



Ohio FOP E-Focus

JANUARY, 2010

Letter from President DiMarco

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Family and Friends:

May the spirit, excitement, warmth and joy of the holiday season be with you and your family and may God's blessings bring you cheer and joy in 2010.

In just one month, we will be in Columbus for our winter board meeting, and seven months from now we will be here in Independence at our 76th annual conference.

After much thought and consideration, I have decided to seek the office currently held by my good friend Virgil McDaniel. The office of Immediate Past President.

Some of the reasoning for this decision are as follows. Six months after the conference, I will be retiring from the Garfield Heights Police Department after completing 45 years of service. As Immediate Past President, I will still be active on the Board and available to assist our new President in whatever tasks he may have for me to do. I am sure my wife will have a few chores for me to fulfill, and I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, the fabulous five DiMarcos: Camille, Matthew, Nathan, Nicole and Sydney.

In July I will be completing 25 years on this Executive board, ten as the eighth district trustee, four as Vice President and eleven years as your President. I will tell you I have met and worked with some wonderful and talented people during this time. Not only on the State Board, but also many of the local lodges.

My local Lodge has benefited by my participation on this board. Whenever I found something worthwhile at one of the local lodges, I would bring it back to my lodge and try to implement it.

We are very lucky to have the Staff that are employed by us, both the FOP and the OLC, including the legal staff and our own Paul Cox who we always badger but would be lost without his expertise. I am very confident I will be successful in my attempt to succeed Virgil. I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future and again MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Nick DiMarco
Ohio State Lodge President

Deal brokered for SB 77

A coalition of law enforcement groups led by the FOP have agreed to a compromise for Senate Bill 77, the so-called DNA bill. This bill will mandate the electronic recording of interrogations for F-1 and F-2 level homicide cases and certain sexual assaults when those interrogations take place in a place of detention. It will also collect the DNA from every felony level arrestee. The bill mandates the use of a blind administrator for photo line-ups or the use of a method that renders the administrator unable to know the identity of the suspect. Also in the bill is the requirement for keeping biological evidence for up to 30 years in certain cases or up to 5 years if the suspect pleads guilty. This bill allows felons who are incarcerated, on parole or on the sex offender registry to apply for DNA testing to be done in their case to potentially clear their name.

This deal was made because of the help of two House members, Bill Coley (R) of West Chester and Mark Schneider (D) of Mentor and they have our sincere thanks.

While this will end up mandating some new measures and costs on law enforcement, this bill is hugely improved from the beginning. The FOP, along with the OACP, the BSSA and the Ohio Prosecutor's Association all worked very hard to minimize the adverse impact on this bill and are proud of the work done to make this bill better

State Board Meeting - January 23

President Nick Di-Marco has called for a meeting of the Board of Trustees for January 23 at the Capital City Lodge #9 facility.

The meeting will begin at 1300 hours and several items are on the agenda, including the presentation of the 2010 budget

for the FOP of Ohio.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ohio Supreme Court makes cell phone ruling

On December 16th, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that searches of cell phones incident to arrest will now require a search warrant. This decision is contrary to the training some officers received that stated a cell phone was similar to a container and there-

fore, could be searched incident to arrest without a search warrant. The Ohio Supreme Court decided, by a 4-3 vote, that a cell phone was better compared to a computer and would require a search warrant to examine its contents.

This case, known as State vs. Smith, arose out of a drug case out of Greene County. Justices Moyer, Pfeifer, Lanzinger and O'Connor were in the majority. Justices Cupp, Stratton and O'Donnell dissented in this case.

FOP *Day on the Hill* 2010!!!

The FOP *Day on The Hill* 2010 will begin on Monday, February 8, 2010. The National Legislative Office and the National Legislative Committee will host a short briefing on our legislative agenda at the District of Columbia Lodge #1 at 711 4th Street, NW. The briefing will take place on Monday afternoon and last approximately one hour. Additional de-

tails will be forthcoming.

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 9-10, will be devoted to your meetings with Members from your home States and Districts. ***These appointments should be made in advance!!!*** Event participants should make every effort to have their Representative or Senator attend the meeting along

with the appropriate staff person.

Accommodations for Day on the Hill Participants

The National Legislative Office will be arranging a room block with a local hotel. We will make this information available as soon as possible—watch your email and the Grand Lodge website for the latest news!!

PLANNING A TRIP?

The FOP of Ohio has a travel web site that allows you to book airfare, hotels, rental cars, cruises and other travel needs at a rate that is often cheaper than the other web based travel sites, like Expedia or Travelocity. The big difference between these sites and ours is that the FOP of Ohio receives much needed funds through the program.

Please visit www.fopohio.org and just compare prices, if you can book your travel elsewhere cheaper, then you should do it but if you can get it cheaper through the FOP site, why wouldn't you?

Leadership Matters

Go to www.fop.net for more information on this seminar.

Okay, you are a newly elected local leader. Now what? You have questions about the procedure for running a meeting or maybe you have questions about the Grand Lodge membership reporting system. What should you

do? The Grand Lodge has developed a three day seminar in Nashville on February 4-6 to help new lodge leaders called "Leadership Matters." This seminar is a good way to learn how to conduct the business of the FOP.

Please consider attending this seminar if you are a new lodge leader or if you want to learn some new ideas or if you want to network with hundreds of FOP leaders from across the USA. See you there!

Can't make it to Geneva...take the plunge in one of eight other locations in Ohio!

Polar Bear Plunge 2010

- January 23, 2010 Mosquito Lake, Cortland
- January 30, Thirsty Pony, Sandusky
- February 6, Ohio / Kentucky, Newport on the Levee
- February 13, Ohio University, Athens
- February 20, Crew Stadium, Columbus
- March 6, Grand Lake St. Mary's, Celina
- March 13, Watson's Pools, Dayton
- March 21, Indian Lake

It is not just an event, it is an experience. It is the Polar Bear Plunge! The 14th Annual Law Enforcement Polar Bear Plunge will take place on Saturday, February 27,

2010 in Geneva State Park. This event raises money for the Ohio Special Olympics and is a great time.

Please consider attending and participating in the Polar

Bear Plunge in 2010

CIRS - The FOP charity

The FOP is very charitable and our generosity is usually directed towards the Special Olympics and Easter Seals. This is not new or surprising because the members have always been very helpful and generous to those in need. However, did you know that the FOP of Ohio has its own charity that is designed to save the lives and careers of law enforcement officers. The Critical Incident Response Foundation helps to provide peer counseling and education to first responders who experience critical incidents on the job or off. This kind of education and peer counseling is the model of critical incident response across the country.

Please consider making a charitable donation to our own 501 C 3 charity when making donations to the other very worthwhile causes. Contact the Foundation at 1-800-FOP-OLCI!

2009 - The year of the layoff / furlough

It seems as if every city, county and state agency was faced with the same options in 2009, layoffs or concessions. Many FOP leaders across Ohio, and the nation, were forced to give this option to their members and see which way those members wanted to go. Some places, the concessions were way too much to ask for. In some places, the cost was high but the members decided to make those concessions, usually unpaid days off called furlough days. Seniority should mean something on one hand and on the other, everyone wants to help out the guys on the bottom of the list.

Big cities, small towns and county governments have turned to balancing their budgets on the back of its employees. It has been a common practice across Ohio to use the current economic crisis to attack the collective bargaining agreements of public employees. The State of Ohio turned to furlough days also but called them "cost saving days or csd's"

FOP leaders have asked the tough questions when presented with the concession spiel. Questions like, Are the politicians going to make the same concessions? Questions like, Will you guarantee that these concessions will avert any layoffs? What kind of contract language can we win in exchange for these financial concessions?

2010 does not look any better, in fact it looks worse. The hundreds of jobs saved by stimulus money will not be funded in 2010 without new legislation. The unemployment rate does not look to go down much, if at all and many of our members rely on income taxes to fund their salaries.

While it is better than layoffs, not filling jobs through attrition should be called what it is, a hiring freeze that places public safety in jeopardy. Smaller agencies mean smaller lodges, it means a weaker pension system, it means you are not as safe as you used to be.

The Ohio FOP will be here in 2010, we will be fighting along side of you to keep all of our members working. We will stand with you in fighting for the law enforcement jobs that protect the community and provide the back-up that all of us need.

Stay safe, stand strong, stand united!

AS IF YOUR JOBS WEREN'T ALREADY DIFFICULT ENOUGH.....

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Catherine Brockman, Executive Director
FOP Ohio Labor Council Inc.

More and more the F.O.P. Ohio Labor Council reps are seeing cases of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus – or MRSA. Our members are contracting MRSA in jails and on the street.

What is it?

- A type of bacteria that can cause infection ranging from skin abscesses to severe blood infection.
- It is resistant to certain antibiotics.
- It is becoming more prevalent in the community.

Skin infections, at first often look like spider bites or bumps that are red, swollen and painful.

MRSA Common Factors – the 5 “C’s”

- Contact (direct or indirect).
- Contaminated surfaces and shared items.
- Crowding.
- Compromised skin integrity.
- Cleanliness (lack of).

Locations where the 5 C’s are most common include schools, dormitories, military barracks, households, correctional facilities and daycare centers.

Infections are spread when an infectious agent is transmitted to a susceptible person, sometimes referred to as a host. You do not have to look sick to spread an infection. You may be exposed without becoming infected if you are immune or able to resist infection.

The best way to protect yourself is through personal hygiene and for your Employer to implement best practices for cleaning and disinfecting in facilities. In addition to personal hand hygiene, Law Enforcement Workers should make use of Personal Protective Equipment, Practice Respiratory Hygiene and Cough etiquette and Become familiar with bloodborne pathogen safety practices.

Some High Touch public areas and items are: Phones, Computers, Keys, Shared Equipment, Food Serving Areas, Bathrooms, Hand Rails and Door Knobs.

Environmental Cleaning focuses on surfaces that touch bare skin. Floors and walls have not been directly involved in the spread of staph. There is no evidence that spraying or fogging rooms or surfaces with disinfectants will prevent staph infections more effectively than the targeted approach of cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Cleaning vs. Disinfecting: *Cleaners* or detergents are products that are used to remove soil, dust and germs. They work by lifting up the organic material off surfaces by means of physical action. For this reason, rinsing is an important step when using detergents or cleaners. *Disinfectants* are chemical products that destroy or inactivate germs and prevent them from growing. Use disinfectants after cleaning surfaces that have visible blood or contamination from infected skin.

Here are some GUIDELINES from the Ohio Department of Health regarding Primary Prevention for Corrections:

- Implement screening, infection control, treatment and administrative measures aimed at reducing the incidence of MRSA infections in the inmate population and identifying MRSA infections in inmates upon entry to the system.
- All prisoners undergoing intake medical screening and physical examinations should be carefully evaluated for skin infections.
- Recently hospitalized prisoners and others at greater risk of serious MRSA infections should be evaluated for skin infections during any routine medical evaluation.
- Prisoners should be instructed to self-report any new onset skin infections or fever so they can be evaluated for MRSA.
- Correctional/peace officers should refer prisoners who have draining sores or wounds or who self-report “boils”, “insect or spider bites” or “sores” to health services.

Also, according to the Ohio Dept. of Health an Outbreak is a “clustering or two or more epidemiologically related, culture-positive cases of MRSA infection.” This should prompt an immediate investigation to determine the potential situation. The cases may not be related but you will not know this until the investigation is underway.

In an Outbreak situation your health services department should contact the local public health department, increase surveillance, education and infection control. Additionally inmates unable to contain their contagiousness should be restricted from all work assignments and maintained in single-cell housing until they are clinically improving and are no longer contagious. They should be restricted from common areas.

Be pro-active and protect yourself. If MRSA is a problem in your department, talk to your FOP/OLC staff representative about holding labor/management meetings on this topic.

Thanks to the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Disease Investigation for topic information.



Is your agency budget going to lead to this?

FOP of Ohio Calendar

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| January 23 | FOP of Ohio Board Meeting | Columbus |
| February 4-6 | Leadership Matters | Nashville, TN |
| February 8-10 | Day on the Hill | Washington DC |
| February 27 | Polar Bear Plunge | Lake Geneva |
| February 27 | Climb for a Cure | Columbus |
| April 18-26 | FOP family/friends cruise | Western Caribbean |
| July 17-20 | 76th Annual State FOP Conference | Independence |