

# Deputy Star

FOP Lodge # 131 Howard County Sheriff's Office



## Special points of interest:

- President's Message : Organization and Direction
- Fallen Hero
- H.R. 413
- Chaplin's Message
- Raffle Tickets
- Agenda Next Months Meeting

- Next Meeting:  
April 13, 2010 , 6:30PM,  
The Lodge.



## Organization and Direction!

President's Message- March has seen our Lodge take some major steps forward. We collectively choose to endorse the incumbent County Executive and Sheriff for the upcoming election; we choose to keep our current legal plan in order to maintain the highest level of protection for our membership; and we choose to begin a Political Action Committee Fund. All very major accomplishments.

During this process we encountered some issues that divided our membership and sparked some enlightening debate. This process of decision making offered us insight into many areas we need to improve upon, and highlighted the need for better communication, policy, and organization. I am proud that the democratic process endured and that members were very actively involved in the direction our lodge has moved.

One of the greatest strengths we possess as a lodge is our great diversity. We are very fortunate to have members with very unique law enforcement backgrounds. The backbone of our membership consist of former Detectives, Supervisors, Chiefs, Patrol Officers coming to us from many various agencies. They are supported by a strong core of career deputies that offer great vigor and potential to carry our lodge into the future. Together, our lodge will continue to accomplish great things.

Among our most recent accomplishments was the staffing of several standing committees. These committees are key to our continued success. I encourage each member to seek out and participate on a committee. Any member interested in joining a committee should see the committee chair prior to our next meeting. A list of the standing committees is located on page 3 of this newsletter.

The PAC fund has been voted on and we are awaiting someone to volunteer as President of the fund. A very important tool, the PAC fund has its own President and Treasurer.

On a sad note this past month saw the passing of Prince George's County Police Officer. Unfortunately we were unable to send a contingent to the services for Officer, but our condolences were offered by Chaplin Greene with flowers and a card. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this fallen hero's friends and family.

We continue to keep our brothers Don Chase, Mike Bussard, Dave Heck, and Sam Hammond in our thoughts. Thoughts and well wishes for you and yours.

Lodge #131 is moving with purpose, but we have a lot that still needs to be accomplished. Pending legislation, and budget issues are looming. Decisions on budget and legislative initiatives will be forthcoming, and your continued active participation is paramount.

Fraternally Yours,

Ed Simmons, President

## Long Time Treasurer and Secretary Steps Down-

During the month of March, 2010 Executive Board Member Charlie Gable stepped down as Treasurer of the Lodge. Brother Gable expressed a desire to step down from the Board and has offered his continued support and guidance during the transition. Brother Gable has been an esteemed member of the Board since our lodge's creation. Over the past six years Brother Gable has fulfilled the duties of both the Lodge Treasurer, and the Secretary of the Lodge. No small feat. Lt. Gable performed his board duties to the highest caliber often times carrying the workload for the entire lodge. Thank you Charlie.

### Fallen Hero—

Let us pause to remember our Fallen Hero, Officer Thomas P. Jensen #2853, lost on March 9, 2010 as a result of injuries sustained in a single vehicle departmental accident ten days earlier. Please keep Brother Jensen's family and squad in your thoughts and prayers.



### Legislation Heading to the House Floor! -

H.R. 413 "Public Safety Employer—Employee Cooperation Act" will be headed directly to the House floor sometime this week!

It is imperative that you contact your Representative and ask him or her to vote in favor of H.R. 413 this week.

The bill would recognize the fundamental right of public safety employees—primarily law enforcement officers and firefighters—to form and join unions and bargain collectively with their employers over wages, hours, and working conditions without undermining existing State labor laws. Basically H.R. 413 would require:

- The right to form and join a union
- A requirement that the public safety employer recognize the union and agree to bargain over hours, wages, and the terms and conditions of employment; and
- The availability of an impasse resolution mechanism such as fact finding or mediation.



Deputy Star

Next Meeting: April 13th, 2010, 6:30pm, at the Lodge

# Standing Committees?



March's meeting provided us the opportunity to update, and re-staff some of our standing committees.

These committees provide our lodge the ability to participate in the management

and guidance of our lodge.

Our by-laws indicate that we shall have these five standing committees:

- By-Laws and Constitution Committee: Chairperson Brother Sybert
- Legislative Committee: Chairperson Brother Manning
- Public Relations Committee: Chairperson

Brother Sybert

- Budget Committee: Chairperson Sister L. Green
- Grievance Committee: Chairperson Brother Simmons

Get involved see a chair and join a committee today!

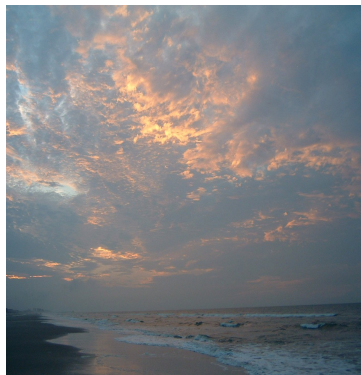
\*Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. The Lodge.

Next Meeting April 13th, 2010.\*

## Chaplin's Message

Peter 4:11

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus.



## Raffle Tickets are in!

Lodge #131 has recently obtained and distributed raffle tickets to each member to sell. History has shown this fundraiser to be one of our most successful!

Each member is encouraged to sell as many tickets as they can. The member with the

leading ticket sales will receive a small prize in appreciation for their hard work.

Tickets should be sold, and all monies collected no later than April 30th, 2010.

Money and unsold tickets can be turned in to Brother Gable or Sister Shah.





## The Deputy Star

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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 April 13th, 2010 Begins 6:30pm at The Lodge

Topics to be discussed:

- Standing Committees
- PAC
- Fundraisers
- Lodge Dues
- Constitution & By Laws

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!

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.