



Fraternal Order of Police

BlueNote

Official Publication of the North Carolina State Lodge

Volume 4, Issue 2

www.ncfop.org

March April 2020

President's Message

By Randy Hagler – State President

Welcome to March/April 2020 issue of the official publication of North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, *The BlueNote*. If you receive this publication via email or download it from the ncfop.org website, please share it with all of your law enforcement friends, families, and supporters. It contains important information concerning our organization and law enforcement across the State.



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In February the National Fraternal Order of Police held our 2020 Day On The Hill event in Washington, D.C. This year's event was well attended by FOP members from across the country who came to lobby congress on behalf of the rank-and-file law enforcement officers. The National FOP Legislative Office is well staffed, with highly qualified full-time professionals working hard every day for our members. The National Legislative Office sends out weekly updates on the Grassroots Action Network. Hopefully, many of you are already signed up to receive them weekly but if not please send an email to; legislative@fop.net and ask to begin getting these updates. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information along with your membership number when you email.

National FOP Top Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

H.R. 1325, The Protect and Serve Act"

H.R. 1156, The LEOSA Reform Act

H.R. 141/S. 521, The "Social Security Fairness Act"

H.R. 1195/S. 473 the Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act

H.R. 1154/S.1394 the "Public Employer-Employee Cooperation Act

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Chaplain's Corner

On January 30 and 31, I had the privilege to attend the National FOP Wellness Summit at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. The event was well attended and speakers delivered powerful messages on the stress of the job that impacts the well-being of officers. The FOP is recognizing the challenges before law enforcement and taking action by forming a Wellness Committee headed by Sherri Martin as Committee Chairperson.



It is a sad reality that more officers die by suicide than are killed in the line of duty. And the numbers keep rising year after year. We see our officers graduating from our academies in good spirits, mentally alert, and excited about serving and protecting. But over time the job seems to take a toll.

Officers see and experience more trauma than most individuals and deal with crisis each day. Many will not talk about their feelings and the impact it is having on them. They think it shows weakness on their part and that others may feel that they are unable to function in their job. This must change!! We need to convince our brothers and sisters in law enforcement that it is okay to talk and be honest with their emotions and to ask for help when they need it.

It is time for all of us to be more alert and observant toward those we work with and take notice of unhealthy changes in behavior. Do not be afraid to step up and provide a listening ear for your brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

Psalm 23:1-3 “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.”

God's Blessing,

Phil Wiggins



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Presidents Message Continued from Page 1

Additional information can be found on all of these bills at the National FOP website, fop.net, by clicking on Legislative at the top of the screen. A full list of all legislation, both supported and opposed, can be found there. You may also want to visit the House and Senate web sites to see what our Senators and your Representatives from the 13 Congressional Districts in North Carolina have signed on to. I will give you a hint...not much! Here's what we know as of this writing:

Protect and Serve	No NC Representatives signed on
LEOSA Reform Act	Mark Meadows - District 11
Social Security Fairness	David Price – District 4
Law Enforcement Equity	No NC Representatives signed on
Public Employer-Employee Cooperation	Alma Adams – District 12, David Price District 4, G.K. Butterfield – District 1

Of the three bills listed above that have companion bills or identical bills filed in the Senate, neither Burr nor Tillis have signed on in support of them.

All the legislation listed above could assist our officers in some way, but the Protect and Serve Act and LEOSA Reform Act could make our lives safer and the communities we live and work in safer as well. Please contact your Representative and if he or she has already signed on to one of them thank them. If they have not, asked them to help make our lives safer by adding their name to the list of co-sponsors who have already signed on. In all fairness, when I met with my Congressman, Richard Hudson of District 8, he advised me that he would be signing on to both of these bills soon.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m. for the Peace Officers' Memorial Day Ceremony. This years' service will be held at The Cove Church, 197 Langtree Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. As always, this service is brought to you by the North Carolina Attorney General's Office and is sponsored in part by the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police and the North Carolina Concerns of Police Survivors. This service will honor the officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2019.

Retirement Systems Update

By Jeff Gray – FOP Legislative Agent

This is one of those "good news/bad news" situations for our retirees. The good news is that North Carolina's pension plan returns were very good last year. Returns yielded roughly \$10 billion for the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and \$4 billion for the Local Government Employees' Retirement System. From the view of those who represent the interests of State and local government retirees, such as the Retired Governmental Employees Association and the Fraternal Order of Police, all retirees could now get both a bonus as well as long-delayed cost of living adjustment (a.k.a. "COLA".)

But not all share our perspective. And that's the bad news. North Carolina State Treasurer Dale Folwell recently recommended to the Retirement Systems' Board of Trustees that neither State nor local retirees should receive an adjustment, citing that the actuarial returns for both systems – a summation his office internally determined – falls below the suggested 7.0 percent threshold for adjustments.

While I respect and appreciate the Treasurer, and he is certainly a friend of the FOP. I disagree with his recommendation. And I am certain you do also. There is no time better than the present for retirees to receive an adjustment. North Carolina's more than 296,000 retirees deserve an adjustment. The state has the money to provide a cost of living adjustment for State and local retirees. I will be discussing with the Executive Board at its upcoming meeting in April how best to put the pressure on for an adjustment under both Systems, so be prepared to make visits, calls and write!

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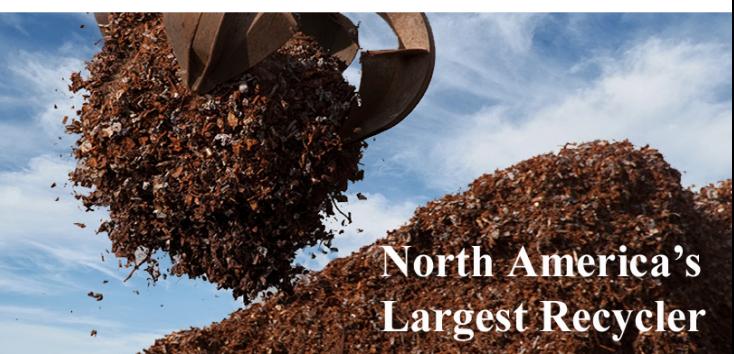
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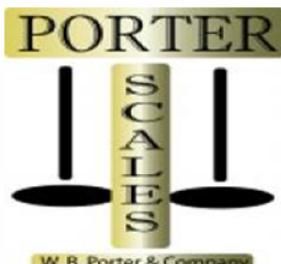
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Never Be Afraid

By Greg Brown – State Sergeant at Arms

Over the years I have written several articles which have been published in our BlueNote and several law enforcement magazines. These articles have been in reference to being injured/disabled in the line of duty and having to retire from those injuries and the toll it takes not only on the injured officers but on their families, friends, and their daily life.

I write these articles, not so that my fellow brother and sisters will feel sorry for us, but to let them know this is a reality and it is okay to keep in touch with those who are injured or disabled.

I know it shows many of us that we are not invincible but rather we are human just like everyone else. Seeing your fellow brothers or sisters who have been injured and disabled can be a dark reminder of the dangers we face. And some may not keep in touch because it does remind them of those dangers.

So when I come across articles that I feel address this issue, I try and make every effort for those still working to have the opportunity to read the material.

The following article, “**Death isn’t the worst case scenario for a cop. Here’s what is.**”, was written by an anonymous source and posted in Law Enforcement Today.

This article rings true on so many levels not only for me but for all my fellow retirees who have been injured and or disabled in the line duty.

Please take a moment to read this article. I believe it will give you a new look on the issue.

Death isn’t the worst case scenario for a cop. Here’s what is.

Oct 29, 2019

Being a police officer has been described as so many things.

It’s a job, it’s a profession, it’s a lifestyle, it’s a commitment, and it’s a calling.

For me it’s my identity. I can’t say it’s what I dreamt of as a child; I really can’t pinpoint a single day or time in my life where I can say, “that’s it, that is the day I knew.” All I know is that title of police officer is no less a part of my existence than my fingerprints.

All police officers dream of changing the world, and whether it’s to change how the system works or how our children thrive, change is the forefront of every recruit’s drive to put on a uniform and get to work. We all dream of a long career, policy-making stories to tell new recruits and after twenty or thirty years passing all our wisdom to a new force of shiny badges.

In the academy it is drilled into us daily how some of us will never make retirement. How some of us will be slain in the streets, others will be fired for dishonesty and a few who will die at their own hand. We hear statistics about divorce, alcoholism, violence and every other evil that plagues the uniform.

At every training we are told to find ways to cope with the darkness that follows us; we are given pamphlets on where to go for help. Leaders give speeches on being our brother’s keeper, how we are part of a family that will never let us fall alone. We are told to train physically, be proficient with our weapons and to ask for help when needed. Like good little warriors, we nod in agreement. We vow to race to our squad mate’s aid, to not survive but to win! We are warriors with a team willing to fight beside us, to rescue us from any battle, to never let us fight alone. We vow to take care of each other’s families if “the worst” were to happen.

So we set out each day, with a sense of pride for the oath we took, the uniform we wear and the family we stand with. We are indivisible and indestructible! We are police officers, sheepdogs, hunters and protectors. We are ready for the worst, and trained to be the best.

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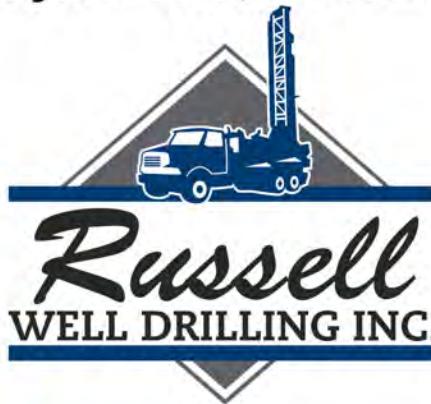


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Never Be Afraid

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Then the worst happens.

The real worst-case scenario. The one that you don't train for, you don't talk about. The one there are no stories for. It's not a knock on the door, it's not a black band around your badge. It's not your name forever engraved on the wall. That is only what you thought was the worst.

Sometimes surviving is worse than death.

But as you lay in the hospital bed, staring at the ceiling, as doctors move about you methodically, trying to put you back together, the truth starts to become clear. As days, weeks or months pass, you know death is not the worst scenario. As faces fade from the hospital, doctors lose interest, as the stress of just living sets in, you begin to actually wish for death.

Death brings closure, it brings families together, and it brings the community support and love. What you are brings loneliness, rumors, and assumptions. It is a piece of your existence slowly crumbling from under you. It is your fingerprint fading away.

You are injured. You are scared inside and out. You are a shadow of the parent, spouse, child and friend you once were. You are a plague to those who served beside you. Suddenly the thin blue line becomes as wide as the great divide. You are the reason for closed-door meetings and whispers in the halls. No one wants you. They will say you are broken, that you're a liability, and that you are this or that. Suddenly people who you never met know your life story; they have an opinion about everything you do. The more you keep your head down and try to become invisible, the longer the doors stay closed and the louder the whispers become. Eventually all you hear are whispers, all you notice is group chats going away, phone calls going to voicemail, until you belong nowhere. Until you have no more fingerprint.

When someone is injured, everyone assumes someone else is there. The reality is the hospital rooms grow cold and quiet. As lives continue on, you stand still. You scream for help but no one wants to "get involved". When you are injured, things like Depression, PTSD, TBI, Chronic Pain and Anxiety only apply to other people. Your agency and co-workers will convince you how made up these terms are. If you fight with all you have to get better, then you were never hurt to begin with. If you give in to the loneliness, you are weak and never deserved the uniform.

At first you think it will get better. You think if you fight long enough, hard enough, the whispers will stop. You think your friends are just busy, but then you think you are an inconvenience to everyone. As time passes, you will see it is fear that keeps the rumors flowing, fear that keeps the phone from ringing; you are a reminder of their mortality. You are proof that surviving is worse than death. People need you to disappear, they need you to be faking or exaggerating, because then it will never be them lying in that cold room. It will never be them stuck in that chair. It will never be them who screams in pain every night. It will never be them who wakes up alone. Then, it gets even worse. You understand that your career is over. You are forever marked. If you try to get a pension to help the burden on your loved ones, the world will hate you. If you walk away quietly, your family will suffer. There seems to be no right choice. The job you gave so much to turns its back on you then attacks every fiber of your life. Everything you have ever said or done is examined. Your life is put on display, for all to see, every mistake, every bit of vulnerability shown to the world for all to know.

When people ask what you do, you no longer are allowed to say you're a retired police officer with any pride. Your dignity, your being, your trust is gone. We talk about the media, the community, those who never wore a uniform, as the enemy. They are the ones who make our job harder, the ones that pick us apart and try us in the court of public opinion.

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Grand Lodge Update

By Dennis McCrary – NC National Trustee

I wanted to take this opportunity to update everyone on things that have been happening at the Grand Lodge level. President Yoes reported to the trustees in our mid-February teleconference on a variety of items that the National FOP had worked on in the last few months. I will discuss some of the more significant issues which were addressed by President Yoes in the below article.

It was mentioned in a previous BlueNote article that President Trump has established a Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. This is the first such Commission in the last 50 years and the President made certain that actual law enforcement officers were well represented. The FOP has 4 of their members serving on the Commission and is very well represented in the 14 working groups providing information for the final report.

President Yoes has recently talked with the NFL about comments some of their members have made and ads that have been run on television not favorable to the law enforcement community. The most recent was the Inspire Super Bowl commercial. President Yoes has issued one press release so far and will be meeting with the NFL soon to discuss support for officers. The NFL has indicated they do want to talk and see if we cannot work together to improve the relationship. Starbucks has also had some incidents of their employees disrespecting police officers. President Yoes has been in talks with them and they are moving forward with efforts to show their support for officers.

Home for Heroes has been a good supporter of the FOP and our members. Their efforts to help first responders with housing continue to assist our members. This organization has contributed over \$34,000 in the last year and a half to this effort.

In the last issue of the BlueNote, President Hagler discussed the Vision 20/20 event that he and I, along with other NC FOP board members, attended in Nashville. The Committee will present their summary and recommendations from the three sessions which were held across the country at the National Board meeting in Kansas City in March. I will bring this information back to NC members in a future report.

The Grand Lodge continues to work on videos to help spread the FOP message to members and the public. A video on the history of the FOP is being developed and should be available later this year. Videos on Leadership Matters and Officer Wellness are also in the works and should be available this year.

Talks continue on how to move forward with the FOP Journal. The FOP spends over \$600,000 per year on preparing and mailing this publication to our members. This is offset by \$100,000 in ad revenue but is still a tremendous expense to our members. The current contract is up next year and it is being discussed to move more toward a digital publication. The talks are also taking into consideration that some of our members are not fully participating in the digital revolution and may still want some other form. I will keep you advised in the progress of the discussion.

The National FOP Board meeting in the Fall will be the time when the National FOP endorses a candidate for President of the United States. Each state must have a process that determines their direction on how to cast their vote for this endorsement for their National Trustee. This will be discussed in much more detail between now and the State FOP Conference in Carolina Beach.

President Yoes expressed his appreciation to FOP members for their support of several recent FOP events. He reported that Day On The Hill, Leadership Matters, and the Wellness Summit were great successes with many attendees. The FOP continues to work for our members and lead the way for law enforcement in this country.

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Grand Lodge Update Continued From Page 14

The National FOP app is still being developed and may be ready for a “soft” release at the board meeting in Kansas City in March. We are hopeful that a full release could come as soon as April.

The National Disaster Relief Response Unit continues to be developed and has acquired a response trailer. The used NASCAR type trailer was purchased for \$65,000 and is being outfitted as a mobile kitchen/response unit for future needs of the organization. We have pledges of over \$160,000 for this project and over half of those funds have been received. Brother Scott Gerson of Lodge 9 worked diligently with the DART Committee to help assist in finding a trailer and possible sponsors. President Yoes decided to add Scott to serve on the National DART Committee. Congratulations to Scott!

The Grand Lodge continues to work with AETNA on a retiree medical insurance program for the FOP. The goal is to have at least 25000 FOP members in the plan by January 2021. Those retirees interested in Medicare Supplemental health insurance after retirement should go to the national website and click on the scrolling purple ribbon at the top that says Proud to Provide to review the plan that is being offered. If this goal is met and AETNA offers a nationwide plan to our members, those under Medicare eligibility age would be eligible for health insurance coverage. The plan, as being developed, should save our members money and provide significant funding to the National FOP Foundation.

These are some of the more important items that are in the works for FOP members. Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Trustee. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to your or your lodge.

Durham County Lodge 2

By Terry Mangum – Durham County Lodge 2 State Trustee

It is with great sadness that I, on behalf of the members of Durham County Lodge 2, announce the passing of Edward “Eddie” Earl Sarvis on January 13, 2020. He served in the Durham Police Department and retired in 1997 as a Captain. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work for Captain Sarvis on two different occasions. In addition to our time together on the department, we also served and worked together for Durham County Lodge 2. Eddie Sarvis was one of our Lodge 2 Trustee from 1988 – 1990 and our State Trustee from 1990 – 1994.

On January 16 I attended his funeral service and burial service at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Captain Sarvis is survived by his wife Donna, son Eddie Jr. (also with DPD), two daughters, Amy and Holly, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14: 1-3)

Rest in Peace my friend.

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BlueNote Information and Submission Dates for 2020

By Terry Mangum – Executive Editor

I hope everyone enjoyed the January/February 2020 issue of the BlueNote.

Thank you to all of our contributors of articles and photos for the March/April issue of the BlueNote. This issue contains important information and I encourage you to read and share your copy of the BlueNote. Also, please consider submitting an article on your Lodge's activities. This is your publication and your lodge articles are needed to help us continue to provide an informative and interesting publication. Do not let your concern over your writing skills prevent you from submitting an article. Just write and submit the article and, if necessary, we will make it look publication worthy.

We all know Lodges have activities throughout the year which would be great material for a BlueNote submission. So, begin now preparing for the May/June 2020 BlueNote issue. Is your Lodge having a Peace Officers Memorial Service? Great subject for a short article. Let our members from across North Carolina hear from you about your Lodge activities. E-mail your articles and photos to my e-mail address

TerryMangum@frontier.com by the due date.

Remember to please visit our BlueNote advertisers' websites. These advertisers support the North Carolina State Lodge through their advertisements and we need to visit their websites and support them in return.

Below are the Article Submission Due Dates for the remaining 2020 issues of the BlueNote. Clip these dates out and post them on your computer, refrigerator, etc., where they will be visible as a reminder.

Article Submission Due Dates for 2020:

May/June issue: Due by April 17, 2020

July/August issue: Due by June 19, 2020

September/October issue: Due by August 21, 2020

November/December issue: Due by October 16, 2020

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

Never Be Afraid Continued From Page 12

When you are injured you learn the truth. The real enemy is those who stood beside you. The real enemies are those you once called brother, the ones that swore to fight next to you. The real enemies are yourself, your supervisors, your leaders and your co-workers. We are what make the job impossible. It is our fear, not of death, but of surviving, that makes us stay silent.

With any injury there is no closure; life doesn't just move on. There are no memorials, no one cries for you, there are just shattered pieces of you sprinkled all around. There are no more fingerprints, you have no identity, no worth to the world.

There is just silence.

In a world where the uniform you wear brings hate from every crack, I implore you, do not forget. Do not let silence set in. Do better. Be better. And you will never have to be afraid.

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Extra!!! Extra!!! Read All About It!!! We Have TWO WINNERS!!!

For this Trivia contest we are recognizing two winners due to their responses arriving at almost the same time. They were that close.

Byron Highland, State Trustee of Pitt-Greenville Lodge 69, and **Mike Calfee**, State Trustee of Greater Cumberland Area Lodge 59, are the **grand prize co-winners** of the January/February BlueNote **TRIVIA** contest. Both quickly and correctly identified the two individuals in the Trivia photograph as, left to right, Ally Michalec and Dennis McCrary.

We had more responses to this Trivia contest than we have had in a long time. Many thanks to everyone who participated and sent in responses.

If you have neither participated in nor won a **TRIVIA** contest, do not give up. Keep submitting your answers and maybe you too can be a BlueNote **TRIVIA Grand Prize Winner** like **Byron and Mike**.

Remember, it is never too late to submit your guess. Don't think there is no need to send in your answers because you never know how quickly or slowly readers submit their responses. I hope to see your name listed as the BlueNote **TRIVIA** grand prize winner in the next issue.

DRUM ROLL PLEASE!!!

Now here is your chance to participate in another exciting round of BlueNote **TRIVIA**.

Put on your thinking caps. Can you identify the two (2) individuals in this photograph? Remember to send me your answer as quickly as you can.

If you can identify these two individuals, send an email to terrymangum@frontier.com with your answer along with the name and number of your Lodge.

The correct Trivia answer will be posted in the May/June 2020 issue of the BlueNote along with the name of the **first** individual submitting the correct answer.

