



Fraternal Order of Police

BlueNote

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“Had You Been For It You’d Have Given Me a Heart Attack” -- Over Two Decades Lobbying for the FOP --

By Jeff Gray – Former Legislative Agent

Twenty-five years isn't wholly accurate. When I was recently honored by the State Lodge at its Spring Board meeting in Durham for my years of service everyone said, “25 years.” That’s mostly true, but the true number of years on the payroll is 23. The other two I was being paid by the State. When Mike Easley was Attorney General in the 1990’s I was one of three attorneys in the now-defunct Law Enforcement Liaison Section. In addition to other duties, each of us was assigned certain law enforcement groups. One had the Chiefs’ Association and the Police Execs; one had the Sheriffs’ Association and some others; and I had the FOP, the North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association (NCLEOA), and the Narcotics Officers Association. (NCNARC was an “interesting” client. More than once they were thrown out of a hotel before I could make it to their meeting. Those were the days!) So, I worked with the FOP leadership, then-Presidents Shell Byars and Lee Walters, for a couple of years on issues of importance to law enforcement in the legislature.



Tex Gray

When I left State government and went into private practice, I thought my involvement with law enforcement was behind me. Little did I know.

I ran into Lee, Don Penix (later President), Buddy Moretz, and Tim Brewer at a NC Association of Executives legislative reception and Lee asked would I be interested in lobbying for the FOP. I jumped at the chance! And there it began. Lee liked to tell people they found me wandering around looking for work so they hired me, and that was not totally inaccurate. I also ended up being the police attorney for a couple of small Eastern North Carolina towns.

Interestingly, the biggest discussion when I was first hired was what to call me. At the time lobbyists were being battered in the media for their influence over Congress, so “lobbyist” as a title was out. We settled on “Legislative Agent.” My contract even required I only use that title.

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The Voice of Law Enforcement

Chaplain's Corner

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Is life good for you? When you look around with all that is happening in our world, the violence and especially the negativity toward law enforcement, the mistrust we have in politics, how can we say or think life is good? For one thing, if you woke up this morning, that is a good thing. If you have a job or income, that is good. If you have food on your table, and if you have friends and family that loves you, then that is good.

I am not saying that everything is pleasant and uplifting in our lives. But life for me is good, because when I feel like I cannot count on anything working out as I hoped and dreamed, I am reminded that God has got this. In James 5:8 the scripture tells us, "***Be patient, resting your hearts on the ultimate certainty.***"

We find that so many things are uncertain, such as misinformation from watching daily news, different and conflicting views with people at work in our social interactions, or wondering if the coronavirus will ever go away. Uncertainty really does make it hard to make wise decisions and keep a positive attitude.

"Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes again. See how farmers wait for their precious crops to grow. They wait patiently for fall and spring rains. You too, must be patient. Don't give up hope. The Lord will soon be here. Brothers and sisters, stop complaining about each other, or you will be condemned. Realize that the judge is standing at the door." (James 5: 7-9). The fact in scripture that God says he is coming back is our proof that God is in control.

Your life situations, and mine, may at times seem to be out of control, and what some of us may be going through may hurt and be painful, but nothing is beyond God's control. If we reflect on God's love for us and trust in his word, this will always make for a good day!!

God's Blessing,

Chaplain Phil Wiggins
NC State Lodge Chaplain
Cell: 919-451-2801



BlueNote

“Had You Been For It You’d Have Given Me a Heart Attack” Continued From Page 1

My very first bill -- not surprisingly -- was a 25 year retirement with unreduced benefits bill. It was introduced by Representative George Miller of Durham. To this day I remember vividly walking down the hall of the Legislative Office Building as he berated me for not warning him that he’d be assailed by the League of Municipalities for sponsoring the bill. Through a succession of similar bills every session for the next two decades that battle with the League never ended. We fought the League; we fought the actuarial numbers; we fought the State Treasurer’s Office; and we fought the powerful leader of the Senate who thought government employees should work 30 years then immediately die! That North Carolina’s two retirement systems were already too generous. We got a bill out of committee twice, and even got one to the House floor, but never succeeded in getting such a bill passed in either chamber.

One of my major failures in life will always be my inability to successfully pass a true 25 year retirement for law enforcement officers. It will come some day, and I hope I live to see it. It is deserved in so many ways.

Over time, the legislative priorities of the FOP became clearly defined. I soon learned that rarely did the members care about some change in the substantive criminal law. The working officers would enforce whatever the elected leadership of our State enacted. What the members of the FOP cared about was the health, safety and welfare of themselves and their fellow officers. The FOP didn’t concern itself with the penalty for possession of methamphetamine; it did care about making assault on a law enforcement officer a felony. (That took years, but we finally succeeded.) The FOP did not lobby for a variety of measures enacted in the early 2000’s regarding underage drinking, sentencing reform or golf carts on our highways but it did care about a cost of living increase (COLA) for government retirees, 25 year retirement, and workers comp issues. The FOP always stayed true to its purpose: A fraternal organization that looked after the needs of its brothers and sisters in law enforcement so as to better serve the citizens they protect.

I haven’t always had to go it alone, however. For one session while Don Penix was President I had the assistance of Robbie Robbins, a retired officer from “up North” who made for a good partner. Then later, President Randy Hagler -- with his Hollywood good looks -- became active in our lobbying efforts.

Past-President Terry Mangum, who had been Legislative Chair before being elected, and continued in that role after election of current President Hagler, had reduced the FOP’s Legislative Goals to three simple concepts, and they remain the guiding light to this day:

- The protection of all law enforcement officers and their rights.
- Oppose any bill that would reduce the benefits or pension of any law enforcement officer.
- Obtain a seat on the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

Central to all that the FOP does is that third Legislative Priority, a long-deserved seat on the Criminal Justice Standards Commission, the body that certifies all officers other than deputies and detention officers. (The similar Sheriffs’ Education and Training Standards Commission has only elected Sheriffs as voting members.) Much like the 25 year retirement bill, almost every legislative session for 22 years I sought introduction of a bill to give the FOP an appointment to the Commission. The battles over this simple, equitable action were many, and they were primarily with the Sheriffs’ Association who actually has no dog in the fight -- but that is another story altogether. Needless to say, we have tried every tactic we could, and I’ve tried “every trick in the book” to obtain passage of a bill, but to no avail.

I will forever contend that the Commission needs to be restructured, and a fair and equitable system of allocating representation be used. A 6800 member nationally recognized law enforcement organization should not be excluded when there are “associations” with fewer than 100 members represented.

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“Had You Been For It You’d Have Given Me a Heart Attack” Continued From Page 3

So what about the title of this article? It’s emblematic of my experience representing law enforcement in our legislature. In the late 1990’s and early 2000’s there was a very liberal Democrat criminal defense attorney in the House. He was Chair of the House Judiciary I Committee and in March 2007 I was trying hard to get yet another Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer bill heard. I’d been trying to see him for days and he had been brushing me off. I got a telephone call from his assistant about 11:00 a.m. and she said, “The Representative can see you at 11:15.” I was 7 blocks away! Hoofing it to the Legislative Building in cowboy boots I felt lightheaded coming in the front doors. I remember the first part of our meeting, but not the last. I left his office and headed straight to the Building’s infirmary, but departed in an ambulance. A heart attack!

Word spreads quickly in the halls of our General Assembly. A couple weeks later I saw this same Representative and after asking how I was doing he commented, “I hope I didn’t give you that heart attack.” I replied, “No, but had you been for our bill you would have.”

Regretfully, lobbying for issues important to law enforcement in their daily lives has not been easy. The same mindset that prevented passage of a meaningful assault on a law enforcement officer bill for so many years still tends to prevail. That whatever it may be, job stress, work-related injuries, possible death, PTSD, and a myriad of other issues, are considered part of the job an officer signs up for, and they can always quit and go do something else. And now, with the anti-policing movement we have seen rise up over the past two or so years, it is even more difficult. In the view of many elected officials, an officer is just a cog in the machine and it’s easier to replace the cog than oil it.

But I would have never traded the past 25 years for anything. My representation of the FOP as its Legislative Agent has been a great honor. A title I have worn with pride, knowing that my actions in the General Assembly were always on the side of right and good.

I have worked with great leadership -- Presidents such as Shell Byars, Lee Walters, Don Penix, Terry Mangum and Randy Hagler, an evolving Executive Board made up of committed members, and an Auxiliary second to none. But most of all I have made life-long friends. Officers from around the State, from every agency local, State and federal, active and retired who were Brothers and Sisters with each other became my brothers and sisters. That made what I did important. I wasn’t just lobbying for the “FOP,” I was lobbying for them.

So to all, thank you. Thank you for supporting me and being my friend, but most important, thank you for answering the call to service and for caring enough to be a member of the best organization for law enforcement offices in the world!

Independence Day

By Terry Mangum – Immediate Past State President

I hope all of my Fraternal Order of Police Brothers and Sisters across the great State of North Carolina are doing well. And I wish all of you a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Whether you call it the Fourth of July, Independence Day or July 4th, this day has been celebrated as the birth of American independence since 1776. The Continental Congress voted in favor of independence on July 2, 1776, and two days later the delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. Today, celebratory festivities on Independence Day range from parades, fireworks, and concerts to family gatherings and cookouts. In 1870, the U.S. Congress adopted a provision that made July 4th a federal holiday and in 1941 it was expanded to make it a paid holiday for all federal employees. For me, Independence Day is our most important national holiday and symbolizes patriotism and freedom. And the American flag and our National Anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner” are two of the most prevalent symbols of our Independence Day celebrations. Enjoy this day and take the time to reflect on the reasons for our celebration. May God Bless America.

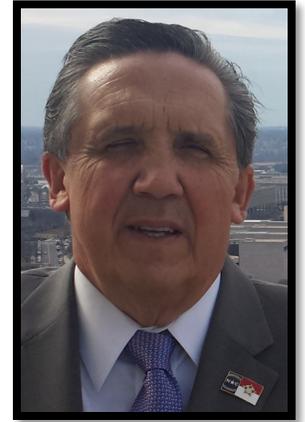
If I may be of assistance to you, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, I am here to serve you and our membership.

President's Message

By Randy Hagler – State President

Welcome to the July/August 2021 issue of the official publication of the 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 your law enforcement friends, family, and supporters. It contains important information concerning our organization and law enforcement across the State.

This issue of the BlueNote will be out prior to the start of the 65th Biennial National FOP Conference and Expo being held in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 15-19. Hopefully, if you plan to attend, you have already made your hotel reservations as the deadline was June 15th. Delegates from NCFOP will be staying at the Crown Plaza Hotel close to the Convention Center. If you are planning to attend, please visit the website dedicated to the National Conference at fopindy2021.org. You will find a great deal of information about the conference and all of the conference events which will be occurring.



The National Lodge has asked each State to pick up all registration materials for our delegates. I will be asking our Executive Board members attending the conference to assist with this request. There will be more information prior to the conference about where you will pick up your conference material, most likely it will be in the lobby of our hotel on Sunday afternoon/evening. Everyone attending is reminded that NCFOP delegates will be caucusing each day (Monday–Wednesday) 30 minutes after the day's session ends to discuss anything we will be voting on the next day. We will most likely be hearing from candidates who are seeking office in the National Lodge during this time. We will try to keep the meeting short to allow time for you to attend one of the seminars being offered at the conference. The location of the caucus will be in the convention center in a location TBD.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the BlueNote, the NC Legislature has been busy so far but unfortunately not a lot has made it out of both the House and Senate and to the Governor's desk. One bill that did make it to the Governor's desk, with bi-partisan support, was SB 43 Protect Religious Meeting Places, but unfortunately, he vetoed the bill! This bill would have expanded concealed carry to include religious services held on school campuses if the church service did not take place during school hours. As you are aware, firearms are already allowed at church services if the church approves. This simple, no-nonsense protection would have expanded the current law to allow all church members to have the same rights even if they are using a school building to hold worship services. As I mentioned, this bill did have bi-partisan support in both the NC House and Senate so if there is a veto override vote taken and the legislators vote the same way they did on the bill, this bill could still become law. Some legislators have changed their votes previously to side with the Governor's veto, so we will see what happens this time.

Some other legislation we are tracking:

Introduced

- HB 846 – 25 Year retirement bill for first responders (law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel who are already members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System or the Local Government Employee's Retirement System to retire with unreduced benefits after achieving twenty-five years of creditable service and making conforming changes.
- HB 417 – The Sergeant Mickey Hutchins Act / Would allow an officer to purchase at full cost up to four years creditable service toward retirement in either the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission or the NC Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission.
- HB 115 – Would provide a seat on NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission for NCFOP.

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Passed in the NC House

- HB 805 – Increase penalties for rioting
- HB 761 – Increase penalties for breaking into police vehicles
- HB 213 - Improve cell phone data access for police agencies
- HB 647 – Allow retired law enforcement officers to return to work without retirement penalty (please read entire bill, very restrictive)
- HB234 – Require destruction of a firearm used to assault an officer
- HB 648 – Allow emergency aid to injured police K9's
- HB 741 – Allow line of duty death benefits for 911 operators

Passed in NC Senate

- SB 300 – Criminal Justice Reform Act
- SB 374 – Use of blue lights on fire apparatus

Everyone is encouraged to visit the NC General Assembly website (ncleg.gov) and read all the bills to fully understand them. Just because these bills have passed either the House or the Senate does not mean they will become law. They must pass both sides of the chamber and then be signed by the Governor.

Until next time, stay safe and back each up!

BlueNote Information and Submission Dates for 2021

By Terry Mangum – Executive Editor

I certainly hope you enjoy the July/August issue of our publication. In this issue we bid a fond farewell to a dear friend and welcome a new member to our Legislative team. Please **read** and then **share** the BlueNote with your fellow law enforcement officers, both members and non-members. The BlueNote is your publication so help the NCFOP by contributing articles and photographs.

You have two more opportunities in 2021 to submit articles and photos of your Lodge's activities. And there is an added bonus. Articles about your lodge activities can generate interest in the FOP from any non-FOP law enforcement officers in your area and can generate new members.

And remember, any FOP member can submit an article for the BlueNote. You do not have to be a Local Lodge or State Lodge officer. Submitting articles is an extremely simple and easy process. All you have to do is write a short article, e-mail your article to my e-mail address terrymangum@frontier.com and we will do the rest. If it needs a little dressing up, I will take care of making your article worthy for publication. Now what could be easier?

You can also send a photograph to accompany your article. When submitting photographs, please select one or two of your best and include the names of the individuals in the picture. You can even send just a photograph without an article. All you need to do is let me know who is in the photo, what was the occasion, and when and where did it take place. I will generate a caption to go with the photo.

Below are the Article Submission Due Dates for the 2021 issues of the BlueNote.

Article Submission Due Dates for 2021:

September/October issue: Due by August 20, 2021

November/December issue: Due by October 22, 2021

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.



Grand Lodge Update

By Dennis McCrary – NC National Trustee

The timing worked out good on this BlueNote edition as I just finished the National Board of Trustees Teleconference on June 15. I will take several paragraphs to summarize the highlights of the meeting for our readers.

Certainly, one of the most important topics for law enforcement officers in today's atmosphere is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. All of you should know that it has passed the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate. The House version was very bad for public safety officers in the United States. President Yoes and our legislative group are working hard almost every day to have the Senate make changes that will greatly lessen the negative effect on our profession. Our group is working with especially Senators Booker and Scott to get a bill that we could live with. The only two law enforcement organizations that are working directly with the Senate group are the FOP and IACP. This certainly appears that it is one area where we see eye to eye. There have been some other law enforcement organizations that are upset that they were not involved in negotiations but it is in the officers' best interest to keep the number involved small. The next two weeks, from the date of our teleconference, are very critical in determining the outcome of this legislation. There are some very sensitive negotiations ongoing and I hope to have more to share with you in the near future.



The current atmosphere around policing in America has resulted in some unions, that cover employees other than law enforcement officers, taking some negative actions toward the law enforcement officers. Some, including the AFL-CIO are sharing with their members that they may not be covered by the Union for actions that the Union determines was not "morally right." We are so very fortunate that the FOP legal plan does not judge any of our actions that occur on duty...they are always covered.

Covid has certainly slowed down in the Country but we have still lost 493 officers. Please continue to keep those officers and their families that have suffered so much from this horrible virus in your thoughts and prayers. Covid issues continue to be of concern to our members. One federal judge has ordered that all transporting marshals in his jurisdiction must have been vaccinated for Covid. He has said that any that do not get vaccinated will be held in contempt of court. This is certainly being fought but who knows what other restrictions may be on the horizon.

Just a reminder that Per Captia and all fees are due by July 1. You will not be able to pay these expenses at the National Conference so your delegates can not vote unless everything is paid before that date.

Secretary Holderfield is encouraging the President or Secretary to pick up their credentials in mass for their local lodges at the Conference. You should email credentials@fop.net or call the National Office for instructions on how to do this.

All members can go the website <https://fop.net/2021-conference-seminars> to see a list of training courses that will be offered during the National Conference.

The FOP continues to be the voice of law enforcement across the nation. There have been 72,878 media mentions between August 15, 2019 and June 1, 2021 of the FOP. The next closest group to us is the IACP at 14,043. It is obvious that no one comes close to the national recognition that the FOP enjoys.

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Grand Lodge Update Continued From Page 7

The ACLU is launching a campaign attacking police groups across the nation for their lobbying power. They want to expose what they claim “is a huge problem in our country” and encourage others to fight against this issue. The title of their commentary was “Protect People, Not Police Lobbyists.” Just something to keep in mind.

The large FOP Disaster Area Response Team trailer is now finished and should be in Nashville, where it will be stored. The Committee will be developing a volunteer roster and all of those approved will have to receive training provided by the American Academy of Disaster Medicine. Training will probably be available online but there may also be a session at the National Conference.

Articles are needed for the National FOP Journal to share relevant information with lodges across the country. Please send any articles to SSimpson@fop.net.

We have an urgent need for door guards at the National Conference. Please consider volunteering for a few hours to help with security for our members. Attendees are asked to email Sgt at Arms Keith Turney at Kturney@fop.org as soon as possible to volunteer.

This is certainly not everything that was discussed during the meeting but it is most of the highlights. Please contact me if you have any further questions about what is happening on the national level. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Trustee. Let me know if I can be of assistance to your lodge or any member.

Is Your Lodge Spending Money It Doesn't Have To?

By Kevin Hornaday – Chairman Constitution and By-laws/Compliance Committee

Death and taxes. These are two words that always seem to accompany each other. You may ask, “What does that have to do with the FOP?”

One of the most important duties of your lodge is to file taxes. Doing so preserves not only your local lodge, but keeps the good standing of the State and Grand Lodges. It also establishes your privilege to operate as a 501(c)(8) non-profit organization. 501(c)(8) organizations are tax-exempt, although unlike 501(c)(3) organizations, they are not qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Taxes for non-profits are treated slightly differently than corporations. Failing to file does not incur penalties, but failing to file for three years revokes your lodge's tax-exempt status. As some lodges have found out, this makes every dollar you take in, including dues and donations, taxable. That can spell the end of your lodge.

While filing is an annual requirement, it does not have to be an expensive one. Many lodges pay hundreds, and sometimes thousands of dollars to accountants that is not necessary. If your lodge takes in less than \$50,000 in gross receipts, on average, you only have to file Form 990-N, commonly referred to as an E-Postcard. There are a few other restrictions, and you can find complete information at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>.

The Grand Lodge takes taxes seriously, and you should too. In fact, there is a resource at the Grand Lodge to assist your lodge with IRS issues. The FOP site at <https://fop.net/lodge-resources/fop-lodge-irs-compliance/> has a wealth of information that can benefit your lodge as well as a resource in Mr. Bob Krone, who can help answer your tax questions. In addition, Bob will be conducting a break-out session at the National Conference for tax awareness for local lodges. I would encourage you to check that out if you are in Indianapolis.

As always, the Constitution and By-laws/Compliance Committee is here to assist you. Most importantly, do not forget to file your taxes.

My Brother's Keeper

By Robert E. Gaddy, Jr. – State Vice President

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as your elected NC State Vice President and be a part of such a great organization. I want to personally thank each of you for your commitment and dedication to the Order, clearly making us the best Law Enforcement support organization! ***Your willingness to work in the profession and be a change maker doesn't come easy and is appreciated and does not go without recognition from the State Executive Board.***

*Does Diversity and Inclusion fit in in today's law enforcement profession? As leaders in the profession, do we practice what we preach when it comes to this topic? Or are we just saying it, seeing it, or acknowledging it only when it is convenient or necessary. For the last two years, I have had the pleasure to serve as the National Diversity Committee Chairman, and despite the pandemic, I have had the great pleasure of traveling to various FOP functions. For those of you who may have missed it, **WE HAVE A VERY DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP and Organization.** To my FOP brother who was in Nashville, and attended the Strategic Planning Session; **DIVERSITY and INCLUSION... are NOT THE SAME!** They both have two different meanings or definitions. Furthermore, if you only have one of something, **THAT DOES NOT MAKE YOU DIVERSE!** Sorry everyone, I had to get that off of my chest!*

*To simplify things: **Diversity** is simply representing many different types of people (gender, race, ability, religion). **Inclusion** is the deliberate act of welcoming diversity and creating an environment where all people can thrive and succeed.*

- **Diversity** often focuses on the differences and is referred to as "the mix."
- **Inclusion** is the act of "making the mix work."
- **Diversity** is what you have.
- **Inclusion** is what you do.

Simply having a diverse group, team, workforce, organization, etc., is not enough anymore. Everyone should feel safe and encouraged to fully participate and share and be on equal footing as everyone else. *That is it. I can't make it any plainer than that! The FOP and the Law Enforcement Profession have become entrenched with what is known as Generational Diversity, which means having people of a wide range of different ages represented in the Organization.* In 2020, we had five generations working side by side. So, from the Traditionalist generation to GEN 2020 generation, they all were working together! As you can imagine, I am confident that this has created some unfamiliar places and situations and had several of the generations (you) saying, *"What is wrong with y'all!"* For the record, I am pretty sure I have heard this in an FOP meeting or two! Nonetheless, as brothers and sisters, we have to learn to accept our brothers and sisters from these generations and understand that times have changed for us all. Realistically, the landscape of society has changed, and so has the workplace/organization. In years past, African Americans, Women, Hispanics, Gays, Lesbians, Asians, and many others were not permitted, welcomed, nor encouraged to be members of the Order. Let's face it, in 1915, there was not a huge push to diversify the FOP nor many other things! However, in 2021, so much has changed, and we have continued to grow as a worldwide organization. Now when someone says labor and rights of law enforcement, 99% of the time, the Fraternal Order of Police is the Organization that comes to mind or come up during a Google search. That is why we MUST recognize ALL of our members and whatever or whomever they identify with or as. The founding fathers of this great country called America the giant melting pot, which can now be seen or is reflected through our Order. In the book of Genesis, *"the Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"* I say to each of you YES, we are our Brother's (and Sister's) keeper. We have to put aside our differences and respect each other for the choices we make.

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A Message From Your Chairman of Trustees

By John R. Byrd Sr.

Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this issue of the Blue Note continues to find you staying safe and well. Fortunately, it looks like we are finally starting to turn this Covid thing around.

Some of the things I have done since my last message are:

- We are getting things in order for our next Lodge #74 raffle. It looks like we will have over 20 prizes this time.
- Sent out a Trustees Update email, week before last, about the dispersal of State Lodge property. So far, I have had only one response from any lodge that wants anything. Please try to let us know by July 1st if you are interested in any of the items
- Attended a couple of virtual E-Board meetings since my last correspondence.
- Submitted this “Blue Note” article on June 19th.
- My situation has changed somewhat. I have become my Father’s full-time care giver since he moved in with me at the end of May. Keep us both in your thoughts and prayers!!!

As always, I am here to serve you and your lodge. You can call me anytime at 336-504-8173 or email me at person7454@yahoo.com. I hope you are finding my periodic email updates to be a useful tool to keep your membership informed on the ongoing workings of your State E-Board. It is an Honor to serve as your Chairman of Trustees.

My Brother’s Keeper Continued From Page 9

Although some choices may not agree with our philosophical beliefs, we are still brothers and sisters. We should do everything to support each other if we hope to enhance each other's creativity, drive innovation, and help to expand the lodge's reach. Members from diverse backgrounds will bring fresh perspectives to the table, leading to enhanced creativity and innovation. Diversity promotes creative thinking. Diversity expands your capacity for viewing issues or problems from multiple perspectives, angles, and vantage points. Diversity enhances self-awareness. Learning from people whose backgrounds and experiences differ from your own sharpens your self-knowledge and self-insight by allowing you to compare and contrast your life experiences with others whose life experiences differ sharply from your own.

As always, I challenge each of you to become an agent of change by taking ownership of those things that we can change professionally and those things that we can improve as an organization.



Legislative Update

By Wayne King – State Legislative Agent

The North Carolina General Assembly got off to a great start with some sixteen hundred bills introduced in both chambers. As you can imagine, most of these bills will never see the light of day and have been assigned to committees where they will most likely die.

As many of you know, one of the priorities this session for the NCFOP again is HB115, which adds a seat specifically for a member of the NCFOP to serve on the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. The bill was sent to the House State Government Committee along with a similar bill that was introduced on behalf of the PBA. President Hagler and I spoke to the dozens of legislators from both parties regarding the need for this legislation, including members of the House leadership that supports this legislation. We are continuing to work with members that are champions of this legislation to highlight the need to [advance this proposal in some fashion this session.](#)



The NCFOP Executive Board met virtually on June 15 with House Appropriations Chairman, State Representative Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) regarding House Bill 846, 25-year retirement for first responders. Representative Saine expressed his desire for NCFOP members to call their legislators and express support for this piece of legislation to move forward.

As you read this newsletter, the NC budget which started in the NC Senate this year will be sent to the NC House for consideration. Do not think for a minute that the NC Senate budget will be passed without modifications from the NC House. Once these modifications occur, Speaker Moore and Senate President Pro Tempore Berger will appoint conferees for agreement by both chambers before it heads to Governor Cooper's desk. As you might remember, Governor Cooper has not signed a budget since he took office. Leaders in the House and the Senate have agreed to include no more than \$25.7 billion in the spending plan for the two-year period which would amount to a 3.45% increase in spending. It is significantly less than the \$27.3 billion in Governor Roy Cooper's proposed budget plan. If Governor Cooper vetoes the state budget as in years past, it raises the prospects that lawmakers will again turn to "mini budgets" to fund priorities they can agree on and leave the rest for later.

As this legislative session moves forward, I encourage each of you to invite members of the legislature to your meetings and get to know them on a personal basis. It is always good for legislators to hear from constituents who can vote for them. I am happy to help coordinate and invite members to your meetings/events if you would like. Please keep me informed of your interactions where I can follow up with the members as well. No interaction with a member of the legislature is too small.

It is an honor to represent the NCFOP and I value this relationship to help advance the needs of its members.

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NORTH CAROLINA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE FOUNDATION, INC., EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

By: Greg Brown – Vice President NCFOP Foundation, Inc.

Each year the NC Fraternal Order of Police Foundation awards educational scholarships to the natural or adopted child of a North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police member, who was killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty and the natural or adopted child of a North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police member in good standing.

When applying for the scholarship, you must be enrolled or accepted for admission in a college, vocational training school, or other educational institution approved by The North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc.

The scholarship is broken down into three sections on the application which I have attached below.

The amount awarded will depend upon many factors, including the amount available for awards, the number of applicants and the cost of the institutions including living arrangements, tuition and other sources of funding. Each application for a scholarship will be reviewed by the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation on a year-by-year basis. A renewal application must be filed each year.

You may find an electronic or downloadable copy of the scholarship application on the States website at NCFOP.org under the Foundation Section.

SECTION A:

To assist the children of North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police members who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty, by providing funds so that they may complete their educational studies in appropriate post-secondary educational institutions, including college and vocational training, with grants and scholarship awards made through the recipient's educational institution.

SECTION B:

To assist the children of Fraternal Order of Police members who have obtained residency in North Carolina and currently is an Active Member in Good Standing with the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, who have been permanently disabled in the line of duty, by providing funds so that they may complete their educational studies in appropriate post-secondary educational institutions, including college and vocational training, with grants and scholarship awards made through the recipient's educational institution.

SECTION C:

To assist the children of North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Active Members in Good Standing, by providing funds so that they may complete their educational studies in appropriate post-secondary educational institutions, including college and vocational training, with grants and scholarship awards made through the recipient's educational institution. The Foundation will award four \$500.00 scholarships each year for this section.



TRIVIA

We Have A WINNER!!!

Well, we once again have, for the May/June Trivia contest, a repeat winner. **Byron Highland**, State Trustee of Pitt-Greenville Lodge 69, is once again the **grand prize winner** of the BlueNote **TRIVIA** contest. Byron correctly identified the two individuals in the photograph as Kevin Hornaday and Tom Navarre. Many thanks to everyone who played **TRIVIA** and sent in a response. There were many correct answers received for this photograph but if you are playing **TRIVIA** against Byron Highland you need to respond with lightning speed.

If you have not 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 Pro **Byron Highland**. Remember, it is never too late to submit your guess. But lately the responses have been coming in fast so you should send in your responses as quickly as possible. I hope to see your name listed as the BlueNote **TRIVIA** grand prize winner in the next issue.

TRUMPET FANFARE!!!

This is the game that everyone likes to play. It is now your opportunity to participate in another exciting round of BlueNote **TRIVIA**.

Can you identify the three (3) individuals sitting around the table (Knights of the Round Table) in this photograph. Remember to send me your answer as quickly as you can.

If you can identify the three (3) individuals in this photograph, 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 September/October 2021 issue of the BlueNote along with the name of the **first** individual submitting the correct answer.

