

THE WATCHFUL EYE

Official Publication of the Ga State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police

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Rocks, Taylor and Yoes

were elected to the National F.O.P. Executive Board at the Board of Trustees meeting which was held in Savannah, Ga. in March of this year. The Georgia State Lodge hosted the Board of Trustees meeting in Savannah by providing transportation and holding a low country boil for the members on River Street.

Kenneth Rocks was elected to the position of National Vice President. Kenneth was born in Pennsylvania in 1950 and grew up representing the trials of the working man in a union environment, as his father and grandfather were union plumbers. He joined the Army in 1967 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division and 173rd Airborne

Brigade. At the age of 18 he was promoted to Sergeant while serving in Vietnam. Ken served two tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was awarded the Bronze Star. After his discharge from the military, he joined the Philadelphia Police Department in 1971.

R. Michael Taylor was elected to the position of National Second Vice President. Mike joined the Capital City F.O.P. Lodge #9 upon graduation from the Columbus, Ohio, Division of Police Academy in 1980. He is active at the State level, where he currently serves his membership as the State Secretary, a position that he has held for 8 years.

He was recognized as a Legislative Agent for the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police's legislative program in 1990 and has chaired the program since 1994.

Patrick Yoes was elected to the position of National Sergeant-at-Arms. In 1984, he joined and became very active in St. Charles F. O. P. Lodge #15 where he has served in nearly every elected position on the lodge's executive board, including six terms as lodge president. He is active at the state level as well, where he has served more than eight years on the Louisiana State Lodge Executive Board. He is presently serving as State Lodge President.



THE WATCHFUL EYE is

the official publication of the Georgia State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police. Send all inquires to Georgia State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, P.O. 91220 East Point, Ga. 30364

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The Watchful Eye

Editor - Marlin Humphrey
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SECRETARY/ TREASURER

The 2003 FOP National conference will be held in Providence, RI, August 2nd through August 7th. The Georgia delegation will be staying at the Comfort Suites Hotel located at 10 Keyes Ways, West Warwick, RI. For reservations you may call 401-826-1800. You have until 7/4/03 to make your reservation. If you will be representing your lodge as a Delegate or Alternate you must make sure your lodge Secretary has forwarded credentials to the National office and given you a copy to take with you to the conference. Remember, you must take your credential copy with you in order to register. If you have any questions, you may call the National office at 1-800-451-2711.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 'Oh Three', not yet half past, has already been written, typed, stamped, and stuck on zillions of recently created memories, many of historical significance to be recalled for years to come by all Americans. We have also experienced countless other events that will be indelibly recorded in our minds because of their importance to us as individuals, as citizens, as law enforcement officers, and as FOP members.

This past week, having been established as National Police Week, and with May 15th each year set aside for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, was predetermined to be such a memorable event for thousands who went to our nation's capital to participate in the memorial activities. President George W. Bush delivered a very sincere speech in which he shared his personal gratitude for the sacrifices made by the fallen officers and by their families. Even more moving than his words from the dais was what followed when President Bush stepped down from the podium to spend over an hour and a half speaking individually with many of the survivors. The grief on their faces faded momentarily as the President took the time to speak with all who extended a hand. These were the spouses, the children, the mothers and fathers of our fallen brothers and sisters; and the President of the United States took the time to let them know that he cares. That was indeed a meaningful and memorable event.

The names of their loved ones are engraved in the walls of the National Peace Officers Memorial so that they will be forever honored and never forgotten. Attend just one National Memorial Service. Look at the faces. Look at the children. You will not forget.

I cannot mention the National Memorial Service without paying tribute to those who made it happen. This is an FOP sponsored event, organized jointly by the Grand Lodge FOP and the Grand Lodge FOP Auxiliary. The committee chairs are Marcello Marchetti for the FOP and Sharon Valtiera and Karen Lippe for the Auxiliary. Security for this event, given the location, the overall threat level regarding terrorism, the attendance of the President, and the huge number of law enforcement officers in attendance, is tighter than I have ever seen. To accomplish this requires the involvement and cooperation of practically every LE agency with a presence in Washington D.C. as well as all those serving on the FOP and Auxiliary committees. Security is only one aspect of the event. The logistics included assembling some 1200 family members in roll call order at their hotel in Alexandria, clearing all through rigid security, transporting them to the Capital in 15 buses through standing still traffic, seating them in roll call order, insuring that each escort officer is in the right place at the right time, names pronounced correctly, flowers for placement in the wreath, presentation medals in order, all unrehearsed and under stressful circumstances, not to mention having everyone in place and seated prior to the President's scheduled arrival time. The Memorial Service was the culmination of many months of planning and preparation by a dedicated and talented group of our own that brought it all together without a hitch. They are all to be commended for a job well done.

Dan Scoggins

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Carlton Stallings

There is Strength in Numbers

As the end of another legislative session draws near, your FOP is working hard for you. While this session has been consumed with budget problems, there still remain issues that affect us all. As we gain ground under the Gold Dome every year, the average police officer has more and more input into legislation that will affect them.

Today, every officer has access to vital information through our professional and well maintained FOP website. Not only does it stay current on local legislation, but national as well. This is a resource not available in years past.

Local lodges are now informed on important legislative issues and of our progress in Atlanta on a regular basis giving each lodge an opportunity to get involved on a local level. Keep in mind that there are two reasons for getting involved. One is if you are for a piece of legislation and one is if you are opposed.

It is always gratifying to hear from a Senator or Representative that has attended an FOP function, such as a lodge outing or as a guest speaker. This is where "grassroots" begins.

I urge each lodge to stay abreast of legislation that affects us all and to let your voice be heard. By this "grassroots" method, our organization only grows stronger.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN LODGE #86

Nothing brings in members like good food. Members of Lodge 86 enjoyed an old fashioned cookout on April 8th, in Trenton, Georgia.



Lodge 86 President SFC Don Stultz talks with Trenton PD Officers Lane Tatum, Todd Gann and Assistant Chief Buddy Mullins during the April cookout.



Lodge 86 members enjoy fellowship as the food cooks. Left to right: Chris Hartman -Ft. Oglethorpe PD, Scottie Heddon-Ga. Probation, Chief Roger Castleberry-Trenton PD, Asst Chief Buddy Mullins-Trenton PD, Trenton Police Commissioner Don Smith and Officer Stan Hartline-Trenton PD.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

David Stone
Legislative Chairman

The Georgia State Lodge had the honor of hosting a Grand Lodge Executive Board meeting in Savannah last March. Over 200 Board members, family and guests attending the event. From all reports and comments, the event was a tremendous success. The meeting itself resulted in the election of a new national Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Sergeant at Arms to fill the void left by the deaths of Steve Young and Ray Franklin. Our National Executive Board must be congratulated on a smooth transition and their ability to continue to conduct the business of this organization through the hardest of times. I want to personally express my appreciation to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to make the Georgia State Lodge stand out as hosts. Your many hours of work in so many areas projected a very positive image of our state and membership. Particular congratulations go to Brother J.D. Hawk who's coordination and planning made this event the success it was.

At this writing, the Georgia General Assembly has finally completed its session, taking almost five months to finish its forty days of work. Although the final disposition of all the legislation is awaiting posting, very few pieces of legislation passed both houses. The General Assembly became mired in lengthy debates over the budget, flag issues and ethics. Combined with a new Republican Governor, Republicans ruling the Senate and a

new speaker in the House of Representatives, gridlock prevailed throughout the entire session. The Legislative Committee tracked a large number of bills during the session and posted weekly updates on the State Lodge website. The final report will be posted and remain for several weeks for all to review. Once again, Mo Thrash did an outstanding job on the behalf of the State Lodge.

Nationally, the Grand Lodge continues to work on the FOP agenda. The primary goal remains the passage to HB 218, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. As of this writing, Georgia still has several members of Congress who have not signed on this bill. Even though this Committee is working hard to get every member of the Georgia delegation on this legislation, your help is necessary. If you sincerely want to see this legislation pass, if your Representative is listed, you must contact them and let them know your desires. Everyone's help is essential in contacting Senator Miller and seeking his support. You can use the Grand Lodge web site under "write to congress," call their local district offices or send a fax to their office in Washington. Remember, this is a grassroots effort and you are the one that will make grassroots work. Both Grassroots Chairman Carlton Stallings and I thank you in advance for your help in this effort.

Georgia Delegation not committed:

Senator Miller

Representatives Marshall (3rd),
Majette (4th),
Lewis (5th),
Collins (8th),
Burns (12th),
Scott (13th).

All except Lewis and Collins are first term members. Your opinions will help.

For the past three years, I had arranged for Mrs. Marie Barnes, the former First Lady of Georgia, to act as the Honorary Chairperson of our Shop With a Cop event. After the election of Sonny Purdue as Governor, I made the same request of his wife, Mary. I believed that with all that had been said of their interest in children, she would have leaped at this opportunity. Unfortunately, the answer was no. Her letter cited scheduling conflicts for December. The Executive Board is working on ideas for a replacement and I will keep you informed of our progress.

COOSA VALLEY LODGE #14

The Coosa Valley Lodge #14 sponsored our Second Annual "Shop With A Cop", December 14, 2002. We had 80 of the area children at K-Mart in Rome and they all got to spend between \$175.00 and \$200.00 each. It was very successful and we all had a really great time. We spent almost \$11,000.00 on this event and the number of children doubled from last year. We plan on working on next year's "Shop With A Cop" campaign in July 2003 and hopefully we can raise more money.

Kelly Flowers
Vice President

RE-ORGANIZING SAD RETIREMENT PLANS

Michael P. Hoffman
NAII

Are you still opening and looking at your 401k or 457 Deferred Compensation Plan quarterly statements? Or, like many are you just sticking them in a drawer to be opened, maybe someday in the future? Well, you are not alone. Some people are so depressed and disgusted with their investments they hope by ignoring these statements they may miraculously get better.

Unfortunately, avoiding bad news today will most likely prolong the pain. And, the closer you get to retirement the more difficult it will become to recover. The good news however, is that bad markets don't last forever. If you study the stock market over the last 150 years you can clearly see that our economy has its ups and downs and even since 1925 through 2002 the Dow Jones Industrial Average is on an upward positive slope. So, for one, I think this is a good time to re-evaluate our portfolios and perhaps for the future change the way and where we allocate our savings.

I have listed a few helpful ideas that you could implement to improve your investing methodology.

1. Forget about finding funds with annual returns of 80, 90 or 140 percent. In my opinion, the last couple years of the 90's were an aberration. Once again, long-term annual returns in Growth Mutual Funds

between 10 and 16 percent are more reasonable.

2. Learn your Risk Tolerance level. One, really needs to know if they are gamblers, very conservative or somewhere in between. A gambler investing in Bond Mutual Funds will quickly become bored. The opposite is also true. A very conservative investor putting retirement money in Technology Mutual Funds will probably have panic attacks. My experience suggests that individuals who spread their portfolios over several fund families weighted risky, conservative or somewhere in between will derive the most satisfaction.

3. Do not put all of your money into one or two funds. I have literally reviewed hundreds of my client's retirement plans with this city or that county and discovered they would put their money in one mutual fund. And back in the 90's, of course, that particular fund was probably experiencing unbelievable returns. Clearly, they were often good picks at the time, but today most are in the tank! Spread your investments over five to seven funds and try not to duplicate fund objectives. For example, avoid investing in two Growth Mutual Funds or two Global Funds. One of each would be just fine.

4. Avoid the urge to liquidate all your losers. Remember, you only experience a loss or a gain when you close your position. However, you might try this tactic. Stop contributing to the losers altogether. Instead, leave them intact and begin investing new money in new funds. Very often, in time, those funds or industry groups that are out of favor today may return to profitability down the road. The common lament I most

often hear is – "I shouldn't have sold it".

One of the most important rules that I personally follow is to clearly know my investing goal. If you have to, write the goal down on paper, please do that. Then, make a habit of asking questions and searching for answers. If you have an advisor or counselor ask them to help you with selecting funds in your retirement plan. And, finally, don't ignore your quarterly statements. Read them carefully, ask questions and hopefully you will become a happier investor in future.

For questions about this article you can contact me at mhoffman@sammonsrep.com or call at 800-600-6676.

Michael P. Hoffman is a Registered Representative of Sammons Securities, Co., LLC.
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As you can see from the pictures above, the East Central Ga. Lodge #39 had a successful Shop With A Cop program last year. There were 46 kids participating which was a significant increase from 2001. Also, twenty-five different law enforcement agencies participated, including the South Carolina State Patrol, GBI and a local Police Department with only four (4) officers. We anticipate next year's program to be even better.

Edwin Garrett
State Trustee

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them.

If someone takes your checkbook they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes

through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks (DUH!) you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in steal-

ing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know: We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the

Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned

it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes on the Internet; we pass along just about everything. Pass this information along. It could really help someone you care about.

BENNIE G. MADDUX

EASTER SEALS

Robyn Weichel, the Easter Seals 2003 Youth Representative says she can't wait to tell people all about Easter Seals. On her first official assignment, a photo shoot for a public service advertising poster, she talked about her Tae Kwon Do master and the brown belt she's earned. Robyn's mother, Kaye says she was in her element, in the middle of things. Thirteen-year-old Robyn also thought the "hair and makeup" was awesome.

Robyn's parents tease her about her constant chatter. But it's a teenaged trait they're very proud she has mastered. Robyn Weichel was born three months early. "she was one pound, six ounces," explains John Weichell, Robyn's father. Her mother says that she was so tiny "you could put a flashlight to her back and see through her."

When she was 9 months old, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Parents for the first time, both remember their fear. John says "we were terrified." Kaye describes their desperation; "We had nowhere to turn, so thank goodness we found Easter Seals." For Robyn and her parents, Easter Seals was the early intervention program in West Palm Beach, Fl.

Easter Seals therapists worked with Robyn and her parents. At age 3, when she graduated from early intervention services, Robyn was walking and talking with a communications picture board. Speech came later and, at age 7, Robyn made a major breakthrough, nudged to speak by a program called "Swimming with Dolphins." Robyn doesn't like to talk about when she was very little. But she's eager to talk about how she volunteers at Easter Seals Child Development Center. She says she loves the babies and reading stories at naptime.

She continues to work with physical, occupational and speech lan-

guage therapists, and her Tae Kwon Do master. At the top of her list of Easter Seals favorites is camp. Her dad says, "Robyn likes to do everything. She likes her music. She likes to giggle about the boys. She likes school. And she loves Disney World and Harry Potter."

This year, Robyn says she wants "to travel and show other kids that they can do amazing things if they work hard." "But," she adds a qualifier, "maybe not photo shoots."

For more than 80 years, Easter Seals has been providing services that help children and adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Our primary services - medical rehabilitation, job training and employment, inclusive child care, adult day services, and camping recreation - benefit more than one million individuals and their families each year through one of 450 centers nationwide.

God of Grace

We come to you, O God, an unfaithful people. We have sinned against you and done much that is evil in your sight. The Shadows of sin dominates us, and our secret faults separates us from the light and knowledge of your presence. Have mercy on us, blot out our transgressions, forgive our iniquity, and remember our sin no more. Purge us and we will be clean. Wash us and we will be purer than new fallen snow. O God, forgive us and grant us a new and right spirit, we pray.

Amen

R. E. Orr

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