Newsletter

July 2011

Special Edition: State Conference 2011

With LEO’s 2011 deaths at 89, an increase of 41%, the government still wants to steal from the working class. Across the nation we are being attacked for fair pay, fair working conditions and a livable pension.

The National President Chuck Canterbury and the National Secretary Patrick Yoes attended the conference and addressed their Arizona brothers and sisters. President Canterbury spoke about the international impact that government is having on LEO’s. He mentioned the problems of Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa as well as ours.

The National FOP started a web page, savepublicsafety.com. You can go onto the website and click on any state to see the hurdles our brothers are going through. Ohio has obtained 500, 000 signatures from the public to be placed on the FOP referendum to veto legislature.

The goal of the new format of the national newsletter is to obtain enough advertisers and make it free to publish.

New Benefits for FOP members: We will be receiving 17 to 24% off of Verizon. When calling Verizon request to speak with business accounts, not customer service. Our FOP contact is Jeff who is member of Lodge 2 and can be reached at [jeff4440@fop.net](mailto:jeff4440@fop.net).

Discounts: ESMPHX.org, username: azfop, password: fraternal

When shopping online, shop through azfop.foryourpeople.com. The FOP automatically receives a portion of the purchase at no cost to you.

License Plate Program: The had an increase in profits of 33% from last year. Any member can obtain one and part of the profit goes back to your lodge. $91, 000 has been raised since the activation of the program. There are no license plates for m/c’s at this time. Lodge 5 raised $623.50 and donated it to the FOP national memorial.

Endorsement Committee: It was brought to the members’ attention that an Endorsement Committee is in place for politicians who request FOP’s endorsement must go through a series of steps to see if they support FOP and our bills. Our Endorsement does not come cheap nor easy. They must show documentation primarily through a questionnaire that they support us. Only the State Lodge can make such an endorsement.

Stand for Kidz Program: The FOP is working to raise money for kids and their schools. About 70% of money raised goes to school supplies and such. The remaining money goes to the FOP and the advertising company. FOP feels it is a strategic way to raise funding and show the public that we care. This will help us monetarily and legislatively.

ALC: FOP helped two detectives that left MCSO and lateraled to Goodyear for obvious reasons. MCSO started to use them as a scapegoat. FOP was able to use our media outlet with help of David Lebowitz and we were very successful.

Arizona attempted to make all employees “at will” employees, with exceptions. The legislature actually passed the bill at 0300 hours. If it wasn’t for ALC-FOP and the tremendous help of Jim Mann, the bill would have became law. The FOP were the only ones fighting at 0300 hours. The fight however is still not over.

Another added benefit to your legal plan that a lot of people are not aware of, is you are covered for personal injury, such as a car accident.

Workman’s Compensation: Darrell our W/C lawyer has been able to help increase wages for injured employees. He has had a high success rate in claims and appeals. There is no statue of limitations for reopening a claim as long as there is an original claim filed.

AZDOC: AZCOPS deteriorated and regrouped to be name AZCOPA. DOC officers are going through a big hurdle because about 10, 000 of them will become “at will” employees. It was encouraged at the conference the Director of DOC must get involved and stand up for his employees. The private prisons program in AZ is having a traumatic effect on DOC and is a intro to their future.

Liason Don Issacson: He is our liason in legislature. He represents the interest of all Public Safety personal. FOP is primarily the only ones fighting Public Safety battles. Legislature would like to abolish DROP completely. Retirees are likely not to receive a raise for at least 13 years. The legislature wanted a very large contribution hike from Public Safety members. Don was able to negotiate down to a 4% increase over the next 5 years. There is language in how our retirement that makes it constitutional. Meaning that by changing it, legislature is violating our rights and our retirement contract. Members who have under 10 years will be able to purchase up to 60 months of military time.

Pension: Jim Hacking is responsible for our retirement system. Since 2006 our retirement has become a lot more diversified. All retirement systems in AZ are underfunded. As of July 1, 2011 employers payroll will consist of 22% being contributed to a pension fund. That is a dramatic increase from 3% in 2003. The ultimate goal is to obtain 80% funding in 1-2 decades.

Other Topics of Discussion:

Lodges 5, 32 and 35 raised a 1/3 of the funding for the web page and commercial time of rescuetherecuers.com.

Our lodge President, Mike Pennington met with Sheriff Arpiao to attempt to initiate a working relationship with MCSO and Lodge 5.

President Pennington also pledged to donate $30, 000 to the state lodge for legal fees that may occur in the upcoming future.

FOP would like to remind all of its’ members that the organization still meets with the Speaker of the House, the Governor’s Office and the President of the Senate.

Sue Early was voted as the new State Treasurer.

Tucson has had 5 officer involved shootings in the past 6 weeks.