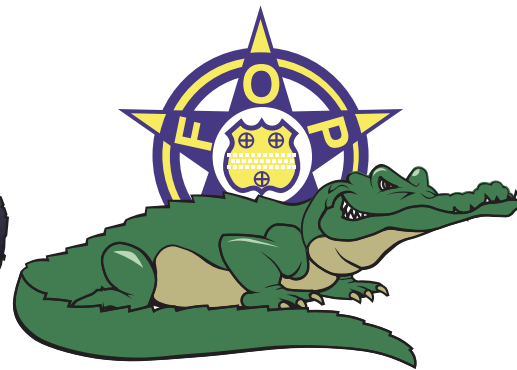


# Florida On Patrol



*Spring/Summer 2002*



## From the President

The events of the past several months have been overwhelming. So much to be done and there is never enough time to complete everything we want to accomplish.

Let's start with the Florida State February Board of Trustees' Meeting in Fort Lauderdale. A number of false concerns had been generated by uninformed members about the status of our Labor Council Committee, the Councils financial status, employees, spending practices and so on. I am pleased to report to the membership that all is completely in order and up and running professionally. During the transition periods, we didn't miss a beat nor did we receive any complaints from Legal Defense Members or Labor Council Lodges. Chairman Jeff McAdams has taken complete control of the Labor Council Committee (L.C.C.) and is utilizing the expertise of George Hachigian as Senior Staff Representative. Paul Noeske, Joe Puleo, and John Puleo are progressing well communicating with one another making great strides in improving member representation. We are also pleased to announce the hiring of our newest Staff Representative Gary Evans who will be handling the northern part of the state. Gary is the former President of Jacksonville Lodge 5-30 and soon to be former District 2 Director. Gary comes to us "Up and Running" in the important area of Contracts, Police Officer Representation and the RULES of behavior of an F.O.P. Member. Gary begins his employment on June 3, 2002.

Finally, regarding the L.C.C., let me congratulate Martin Garcia, Kenny Mack and Ralph Dean for the exemplary manner they conducted their investigation into the former Florida Labor Council and the positive conclusions they reached as a result of their dedicated work. This is why knowledge and experience as well as tenure is so important in the continued success of our great organization.

The F.S.L also is very pleased to introduce Kim Miller; our most recently hired Labor Services Assistant. Kim comes to the F.O.P. trained in the areas of bookkeeping, employee tracking, data entry, Accounts Payable and Receivable. We hope that any lingering problem you or your lodge may have been dealing with is now or will soon be resolved. Thus far, she is just what the Doctor ordered for the L.C.C. support services.

There is a lot more exciting news developing as we speak which will be ready for presentation at the June Conference in Miami Beach.

Speaking of the June Conference, a lot of inaccurate information is being circulated about different costs associated with the hotel, parking, etc. After speaking to Martin Garcia, District 6 Director and this year's host, all are false and everything else highly exaggerated. Also, this

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is an election year. We must have competent members seeking office. State experience and hard work should be your main concern when electing officers to the F.S.L. Board of Directors. Our future depends on it. This is Not an, "On the Job" training program. Your selection of candidates should be up and running concerning the business of the Florida State Lodge.

The F.S.L. also hosted the State Presidents' Conference in Fort Lauderdale this year. Racial profiling, solicitation, coalitions and many other interesting topics were discussed. We were able to provide an excellent Parliamentary Procedure Seminar by Willard Aitchison and a Police Officer Rights Seminar by Senior Staff Representative George Hachigian. This Conference was followed several weeks later by the Southern States Conference. It was also hosted by the F.S.L. in Tampa Florida. Jim Preston Lodge 27 coordinated this event and it truly went off without a hitch. Vice President John Nelson oversaw the hospitality room that was funded by Civic Development Group. Tim Ingold, District 3 Director, Steve DeNigris, Esq. and Ray Edmondson, Florida Public Pension Trustee Association Executive Director, gave very informative Seminars regarding Pensions and Labor issues in a, "Right To Work" State.

May 5, 2002 marked the date of the beginning of Florida State Lodge Memorial Services. The S.C.O.T.T. group presented the Candlelight Vigil Sunday evening and the F.S.L. continued with the recognition of our fallen brothers and sisters as well as Military Personnel represented by the United States Marine Corp., Law Enforcement and Firefighters throughout this great country especially over this past year were also honored. This years service was attended by the majority of the Florida Cabinet and many State Senators and Representatives who really do care about us and our families. On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Jeb Bush for his enduring effort to keep every single promise he made to me personally four years ago. These promises were reiterated to the Political Screening Committee and he received the endorsement of the F.S.L and was finally elected as Florida's Governor. *Lucky Us! Lucky Law Enforcement in Florida! And, Lucky Citizens in our great State!* The Memorial Service, coordinated by the Chaplain Gene Leonard and Donna Suereth was simply a magnificent recognition of our now missing comrades serving another master over another horizon. The Committee, Noel Berry, Ed and Anita Kelly, Pepper Shaw, John Beeman, Jerry Coxen, Doug Pasley, Paul Blanchard, Dennis Acker, Ed Manek, Sherry, Raczka, Terry Drinket, Doug Sarubbi, & Charles Ings. I will try to recognize the many workers that made this year's Memorial a success that weren't on the Committee. Several dedicated participants were Kenny Mack, Larry Ruby, Bob & Minerva Vogel, Bob Simonsen and a special debt of gratitude to Claire Marie Warner for the diligent work put into establishing a register of fallen officers dating back well over 100 years, Lonnie Miller Reverends Crosby and Braswell. This list goes on and on and on. I know I've forgotten someone. For that I am truly sorry. God Bless each of you for a, "Job well done". A personal, "Thank You" Sgt. Mike Martin of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have a signed Heart Bill and will have attended the National Memorial in Washington. D.C.



*Governor Bush addressing the news media at the formal signing of the Public Safety Heart Bill*



*Governor Bush, Lisa Henning, Ericks Consultants, Florida State President Philip Cameron & David Ericks, Ericks Consultants*



*Governor Jeb Bush and Union Law Enforcement Leadership from throughout Florida  
at the formal signing of the Public Safety Heart Bill*

There is so much more I would like to share with you in the message but time forces me to sidetrack to the continued important business of the F.S.L. I look forward to seeing you in Miami Beach. Remember the Agenda is on the web page and changes daily. Brother Ian Moffett will be attaching room assignments to the various committee meetings in the near future. Please follow the Agenda updates every day or so as changes and additions are sure to be posted as they already have.

One final note. For those of us running for state elected office, an Elected Officer's role changes dramatically. You now must look out for the best interests of the entire 22,000 F.O.P. Members statewide, not simply your own lodge or district. Base your reputation and your skills on what YOU do. Remember we are all members of this great organization. Never try to succeed at someone else's expense. Tell us what you bring to the F.O.P. Elected Board not what you think someone else should have brought. I pray this Edition of the F.O.P. Newsletter finds all of our members and their families well and in good health.

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## ***Message from Representative Gus Bilirakis To all Law Enforcement Officers***

Dear Law Enforcement Officer,

It was Sir Winston Churchill who noted, "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others." Today I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and your peers for every courageous act that police officers, and firefighters perform on a regular basis.

Your moral courage and physical strength, along with the profound respect for human life that you exhibit, is at the heart of what makes our country great. True heroism is found in the acts of service and compassion that you perform every day in order to preserve the health and safety of our communities.

Thank you from myself and on behalf of my constituents for your bravery and selflessness as you put your lives on the line each day in service to us.

Gratefully Yours,  
Gus M. Bilirakis, Chairman Crime Prevention, Corrections, & Safety Committee



**FLORIDA STATE LODGE  
LABOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
JEFF McADAMS, CHAIRMAN**



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Let me start by saying that it is an honor as well as pleasure to serve you as Chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police, Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee. For over 10 years the Labor Council Committee has provided its members with some of the best legal defense and bargaining benefits in the country. With the dedicated committee members and employees currently serving our members I am certain our lead will continue to grow.

The Labor Council Committee is currently serving over 4,000 active law enforcement officers. Each and everyday the members that we serve are placed into incredibly stressful situations not knowing if they may have to take a life or worse lose their own life. We all were trained in the latest law enforcement techniques and we took the oath at one time or another to protect and to defend. We knew the risk when we chose this most noble of professions. However, did it ever cross your mind who would protect or defend you, the law enforcement officer? The FOP Florida State Lodge and the FOP Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee that's who.

The Labor Council Committee has contracted with over 40 of the best attorney's in Florida who stand ready at a moments notice to protect and defend our members when they need legal representation. The top quality legal defense coverage we provide is our way of ensuring that you will never stand alone in what is often a dramatic time of your life.

The Labor Council Committee currently employees five of the most experience Staff Representative anywhere. The Staff Representatives are all former law enforcement officers with over 125 years of combined law enforcement experience. Senior Staff Representative George Hachigian and Staff Representatives Paul Noeske, John Puleo, Joe Puleo and Gary Evans are all dedicated to providing you with the best representation and bargaining possible. Senior Staff Representative George Hachigian also travels the state educating our law enforcement officers of their rights according to Florida State Statue 112.

We never rest when it comes to protecting our fellow law enforcement officer and we never will. No law enforcement officer should be without the representation of the FOP Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee legal plan. If you know law enforcement officers who are not members encourage them to protect themselves and their family by joining today. For more information on the legal defense plan or collective bargaining call the Florida State Lodge at 1-888-485-0351 or visit our web-site at [floridastatefop.org](http://floridastatefop.org).

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**OFFICER DECERTIFICATION**

*By: George F. Hachigian  
Senior Staff Representative*

As the Senior Staff Representative for the Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee, one of my duties is to represent our members before the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC). I have even had several nonmembers who the FOP has represented as well.

I have the honor of being the only Non Attorney Qualified Representative who has been certified by the Commission to represent law enforcement officer's in the discipline process.

Many times our members are involved in an Internal Affairs Investigation. What they do not realize is that once the investigation is completed, it is really not over with. The members agency then has to determine if the concluded investigation

falls under the guidelines of “Moral Character,” which also includes any Misdemeanor or Felony whether you are criminally prosecuted or not. If the member’s violation falls within the Moral Character guidelines, then the agency is mandated by Florida Statute to send the case to CJS&TC within forty five (45) days after the agency concludes their case for review by CJS&TC.

A Case Specialist and a Commission Staff Attorney will review the case and will then determine if the member’s case will be accepted and set for a Probable Cause Hearing.

Depending on what the member’s Moral Character violation is, it will determine the appropriate penalty and what the penalty range will be. The range will be Probation to Revocation of your certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of Florida. Some of the Revocation Offenses that the Commission has deemed “ZERO TOLERANCE” are: Sex on Duty, Testing Positive for a Controlled Substance, Soliciting for Prostitution, Sex with Inmates, Taking Contraband in or out of a Facility and Untruthfulness.

Now we all know that these violations are unacceptable. However, it never ceases to amaze me that law enforcement officer’s commit these violations on a regular basis.

The Commission is made up of nineteen (19) members. The FOP has a representative on the Commission and that is Sgt. Doris “Dee” Sabered of the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department and a member of Lodge. 31. Sergeant Seibert was elected unanimously as Vice-Chairperson of the commission in May of this year. Part of her duties, as a Commissioner is to continuously work to achieve increase professionalism by disciplining law enforcement officers who tarnish the Criminal Justice Profession through their misconduct. The Commission’s efforts are focused to ensure that the most qualified, well trained and ethical officers in the Nation serve the citizens lens of the State of Florida.

President Cameron and the Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee has established a five (5) hour training course that has been approved by the CJS&TC for mandatory retraining titled “Officer Decertification.” This training course has been presented not only law enforcement officers but law enforcement administrators as well.

If your lodge or agency is interested in this worth while course please have them contact President Cameron or Chairman McAdams.

Remember, if you have to ask yourself what you are doing is a Moral Character violation  
**THEN IT MOST LIKELY IS.**

.....  
**FBI Still Won’t Share Information**

Submitted by Peter A. Fire - National Trustee, State of Florida  
Written by Mark Nichols - The Blue Line, Buffalo, New York

At the heart of the communications *problem* with the FBI lies the issue of security clearances. *Agents are* prevented by law from sharing classified information with their counterparts at the local level, argues the Bureau, so that information can be managed *effectively from the top down*.

But in the wake of events of this fall, many officials are wondering if maybe the FBI couldn’t use a little *help from* the 650,000 men and women of America’s Law enforcement. But, in order to help, cops need information. In some cases, the FBI doesn’t have information to share. But, even when the Bureau has leads and needs help, the agency has shown a remarkable reluctance to reach out.

Consider the case of Portland, Maine’s Chief of Police, Mile Chitwood. Two of the hijackers started their deadly mission from the city’s he’s in charge of policing. When he sent some cops to interview suspects and witnesses, the federal agents told the cops to back off or face federal charges of obstructing justice. Not exactly “all for one and one for all.”

Chief Chitwood, and many others who have worked with the Bureau on a need to know basis, blame an institutional bias  
*continued top of page 6*

against local cops in The FBI. It's that attitude which prevents local and federal authorities From maximizing resources in terms of man-power.

The FBI is trying to change its ways. But the going is slow. When Police Chiefs around the country received "watch lists" of potential witnesses or suspects related to terrorist attacks, they unilaterally unimpressed with the quality of information. "They're nothing but A list of Arabic names, complained one Police official when he saw the Documents. Baltimore Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris says he Hasn't been able to get the FBI to give him pictures of potential suspects.



### *53rd. Annual Florida State Conference Preparation*

The April District 6 meeting devoted much of its time to the preparation of our annual conference being held in Miami Beach this year.

Pictured left to right are A1 Cotera, Miami 20 President, Bernie Ruder, Miami Beach Lodge 8 President, Charles Fernandez Dade School Board Police Lodge 133, Ian Moffett, Dade County School Board Police, President, Lodge 133 and Martin Aranow, U.S. Marshall Service Lodge 158



### *Atlantic/NeptuneLodge #107 Vehicle project by: Miller Norton, President*

Wanted to share an idea with you which would work to benefit the good of the order statewide, as it relates to public relations.

I developed an idea back in 1999 which has since given a great deal of satisfaction and provided many opportunities to benefit our lodge. I had wanted to "recreate" the first police car that I drove as an LEO in 1978. By accident, I found an organization on the web called EVOOA. Emergency Vehicle Owners and Operators Association ([www.evooa.org](http://www.evooa.org))

Once I located the car I wanted to replicate and outfitted it with the proper equipment of that era, it soon became apparent to me that this car could also be useful as a PR tool for the lodge. Now it pulls "double duty" as the official parade vehicle for Palatka PD (my former agency) and for FOP # 107.

My 1979 Chevrolet Malibu turns a lot of heads wherever it goes. Its been used in local and state Police Memorial services, parades, and even funerals.

It occurs to me that if we encouraged other lodges to follow suit, not only would this be a 'Tun' project for them, it would offer excellent exposure as a PR tool at the local and state level. Our lodge was chartered in 1977 and I would recommend that other lodges select a vehicle based upon that criteria. Older vehicles definitely attract the most attention. Emergency equipment is still available for many vehicles dating back to the late 40's up to present day,

I would be happy to share all details of this project with any other lodge that might express an interest in a similar project.

*I can be reached through email at [MEVO119@aol.com](mailto:MEVO119@aol.com) and welcome all inquiries.*

## News From District 5

The District 5 Police Pipe and Drum Corps represented Florida FOP in Washington DC in conjunction with National Police Week Activities. We were pleased to have a number of people from other bands who chose to march with us at the memorial service, including our own Larry Lockwood and Officers from Pittsburg Pa., U.S. Border Patrol, Los Angeles At the end of the march we found that we had a famous actor marching with our band I am sure that you all remember the TV show Cheers? Well we had none other than John Ratzenberger (Cliff Clavin) march with us during the parade (See Photograph) What an honor and what a nice gentleman, also a good drummer. Before leaving for DC the band took part in the services in Tallahassee, several services here in Broward including the Police Academy and Fort Lauderdale PD'S service after returning traveled to Key West to take part in that service also. It has been a very busy month.

On a seperate note, Director Ralph Dean was honored by the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO as Humanitarian of the year for his activities throughout the year on behalf of firefighter programs and his work with children and families during the holidays.



*The band on the march in D.C. on the way to National Police Memorial site*



*John Ratzenberger (Cliff Clavin of Cheers) with the band at the end of the parade in Washington D.C.*



*Joe Benavides, President of Broward County Council of Professional Firefighters presents Humanitarian award to Director Dean*



*Bob Vogel, Lodge 66 State Trustee*

# Tallahassee Police Memorial Activities 2002



*Paul Noeske, Staff representative, Florida Labor Council Committee*



*Jim & Sara Preston, Lodge 27 & District 3 Treasurer*



*Tim Ingold, District 3 Director*



*Mitch Hall & Bob Holley, Tampa Lodge 27 Treasurer*



*Gene Leonard, Florida State Chaplain,  
Joy Mooshie, State Office Manager,  
Mary Helen Mack (Kenny's Boss)  
Philip Cameron, Florida State President*



*Sherri Raczka, Treasurer; Doug Williams, President, Lodge 87,  
Cyndy Klee, Florida State Inner Guard,  
George Hachigian, Senior Staff Representative  
Philip Cameron, Florida State President*



*Bill Corser, Miami Lodge 20, Tina Duncan,  
Chaplain Miami 20, James Mann,  
Florida State 2nd Vice-President*



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## New Domain Names Reserved

Your FOP website can now be found at

[www.floridastatefop.com](http://www.floridastatefop.com)  
[www.floridastatefop.net](http://www.floridastatefop.net)

as well as [www.floridastatefop.org](http://www.floridastatefop.org). We have added these additional domains due to the overall success of the website.

Be sure and check out the site regularly as we update the site to accommodate our members needs and requests.

### **UP COMING MEETINGS**

**Florida State Lodge**  
**October Board of Trustee's Meeting**  
**Sheridan North Hotel**  
**Maitland Florida**  
**October 23rd to 26th 2002**  
**Room Rates \$89.00 +Tax single or Double**

## Quick notes

### Announcing a Benefit of Membership

We are pleased to announce that all FOP and FOPA members throughout Florida are now entitled to a 10% discount on most Nextel service plans. Additionally, equipment discounts are available on select phones at time of activation. These special membership rates are available through Kathy Donohue of Almac Communications at 1-888-98ALMAC. Your current membership card will be required.

### **Dates to Remember**

**53rd Florida State Lodge Annual Conference**  
**Wyndham Miami Beach Resort**  
**4833 Collins Avenue**  
**Miami Beach, Florida 33140**  
**305-532-3600**  
**June 18 to 22, 2002**