



BlueNote

Official Publication of the North Carolina State Lodge

Volume 3, Issue 17

www.ncfop.org

September/October 2015

MAJOR UPDATE

On Friday, August 28, 2015 Attorney General Roy Cooper announced that the North Carolina Attorney General's Office will not retry Charlotte Officer Wes Kerrick and that the voluntary manslaughter charges against him will be dismissed. This is outstanding news for Wes and his family and the members of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police. Many thanks to his legal defense team, George Laughrun and Michael Greene, for their exceptional work and service to Wes and the North Carolina State Lodge.

Editor In Chief Terry Mangum

PRESS RELEASE

We, defense counsel for Officer Randall Wesley Kerrick would first like to thank the jury for its thoughtful deliberations in this case. Officer Kerrick and his family have always respected the criminal justice system that they have worked for their entire lives. All of the jurors, regardless of how they voted, were cautious, considerate and deliberate. It is citizens such as these that make our justice system work. We thank you.

The shooting of Jonathon Ferrell, while tragic, was justified given the facts and circumstances presented to Officer Kerrick at the time of the shooting. From the onset of this case, we have had to fight several battles. First, was former Chief Rodney Monroe's rush to judgment in charging Officer Kerrick. In addition, his statements to the media that Jonathon Ferrell was "likely looking for help." At trial, the State did not present ANY evidence to support this theory. Second, was the media that adopted the Chief Monroe's narrative and continually showed Officer Kerrick's mugshot photo opposite photos of Ferrell in a tuxedo and/or football uniform. Third, was our own city officials who made the unbridled decision to stop funding for Officer Kerrick's civil defense despite him still being in their employ. These same city officials met behind closed doors and opted to spend \$2.25 million tax payer dollars on a civil settlement before the resolution of the criminal case. It is unfortunate that these battles waged outside of the courtroom made our task to be zealous advocates for Wes Kerrick inside the courtroom even more daunting.

Florida civil Attorney Christopher Chesnut took the opportunity as the cameras rolled yesterday to once again distort the facts and evidence in this case. He indicated that the dash cam video was "misconstrued" and that if all of the evidence had been presented, Officer Kerrick would have been convicted. In hearing witness testimony and in viewing both the physical and scientific evidence, the majority of which was provided by the defense, it was clear to the vast majority of jurors that this was a case of self-defense. For nearly two years, Attorney Chesnut's conduct in this case has been unprofessional and his tactics have been deceitful. It is interesting to note that he did not spend one day in court listening to the testimony or viewing the evidence. His habitual misrepresentations of the truth in this matter are an offense to the legal profession.

It is now time for our city to heal. It is time to put down the protest signs, unball our fists and extend our hands to each other in fellowship. It is time to begin a dialogue of how we all can make ourselves better citizens and live together in harmony. Whether one believes that the shooting was justified or excessive force was used, one constant remains: justice is not a result; justice is a process. For nearly two years, Officer Kerrick has gone through this process. Officer Kerrick was charged with Voluntary Manslaughter, was arrested, was made to post a \$50,000 secured bond, had a finding of a *no true bill* of indictment returned by the first grand jury, had his case presented again to a different grand jury, went through a civil lawsuit and finally, a criminal trial. He went through this process all while having to make a living for himself, his wife and their 15 month old son.

Officer Kerrick did not have to take the stand and testify in his trial. In fact, our constitution affords him that very right. However, he wanted the citizens of Charlotte to know why he made the decision that he did that fateful night. He wanted them to know it was not a decision he took lightly. He wanted the jurors to know that he was honoring the oath he took on October 7, 2011, when he swore to protect the citizens of our community.

We recognize that the Ferrell family has also had to go through a process. We do not begin to know the pain the family has been through these last two years. They have carried themselves with grace and dignity. The Kerrick family extends their sincerest thoughts and prayers to the Ferrell family. They deeply regret the loss of Jonathon.

It is our sincere hope that Attorney General Roy Cooper will not seek to retry Officer Randall Wesley Kerrick. The citizens of this community have spoken through a fair and impartial jury selected by both the prosecution and the defense. After hearing the entire story, the vast majority of jurors believed that Officer Kerrick is *not guilty* of Voluntary Manslaughter.

Sincerely,

George V. Laughrun, II & Michael J. Greene
Counsel for Officer Randall Wesley Kerrick

Inside This Issue

NCFOP Foundation

Secretary's Note by
Mike Hawkins

Chaplain's Corner

President Message
by Randy Hagler

SWAT Members Will
Swim to Help
Children of Fallen
Officers

62nd National
Biennial Conference

From the Desk of
the Editor in Chief

True Justice and our
National Conference
Overview

Memories and
Consideration by
John Byrd, Sr.

Trivia! Can you
guess who is in the
Photograph?

National Election
Submissions

News from Lodge 2

62nd Biennial
Conference Photos

Index

Directory 2
Lodge News 2
Local Lodge 8

North Carolina
North Carolina
Fraternal Order of
Police

1500 Walnut Street
Cary, NC 27511
(O) 800-628-8062
(F) 919-461-4958

Email
NCFOP@nc.rr.com

Web Site
www.ncfop.org

President
Randy Hagler
rlhncfop@bellsouth.net

Immediate Past President
Terry Mangum
terrymangum@frontier.com

Vice President
John Byrd
jrbsenior@charter.net

Secretary
Mike Hawkins
ncfopss@gmail.com

Treasurer
Doris Kirby
Dorisk@centurylink.net

2nd Vice President
Robert Gaddy
rgaddyjr@yahoo.com

Sergeant-At-Arms
Greg Brown
Brown_bg@earthlink.net

Chaplain
Phil Wiggins
prwiggins@minister.com

National Trustee
Dennis McCrary
dmccraryfop@aol.com

Chariperson of Trustees
Phillip Ferguson
whydonturun@yahoo.com

Lodge News

Secretary's Notes

By Mike Hawkins – State Secretary

Compliance Update: I thank those Secretaries who have responded and provided me with the information I needed to update our State information on the National Site. Hopefully, all Lodges will be updated by the upcoming year on time for release of the new Lodge tracking system from the Grand Lodge in 2016.

Ongoing issue: I can't renew my FOP tags because I haven't received my FOP Card.

Answer: Members have to ensure they pay their dues on time. You should have your dues to your lodge secretary no later than 1 October each year. This facilitates the process of the Secretary sending the requisite fees to the State Lodge by 1 November. The checks required for the Grand Lodge are forwarded to ensure receipt of the coming year's membership cards by lodge secretaries in the first couple of week in December. The lodge secretary should inventory, sign the cards and forward them to their members. When everyone does their part cards are received on time. Secretaries should not hold on to dues waiting for members to pay...these members should be placed in an inactive status until their dues are paid. Other members should not be penalized.

This is your organization. If you have ideas on how to make our organization better, speak up. Yes, we are Fraternal and we are our brother's keeper. Take care of your organization. Recruit new members. Remind your Brothers and Sisters to pay their dues. If you have ideas on how to make our organization better, speak up.

If you have issues you would like for me to cover in the BlueNote e-mail me at ncfopss@gmail.com.

Chaplain's Corner

To all my FOP brothers and sisters, I cannot express to you how much I enjoy serving as your North Carolina FOP Chaplain, and pray I will always serve you well as long as I hold this position. I feel like this has given me the opportunity to be an ambassador for the FOP and above all to God.

I would also like to announce to you that I received an official request from National President Chuck Canterbury to serve as National Chaplain for another two years. This is a great honor for me and I believe for the North Carolina FOP as well. I promise to you that I take this appointment seriously and my prayer today comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20, "so we are Christ ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, Come back to God." Please pray that God will continue to use each of us as we serve law enforcement to bring people back to God and serve to make it safe for our brothers and sisters.

Law Enforcement is facing troubling times ahead, but I truly believe God is in control and we are His instruments for "Peace and Justice." May we all be used to bring light into the darkness.

God Bless,
Phil Wiggins
NC State FOP Chaplain
Cell: 919-451-2801



North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc.

By: Terry Mangum, Foundation President

I feel it is important to provide our members with a better understanding of the purpose of the Foundation, and the benefits that a contribution will yield. Hopefully this effort will convince you to write a check and send in your financial contribution today.

The primary purpose of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc., is to exist as a benevolent foundation for the purpose of assisting children and spouses of North Carolina law enforcement officers killed or permanently disabled, while in the line of duty, with the expenses of higher education. The Foundation provides scholarships to enable eligible recipients to complete their post secondary educational studies, including both academic and vocational training. The awarding of scholarships is determined by the NCFOP Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors. Scholarship applications will be mailed in 2016 to each local lodge throughout the State to solicit eligible applicants.

Besides benefiting the children and spouses with scholarships, there is also a benefit to the contributor. The NCFOP Foundation, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) charitable corporation and **all donations are tax-deductible**. We do not use professional telemarketing services, therefore, all funds donated come to the Foundation and your financial donations are perpetual. This means that your donation remains in the Foundation forever and only the earnings from your original donation are used to fund the scholarships for the spouses and children of North Carolina officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The board members of the NCFOP Foundation, Inc., are all FOP members who volunteer their time and efforts to this worthwhile organization. We are active and/or retired law enforcement officers who currently serve or have served communities throughout North Carolina.

The NCFOP Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors are:

President Terry Mangum - Lodge 2 – TerryMangum@frontier.com
Vice President Ron Wyatt - Lodge 10 – Ltronwyatt@yahoo.com
Secretary Gunnar Matthews – Lodge 68 – bangbang@centurylink.net
Treasurer Marty Wilson - Lodge 1 – volfan2596@aol.com
2nd Vice President Greg Brown - Lodge 46 – brown_bg@earthlink.net

Your personal contributions enable the Foundation to provide scholarships to eligible recipients.

Please consider sending in your financial donation today. And please support the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc., the next time you consider financially contributing to your community or a charitable organization. Your tax-deductible contributions, of any amount, should be mailed to:

NCFOP Foundation, Inc.
74 Parker Cove Road
Weaverville, NC 28787

Your assistance is greatly needed and any amount will be appreciated.

From the Desk of the Editor In Chief

By Terry Mangum

Many thanks to Barry Westmoreland, President of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Lodge 8, for all of the photographs from our 62nd National Biennial Conference in Pittsburgh for the September/October issue of the BlueNote. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed articles for this issue. Your contributions of articles and photographs are invaluable and necessary for us to be able to produce a beneficial and useful publication.

If you did not contribute to this issue, please plan on sending an article, with or without a photograph, for our November/December issue. This will be the last issue for 2015 and many lodges hold FOP, Cops, and Kids shopping events and other holiday activities. I am always available to assist you with your article if needed.

I look forward to receiving articles and photographs of your next event. When you submit photographs, please select one or two of your best and if possible send the names of the individuals in the picture. The photographs mean more when the readers have a name to go with the person in the picture.

Please e-mail your articles, photographs, and suggestions for improvement to my new e-mail address TerryMangum@frontier.com and be sure to put my new email address in your address book.

If I may be of assistance to you, or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact me. As always, I am here to serve you and our membership.

Article Submission Deadline for the Remainder of 2015:

November/December issue: Due by October 23, 2015

President's Message

By Randy Hagler – State President

Welcome to September/October issue of the BlueNote, the official publication of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police. The North Carolina FOP has been busy over the summer and I have a couple of very important topics to report to you on. The second topic will be discussed in a separate article.

Most of you have been closely following the trial of Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Officer Wes Kerrick who was arrested in September of 2013 and charged with Voluntary Manslaughter after responding to a call for service. The North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police has been by Officer Kerrick's side since the beginning of this nightmare for him and his family. Many of you will remember we were at our 2013 Fall Board Meeting in Waynesville when this occurred. You may also recall I reported during our meeting that Saturday that a CMPD Officer had been involved in a shooting that left his attacker deceased. What we did not know that Saturday morning, at the time of my report, was that CMPD at the direction of Chief of Police Rodney Monroe would decide to charge Officer Kerrick with Voluntary Manslaughter. These charges came late on Saturday afternoon just 15 hours after the incident occurred. Never before had anyone across the country seen a police department go after one of their officers the way CMPD did Officer Kerrick before the investigation had even really begun. The City of



Randy Hagler
President

Charlotte, adding insult to injury, decided to stop funding Officer Kerrick's civil defense despite him still being their employee. The city met secretly and agreed to spend \$2.25 million dollars of taxpayer's money on a civil settlement before this case would ever reach Superior Court. That decision made it even more difficult to Officer Kerrick's legal team to provide the kind of representation he deserved.

CMPD Officer Wes Kerrick's trial began on July 20, 2015 in the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. The case was prosecuted by the NC Attorney General's Office. The AG's office had assigned three attorneys to the case and it was clear to everyone in the courtroom that a conviction was all they wanted – they were not interested in justice. They carefully selected witnesses whose testimony matched what they wanted the jury to hear, not what happened on that night back in September 2013. They were careful to keep from the jury any evidence that may have shown Officer Kerrick was acting in self-defense and had no other choice

but to fire his weapon. When the defense called their witnesses to testify the State tried to disclaim their testimony by saying they were either highly paid expert witnesses or they were lying. All of the evidence was submitted and the case went to the jury on Wednesday afternoon, August 19th. Deliberations lasted until late Friday afternoon, August 21st when the judge declared a mistrial. The jury was deadlocked and it was apparent to the judge that any additional deliberations would be fruitless. We later learned the jury was locked at 8-4 for Not Guilty.

Members of the North Carolina FOP should be proud that we have had stood with Officer Kerrick throughout this ordeal and will continue to be there until this is over. The decision to retry Officer Kerrick rests with the NC Attorney General's Office. I encourage every member to write to Roy Cooper and ask that this case not return to court. The overwhelming majority of the jurors felt Wes Kerrick was innocent and another trial will only yield a similar result.

I would personally like to thank the attorneys who represented Officer Kerrick and continue to work towards this case being closed forever; George V. Laughrun, II and Michael J. Greene. These two gentlemen are the epitome of what we are looking for in FOP attorneys. They have worked tirelessly on Officer Kerrick's behalf and will continue until this nightmare is over.

SWAT Members Will Swim to Help Children of Fallen Officers

Submitted by Don Penix – An Article from LEO Affairs

There's something about being in the water that frees the mind, makes you forget about whatever it is on land you're trying to leave behind — loss, grief, pain, disappointment. Somehow being in the water seems to, at least temporarily, wash all of those things away. But for one group of swimmers in North Carolina, it isn't so much about escaping, but about dealing directly with a huge loss in their lives — the loss of two of their fellow officers.

Five members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept. (CMPD) will be taking part in an honor swim to benefit the children of two fallen officers. The honor swim — which will take place next May — will raise money to send three of the officers' children to college.

Those fallen officers, Fred Thornton and Sean Clark, were both killed in the line of duty. CMPD Officer Olin Lester says, "Both deaths had a dramatic impact on me as an officer, a man, and as a father." Clark, a member of the SWAT team, died in April of 2007. He was shot and killed while responding to a call about a suspect who was barricaded inside an apartment. Thornton was killed accidentally in February of 2011 during a narcotics-related search warrant.

Lester says he was working with Thornton that day, assisting him with securing the back of the residence. Once back inside the van, he smiled at Fred and asked how many days he had left until retirement. "Fred responded with a big smile, 101 days," he said. Fred would die a few hours later, after his FSDD (flash sound distraction device) detonated while against his abdomen.

Lester says one day he was at home thinking about retiring (years from now), and how he would pay for his two year old daughter's college education. That's when he says he thought about Fred and how he left behind four children — the youngest still in high school at the time of his death. It was at that moment Lester says "It hit me, we are going to swim the length of Lake Norman to put his youngest kid through college."

"The crazy irony of it all is that Fred couldn't swim for anything," Lester said. Lester says swimming always came very easily to him, and as a child it was one of the ways he bonded with his father. He'd been tracking world record holder and legendary swimmer, Diana Nyad, and her courageous attempts to swim the 103 miles from Cuba to Florida.

He started researching Lake Norman, the largest manmade body of fresh water in North Carolina. "I started to study the lake and learned that no one had ever attempted to swim the entire length, which is 34 miles," he said.

As soon as the seed was planted, and he was ready to run with the idea, Lester says the first person he thought of was his partner on the SWAT team since 2006 — Harlon McKinney. Lester says he knew if McKinney learned about his idea, he wouldn't let him give up on it, until he saw it through. So, the two of them started planning together. They needed three more swimmers to complete their honor swim team. Sgt. Mike Graue and Officer Derek Rud, both former Marines and members of the SWAT team, jumped at the chance. The fifth swimmer, Officer Seth Greene was in before he had a chance to be asked. Greene is on the department's VCAT squad and also a good friend of Lester's, who trains with him often for endurance races.

The swim route will start near the Lookout Shoals Dam, on the Catawba River. The officers will swim continuously, one swimmer at a time, until they reach Blythe Landing Park. Lester estimates it will take them around 24 hours to complete the route. They also plan to swim at night. Their journey now begins, with intense physical training. Lester says they will focus on strength and endurance training and get to a pool or open water whenever possible, to help them prepare.

Lester says a few months after Fred's death, a local Charlotte company donated a mature Oak tree to the department as a living honor of Fred's life. The beautiful tree was planted at the department's range. "As a sniper with the SWAT team, I train roughly one week per month. So every month, for an entire week, I would see this tree — this living memory of my friend," Lester said. This would go on for a whole year. "At the end of the year, I decided that I wanted to build a memorial around the tree. I started pricing bricks, stones and monuments."

But then, Lester says, he thought about Fred. "He was a very pragmatic man. Fred would not want money spent on a memorial. I knew that despite all of my planning over that period of time, in the end I'd have to honor Fred by supporting the one thing a father would do anything for — his children."

62nd National Biennial Conference

By Randy Hagler – State President

I would like to thank the Brothers and Sisters of NCFOP for allowing me to attend the FOP 62nd National Biennial Conference and Expo in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during August 9-13, 2015. It was a real pleasure to attend with so many other delegates from across our State and the US. North Carolina was well represented at the conference to conduct the business of the National FOP as well as celebrate our organizations 100th birthday. If you were unable to attend you missed a great time shared by over 3,500 delegates from across the country. Other members attending from your State Lodge Executive Board were: Vice President John Byrd, Immediate Past President Terry Mangum, Secretary Mike Hawkins, 2nd Vice President Bobby Gaddy, Chaplain Phil Wiggins, and National Trustee Dennis McCrary. I believe in this issue of the BlueNote you will see some photographs taken during the conference by Brother Barry Westmorland of Lodge 8. Barry seemed to be everywhere with his camera and we appreciate him sharing his pictures with us.

The Conference began on Sunday, August 9th with Pre-Conference Board of Directors Meeting and registration for the National Conference. Many delegates were registered that first day and ready on Monday August 10 for the opening ceremony and Memorial Service conducted by the FOP Auxiliary. Pennsylvania had many guest speakers as the conference began to welcome the delegates to Pittsburgh. Most were politicians of some variety. But they did have the Chief of Police for the City of Pittsburgh to welcome our delegates. For his words of encouragement about the FOP and how we need to continue to fight for our members and officers he received a standing ovation. It did not hurt that he wanted everyone to know that he was a FOP member.

Delegates heard reports from all Committee Chairs including our own Immediate Past President, Terry Mangum who is the Chairman for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. I am sure IPP Mangum will report on the twenty-one Amendments brought to his committee for presentation to the delegates. Also reporting at the National Conference was Past President Don Penix who is the Chairman of the Foundation Ways and Means Committee. President Canterbury appointed me to Chair the Resolutions Committee for the conference. Complete reports on all of these assignments will be given at our upcoming Board of Directors Meeting.

The election of National Officers was held on Thursday, August 13th with the following results:

President - Chuck Canterbury (ran unopposed)
Vice President – Jay McDonald (ran against incumbent Ed

Brannigan)
Secretary – Patrick Yoes (ran unopposed)
Treasurer – Tom Penzo (ran unopposed)
2nd Vice President – Les Neri (ran against incumbent Frank Gale)
Sergeant at Arms – Roger Mayberry (ran unopposed)
Joe Perkins – Chairman of the Trustees (ran unopposed)
Please join me in congratulating our newly elected National Executive Board.

Memories and Considerations

By John R. Byrd Sr. – State Vice President

Brothers and Sisters,

Memories: Great Fraternalism, Protestors, a Tainted Election, and Traffic Jams are just some of the things I experienced last week in Pittsburgh at the 100th Anniversary National Convention. These are some of the things you missed if you didn't attend, but there were some highlights like the \$135,000+ that was collected from the floor after a \$250 personal challenge from our National President for the National Memorial Service or the \$5000+ that was collected during the voting for Officer Kerrick and the Baltimore Officers to aid in their legal defense funds. The Pennsylvania State Lodge and Pittsburgh lodge 1 did an outstanding job hosting the conference and provided some great venues for participants. Also I want to thank the Lodge 59 Crew for letting me hang with them most of the week. They are a great bunch and are truly what fraternalism is all about.

I hope everyone is seriously considering the two programs that were presented at our Spring Board Meeting, the 5-5-5 Give Back Program and the National Legal Aid Civil and Criminal option for \$64 a member. As I stated at the meeting I signed up for the Give Back Program prior to our meeting. I think it is an outstanding program and provides good options for tracking your giving and the versatility of what you want the third option to be makes it even more attractive. I have a proposal to put forth as far as the Legal Aid Option. I think we should opt into the national plan at \$64 a member with our next per diem assessments in 2016. We keep the money we currently have in our legal aid account and the money in our reserve account (investment) to continue to fund Administrative Cases as need be. We keep our Legal Aid Committee intact to review Administrative Cases only. That being said our yearly assessment for Legal Aid will only have to go from \$24 to \$64. Please give this proposal some serious and well thought out discussion and consideration among your fellow lodge members.

As always I am here to serve you. You can call me anytime at 336-504-8173 or email me at jrbseior@charter.net if I can be of assistance to you or your lodge in anyway.

True Justice and our National Conference Overview

By Dennis McCrary - NC National Trustee

It is very difficult for me to focus on this article informing members, who were not in attendance at our National Conference in Pittsburgh, of the highlights on decisions which were made during the conference. The jury in Charlotte deciding the case against Officer Wes Kerrick advised the judge that they were hopelessly deadlocked and Judge Ervin declared a mistrial. We certainly were hoping for a not guilty verdict but deep down most of us in Charlotte expected a hung jury. The vote was 8 jurors in favor of acquittal and 4 voting guilty of voluntary manslaughter. The family of the person killed by Officer Kerrick and their attorney were just on the news requesting that all persons in Charlotte contact Attorney General Roy Cooper and demand that Officer Kerrick be retried. Eight protestors laid down on 4th Street next to the courthouse and demanded "justice" for Officer Kerrick. Protestors numbering from 8 to approximately 60 were allowed to roam the streets of Charlotte shouting and screaming at police and anyone that would listen. Let us hope and pray that Attorney General Cooper will not make a political decision to retry this case. He is running for Governor and needs the minority vote to win, but hopefully he will make a decision reflecting true justice. Anyone who has experience prosecuting cases knows that there is no way they could get 12 jurors to agree to convict this officer on these facts and it would be a total waste of time, money and lives to try this case again. I ask each of you to please contact Attorney General Cooper (if it is not too late when you read this) and let him know in a respectable and tactful way the case should not be retried.

Now, to get off of my soapbox and to the events that took place at our 100th anniversary conference in Pittsburgh. North Carolina FOP had very good attendance at this very important conference. Enough members attended that I expect most of you have heard about the most significant actions that were taken. For those who have not learned about these actions, I will attempt to describe below the most significant ones.

- Chuck Canterbury ran unopposed for President
- Pat Yoes ran unopposed for Secretary
- Tom Penozza ran unopposed for Treasurer
- Roger Mayberry ran unopposed for Sergeant at Arms
- Jay McDonald, President of the Ohio State FOP, defeated current serving Vice President Ed Brannigan from New Jersey by more than 600 votes. NC delegates voted to support Jay at

our caucus the first day of the conference. NC State President Randy Hagler was honored by Jay asking him to nominate him on the floor of the conference.

- Les Neri, President of the Pennsylvania State Lodge, defeated current serving Second Vice President Frank Gale. This race was exceptionally close and Les won by 6 votes. I will discuss this election later in this article.

21 Amendments to our National Constitution and By-laws were proposed. Many of these were just housekeeping actions changing simple wording in sections that brought them up to date with how we operate. I will discuss the others that were significant below. Our Past State President, Terry Mangum, is Chairman of the Constitution and By Laws Committee and did an excellent job leading the conference delegates through these discussions and votes.

- An amendment was passed that eliminated the Retired class of membership. This had been confusing to some lodges and they did not interpret retired members as being voting members. All retired members in good standing will now be under the classification of Active members along with all serving officers.
- Date for determining number of delegates to the National Conference was changed from total membership on July 1 to membership on April 1.
- The National President's salary was changed from paying him \$0.17 per member to a flat rate of \$65,000.
- The Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Sergeant at Arms and Chairman of Trustees salaries were changed from \$10,000 per year to \$12,500.
- The Secretary and Treasurer salaries were changed from paying them \$0.135 per member to a flat fee of \$50,000.
- The entire Board of Directors can vote to award COLA adjustments up to 5% to the executive officers above if justified.

Eight Resolutions were presented to the delegates in attendance. State President Randy Hagler, who serves on the Resolution Committee, was appointed by

Continued on Page 8

President Canterbury to Chair the committee in the absence of the regular committee chairman. President Hagler did an outstanding job handling and presenting all resolutions. The resolutions which were passed voiced support for Hunting for Heroes, Frank Gale in the fight against his firing from the Denver Sheriff's Department, Albuquerque Police Department in their labor struggles, Route for the Brave Walk, and Helping Hands for Freedom Retreat Home.

As I stated earlier, Les Neri defeated Second Vice President Frank Gale by 6 votes. 3663 delegates were in attendance and were granted credentials to vote at this conference. To vote, a delegate presented his credentials and photo ID to a member of the election committee in the voting area. The committee members scanned the credential ID into the computer system to verify the delegate was eligible to vote. The total number of votes in the election exceeded the total number of scanned voters registered in the computer by 13 votes. The election committee, executive board, candidates running for office and National Attorney all

met prior to the election results announcement and tried to determine exactly what happened. It appears that some delegates' IDs were not successfully scanned into the computer but they were allowed to vote. This may account for the extra 13 votes. It was also possible that if you stayed in the voting booth long enough, you could vote again. All parties involved did not believe that this happened, but there was no way to determine exactly what happened. Also scanned records show that over 200 delegates that had credentials to vote did not vote in the election for one reason or another. As you can imagine, with a candidate losing by 6 votes, some members were very upset and demanding a re-vote or some other action. To take any action, other than adjournment of the conference after the vote is taken, a quorum must be present on the floor. Many delegates leave immediately after they vote and we needed 1832 delegates to make any motions as to how we could address this voting problem on the floor. All delegates were counted by their State Lodges and we had slightly over 900 on the floor to conduct business. Our attorney advised that

the election results would have to stand as reported and the only motion that could be made was to adjourn. After must discussion and debate the adjournment motion was

finally passed. This incident was a very embarrassing end to a great conference. A committee was appointed at the post-conference board meeting to recommend steps to make certain that this will never happen again. I am certain the Board of Directors will take action in the future to ensure that is the case.

This was a very busy conference and I have not covered all actions that were taken. Please contact me or anyone else that attended the conference if you have any questions or comments. Again, thank you for letting me serve as your National Trustee. My contact information is on our State and National websites so please contact me if I can be of any assistance.



Dennis McCrary
National Trustee
dmccraryfop@aol.com

Durham County Lodge 2 Activities

By State Trustee Terry Mangum

Recruiting new members is important to our Lodge. Members of Durham County Lodge 2 spoke with the Durham Police Department's Recruit Class and provided them with the benefits of joining and being a member of Durham County Lodge 2, Fraternal Order of Police.

Additionally, as has become a tradition, Durham County Lodge 2 carried the Durham Police Department's Recruit Class to lunch prior to their graduation. During the lunch the recruits were provided with additional information on the importance of joining the Fraternal Order of Police. We consider this to be an excellent recruitment tool for our Lodge.

Durham County Lodge 2 again sponsored the Graduation Reception for the Durham Police Department's 41st Recruit Class Graduation ceremony on August 3.

Durham County Lodge 2's entire Executive Board attended the 62nd Biennial National Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Durham County Lodge 2 Executive Board in Pittsburgh

Pictured left to right: Vice President Bobby Gaddy, 2nd Vice President T.J. Douglass, Secretary Jackie Wemer, Trustee Chuck Davidson, Treasurer Mark Sykes, Chaplain Phil Wiggins, Sergeant-At-Arms Greg McGee, Trustee Tom Navarre, State Trustee Terry Mangum, and President Mike Evans.

62nd National Biennial Conference in Pittsburgh



Chairman Terry Mangum presenting the Constitution and By-laws Amendments



National Chaplain Phil Wiggins delivering a Prayer



Greta Philbeck and the Memorial Committee



Chairman Randy Hagler presenting Resolutions received by the Resolution Committee



Chairman Don Penix giving the Foundation Report

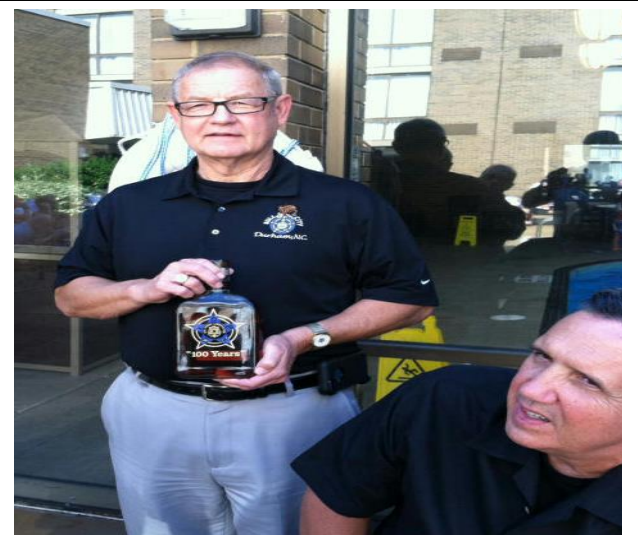




Trivia!

It is time for another exciting round of TRIVIA.

Can you identify the two individuals in this photograph?



If you can identify the individuals, send an e-mail to terrymangum@frontier.com with your answer. The answer will be posted in the November/December issue of the BlueNote along with the names of the individuals submitting the correct answer.

TRIVIA answer for the photo from July/August issue of the BlueNote.



TRIVIA Answer for the photograph from the July/August issue of the BlueNote.

Pictured left to right: Greta Philbeck and David Bray.

There were no correct answers received. Identifying Greta was not a problem but David Bray threw everyone a curve.

