



The Communiqué



1 March 2007

President's Comments By Brother Kevin Carroll

There is so much to talk about that I am not sure where to start. I am please to announce that we were able to convince the General Assembly to finally pass a retirement increase for State Police and Elected Sheriff's. Senate Bill 1166 also provides for the local option for localities. I am already working on Chesterfield County to buy up the retirement benefit for local police, deputy sheriffs and firefighters.

The General Assembly was a busy place this year. I worked with the Attorney Generals Office in an effort to pass HB2943. This was a very important piece of legislation for law enforcement. Unfortunately the measure was killed in the Senate committee on courts. If passed the law would have changes relating to misdemeanor arrests. We were trying to give officers the discretion to make custodial arrests for class one and two misdemeanors. Currently under 19.2-74 you must release on a summons for all class one and two misdemeanors committed in your presence. The only exceptions are a failure to discontinue the act, refusal to promise to appear in court and posing a danger to themselves or someone else. We will work next year to hopefully change this law. Officers should have the discretion to make custodial arrests in these cases. The general Assembly has said by code that these types of cases carry jail time. The Supreme Court of the United States of America in 1973 decided in the U.S. v Robinson case that police officers have the right to make custodial arrests for offenses that carry jail time. Most of the other states allow for custodial arrest in these cases. If changed, officers would be able to conduct a search incident to arrest for weapons and instrument of the crime the suspect was charged with. I will work on this next year.

We are busy at the lodge trying to figure out what we are going to do in the future for a home. We are going to make a counter offer to the landowner around us in hope of not having to move. I have discussed with other members of the board hiring B&B Presentations to conduct a solicitation for the lodge this upcoming year. I needed to make a decision on this pretty fast or we would not have any money coming in this year. The decision was made to enter into a one-year contract. This will hopefully hold us over to next year. I am not a big fan of solicitations at all. However, we are going to need the money this year to support are charitable efforts.

I am sure you are aware that this is an election year for local politicians. I am going to request at the next meeting that we vote to endorse local and state candidates in the next election. While working at the General Assembly I was able to get to know some of our elected officials. I think that if we are going to ask them to support us in the General Assembly then we need to support them when they run for re-election. We cannot always ask for something and not give in return. I think the same goes for the local board and other positions. Last year health care was cut to many of our members. The Board of supervisors was aware of the decision. We want them to implement the increase in retirement benefits as soon as possible. I think increasing the retirement, as a way to offset the decrease in healthcare benefits is a start. If we do not get involved the politicians are less likely to listen to what we have to say. Please tell me your thoughts on this important issue. E-Mail me direct at THELAWMANII@verizon.net. Stay Safe and keep your head down.

Editors Corner
By Brother Dennis W. Mull



Some members are unhappy about the direction the newsletter has gone. They miss the old newsletter in the mail and I understand their concerns. However, yesterday gave me some food for thought about how to address this issue. I was attempting to find a Virginia state tax form and instruction booklet to send to my step son in Florida.

He needed to file for the part of the year that he had worked in Virginia prior to his move. The post office did not have those forms and the public library did not have them either. When I asked the library staff about this situation I was informed that the state no longer sent out those items without a specific request. Virginia was trying to encourage all filers to go with electronic filing. The world has changed and will continue to change whether we like those changes or not! I am sure that fifty years ago many people were upset by dependence on the telephone and stated that they had no need of one of those new gadgets. However, the way things are in life, "If you are standing still, then you are going backwards." Almost all organizations are going electronic for business and information flow. It is simpler, faster and far less expensive to use this method. We are going through a few growing pains, but before long the national, state and local lodge information will be on the website and should be accessible in real time instead of when a newsletter is generated. This is a much better technique than Email, since the email system has set up a barrier to screen mass mailings and eliminate spam. At some future date it may even be possible to pay your dues on the website, file comments on matters of concern or to look up the Email of any member who wants that data available. Please bear with us and we will improve every month. Remember that a copy of the newsletter is still available at the lodge if there is no other way available for you. Thank you for your patience.

Information or notifications for the newsletter should be sent to me for inclusion in the newsletter. I do not screen or assign any priority to that information. Final review and decision will continue to be placed in the hands of the lodge executive members. I can be reached at (804) 733-1131 or at leesrt6@yahoo.com. The next few months will be quite busy with special events, relocation issues, modernization and exciting retirement program changes for local, state and federal officers. Have a good month and I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Fraternally Yours

Dennis W. Mull

From the desk of the Associate President

Thank you to all that have paid their 2007 dues in such a timely manner. We have received 2/3 of them. Dues need to be received by March 31st. You can mail your \$30.00 to FOP # 47, PO Box 2995, Chesterfield, Va. 23832 or bring them to the March 15th meeting. Please make every effort to attend our Thursday night meeting. It is only one night out of the month. There is so much going on at the Lodge now and we need your support. Our thoughts, prayers and concerns are with Sister Nancy Eubanks, Brother Russ Blakely and Daryl Horton. Brother Drew Laskey's wife Kathy has been in the hospital too. We are here for you all if you need anything! As always, be safe.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting.



From the lodge cooks

The March meeting menu has yet to be decided. We would appreciate any suggestions for the menu. Contact us at thedrivingschool@comcast.net, or call us at 804-275-8467. Betty and Karin



Auxiliary News

Each year the auxiliary awards a \$500.00 scholarship to the dependent of an FOP member. (a person may win this Scholarship only once) "The applicant must be accepted by an accredited college or university, either for two (2) or four (4) years, graduate school, business school or a trade school. Applicants for this scholarship shall have maintained good scholastic standing and shall, in his or her current year, maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average" All application must be post marked on or before May 1st, 2007. You can Email requests for the applications to:

Gale B. Stiles, President
Brandee E. Stiles, Secretary

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact one of the above. Applications will be mailed out on request.

Auxiliary Motto: *"Never Let Them Walk Alone."*

Fraternally
Gale B. Stiles, President
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National Police Officer Memorial week

One **last reminder** about this event. I have attended several years and I will tell you that it almost too late to plan for this special time. Lodging is a critical issue if you want to stay for more than one day. Many police departments and individuals started planning last year! This is an annual special event that every police officer should attend at least once, but the members of Chesterfield police department and FOP 47 should plan on attending. This is a week you will never forget and clearly shows that there is truly a “thin blue line.” The event schedule for the week can be found at I hope to see each of you there in Washington to honor both fallen comrades and the survivors of those comrades.



What is a Torch Run?

The VA Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Virginia is a state wide event with activities throughout the year. These activities range from T-Shirt and Hat Sales to Golf Tournaments to Plane Pulls to Inline Skating events, Polar Plunges, Volleyball Tournaments and more. The Torch Run itself is held in the beginning of June every year as over 3500 Virginia Law Enforcement Officials carry the Torch with the Flame of Hope over 1900 miles.

The Torch arrives in Richmond Virginia during the middle part of June and is taken to the opening ceremonies of the Virginia State Summer Games at The University of Richmond. For information about this worthwhile upcoming event go to:

<http://www.torchrunva.com/>

Howdy all, im back from out of the wire, I will say first of all that these marines and soldiers here are top notch and the bravest men ive ever met, For them we should all be thankful. These men do things everyday that should astonish everyone, even the coward liberal vermin democrats. I was only gone 4 days out in the red zone and it is really scary out there, it seems that death and danger is knocking at your door and because of these men they fight it off and keep on going. Ill start off where it took 2 days to actually get a flight for us to leave our camp, we flew on some sort of helicopter, I forget what its called, its between a blackhawk and a chnuk, to a place called camp bastard,no joke, it was a big sand pit, we dismount the chopper and get into some humvees that were waiting for us. It was a 4 humvee convoy manned by some army national guards out of Minnisota led by Staff SGT Goode,,this man is awesome, he is a pure leader, they were the PTT for Barwana, (ptt is police transition team) thats who we work with.This was my first convoy out into the danger zone. Yes I was sacred to death,gun locked and loaded and fully suited up. We rolled at a moderate pace through the desert, literally in the desert, there wasn't a paved road, we drove in the sand like at the beach, dust was flying everywhere, I have no idea how the drivers could tell where they were going. it was a short run to the Barwana police station where these soldiers and 2 of our guys live. This station is connected to a small marine base. They say we are pretty safe if you don't count that they do get mortared on a regular basis. About ten minutes after we arrived at Barwana we heard one big explosion followed by 2 bigger explosions off in the distance. Later we found out that just after we left camp bastard they got mortared but the stupid insurgents didn't notice the 2 big tanks that saw where they were and needless to say the tanks returned fire right on top of the scumbags. The police station was a pile of crap, actually it was a abandoned house that was taken over and converted into a station. i say police station but they only have 2 police officers working and 17 waiting to be hired, its crazy here did i mention, We met the 17 and they invited us to eat lunch with them. We graciously say ok and wash our hands with bottled water and walk into a small room with a table in the middle with no chairs. Then a man brings 2 large bowls full of rice and meat in it, No utensils are in sight by the way or napkins. I look my new buddies and i look at each other as the Iraqi cops and the staff sgt start to eat. Yes they scoop the food out of the bowl with their fingers and eat it like that. No spoon or fork or plate , just scoop and eat and scoop some more. Did I mention you can only eat with your right hand cause your left is saved for wiping your butt. no joke, Ok that was fun now we sat down with the new recruits for a little meeting to discuss issues they were having. One of the new men is the chief of that station that hasn't even gone to any training yet. There main issue were that they had no uniforms. The chief was a former army officer and he said he a uniform at his house so the staff sgt agreed to take him to his house after dark to retrieve the uniform. All these new officers live at this police station and cant go home yet because if the insurgents find out who they are they will kill them. That night the army sgt and his 12 men take the chief out on a foot patrol to his house to get his uniform, and yes my team decided we would go. We all suited up in full armor and weapons and went for a little walk. That was some scary crap,,, This staff sgt does this a few times a week with the 2 police officers from the station anyway so this was nit new to him. There is a 700pm curfew in this town and we didn't run into anyone on the streets. They told us later that they do see some people sometimes and will detain them to see what's up. The town has quieted down allot in the last 2 months we were told. They said they use to take small arms fire and grenade attacks while on these patrols. Everything went well and we made it back. The next day we hoped in another convoy and went to the haditha dam which is a little base. From there we got up with a special forces group and they convoyed us to the haditha police station. That was a scary trip because that route is famous for ied's. The master sgt running that convoy knew his stuff and he took some crazy route straight through the desert skipping the roads. We arrived and the police station looked even worse but it actually had a manned station. They have around 150 officers. We had another hand scooping dinner with that chief and discussed issues. The next morning we screened potential recruits . These men are brave but also very stupid. Most come even tho they will be threatened or killed. Many cant even read or write. We stayed in a building down the street from the station. Oh yeah

we don't have showers there or a toilet, we have a hole in the ground that Iraqis call a toilet that we urinate in but we do have these wonderful bags that we poop in, all you former military should know what im talking about,, great stuff,, you've never lived until you've pooped in a bag then had to carry it out to the burn barrel. Everything is on a mini marine base that is again fairly safe since the marines cleared the town a few months back. Still there are many murders in town. We did not go out on any patrols in haditha because its much to dangerous. Marines have been finding lots of pressure plate controlled landmines in the streets. The other day 7 children walking home from school were killed when they stepped on one. That stirred up some support for the marines since the towns people don't want to see their kids get blown up. Im telling you all its crazy out here. Rest assured tho the democrats have no clue, these marines and soldiers are definitely winning this war, they cant lose they are the best, only the politicians can lose. We then convoyed back to the dam today where i watched our helicopter land right on top of the dam. It was an awesome site, in the middle of the night,, no lights anywhere, they fly ion using night vision.....I am sure I am leaving some details out but I am very tired and am going to sleep back in my nice trailer with a wonderful toilet that flushes,, ahhh the finer things in life,,,love ya all,,thanks for listening.

FoP Member Brian Rochefort
In Iraq

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