

# THE CALL TO ORDER

**Fraternal Order of Police Robert E. Lister Memorial Lodge 66**

**Volume # 64**

**Nov 2011**

## The Prez Sez

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to start out this letter by thanking all our lodge members for their help and support during the past two years. We have not had the easiest of times and face the same struggles as our county, our state, and our country. We also lost our worthy President **Robbie Robbins** after a long and courageous battle against Leukemia. Not only did **Robbie** complete a full career as a New Jersey police officer, he was a member of the FOP for 43 years. He was an icon in the FOP world, holding almost every possible position in three different states. **Robbie** was the perfect example of once a cop always a cop which is why he spent so much energy on our lodge. He set the bar so high that I could only hope to stand in its shadow someday. This being said, we actually have dozens of members just like him at our lodge. They devote countless hours to our cause and our way of life. They serve our lodge, our community, and our many charities, which affect hundreds of lives. Thank you all for your continued service. I realize it has only been three months since all the new appointments to our executive board. Myself as president, **Pete Gennette** as Vice President, **Yale Houghton** as second Vice President and **Big Bill Kruse** as Sgt at Arms. While this is still fresh in everybody's mind, I would like to remind you that during our November meeting we must hold nominations for all lodge positions. Therefore, if you have free time, and want to help your fellow brothers and sisters, let it be known at the November meeting. At our October meeting, the topic of lodge dues was raised. The members in attendance discussed the dues and decided to leave them status quo. This means the lodge dues will remain at \$60.00 for the year 2012. Any member that does not have payroll deduction through the Charlotte County Sheriff's will need to make arrangements, for the \$60.00 payment. It can be left at the lodge anytime, just slip it in the mail slot located in the front door. For those members wishing to save on gas, the United States Postal Service is still available and they work cheap. The lodge members also listened to information from the two finalists, for our Lodge Christmas party. In the end after much debate, the membership decided on Phil's 41, in Punta Gorda. Phil has a great reputation and loves Law Enforcement. He pledged to make this our best Christmas party ever. This year the cost will remain the same at \$26.00 per couple. One person from the couple must be a lodge member for that price. I look forward to seeing everyone there on December 13, 2011 starting at 6 pm. I also have some very good news on one of our members. Sgt. **J.R. Davis** will be retiring from the Charlotte County Sheriff's office in a few months. Upon retiring, **J.R.** Plans to run for the office of County Commissioner in Englewood. He is a great guy and will make a wonderful commissioner. It will also be nice to have somebody we know and trust in that position for a change. Therefore, when you see **J.R.** give him a pat on the back and offer your support and help. My hat's off to you big guy.

Fraternally Yours,

**Louis Henyecz** President FOP Lodge 66

**President**

Lou Henyecz  
941-766-1310

**1st Vice-President**

Pete Gennette

**2nd Vice-President**

Yale Houghton  
941-628-5807

**Secretary**

Keri DeHart  
941-613-7272 (pager)

**Recording Secretary**

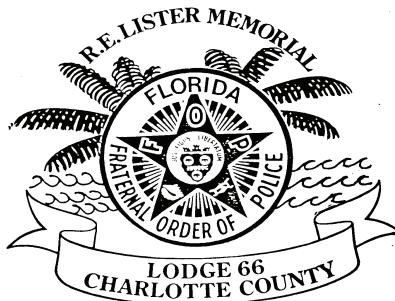
Open Position

**Treasurer**

Joe Fiorini  
941-916-2113

**Chaplain**

Gil Stover  
941-661-1878  
(leave message)



**Sgt. At Arms**

Bill Kruse

**Sgt. At Arms**

Lynn Fuller  
941-380-5405

**Associates President**

Relinda Broom  
941-457-1010

**Auxiliary President**

Relinda Broom  
941-457-1010

**State Trustee**

Ted Broom  
941-575-1538

**Lodge Trustees**

Mike Mickel  
734-285-4248

John Davis  
941-639-6836

Eddie Colón  
732-742-0158

Bob Vogel  
941-626-1049

Dan Marbes  
941-456-0757

**Labor President**

Yale Houghton  
941-628-5807

**Editor**

Gil Stover  
retiredgil@gmail.com

## From The State Trustee

Brothers and Sisters.

TGSO (thank God, summer's over)

It's about time our northern brothers and sisters get back. As a matter of fact, at our meeting last week, a Canadian Goose showed up. Rumor had it that fines were suggested to anyone crossing the state line before Halloween, but I guess it's getting cold up there. Just so long as they bring just a little with them.

It's been a busy couple months for me again. In August, we finished off the garage sale and got rid of everything that was left over. Leftovers were donated to Meals on Wheels, Habitat and the Salvation Army.

As you all know, we lost our dear President **Robbins** in August and a memorial service was held at our Lodge. I have never seen so many people in the Lodge. It was a fitting tribute to **Robbie**.

Sept. was some work around the Lodge. Finally got a door sweep put on the office door and have managed to keep a lot of critters from walking in uninvited. Finished putting up blinds in the old board room after getting all the "stuff" out. Attended the Dist. 3 meeting in Bradenton on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Good news there was the Pasco Lodge finally got a contract signed by their new sheriff. It only took them six (6) years to get it. On that same note, and partially due to it, the Supreme Court of Fla. killed the efforts to get the Legislative Body designation for the Sheriffs. Of course we may hear about this again. Also attended the exec board and regular meeting of our Lodge.

In October I attended the State Board meeting in Fort Lauderdale, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. It was started by State Lodge President **Preston** opening the meeting by dedicating the meeting to **Robbie Robbins**.

Currently in the state the FOP has 100 lodges representing 19,512 members. Assets are approx. 2 million dollars and the Disaster Fund is sitting at \$250,000. All districts have fully equipped trailers to respond to disasters where our members need help.

While at the meeting I attended 12 committee meetings where way too much info to put here was learned. One item of interest is the FOP tags have been selling well. So far 1200 tags have been sold raising over \$30 thousand for the Memorial Foundation in support of our Memorial in Tallahassee. Remember when you see an FOP tag on a vehicle, it belongs to a cop. Period. They are not sold to the public; you must be a member and have a letter from the State Lodge to get one. Help support your departed brothers and sisters and get one for your vehicle.

One of the major items brought up at almost every meeting was how the cities, counties and others are really fighting any organized labor. As you know, times are tough, but they are beating up the ones that protect them and educate their children. Another major item that was brought up was the attack on the Heart and Lung Bill. It covers officers that have developed heart or lung problems while working. Not only have "they" cut back on it, it is believed it will be repealed in this next legislative session. More on this in another article in this news letter. A MUST READ.

Day on the Hill is scheduled for Jan. 19. The State Lodge will pay for rooms, doubled up, for members to go to Tallahassee to support the FOP and talk to the legislators. It is a very useful tool for us to get info to them. I have been there and know a lot of double speak and back handing gets done, but we have to let them know where we stand. The FOP will not support any legislator or candidate that does not support us.

Also on our State lodge level, candidates are announcing for State offices. As your State Trustee, I feel we must support our current president, **James Preston**. He has brought the organization through a very tough period after internal labor problems and lawsuits. He has enhanced our state lodge tremendously and has become a driving influence in labor issues and in support of our retirees. He tirelessly travels from throughout the state to local lodges to see what he can do for them. He has also been appointed to the Eastern States Labor Coalition by the National President as its vice chairman.

Also brought up several times was that our meeting are to be governed by Roberts Rules latest issue (#11). This is to help run orderly and efficient meetings.

I apologize for getting so long winded in these articles; however, I believe you elected me as State Trustee to get the info to you. I was recently asked by a person why do I do all this and I should get a life. This is a great part of my life and I love it. I spent many years working with no one to support me. I became involved in the FOP to help change that. Hopefully you could feel the same way. We have members of the board who have stuck their necks out for you, for your support and wellbeing. They have suffered at work because of it, but still they go on. Some Elections for local officers are come due next couple months. We have a good board now, but we need some new blood. As a board, we hear at times that things need to change, don't like the way things are run or any number of reasons why members don't come to the meetings. Well, if you don't like what is happening, help change it!!! Get involved, run for a board position, or at least show up for meetings and have your voice heard. The FOP is run by the members (that attend meetings). Come help run your lodge..

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. In order to help out members, the lodge phone and new email address ([fflop66@gmail.com](mailto:fflop66@gmail.com)) is forwarded to my cell phone. I will then answer your questions or get you in touch with who you need. Lou does his best to get into the lodge and check the machine daily, but he is still a working (?) cop with a family. Hopefully this little change will help you.

Fraternally Yours,

**Ted Broom, State Trustee.**

## From the Labor President

Brothers & Sisters

As you all know at the end of last month we had Contract voting. Both Corrections and Civilian were ratified as proposed. The LEO Lt. / Sgt. and the Dep. / DFC / Cpl. Contracts were not. Having both units stand together on these contracts says a lot and really sends a message. The Sheriff asked that we meet again at the table but later stated that he had nothing to offer therefore a meeting wouldn't be necessary. At last month's Labor Unit Mtg. it was decided that we would modify our proposal by adjusting the wage raise and asking to be allowed to buy back a portion of our vacation hours. We then sent this in a letter requesting he come back to the table for re-negotiations. We will be having our next negotiation meeting November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and this meeting is open to all members and it would be good to have a large turn out to show support. They are held at HQ in one of the training rooms. The Sheriff has made comments to FOP Labor Rep. **Bill Hastings** that he is still standing firm on no wage raise and that he can't allow the vacation buy back because it's not an article that is "open" in the contract. If he was to allow us to open it then he would ask that we allow him to open one. The article he wants is to eliminate the 6a – 6p / 6p – 6a work hours. If this were to happen we would be basically working at his will. Meaning that each week or so he could change our start/stop hours and that would not be good for family life with respect to baby sitters and such. So, it's not going to be an easy battle but the FOP is there to stand behind us and won't back down. They are willing to stay in the fight till the end.

Fraternally,  
**Yale Houghton**  
**Labor President**

## Our New Vice President

I just wanted to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a member of the executive board. I have been a member the FOP since 1983 and have been involved in labor issues for many years. There is a huge difference between the State where I retired from and Florida, so I still have a lot to learn.

The men and women of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office are very dedicated and it is obvious they care about their community. I am pleased to work with everyone, and if there is anything I can do to help hesitate to ask.

Respectfully submitted  
**Peter Gennette**

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**Where:** FOP Lodge 66

**When:** December 10, 2011 830am-3pm

**Cost:** \$10 for a table for the day (*No cost to come and shop!!*)

There will be tables with items for sale- could be from baked goods or a special cheesecake to miscellaneous to crafts to handmade jewelry to a travel agent!! .. You will just have to come and see what all is there!!

PLUS: SANTA will be there!! Bring your camera and your kids or grandkids with their lists for a picture on Santa's lap. There will be a donation container for American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

For more information or to reserve a table contact Relinda Broom at 941-457-1010.

# F O P 2011 Christmas Party

**When:** Tuesday, December 13, 2011

**Where:** Phil's 41 Restaurant  
1975 Tamiami Tr.  
Punta Gorda, FL

**Time:** Happy Hour (Cash Bar) 6:00—7:00 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm—short meeting to follow

**Menu:**  
(Choice of One)

- Selection # 1:** Prime Rib
  - Selection # 2:** Chicken Napolitano
  - Selection # 3:** Seared Salmon w/ Cajun cream sauce
  - Selection # 4:** White Fish alla Pomodoro
- (Salad, Potato, vegetable, rolls and dessert included)

**Price:** \$26.00 per Member Couple  
\$13.00 per Single Member  
\$26.00 per *non-FOP member*

**Music by:** Ken Barton

**Reservation deadline by December 8th, 10:00 AM**

**Fill in the below information and mail to the Lodge**

Cut & Mail -----Cut & Mail

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Selection #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest's Selection #:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Annual Children's Christmas Party

December 16, 2011  
At 6:00 PM  
23300 Harper Ave.  
Pt. Charlotte, Fl. 33980

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Girls \_\_\_\_\_

Names/Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Boys \_\_\_\_\_

Names/Ages \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by December 10, 2011  
Keri DeHart— 380-4453



## Auxiliary News

I can hardly believe that it is time for the holidays and our Lodge elections to be here! I hope that your executive board has taken good care of our lodge needs for the last 2 years. I have worked at getting our Lodge Auxiliary heard around the state at conferences and keeping all informed as to what is going on.

We have had a dues increase implemented through National FOP Auxiliary and a short discussion on this was held at our last meeting. We are going to try to hold off increasing our Lodge dues and see if we can get a couple more fundraisers in to keep our cost down.

This is our election year and all executive board positions are open. No one is automatically kept in a position, all board members must be nominated and voted in to the position. In the event of 2 persons nominated the vote will be taken that night by written ballot, per the constitution and bylaws.

Positions are:

President- responsible for all operations of the lodge

Vice-president - assists President as needed and in event of absence of President fulfills her/his duties.

Secretary- records minutes of meetings and accepts correspondence and is holder of official documents

Treasurer- responsible for all monies of the lodge

Chaplain- Spiritual leader of the lodge and assists the President at all funerals.

3 positions for Trustees- set up & cleaning of lodge for meetings and refreshments for those meetings.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas party that will be held on December 13, 2011 at 630pm at Phil's 41 in Punta Gorda.

Fraternally,  
**Relinda Broom**  
Auxiliary President

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## Associates News

I can hardly believe that it is time for the holidays and our Lodge elections to be here! I hope that your executive board has taken good care of our lodge needs for the last 2 years. Our lodge still has a very good reputation around the State and I keep getting asked to go to other Lodges to assist with their Associate Lodge.

This is our election year and all executive board positions are open. No one is automatically kept in a position, all board members must be nominated and voted in to the position. In the event of 2 persons nominated the vote will be taken during the day and at the Christmas party by written ballot, per the constitution and bylaws. We hear through the grapevine that people are not happy with the contracts and want to know what is going on with them. Here is your chance to stand up and be part of your Lodge and your collective bargaining unit. You need to attend the meetings if you are nominated and voted in to a position. Positions are:

President- responsible for all operations of the lodge

Vice-president - assists President as needed and in event of absence of President fulfills her/his duties.

Secretary- records minutes of meetings and accepts correspondence and is holder of official documents

Treasurer- responsible for all monies of the lodge

Chaplain- Spiritual leader of the lodge and assists the President at all funerals.

3 positions for Trustees- set up & cleaning of lodge for meetings and refreshments for those meetings.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas party that will be held on December 13, 2011 at 630pm at Phil's 41 in Punta Gorda. Your executive board has approved that the cost for our member to attend the party will be paid by the lodge. If you bring a companion your cost will be \$13.00. You may also bring non members as a guest and the cost per person is \$26.00. Please send your form to either my attention at the lodge or to Shelbie. This way we know how many Associates we are paying for!

Mark your calendar also for the kids Christmas party at the Lodge on Dec 16 from 6 to 8! Contact info is included in the newsletter.

Fraternally,  
**Relinda Broom**  
President

*“Never let them walk alone”*

**Attention Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers and Correctional Officers  
with Hypertension or Heart Disease**

**Important information about benefits under the Heart/Lung Bill and other benefits  
provided during a free workshop and presentation by**

**BICHLER | CLELLAND | OLIVER**

**KELLEY, HASTINGS, LONGO, SPEARS & PARRISH, PLLC**



**WHAT: Workshop and Presentation on the Heart/Lung Bill and other  
issues facing firefighters, law enforcement officers and  
correctional officers.**

**WHEN: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 66  
23300 Harper Avenue  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948**

**Please contact Ted Broom at (941) 627-9666 or  
our office at (407) 599-3777 for more information.**

**Know your legal rights to ensure that you and your family are protected and  
provided all benefits available under the law.**

**[www.bichlerlaw.com](http://www.bichlerlaw.com)**

## Florida Heart Bill Information

Over the past several months, it has come to the attention of the FOP that members are being denied benefits under the Fl. Heart Bill. This is a LAW that was enacted to protect you. A quick history is that presumption of heart and lung problems was obtained by the fire fighters back in the 60s. It was brought up in the 90s that Law Enforcement officers suffer from the same problems and were finally included in the law in 2002. This is FSS 112.18. Read it when you get the chance. The cities and counties have been trying to get it repealed and have been chipping away at it. It may be taken away in the next legislative session, but the FOP is going to fight it with all resources. These are rights that were deserved, fought for and awarded to you by the legislature.

The FOP has taken on the law firm of Bichler, Clelland, Olliver of Maitland Fl. ([www.bichlerlaw.com](http://www.bichlerlaw.com)) to help in the battle.

Attorney Geoffrey Bichler has graciously agreed to come to Charlotte County and speak to our deputies and fire fighters. Both retired and active. If you have received benefits under the law, **YOU NEED TO BE THERE**. If you have been denied benefits under the law, **YOU NEED TO BE THERE!!**. If you think you are entitled to benefits, **YOU NEED TO BE THERE!!!**. This includes "simple" high blood pressure. It is imperative that you get the correct information. We have not been told the whole story and have not received the proper benefits under the law. If you cannot be there, you can send a spouse or rep. for you to get information.

Attorney Bichler will be at the FOP Lodge on November 16, 2011 from 1200 to 1500 hrs and will remain to assist and answer question.

Please RSVP the lodge at 627-9666 or call Ted Broom direct at 628-3753 so we can have some idea of how many might show up.



Mr. Paul Blanchard formerly of Game & Fish along with other agencies and past President of our local FOP Lodge 66, is being honored by the States Attorney's Office.

Our very own Paul Blanchard was surprised on September 23rd, 2011 with a very special award. This was presented at the beginning of the services to him on behalf of the Parents of Murdered Children. They honored Paul for his many years of law enforcement service, his 44 gallons of blood donated and for the many years of his service and dedication to the organization. Congratulations Paul for your well deserved recognition! But, your dedication hasn't ended. You are an inspiration to all of us!

## Our Hard Working Secretary

Greetings and Salutations Brothers and Sisters,

I am very excited to announce that this year's Christmas party will be held at Phil's 41 Restaurant in Punta Gorda. Phil has graciously offered us a menu that I am sure everyone will find delightful. The selections include a Prime Rib with baked potato and veggies, Chicken Napolitano, a chicken breast layered with eggplant and mozzarella cheese with baked potato and veggies, a seared and baked salmon with a cajun cream sauce, rice and veggies, and finally, White Fish Pomodoro, a delicate filet of white fish in a garlic, olive and plum tomato sauce with spaghetti. The meal will include ice tea, coffee or soda and dessert. I know I will have trouble trying to choose, they all sound incredible. They will also offer a full bar service with well drinks for \$4.95 and draft beer for \$2.95. So, make sure you sign up early to make sure you do not miss a wonderful evening celebrating with the FOP!

When I return from Kentucky dues notices will be going out. Please make sure that all dues are paid by January 30, 2012 to insure no interruption of your benefits. Dues remain \$60.00 per member. I look forward to seeing all of you upon my return.

Keri DeHart

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## From the Chaplain

I just want to thank everyone for letting me be your Chaplain these past 3 years. Due to Health reasons I will not be running for Lodge Chaplain in the next election. If you or someone you know would like to help the lodge and it's members please nominate them at the November meeting...

It's not a hard job, just a satisfying one...

ALSO: I will no longer be the editor of the news letter. If someone would like to take over this task let someone know for the November meeting also.

It has been my pleasure serving the members of Lodge 66 and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. I'm not going anyplace...

Fraternally,

Gil Stover

Lodge 66 Chaplain

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

Well this year has come and gone fast. Here it is the end of October with Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner. This of course means that we are about to enter into a new year at the lodge. The beginning of the month I attended the October State Board Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. While there I attended the Legislative committee meeting, the budget meet, the Labor council meeting, the Scholarship committee meeting and several others.

The state budget was approved for the year and the state lodge is doing well. The FOP License plate has brought in over \$30,000 for the State memorial so far this year and it looks as though that will continue for many years to come.

Scholarship applications will be available on the state lodge website November 1<sup>st</sup> and need to be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>, so have your students fill these out to get a chance at being awarded a scholarship. We have had several people from our lodge win these in the past. High School and College students are eligible.

With the New Year coming up real fast, we need everyone to send in their membership renewals. Our per capita checks to the State and National Lodge are due the first of November, so get those renewals in as soon as possible.



We will be having our annual Christmas party again this year. The location will be at Phil's 41 restaurant, 1975 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL <http://phils41.com/>

Phil has always been a friend to Law Enforcement and the food at his place is excellent! The price will be the same this year as it was last year. \$26.00 per member couple. \$26.00 a piece for non-members. The date will be December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and we will have the entire place to ourselves with a full wait staff and bartender. Hope to see you all there. You can send your money for the tickets to the lodge or give it to one of the board members. Remember to put Christmas party on your check.

The lodge budget is balanced for next year using this year's income as an estimate. This year was not a particularly good year as far as solicitations and fund raising goes so the budget was created with the assumption that next year will be the same. Hopefully next year will be better but we are prepared if it is not.

November's meeting will be nominations for lodge officers. I hope we have some new members running for positions on the board. Get active in your lodge! Stay informed! There is strength in numbers.

Remember this year is an election year on all fronts, from local to national. The legislators have been trying to balance their budget on the backs of the government employees, taking hard fought for and earned benefits away from us to further their own agendas. This coming year, make your vote count! Your livelihood is in jeopardy along with the safety and well-being of our entire nation.

Hope to see you all at the November meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Be Safe,  
Joe Fiorini  
Treasurer

**FRATERNAL ORDER of POLICE  
R. E. LISTER MEMORIAL LODGE #66  
23300 HARPER AVENUE  
CHARLOTTE HARBOR, FL. 33980**

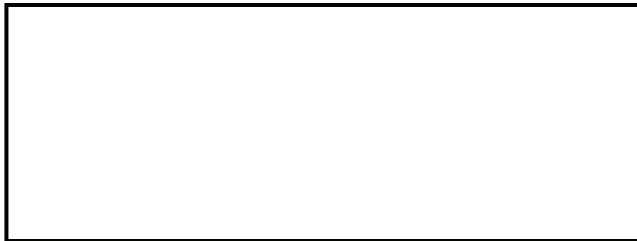
**NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PUNTA GORDA, FL.  
PERMIT 134**

**Lodge Christmas Party  
Tuesday, December 13th  
Phil's 41  
Punta Gorda**

**Nov-Dec 2011**

**Dues are due by  
January 31st  
Send 'em in  
before you forget**

Return Service Requested



**MEETING DATES Aug & Sept**

**Labor Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

**Board Meeting**

Monday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

**Membership**

Tuesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

Lodge Christmas Party

**Auxiliary Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Dec 13th Lodge Christmas Party

**Associate Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM  
Dec 13th, Lodge Christmas Party

**NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
OR HELP WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS?**

**DON'T GO IT ALONE!**

**Call the Lodge  
941-627 9666  
or  
Yale Houghton  
941-628-5807**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
EMPLOYEES**

***Assistance by Lodge Representatives  
in Internal Affairs Investigations will  
only be provided to Sheriff's Office  
Deputies, Corrections Officers and  
Civilians who are members of BOTH  
the F.O.P. Lodge and the Lodge Labor  
Council.***