



*Fraternal Order of Police*

# BlueNote

*Official Publication of the North Carolina State Lodge*

Volume 9, Issue 1

[www.ncfop.org](http://www.ncfop.org)

January-February, 2025

## President's Message

By Chet Effler – State President

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police,

As we start a New Year, it is a fitting time to reflect on our commitment to service and the profound impact we have on our communities. This time of year, we not only reflect on the celebrations the holidays with our families brought, but also embrace the spirit of giving and unity that defines our fraternal commitment.

Our members have consistently demonstrated that service extends beyond the badge. We are dedicated to upholding the law and ensuring public safety, but our role as law enforcement officers goes much deeper. We are members of our communities, neighbors, friends, and mentors. This dual role allows us to build trust and foster relationships that are crucial in times of need.

Throughout the state, numerous programs exemplify our commitment to serving the youth and families in our communities. The “FOP Cops and Kids” initiatives have been particularly impactful, offering opportunities for officers to connect with children in meaningful ways. Whether through holiday shopping events, mentorship programs, or community sports leagues, these interactions help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the youth we serve. It is heartwarming to witness the smiles on children's faces and to know that we are making an impression in their lives.

Additionally, our “Food Basket” programs have played a vital role in supporting families during the holiday season. This initiative, driven by the generosity of our members, provides food and essential items for those in need. The spirit of giving is alive in our organization, as we come together to ensure that no family goes hungry during this festive time. These acts of kindness not only alleviate immediate hardships but also strengthen the bonds within our communities.

This year, our commitment to service has also extended to those affected by

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*The Voice of Law Enforcement*

## President's Message (Continued)

Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. Many families lost everything, and as an organization, we have risen to the occasion, helping through donations, support programs, and outreach efforts. We have witnessed the resilience of our communities and the importance of our role in helping them rebuild. Our collective efforts display the heart of our organization – standing together in times of adversity and showing that we are more than just law enforcement; we are a lifeline for those in distress.

While we have made significant strides in meeting the needs of our communities, we recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done. The road ahead may be long, but our dedication to service remains unwavering. Each program and initiative we undertake is a testament to the commitment of our Law Enforcement Community, both in our line of duty and as citizens and neighbors.

I am excited to announce that we will hold the first ever joint meeting/working day for all Committee Chairs and Executive Board members the second weekend in January. This workday will include the planning of each committee to get a plan of action to grow and build a strong State Lodge.

The Springboard Meeting will be held April 11-13, 2025, in Carolina Beach at the Courtyard. This is the same location we held the State Conference a few years ago. We will send additional information by email.

As we celebrate the New Year, let us take a moment to appreciate the camaraderie and support we share within our fraternal order. May we continue to inspire one another and remain steadfast in our mission to serve and protect. I wish each of you a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, and the warmth of community.



## Retirees – Did You Know?

By Martin “Marty” Wilson – Chairman Retirement Committee

Social Security Act was signed by President Franklin D Roosevelt on August 8 1935. Taxes were collected for the first time in January 1937 and the first one-time, lump-sum payments were made that same month. Regular ongoing monthly benefits started in January 1940. Also, Congress and others in the Government started paying into Social Security in 1984. There are more Historical Facts which can be found on the Social Security website under the History section. Check it out.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Phil Wiggins

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In the Bible, Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus commands His disciples to be salt and light to those in the world. As I read through these verses, I thought how much these verses reflect our men and women in law enforcement. Salt and light go together, they are both necessary for survival, and they both work differently to preserve and save lives at the end.



The salt is hidden, yet quietly preserves the corruption or decay and slows it down. Isn't this what our laws do? The laws are given to be enforced to keep people honest and to protect them from corruption and keep them safe. The enforcement of laws will not stop it all together, but it will slow down the corruption and harm in our society, so it does not get out of control.

Light on the other hand is obvious. It is visible and keeps society from stumbling further into danger or corruption. I can see our law enforcement officers being visible day and night, shining light into the darkness of evil or wrong doing just by their presence. The light must be visible to be effective. Light must guide people in the right direction, and assist in making good choices and decisions. It must warn people of the dangers around them to help them. It is my prayer that our law enforcement Brothers and Sister will be more like Salt and Light to keep our communities safe.

God's Blessing!!

Chaplain Phil Wiggins  
NC State Lodge Chaplain



# National Lodge Update

By Dennis McCrary – NC National Trustee

The timing on this Newsletter deadline is not opportune for more detailed information from the National FOP. We will hold our next online National Board of Directors meeting in five days. I will provide any important information that is relayed by the National Lodge at that December 16 board meeting by email to members.



Certainly, since my last report in October the most important information is that the candidate we supported for president was elected. The FOP enjoys a very special relationship with President-elect Trump and looks forward to working closely with him for the next 4 years! We are already having input on decisions that he is making for his upcoming term.

The most important item that the National FOP and State and Local Lodges have been working on these last several months is the Social Security Fairness Act. We did get this legislation passed by the House and it is now in the Senate. On the day that I am writing this article the Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Fire Fighters and other unions held a rally in Washington DC to urge the Senate to pass this legislation. Senate Leader Chuck Schumer addressed the rally and pledged to move the bill to the Senate floor for a vote. It is expected that the bill will be voted on by the Senate on December 13.

We should know the result by the time this newsletter is published. This has been a high priority for the National FOP for many years and this is certainly the closest we have come to get it passed. Most officers in North Carolina are not adversely affected by the current way Social Security is handled but it is estimated that as many as 60% of officers in the country are affected. Let's hope that this injustice is corrected this year. President Biden has indicated he would sign the legislation into law if it gets to his desk.

The National Lodge has now obtained insurance for members that volunteer for assistance to our DART team. This insurance is being provided by Berkley Accident and Health Company. More information will be provided on this insurance in the future.

Lodges are reminded that they should be now making plans for delegates to attend the 2025 Biennial National FOP Conference in Miami Beach August 3-8. National leaders and FOP policy will be decided at that conference for the next 2 years. Making plans now will help your lodge to send some delegates to participate in these important decisions.

Lodges also need to plan now to attend the National Memorial Service in Washington in May. Reservations for Police Week are now available on line at [WWW.PoliceWeekHotelRooms.com](http://WWW.PoliceWeekHotelRooms.com). Please send some of your members to honor those officers that paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country.

Western North Carolina is still trying to recover from the tremendous damage that resulted from Hurricane Helene. All members are reminded that I chair the National Disaster Relief Committee that is part of our National Foundation. FOP members are eligible for payments when they suffer a disaster that affects their homes. The application is available at FOP.NET. The requirements are they must be a member, own their home, have substantial damage to the home itself and be displaced for some period of time. All grants are for \$500 to help the member that is displaced with immediate needs. Our NC FOP Foundation also offers a \$500

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## National Lodge Update (Continued)

grant to members that suffer a covered disaster. Contact our State Foundation to file for that grant.

All FOP members are encouraged to stay up-to-date on what your National FOP is doing. Please, if you have not already, sign up to receive the Blue View Podcast, FOP Benefits quarterly newsletter, Washington Watch Legislative Update (every Friday) and social media communication.

On December 7 I participated in Charlotte Mecklenburg Lodge 9's Cops and Kids program at Target in Charlotte. We had a great turnout and it is always special to see the happy faces of the children that attend. I hope each lodge sponsors these programs as it is a great way to serve our communities.

I continue to be honored to serve as your National Trustee and please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you or your lodge.

## Durham County Lodge 2 Members Show Support at the Mahony Legacy Golf Tournament

By Robert Gaddy – President Lodge 2

Members of Durham Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 2 demonstrated their continued commitment to Special Olympics North Carolina by participating in the 2nd annual Mahoney Legacy Golf Tournament at Lochmere Golf Club on November 4, 2024. The tournament, which benefits Special Olympics North Carolina, saw active participation from several key Lodge 2 members, including Lodge President Bobby Gaddy, Treasurer Mark Sykes, and Trustee Christopher Thompson. Chad Sykes, a Lodge 2 family member, also joined the event, strengthening the organization's presence at this charitable tournament.

This participation continues the long-standing tradition of support between the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police and Special Olympics North Carolina. The FOP has historically been one of the most significant supporters of Special Olympics in the State, consistently contributing to its mission of providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Mahoney Legacy Golf Tournament is another example of how law enforcement organizations actively engage with and support their communities beyond their traditional duties. Through events like these, Durham FOP Lodge 2 members help raise awareness and crucial funding for Special Olympics North Carolina's programs.

The tournament at Lochmere Golf Club provided an excellent opportunity for FOP members to network with other community supporters while contributing to a worthy cause that impacts the lives of Special Olympics athletes throughout North Carolina.

The continued partnership between the Fraternal Order of Police and Special Olympics North Carolina represents a shared commitment to creating inclusive communities and supporting athletes with intellectual disabilities in achieving their full potential through the power of sports.



# BlueNote Information and Submission Dates for 2025

Executive Editor – Terry Mangum

Happy New Year!!! As we begin this new year, I would like to wish all of my Fraternal Order of Police Brothers and Sisters across the great State of North Carolina a healthy, prosperous, and safe 2025. During this new year, we should all continue our work of promoting and protecting our most noble profession and the Fraternal Order of Police. One surefire way to accomplish this is to submit articles to your BlueNote publication promoting your FOP Lodge and your members.

If you have never submitted an article for the BlueNote, let this be your year to submit an article. Article submissions are what make each issue of the BlueNote possible, because without submitted articles and photographs, there would be no publication. So, make a commitment to support and promote our State Lodge and the Fraternal Order of Police.

In this issue, there are articles with photos from several Local Lodges that conducted FOP Cops and Kids shopping events. However, there were other Local Lodges that had these events but did not submit photos and articles to the BlueNote. Instead, they just sent their items to the State Lodge Technology Committee for the social media sites. You can and should submit to both. That way, all of our members have a greater chance to see your information. The Lodges with their FOP Cops and Kids information in this issue of the BlueNote also submitted to Technology Chairman Tom Navarre for the social media sites.

Anyone can submit an article. If you are reading this then you can contribute articles or photos. And it is easy. Submitting an article is a simple and painless process. E-mail your article or information to my e-mail address [terrymangum@frontier.com](mailto:terrymangum@frontier.com) by the due date and I will prepare your article for publication. How simple and easy is that? If necessary, I will edit what you send to me to make it more publication worthy. You can also submit photographs without an article. But if you do, please select a few of the best photos and include the names of the individuals in the picture and the event.

And remember to share the BlueNote issues with non-FOP law enforcement, family, and friends.

**Below is the list of the Article Submission Due Dates for the 2025 issues of the BlueNote.**

**Article Submission Due Date for 2025:**

**March/April issue: Due by February 14, 2025**

**May/June issue: Due by April 18, 2025**

**July/August issue: Due by June 20, 2025**

**September/October issue: Due by August 22, 2025**

**November/December issue: Due by October 17, 2025**

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.



# Scholarship for Children of Permanently Disabled or Slain NC FOP Members

By Greg Brown – President NCFOP Foundation

Every year the NC Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc. awards scholarships to children of NCFOP members in good standing who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line duty. Four \$500 scholarships are also awarded to children of NCFOP members in Good Standing.

To apply for a scholarship, you can visit [ncfop.org](http://ncfop.org) under the About Section and click on Foundation. There you will find the scholarship application to download and complete. Once the application is completed email it to Foundation President Greg Brown at [brown\\_bg@earthlink.net](mailto:brown_bg@earthlink.net). or mail the completed application to

NCFOP State Lodge  
Care of: NCFOP Foundation, Inc.  
PO Box 6335  
Asheville, NC 28816

The following criteria must be met for those applying for a scholarship:

Section 1. Applicants must be a child of an Active NCFOP member that has been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Section 2. Applicants must be a child, who has taken residency in North Carolina, of an Active FOP member in Good Standing who has been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. Section 3. Applicant must be a child of an Active NCFOP member in Good Standing. Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded each year for those approved in this section by the Foundation Board of Directors.

Scholarship amounts and approval will be determined by the Foundation Board of Directors for sections one and two.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Under North Carolina law, UNC System institutions and North Carolina Community Colleges shall permit certain individuals to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without paying the required tuition. The individuals eligible for this tuition waiver include survivors (including children) of a law enforcement officer killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty, and children (between ages 17 and 23 years of age) whose parent is a law enforcement officer who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Please review Chapter 115B of the North Carolina General Statutes for further details.

The primary purpose of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., is to exist as a benevolent foundation for the purpose of assisting children of North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Active Members in Good Standing, who have been killed or permanently disabled while in the line of duty, with the expense of higher education. The awarding of scholarships is determined by the North Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors.

Besides benefiting the children with scholarships, there is also a benefit to the contributor. The North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc., is a 501C-3 charitable corporation and all donations are tax deductible. We do not use professional telemarketing services, therefore, all funds donated come directly to the Foundation and your financial donations are perpetual. This means that your donation remains in the Foundation forever and only the earnings from your original donation are used to fund the scholarships.

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# Scholarship for Children of Permanently Disabled or Slain NC FOP Members

(Continued)

The Board Members of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc. are all FOP members who volunteer their time and efforts to this worthwhile organization. We are active and or retired law enforcement officers who currently serve or have served communities throughout North Carolina.

The North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors are:

- President Greg Brown
- Vice President Jason Gardner
- 2nd Vice President Matt Blaich
- Treasurer Marty Wilson
- Secretary Gunnar Matthews



## Counsel's Corner

By George V. Laughrun, II – NC State Lodge Counsel

As we head into a new year, change comes to all of us. I wanted to introduce myself to the Lodge members. My name is George Laughrun, II, and I am the new general counsel to the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police. I have big shoes to fill following Rich Hattendorf and Norris Adams, and I hope that I can leave the FOP better once my work is completed. I have been a practicing attorney for over 44 years, two years as an Assistant District Attorney in Mecklenburg County, and the remaining 42 years in private practice. I have represented officers in every type of critical incident, including arrests, assaults, use of force, in-custody deaths, homicide matters while on duty, certification issues, and hearings before our local Civil Service Board on employment matters here in Charlotte, NC.



I pledge to the Lodge that I will be available by phone and email. I have a policy that I will return all calls before the end of the day, including weekends. Please submit any questions you may have by calling my office at (704) 372-2770 or my home office at (704) 759-1188. You may also email me at [gvern2@aol.com](mailto:gvern2@aol.com).

I intend to write a column every two months and welcome topics of interest to you as law enforcement officers and Lodge members. I also plan to conduct a short presentation at each of the Lodge meetings next year, subject to President Effler's approval.

I would like to thank past President, Randy Hagler, current President, Chet Effler, and the remaining members of the Board for giving me this opportunity. I appreciate the confidence of this organization and look forward to working with each of you.

Stay safe and watch out for each other.



# A Message from Your Chairman of Trustees

By John R. Byrd Sr.

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this message finds everyone, Safe, Healthy, and Hopeful. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed CHRISTmas and got to spend time with family and friends. I also want to wish you all a Safe and Prosperous New Year. As we move forward into the New Year, I am filled with optimism for the direction our organization is taking and the future of the country in general. Thank you to all of those who stepped up and took State Lodge Committee assignments and wanted to get involved.

Continue to pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Western North Carolina and all the other area citizens. This will not be a quick fix but will be a multi-year situation. I again want to say how proud I am of all of you who have stepped up and rendered aid in this tragic situation, either by actually working there or through financial donations. All of your actions speak volumes as to why the F.O.P. is the premier organization for law enforcement in our country.

Here are some of the activities I have been involved in since my last message:

- Attended a virtual E-Board meeting on October 29th.
- Attended Lodge 74's bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday night October 29th, at 6:30pm at Clearview Baptist Church in Henderson, NC.
- Presented several gifts to community organizations on behalf of Lodge #74.
- Sent this article to Brother Mangum for the "BlueNote" on Thursday December 12th.
- Corresponded with other E-Board Members and other State Lodge members about several different issues since our last newsletter.

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](mailto:person7454@yahoo.com).

I hope you continue to find my periodic email updates beneficial. It is an Honor to serve as your Chairman of Trustees. Continue to take care and stay safe!!!



Lodge 74 President John Byrd presenting check to Cry Freedom Ministries.



Lodge 74 President John Byrd presenting check to M.A.D.D.

## Durham County Lodge 2: FOP Christmas Retirees Luncheon

By Terry Mangum – Durham County Lodge 2 State Trustee

Durham County Lodge 2 rounded out our Christmas celebrations on December 12 with our annual Retirees Christmas Luncheon for all of our retired law enforcement officers, personnel, and guests. This year's event was again held in the Fellowship Hall at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church on Chapel Hill Street.

This year's Retirees Christmas Luncheon was well attended, the food was superb, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship time with past colleagues and friends. I do not know if it is because we are all getting older but this year's gathering seemed extra special to me. Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks are offered to Chaplain Phil Wiggins who arranges and organizes this spectacular Christmas gathering each year. You did a super job this year!

The members of Durham County Lodge 2 hope that all of our FOP Brothers and Sisters across the State of North Carolina had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. We wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.



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# Durham County Lodge 2: FOP Christmas Retirees Luncheon (Continued)

(Additional photos from Retiree's Luncheon)





# Durham County Lodge 2: Christmas FOP Cops and Kids

By Terry Mangum – Durham County Lodge 2 State Trustee

On December 7, Durham County Lodge 2 held our annual **FOP, Cops, and Kids** event. This event was again held at the Target store located at [4037 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd. in Durham](#). This annual event affords Lodge 2 with another opportunity to share and give back to our community.

This year, we were able to provide a Christmas shopping experience for 45 deserving area children provided by the Durham Rescue Mission. These children were able to shop for gifts and clothing which they would not have otherwise received. Not only is this event beneficial for these children and their families, it is also very rewarding for the officers participating in this event. There was an abundance of FOP members/law enforcement officers present to assist the children with their shopping. We had roughly 60 law enforcement officers from the Durham Police Department, Durham County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Central University Police Department, and the UNC Hospital Police Department. A big "Thank You" to all who volunteered their time to participate in this worthwhile event. We would also like to thank our partners at Target for their continued support and assistance again this year.





# Harold C. Enloe Lodge 1 FOP Cops and Kids

By Lynn Wilson – Lodge 1 Secretary

Harold C. Enloe Lodge 1 held our FOP Cops and Kids shopping event on December 4th at the Walmart in Weaverville. Even with the problem created by Hurricane Helene and not being able to have a Fall fundraiser for this event, we were still able to provide some Christmas gifts for 12 children. A big thank you to the NCFOP State Lodge's Assistance Match Program which made it possible.

Thank you to everyone assisting with the Walmart shopping event, including The Grinch.





# Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge 9 – FOP Cops and Kids

By Mark Michalec - State Trustee Lodge 9

Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge 9 held our annual Christmas FOP Cops and Kids event on December 7. This year, we once again partnered with Target-Northlake which hosted this shopping event for us. Target was instrumental in making this a successful event, along with all of our other sponsors, that are recognized on the banner that was located at the front of the store. Without their cooperation, we would not be able to help nearly as many children as we do. Target provided us with a \$1500 grant that was used to help sponsor fifteen additional children in our program.

This year, we had 219 children shop for Christmas gifts, clothing, and other essentials needed for the Holidays. Our Committee Chair, Brenda Jordan, organized the event and was able to identify families in need of assistance to participate in this event through recommendations from our membership, officers, schools, and the community. Brenda has been organizing this event for several years and it has always been a tremendous success.

If any Lodges are interested in the Target grant program that we utilized, you can find the information at <https://corporate.target.com/press/fact-sheet/2022/11/target-heroes-helpers>.



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# Charlotte-Mecklenburg FOP Lodge 9 – FOP Cops and Kids (Continued)

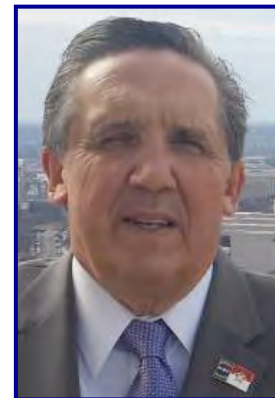




# Thank You West Chester Ohio FOP Lodge 186

By Randy Hagler – State Immediate Past President

The fraternalism of the FOP was on display long after Hurricane Helene devastated parts of the southeastern United States and western North Carolina. Our brothers and sisters from West Chester (Ohio) FOP Lodge #186 stepped in to help in a big way.



On November 29, 2024, a caravan of trucks, trailers, and police cars arrived in Marion, North Carolina from West Chester, Ohio to deliver five (5) Ford Explorer police vehicles for western North Carolina towns. The cars were going to police departments which were greatly affected by Hurricane Helene. After contacting NCFOP State President, Chet Effer and the State Trustee from our Asheville Lodge, Jimmy Wingo we were able to determine the need for the cars was great. President Effer and State Trustee Wingo were able to identify four police agencies that badly needed the assistance. The police departments that stepped up and accepted the gift from West Chester, Ohio were Old Fort, Black Mountain, Montreat College, and Spruce Pine.

I was contacted in late October by Brent Lovell of the West Chester Township FOP Lodge #186 about his Lodge and the town of West Chester, Ohio wanting to partner to assist North Carolina communities that were badly affected by Hurricane Helene. West Chester was in the process of rotating five Ford Explorer vehicles out of police service. Rather than selling them at auction they decided to donate them to police departments in North Carolina that needed some assistance. After several phone calls and texts with the leadership of the West Chester FOP Lodge #186, on November 29, 2024 the cars arrived in Marion, North Carolina for the agencies to deliver the tremendous gift from our neighbors to the north in Ohio. Representatives from the NCFOP, as well as the towns of Old Fort, Black Mountain, Spruce Pine, and Montreat College, were on hand as the three trucks with trailers rolled into the Marion Police Dept. to make the delivery. Brent Lovell who is with the West Chester FOP and also an officer in the township police department, along with several other officers and FOP members, accompanied the vehicles as they were delivered. While the cars were donated by West Chester Township, the cost of having the cars delivered was taken care of by the West Chester FOP Lodge #186. The vehicles were in excellent condition and all with less than 80,000 miles. Each car had been given a tune-up, new tires, and a full tank of gasoline before delivery. The police cars had all the emergency equipment (lights and sirens) still installed and working. They were also equipped with radar units for speed enforcement with front and rear-facing antennas and a lock box in the rear area for securing additional firearms. Each police vehicle was full of clothing and toys for the folks in western North Carolina. To say everyone there was shocked by the condition of the cars and how they were ready for immediate police service would be an understatement.



As the cars were unloaded and the departments selected the vehicle they wanted, we talked with the members of the West Chester FOP Lodge about how much we appreciated the thought that went into making this happen. We thanked them for their efforts as well as the extremely kind gesture of the West Chester Township which had decided to allow the cars to be donated rather than sold.

This type of response is what separates the FOP from other law enforcement organizations. Brothers and Sisters are willing to step up and offer any type of assistance needed during tough times. With 377,000 FOP members across the country, we would just like to say thank you to the West Chester FOP Lodge #186.



# Happy New Year from the Constitution & By-laws Committee

By Kevin Hornaday – Chairman Constitution and By-laws Committee

As we wrap up the holiday festivities and settle into 2025 (and remembering to write 2025 on various items and documents) we turn our attention to a new year of Compliance.

Hopefully, as you are reading this, you or someone from your Lodge is preparing to send your 2024 Lodge Minutes to your member of the Constitution & By-laws Committee. As soon as the Minutes of your last 2024 meeting are approved, send them in to the committee. These Minutes are due to the assigned Committee contact by February 28, 2025.

The new year also means tax time for many of our Lodges. As a reminder, your 990 (either e-postcard or long form) must be submitted by the fifteenth day of the fifth month following your fiscal year end. For those Lodges whose year ended December 31st, your taxes must be filed by May 15, unless you file an extension. The Committee must have documentation of either your tax filing or your extension to consider your Lodge to be in Compliance.

As several Lodges found out during our 2024 Biennial Conference, compliance is required to have voice or vote at either conferences or meetings of the State Board of Directors. If you have a compliance question or issue, please reach out to either myself, or a member of the committee.

This year is also a great time to review your Lodge's Constitution & By-laws. As a reminder, any amendment approved by either the National or State Fraternal Order of Police does not require approval of the State Board of Director to add to your Lodge's Constitution & By-laws.

## Brunswick County Lodge 53 FOP Cops and Kids Event

By Paul Thordsen – President Lodge 53

On Sunday, December 15, members of Brunswick County FOP Lodge 53 along with Chief Adam Stanley and members of the Shallotte Police Department conducted our FOP Cops and Kids event. There were also volunteers assisted by Carolina Border Shields. We provided children from Brunswick County with a shopping opportunity and they were able to shop with uniformed officers at the Shallotte Walmart. This event allows us to reach out to our community and assist with helping families make the holidays happier.



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# Brunswick County Lodge 53 FOP Cops and Kids Event (Continued)





# Catawba County Lodge 26 Activities

By Carl Pope – Lodge 26 President

Members of Catawba County Lodge 26 participated in our Annual Thanksgiving Food Box event and provided boxes of food to 115 needy families within Catawba County on November 22, 2024. This is one of Lodge 26's annual community events. The four photos are of Lodge 26 members from our Thanksgiving Food Box event





## Rocky Mount Lodge 46 FOP Cops and Kids Event

By Greg Brown - State Trustee Rocky Mount Lodge 46

On Saturday, December 14, Christmas came early for several families throughout Nash and Edgecombe Counties. Weeks of planning, shopping and gift wrapping finally came together for six families and their children. They were invited to participate in the FOP Cops and Kids program where officers from around the area team up with underprivileged children for a Christmas experience they will never forget.

The families and their children were invited to the Rocky Mount FOP Lodge where they were served breakfast by members of area law enforcement. The agencies included the Nash County Sheriff's Office, Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office, Probation and Parole, Rocky Mount Police Department and Lodge 46 FOP members. Each child was presented wrapped gifts to open. They were also able to spend time with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Unfortunately, some parents do not have the means to fulfill their child's holiday wishes. This is where the NC Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 46, along with assistance from the Blue Knights NC XXI, a law-enforcement based motorcycle club, has stepped in over the years to assist parents who find themselves unable to provide for their children during the holiday season.

Tim Braddy, a retired senior patrol officer of the Rocky Mount Police Department, serves as the President of both the Rocky Mount FOP Lodge 46 and the Blue Knights Chapter XXI. Tim stated, "This is one of several good things that law enforcement does in the community. The experience also allows children to see officers in a different light other than cases where police are called to a home in an emergency."

"The purpose of this is to bring the community closer to the police department and law enforcement," Tim said. "We want these children to see that everything we do isn't bad. We also want them to know that no matter where we are in uniform they can walk up and talk to us anytime because there is no reason to be scared of us. This is also a great experience for the officers because if they didn't care, they wouldn't be attending this event. Like myself, they're not getting paid doing this, but they're here because they want to help out our community. That's why you do this job because it's not about money or glory. This is showing we're out here making a difference."

The children that were selected had been identified through the local school systems of Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools, Edgecombe County Public Schools and referred by representatives that work for the Department of Social Services.



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# Rocky Mount Lodge 46 FOP Cops and Kids Event (Continued)



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# Rocky Mount Lodge 46 FOP Cops and Kids Event (Continued)



# TRIVIA

## **Happy New Year and We Have A WINNER!!!**

We have a winner of the 2024 November/December issue of our Trivia contest. **Chet Effler**, President of the North Carolina State Lodge, is the **Grand Prize Winner** of the BlueNote **TRIVIA** contest. **Chet**, who is a novice Trivia player, was the first to correctly identify Chris Schenk in the first Santa photo, and National Chaplain Rick Snyder, Eric Trump, and Lara Trump as the three individuals in the second Trivia photograph.

If you have not won a **TRIVIA** contest, do not give up. Give it a try!!! Play and submit your answers and maybe you too can be a BlueNote **TRIVIA Grand Prize Winner** like **Chet Effler**.

Remember, you should send in your responses as quickly as possible, since the **TRIVIA** guesses usually come in with lightning speed. I hope to see your name listed as the BlueNote **TRIVIA Grand Prize Winner** in the next issue.

**Let The Fun Begin!!!**  
**Drumroll!!! Trumpet Fanfare!!! Play Trivia!!!**



It is **TRIVIA TIME** for this new year and **TIME** for everyone to **Play TRIVIA**. This is your opportunity to participate in another entertaining and exciting round of BlueNote **TRIVIA**.

**Since this is the FIRST game of Trivia for 2025, everyone reading the BlueNote should play!!!**

Can you identify the two individuals at the table? And as a bonus, can you name the little girl sitting on the shoulder of one of the individuals?

If you can identify these individuals, just send an email to [terrymangum@frontier.com](mailto:terrymangum@frontier.com) with your answer along with your name and the number of your Lodge.

**Remember to send me your answer as quickly as you can.**

The correct **TRIVIA** answer will be posted in the **March/April 2025** issue of the BlueNote along with the name of the **first** individual submitting the correct answer. Good Luck!!!