

# Deputy Star

FOP Lodge # 131 Howard County Sheriff's Office



## Special points of interest:

- President's Message : New Directions - Big Decisions
- Board Members Step Down
- Endorsement Ballots
- Member Retires
- Chaplin's Message
- Fund Raising
- Agenda Next Months Meeting

## • Next Meeting:

March 9th, 2010 , 6:30PM,  
The Lodge.



## Lodge #131 New Directions, Big Decisions!

President's Message- My first month in office has been a very active one. Throughout the month I have had several meetings and have examined many of the issues facing our lodge. At the forefront of business have been the issues of political endorsements, collective bargaining, and the Memorandum of Understanding. I attended my first State Lodge conference in St. Michael's met with other lodge presidents, and attended a seminar on PAC funds. I was saddened by the news of Brother Chase's medical emergency and have offered our support to both he and his family.

On the political front, I have met with two perspective candidates, and one registered candidate for the Office of Sheriff for Howard County. Each has expressed an interest to reach out to the members of Lodge #131 and offer them their ideas and plans for running the office.

Perspective candidate Herman Charity has since withdrawn his interest, but called to make sure that we as a Lodge knew of his resignation. Herman cited lack of financial backing, and the inability to gain the endorsement of some large endorsements. Mr. Charity went on to say that he would now place his support behind the incumbent Sheriff's campaign.

I, along with two other Board Members met with Charlie Moore the registered Republican candidate. Mr. Moore was given the opportunity to define his vision of and for the Sheriff's Office. We agreed and brought that information forward at our Lodge meeting on the 24th of February.

The incumbent, Sheriff Fitzgerald has expressed his interest in running for a second term. Sheriff Fitzgerald has told me he remains a supporter of the FOP, and provided me with his ideas and vision for the office over the coming years.

The executive board has been working tirelessly in its pursuit of collective bargaining. We have further defined our classification as employees with-in the county, and have reached out to other agencies to examine how they are viewed by their county government. We are currently engaging in high level talks to determine who we should attempt to establish a collective bargaining contract with. We have gone so far as to draft a collective bargaining contract that can be used as a guideline in developing our own contract.

In meeting with the Sheriff, and with our attorney Jason Shapiro, we have been made aware that the county is waiting for an MOU, and we were reassured that one has been submitted. We were also made aware of several reasons as to why it has taken so long to obtain the MOU.

At the State Lodge meeting in St. Michael's, I had the opportunity to meet several other lodge president's and officers. I met with Lodge # 21 's President Greg Der and discussed some common issues that we have within the county. I attended a seminar on PAC funds, and was enlightened into their use and benefits.

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## President's Message (Cont.)

We were all saddened to hear the news of Brother Chase's medical condition. Our lodge has offered our support to the family of Brother Chase and will continue to do so. Also in our thought were Brother Bussard, Brother H. Smith, and Brother Dave Heck. It is my pledge that no Brother or Sister of this Lodge will ever be forgotten or want for support.

It has been a very active first month. There are sure to be many obstacles that will stand in our way, hurdles we will have to overcome. Together we will.

Fraternally Yours,

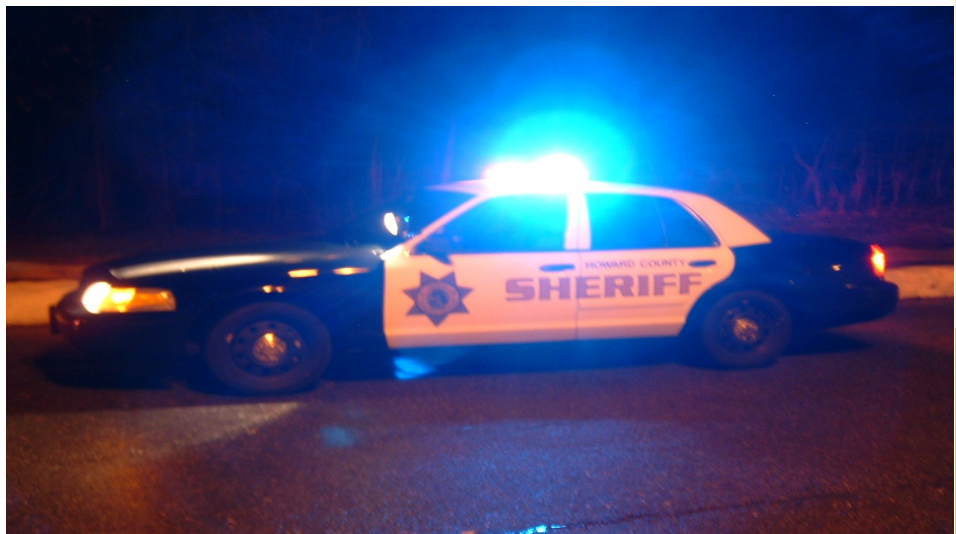
Ed Simmons, President

### Board Members Step Down:

During the month of February, 2010 two Executive Board Members of the Lodge expressed the need to step down from office. Long time member Sergeant at Arms Brother Mike Hajeck, and recently elected Secretary of the Lodge John Marsilli announced their resignation from office.

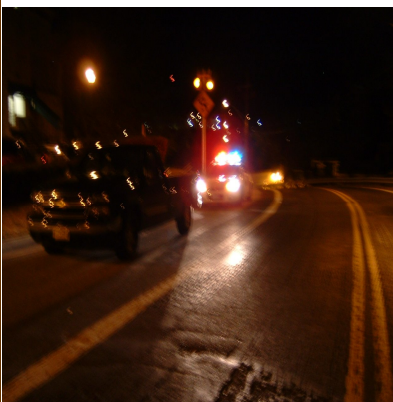
Both board members have been and will continue to be a valued asset to this Lodge.

We thank them both for their service. -



Next Meeting: March 9th, 2010, 6:30pm, at the Lodge

Endorsements Ballots: Some members have expressed concern over the endorsement ballots that have been distributed. I feel it is necessary to address a few incorrect ideas that have been circulating. The ballots present each member with an anonymous voice as it pertains to an endorsement of this Lodge for the listed candidates. The candidates on the ballot were decided and voted on at the Feb. 24th 2010 meeting of the Lodge. I understand it is not all inclusive. That is why the option to not endorse is available to every member on every ballot. The ballots are numbered, not as a method of tracking who has what ballot, but as a method of ballot control. There is no list of names. A committee of ballot counters has been formed to ensure that no such atrocities could occur. Any questions please contact a member of the Executive Board. All ballots are due by 03/05/2010. Once you have completed your ballot, fold it and tape it closed so that your choices can not be seen. Please give them to Brother Ray Cramblitt at the Circuit Court Office, and Brother Roles at the Bendix Rd. Office. These two committee members will hold the unopened ballots. Ballots will be opened and counted at the March 9th 2010 meeting.



Deputy Star

# Sgt. Dave Heck Retires



Far Left- veteran of the Sgt. Dave Heck. Sgt. Heck made a lasting impact on the HCSO. Howard County Sheriff's Office, and member of Lodge #131 since its inception retired.

years of service and wishing him luck in his new life as a retiree. The lodge also provided Brother Heck with a card, and a cake for the celebration.

Thanks again Dave for all the years of service, and the fraternal brotherhood you helped to build.

\*Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. The Lodge.

On February 17th, 2010, Howard County FOP Lodge #131, said so long to one of its most noticeable members. Sgt. Dave Heck, a 30 year

At a luncheon given in his honor, Brother Heck was presented with a plaque acknowledging his contribution to the Lodge throughout his

## Chaplin's Message

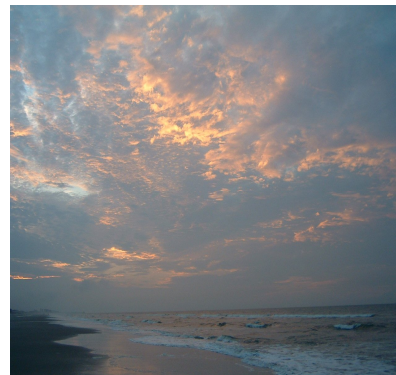
Romans 3:21—24

21—But now righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

22—This righteousness from God comes through faith in

Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23— for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24— and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



Next Meeting March 9th, 2010.\*

## Fundraisers \$\$\$

Lodge #131 is in the midst of preparing a Raffle to help raise funds and differ the need to raise Lodge dues.

Sister Shah has agreed to chair a committee to organize and run a raffle much like the ones we have done in the past.

Brother Baer has agreed to once again chair a committee to host a Lodge Golf Tournament in the fall.

History has shown that these events have been very beneficial to the lodge in the past.

Any Lodge Members that would like to contribute should contact these individuals.

Remember, we need to participate if we intend to succeed.—





## The Deputy Star

Fraternal Order Of Police Lodge 131  
Howard County Sheriff's Office  
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[www.hocofop.131.com](http://www.hocofop.131.com)

Representing the sworn men and women  
of the Howard County Sheriff's Office

Howard County Sheriff's Office F.O.P. 131 was formed to protect the men and women who serve the Howard County Sheriff's Office. We are committed to improving the working conditions of our law enforcement officers and the safety of those who serve. We will accomplish this through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation.



## Next Meeting March 9th, 2010 Begins 6:30pm at The Lodge

Topics to be discussed:

- Standing Committees
- Phone Policy for the Office
- Fundraisers
- Officer Resignations
- Swearing of Officers
- Endorsements
- April State Lodge Meeting
- Legal Defense Plan
- By Laws
- Conducting FOP Business

We are very fortunate to have such an active and passionate fraternity. It is through your continued involvement, and input that we will continue to benefit and grow both in size and stature. Make a meeting, make a difference.

If every active member recruited 1 associate member, we could raise the awareness of the community as to our issues by 46 people. We could also receive upward of \$700. The associate membership is vital to the success of our Lodge. Recruit an Associate today!