson was tarred and feathered. Many of our colleagues frequently undergo similar legal, media and other trauma following critical incidents.

Since Ferguson, it has been one fiasco after another with some interest groups and media practicing hatred for the police community in the court of public opinion. The primary post-Ferguson effect is that a coalition of interest groups are fired up and trying to radically change the law to take away more rights of police officers.

Ferguson and a few other high profile situations have been wrongfully used to demonize police officers. Intimidation, emotion and sympathy are being used to taint many citizens who are not trained to understand police work. Tiny bits and pieces of video clips which might capture a part of a police-citizen encounter are being brandished about in the media. Typically, a video captures one limited perspective of an incident. Unless there are multiple videos covering all views and angles, a single video can be misleading. But in our new I Phone world, bits and pieces of video clips are Facebooked around to inflame more hatred for police officers.

Many have openly declared legal war on officers and the police community. In Charlotte, the first Grand Jury declined to indict Officer Wes Kerrick, our FOP Brother. The criminal action should have stopped there. But it was relaunched against Officer Kerrick by the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office. They were driven to take him to trial despite the lack of incriminating evidence.

Baltimore is the latest of the recent high profile cases, where officers were suddenly charged after the local prosecutor held a press conference to announce charges from an incident that occurred less than three weeks earlier. Do you think that investigation was really completed?

The prosecutor publicly blasted allegations and discussed alleged evidence, therefor tainting the case and ensuring that the officers will not receive a fair trial. They are trying the officers in the media. The prosecutor revealed her motives:

To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America, I heard your call for ‘No justice, no peace.’” In her continuing message to the “youth of the city, This is your moment . . . you’re at the forefront of this cause and as young people, our time is now.” Marilyn Mosby Announces Criminal Charges In The Death of Freddie Gray, New York Daily News, www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/criminal-charges-filed-freddie-gray-death-transcript.

This prosecutor sounds like she is preaching local politics. More police officers are now being criminally charged because of interest group pressure on elected prosecutors. This development is having another kind of perverse Ferguson effect. Officers are now so concerned about liability risk that they are often not being sufficiently aggressive in the pursuit of justice.

It is very troubling that so many prosecutors are bowing to political pressure to indict police officers. We are seeing a very frequent rush to judgment to appease interest groups, as in Baltimore. Elections are important, but officers should not be sacrificed in the process of campaigns.

In the meantime, the public is left uneducated about the complete facts of these increasing high profile encounters. Later when the dust settles, the truth of the matter often emerges; however, we typically do not see the media stepping back in then to tell the whole story.

Our opposition is now fired up and they want to change the law of use of force. It is one thing that officers are abused with inadequate employment law protection, but it is another thing when they try to radically change the basic law of use of force to try to send us to jail. We
have long had a “reasonable belief” standard in use of force disputes. This means that officers are not liable if they had a reasonable belief that the force used was appropriate. This principle takes into account our split second decision making environment.

We must not only stand our ground in response to this anti-police movement, but we must work harder to keep our FOP team together and advocating to keep our basic rights to self defense and defense of others. The Supreme Court told us in Garrity that law enforcement officers were not supposed to be “relegated to a watered down version of constitutional rights.” But now the fight over that point is on.

A recent case reaffirms a critical point: “We reiterate our admonition that no citizen can fairly expect to draw a gun on police without risking tragic consequences.” Ayala v. Wolfe, 546 Fed. Appx. 197 (4th Cir. 2013). We have had many other solid force related decisions where Courts have denied liability to officers in shootings, taser cases and others. However, before the ink is hardly dry on some of those helpful decisions, our opposition has further organized and they are now definitely going after the law that protects officers.

Our FOP team needs every member to stand with us in this fight. It’s one thing when they fire us; it’s another thing when they want us in jail for doing our jobs.

TRIVIA
We have a winner!!!

Ralph Southerland of Wake County Lodge 41 is the winner of the March/April BlueNote TRIVIA contest. He correctly identified Carl Pope as the “angry man” in the contest photograph. Ralph’s correct answer was quickly followed by Pete Sobotkin of Catawba County Lodge 26, Rose Beane of Wake County Lodge 41, Travis Robinson of Lower Cape Fear Lodge 58, and Zachary Neele of Alamance County Lodge 92 to name a few. Carl Pope obviously has a huge following from across the State of North Carolina.

So to recap, the correct TRIVIA answer for the photograph from the March/April issue of the BlueNote is the one and only Carl Pope. Thank you to everyone who submitted answers to the Trivia question. If you did not win, don’t give up. Keep submitting your answers and maybe you too can be a TRIVIA winner like Ralph Southerland.

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Now here is your chance to compete in another exciting round of TRIVIA.

Put on your thinking caps. Can you identify the individual in this photograph? Hint: This is neither Otis Campbell nor Floyd Lawson.

If you can identify the individual, send an email to terrymangum@frontier.com with your answer. The answer will be posted in the July/August 2016 issue of the BlueNote along with the name of the first individual submitting the correct answer.
Editor In Chief’s Note: The following letters were submitted to the BlueNote for the May/June issue by candidates seeking election or re-election to the following State Lodge Offices:

- State Treasurer: Treasurer Doris Kirby – Lodge 26
- State Secretary: Lynn Wilson – Lodge 1 and Dontario Hardy – Lodge 69
- State 2nd Vice President: Charles “Chuck” Kimble – Lodge 59
- State Sergeant-At-Arms: Sgt.-At-Arms Greg Brown – Lodge 46

Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, as I have done many times through the years, I am asking for your continued support and your vote as I seek re-election to the Office of State Treasurer of the North Carolina State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police.

I was first elected as your State Treasurer at the State Biennial Conference in Hickory on June 11, 1998 and have continued to serve in this capacity during the terms of office of four State Lodge Presidents which include the late Lee Walters, Don Penix, Terry Mangum, and our current President Randy Hagler. Being the State Treasurer is a demanding job which I take very seriously. The State Lodge has an annual audit, conducted by our CPA, of the Treasurer’s books which have always been found to be in excellent order. I am always available to answer any questions you may have concerning the State Lodge Treasurer’s Office and my service as State Treasurer. If you are hesitant to question me, I am certain Don, Terry, or Randy would be willing to answer your questions concerning my performance as your State Treasurer.

It has truly been a privilege and an honor to serve the State Lodge and our membership as your State Treasurer. I very much appreciate the opportunity I have been given by you to serve the North Carolina State Lodge and I ask for your continued support and vote to reelect me as your State Treasurer.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our State Biennial Conference in Asheville in August. If you have any questions prior to the conference, please fill free to contact me.

Fraternally,

Doris Kirby
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Lynn Wilson, I have decided to run for the soon to be vacant position of NC FOP State Secretary. I have been a member of the FOP from the beginning of my law enforcement career. I was sworn in September 17, 1987 with the Asheville Police Department. I joined the FOP at their next regular meeting. Most of my time with APD was spent as a patrol officer to include 3 ½ years as major crime scene/forensics. In 1997, I was the only female in the first group of five officers to be promoted to the new rank of Master Police Officer. 2011, I transferred into the Property/Evidence section after it was locked down by our DA and federal charges were brought up on the section’s civilian manager. March 1, 2015 I retired from APD credited with the full 30 years of service. In June, I returned to the Property/Evidence section part time.

My time with Lodge#1 really got going when in February 2001 I became Chaplain. Later that year I was moved to Treasurer then onto Secretary by February 2002. I have continued to be re-elected and have held that position ever since. I have also served on the FOP State Awards Committee, and I am currently on the Legal Aid Committee where I have served for several years.

On a more personal note, I also serve on my sons Boy Scout Troops committee, where I hold the position as their Treasurer. We offer them the chances to complete their Life and Eagle rank projects there if they choose to do so. The boys and leaders have done a lot of outdoor work projects for our lodge which we are very grateful for.

I believe with my time and experience in the positions that I have held and currently hold, the need for organization and attention to detail, that I am an excellent candidate and choice for the next NC FOP State Secretary.

I kindly request your consideration and vote when you come to Asheville in August for the 23rd Biennial State FOP Conference.

Fraternally,
Lynn Wilson
Secretary
Harold C. Enloe, FOP Lodge#1, 63 years young
L – P.O. Box 271, Asheville, NC 28802 828-258-9444
H – 74 Parker Cove Rd, Weaverville, NC 28787
H - 828-658-0031 C – 828-712-1326
Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the Thin -Blue- Line my name is Dontario D. Hardy and I am a candidate for the Office of State Secretary for the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police.

I have been a member of Pitt-Greenville Lodge #69 since 2007 and have served in multiple capacities. During the past years I have supported FOP members and their families that had to experience the tragedy of losing a brother or sister in the line of duty. It has been a great honor and pleasure to support those families that needed us in a time of loss. I currently serve as the President of my local lodge and I am also a member of the State By-laws and Constitution Committee where we strive in to keep all lodges in compliance for this great organization of ours. I work diligently day to day on getting law enforcement officers to become members, while explaining the many benefits, the Order has to offer. I am a true supporter of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police and everything that the blue and gold shield stands for. I have attended Leadership Matters at the Grand Lodge in Tennessee and I am ready for a greater challenge.

I’m asking support from all the brothers and sisters in all of the lodges of the greatest law enforcement organization on the earth. It would be so gracious to serve and support the mission of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police as your State Secretary.

Brothers and Sisters I’m thanking you in advance for your support and hope to see you at the Biannual Conference in Asheville.

Fraternally,

Brother Dontario D. Hardy

"Dontario Hardy for North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, State Secretary"
Dear Friends,

My name is Greg Brown and I am your current State Sergeant at Arms. I am seeking re-election for this position and I humbly come before you asking for your continued support.

During my first year and a half as Sergeant at Arms I have had several opportunities to learn what being a State Executive Board Member all is about. It's about making tough, but fair decisions that will continue to impact and make this organization the best that it can be for its members and future.

I have been a member of the FOP since 2005. It all began with me being shot in the line duty. After the shooting the local FOP lodge with President Ricky Parks, was the only organization that stepped in to help my family in a time of need and I am forever indebted to them and this organization.

During my time as a member, I have held many positions on the Local and State level. I was elected State Trustee in 2006 and President in 2008. I was then elected back to the position of State Trustee in 2010, not because that I couldn't handle being Lodge President but I just felt that I could serve my lodge better as State Trustee. During my time as State Trustee, I have participated in and chaired many local Lodge Events and Activities, especially the FOP Cops and Kids program. I work with several schools in the area to find families that are really in need during the Holiday season. I have also traveled and attended the dedication ceremony for the new National Lodge in Nashville, TN during the Leadership Matters Seminars.

I have also held many positions on the State level as well, as the Director DART and North Eastern Coordinator for DART, Currently Secretary for the NCFOP Foundation, Committee Member of Membership and Recruitment, and NCFOP Website Committee Member.

As a State Officer, Local Lodge Officer or Member, we must be devoted to furthering this organization and its just causes. I have a very strong belief that even though a Law Enforcement Officer is not a member of the FOP, we should do everything we can for an Officers family when they are killed or injured in the line of duty. Such as the case with Rocky Mount Police Officer Alan Silver and Major Ryan Dawson of the Lenoir County FOP Lodge. Shannon and I made the trip to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville and talked with Alan’s family after his accident, which he tragically lost his life in and Ryan’s family after himself being shot. Who better knows what a family is going through than someone that’s been in that situation?

During my 10 years as a member. I have been dedicated to this organization; I have attended all State functions while State Trustee and I have only missed one local lodge meeting during this time.

Two of the most important days in my years of membership were being asked to place a carnation on the wreath at the National Police Officers Memorial service for all Disabled Officers in the United States in 2008 and being awarded the Mark Tucker Award in 2012.

In 2014 you elected me to represent you as your State Sergeant at Arms. During this time I have been diligent and Hardworking bringing energy and an out of the box approach to whatever I have been tasked to do. I have attended all State functions and meetings and completed all tasks that have been asked of me with swift and due diligence. I attend all Local, State and National Law Enforcement Memorial Services and I believe that this is just a small way I can show my respect by honoring those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.
I have an excellent working relationship with our current executive board members, and we are able to accomplish our tasks at hand with diligence and thoroughness. I believe in being frugal with our members' funds and I do my very best not overspend when I see it is not necessary to do so.

Many times I have been asked to speak with Law Enforcement Agencies and B.L.E.T. classes about why I joined the FOP and what being an FOP Member is all about. In 2015 I was the co-speaker at a FOP Law Enforcement Officers Spiritual Retreat with Master Trooper Kirk Hensley of Surviving the First Three Seconds. I also continue to submit article to our bi-monthly newsletter the Blue Note and I encourage each of you to take time and do the same.

These are just some of highlights that have taken place since 2014 but if re-elected to this position, I will continue to represent you with Respect and Integrity, while working together with you, for the betterment of this organization.

I am Diligent and Hardworking and everyone knows that I bring energy and an out of the box approach, to whatever I am tasked to do. If re-elected to this position, I will represent you with Respect and Integrity, while working together with you, for the betterment of this organization.

It has been an honor and privilege serving as your State Sergeant at Arms over the past year and half. I feel very humble, honored and privileged, that you elected me to represent you and this organization and it is my hope that I have served you with the expectations you elected me for. President Lincoln said “I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down”. With that in mind I humbly ask that you support me once again for the office of State Sergeant at Arms.

VOTE GREG BROWN

SERGEANT at ARMS


FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
252-813-8898
OR
EMAIL
brown_bg@earthlink.net
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Charles “Chuck” Kimble and I am a candidate for the Office of State Second Vice President. My commitment to the Order and the community goes beyond my regular duties as a lodge member. I feel that it is important for a State Officer to have an impact on the Order, his or her Organization where he or she works, as well as the community where he or she resides. I am seeking your Lodges’ support and endorsement as a candidate for State Second Vice President.

As a local lodge member of the Fraternal Order of Police I have served in multiple capacities: Past President of Greater Cumberland Area Lodge #59, Lodge Vice President and Secretary. I have served in the capacity of Lodge State Trustee, when needed, and have been asked by the last two State Lodge Presidents to serve on State Committees. I have served the State FOP as a member of the Labor Council when it was initially formed and I am currently a member of the State’s Legal Aid committee. I have served the Fraternal Order of Police at the State and local level since becoming a member in 1996 and I am looking to continue my service to the FOP as the next Second Vice President.

As a current member of the Legal Aid committee I am entrusted with highly sensitive information about our fellow brothers and sisters when they have been involved in critical incidents, grievances, and possible criminal charges for the work they have performed as a law enforcement officer. I do not and have not taken this responsibility lightly. I study and research case law and frequently dialogue with legal counsel on these critical issues surrounding our members. As your Second Vice President of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police I want to protect our
rights, improve safety conditions, and fight to improve our benefits as law enforcement officers in the State of North Carolina!

I am not new to law enforcement or FOP business. I am a 25 year veteran of law enforcement. I started my police career as a beat cop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and military service brought me to North Carolina in 1995. I was hired by the Fayetteville Police Department and worked my up from officer to Assistant Chief of Police and currently I am the Chief of Police at Fayetteville State University. I promise to you that I will bring my hard working ethic and energy to the position of Second Vice President. Additionally, I have organized FOP, Cops and Kids events at my local lodge, hosted State board meetings in Fayetteville, attended many local, State and National Peace Officer Memorial Services, and assisted Fayetteville Police Officers rally for better pay (1998-1999).

I have a good and pleasant working relationship with the Cumberland County delegation in the North Carolina General Assembly and I frequently speak to them regarding law enforcement matters.

If elected, a fair question to ask me would be “Chuck, what would you do differently?” As the Second Vice President I would immediately look to improve our digital and social media footprint. With the improvement of our digital and social media footprint, this would allow our members to stay abreast of FOP business, even if they can’t attend business meetings. Naturally, by improving our digital and social media footprint, this will hopefully attract officers (particularly young officers) to join the FOP and increase our membership numbers. Also, this will allow our community and business partners to see all of the fantastic work that is occurring all over the state and thus, assist in our fundraising efforts. Brothers and Sisters, this is a clear and defined plan I will undertake with your assistance as we look into the future of the North Carolina Fraternal of Police.

Brothers and Sisters, please examine me, my record and my commitment. I possess the hard work needed to make OUR Order better. I have the executive experience as a Police Chief in the State of North Carolina to provide the leadership skills and business acumen to take the NCFOP into the future. I look forward to speaking with each of you and I am asking for your vote as Second Vice President. I am always available via email at kimblechuck@gmail.com or phone at 910-261-6681.

Humbly Submitted,

Charles “Chuck” Kimble
Charles “Chuck” Kimble
Greater Cumberland Area Lodge #59
This is an invitation to join the 2016 annual Cops on Top Summit for Heroes Memorial Expedition on Saturday June 25th 2016. The S4H (Summit for Heroes) is a nationwide expedition where teams from across the country set out to summit their state’s highest point in honor of the law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty in their state. You do NOT have to be a law enforcement officer to participate in ANY Cops on Top function. All we ask is participants share the same respect and desire to never forget those who gave all. This invitation is extended to all law enforcement officers and their families, friends, supporters, and police survivors. The past S4H memorial expeditions were a great success and several motorcycle groups made the trip into a ride. We expect these groups will come show their support again this year, but please remember this is open to all law enforcement officers, and their families, friends, supporters, and police survivors whether they are walking, riding motorcycles, driving cars, trucks, or SUVs.

Cops on Top is a team of volunteers from the law enforcement and public service community, who undertake mountain climbing expeditions to honor the memories of those heroes who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting others. These folks are serious mountain climbers, among others they have reached the peaks of Aconcagua and Denali in memory of fallen officers. The annual S4H memorial expedition is fairly simple (as long as you are not trying to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska). Some state high points require a more technical approach while others can be simply driven or walked. Either way, knowing that you are standing on your state’s highest point, along with hundreds of others from around the country, is an emotional experience.

North Carolina’s high point is Mount Mitchell at 6,684 feet. Mount Mitchell is also the highest point east of the Mississippi. So, what do we do when we get there? The goal is for the entire team to walk united to the summit. Once there, first and foremost, remember the sacrifice that was made by the law enforcement officers of North Carolina. Remember their life and memory as they paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting their communities. We will also document our journey with photographs, including a group photo on the summit with the official Cops on Top summit flag.

Mount Mitchell is located in the Mount Mitchell State Park at 2388 NC 128 Burnsville, NC 28714. From the parking area there is a 980 foot trail leading to the observation deck on the peak of the mountain. The trail is not very strenuous but it is a bit of a hill climb on the way up. Since the high temperatures rarely get out of the 60’s it shouldn’t be a problem.

The rally point to travel to Mount Mitchell State Park will be in Marion in the parking lot of Big Lots (the old Wal-Mart at 364 US 70W Marion, NC 28752). We will be meeting there at 10:30am and will leave out at 11:00am. The trip from Marion to the state park should take approximately an hour depending on traffic conditions. Once at the state park we will all meet at the trail head, near the parking area, for the walk to the summit. For anyone wanting to meet at the state park we should be meeting at the trail head around 12:00pm.

For anyone interested in participating please email me at ckinard50@gmail.com with your name, department or organization, and the names of any guests you will be bringing, if any. If you plan to attend please send me your info so I can get you on the roster for our great state.

Sincerely,
Casey Kinard
NC S4H Team Leader