

The *Louisiana*

WINTER 2019-2020 Vol. 4, No. 1



# JOURNAL

*The Official Publication of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police*



# 2019

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*hosted in Louisiana*

# Louisiana

# JOURNAL



Official Publication of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police

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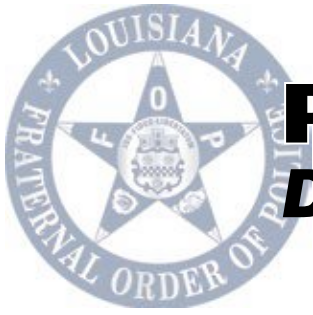


## On the Cover

Congratulations to Patrick Yoes for becoming the National FOP President!

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# President Darrell Basco

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## *Thankful for a Great National Conference*



Congratulations to our new National President Patrick Yoes!!!!!!

I would like to thank everyone involved in making the 2019 national conference a success. This was the most attended conference ever. While the people involved in the conference were numerous and there is no way to not miss anyone, here is a list of the chairmen. Conference Chairman: Patrick Yoes, FOP Family Cookoff: Greg Cossee & Ivory Scott, Mardi Gras World: Henry Dean, Champions Square: Dawn Powell, Superdome: Tiger Folks, Volunteers: Kelly Gibson, Financial: Jim Gallagher, Transportation: Henry Dean, Housing: Michele Joseph.

As we approach the new year, it is time to look into the future for our national and state lodge.

I have been selected as chairman of the NFOP Legal Aid Committee as well as placed on the Social Media and Marketing Committee. You have probably noticed more engagement on NFOP social media. President Yoes and Vice President Gamalidi have given the committee instructions to build our reach and base. If you have social media you

can help us by engaging with NFOP and LAFOP on social media...like our pages, like and share our posts with other FOP members and your friends. Our reach is unlimited and sharing our message is important for members, future members, and the public to know our stance on important issues.

Just before the national conference, I was contacted by Representative Garrett Graves-Baton Rouge- to request a meeting to discuss Windfall Elimination Provision & Government Pension Offset legislation. Representative Graves asked us to lead a working group of other public employees affected by WEP & GPO to mobilize members to increase co-sponsors for the repeal. We have identified and met with stakeholders. We currently have more cosponsors than ever before on this legislation. Be sure to read the weekly Washington Watch to stay updated on the issue. If you do not receive the weekly Washington Watch email, send an email to [info@louisianafop.com](mailto:info@louisianafop.com) to add your name to the list.

As we enter into 2019, we also enter into a new legislative season in

Baton Rouge. This year we showcase Louisiana's Public Safety Report Card, a collaborative effort with other public safety organizations to grade our senators and representatives in the upcoming session. We will publish our expectations of bills that are important to our members and at the close of the session publish the grade of every legislator.

This year we will begin to examine making electronic upgrades to our organization. Some areas that we will look at are electronic dues payments for Pelican Lodge members and for local lodges. I feel confident that these two small improvements can make membership and per capita payments for local lodges a streamlined process.

This summer, Thibodaux Lodge #52 will host our state conference. Details for hotel accommodations and conference information will be coming soon. It is encouraging to see a "young" lodge like Thibodaux step forward and ask to host the conference.

I have greatly enjoyed serving as your president and look to continue my service.

Jus Fidus Libertatum



# First Vice President Kelly Gibson

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## *Don't Sell Yourself Short*



Now that the governor's election is finally over, there is a lesson we can take away from it.

The Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police has worked diligently for the last twenty years to bring our organization to a level of service and efficiency in providing our members, and all Louisiana law enforcement with quality support, programs, service, ideas and leadership training.

One of the avenues in which we've been making inroads is in the area of political recognition. The Louisiana Fraternal order of Police has been involved politically, for many years, with our lobbying efforts and we have had many successes over these years. With the hiring of a professional lobbying firm, to add to our grassroots efforts, our results have increased.

As a result the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police's name recognition has grown as well. We have become involved in programs in which we have a seat at the table to discuss new law enforcement programs and policing policies and make our voices and opinions heard. We've formed alliances with other LE organizations to push legislation via the legislative scorecard. As our national lodge is recognized as one of the top twenty lobbying groups in America, the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police is making a push to become a top lobbying group in Louisiana.

What is the lesson learned that I mentioned in the beginning of this article? Don't give away anything for free. Just as a business cannot survive by giving away its product we cannot

flourish by giving away our valuable commodity.

During this recent governor's election, endorsement questionnaires were sent to the runoff candidates with questions selected by our legislative committee. Neither candidate replied to the questionnaires although representatives of both campaigns contacted the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police seeking an endorsement.

We cannot give away a valuable commodity such as our endorsement without a pledge support, a common goal or a least an honest answer to our questions. As a result no endorsement was made.

Don't sell yourself short, our endorsement is only as valuable as we make it.



# Second Vice President James “Tiger” Folks

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## *Ensuring Compliance with National Constitutions and By-Laws*



Let me begin by saying that the Fraternal Order of Police has never been in a better position than now, to lead law enforcement into the future, making our voices heard once again, and bringing back the respect to the uniform that has been so unfairly tarnished. I have had the privilege of working alongside our FOP national leaders and have seen firsthand the passion each has, to restore our profession to the place we once were. My brothers and sisters, the future is shining bright.

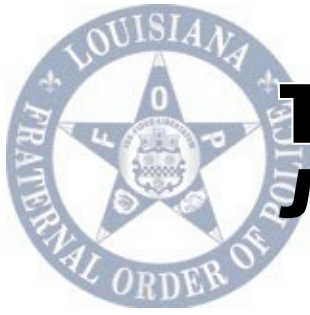
I am also humbled to have been appointed to the National Compliance and Audit Committee, by President Yoes and Vice-President Joe Gamaldi. I look forward to serving on this committee and working with the other members

to assure all states are meeting their requirements of compliance.

This leads me to the topic of this article. I was tasked by President Basco to ensure all local lodges comply with the national constitution and by-laws. I have spoken about this at several meetings and would like to once again remind all lodge presidents that complying with the national constitution and by-laws is just as important as paying your per capita dues. As you are all familiar, lodge officers can change at every election rotation. It is possible that vital information is not being passed on to the next elected lodge officer. And as most lodges do not need to refer to their constitution on regular occasions, it may be years before someone needs to look for the document. While some

lodges can operate for years without needing to use the constitution, it is the most important document when questions arise within the lodge. It is strongly recommended that the executive board of each local lodge review their constitution annually.

I have created a checklist that outlines the necessary information that all lodges' should have readily on hand. Once that information is sent to the state lodge, it will be stored and available for lodge officers. Changes to any of the listed items on the checklist that are made the new information should be updated and sent to the state lodge. If you have any questions or wish me to email the checklist to your lodge, I can be reached at [jfolks@lafop.net](mailto:jfolks@lafop.net).



# Treasurer Jim Gallagher

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## *Support the Louisiana FOP Foundation*



Most of our members know that I serve as the financial secretary of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police, but some may not know that I also serve as the treasurer of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police Foundation. It is as the treasurer of the Louisiana FOP Foundation that I write this article today.

FOP leaders at the time, some who are still serving as leaders throughout Louisiana, took initial steps to form the Louisiana FOP Foundation in September 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Approval of our 501(c)(3) charitable organization designation was received from the Internal Revenue Service in 2007. Our mission statement calls on the Louisiana FOP Foundation to engage in philanthropic activities in local communities throughout the State of Louisiana; to advance the safety, security, and well-being of Louisiana's law enforcement officers and their families; to promote and sponsor law enforcement education for both our officers and the community; and to provide financial assistance to Louisiana law enforcement officers who find themselves in need, especially when the result of a

duty-related injury.

Over the years, the Louisiana FOP Foundation has assisted our local lodge in New Orleans to distribute over \$600,000.00 through its FOP Family Fund, FOP Cops & Kids Program, FOP Scholarship Program, and other charitable undertakings. Our St. Charles lodge has used the LAFOP Foundation to raise and spend nearly \$200,000.00 to build its Legacy Walk and beautiful Law Enforcement Memorial as well as assist members who were injured in the line of duty. Our foundation has allowed our lodges in Baton Rouge, Pineville, and Thibodaux to hold fundraising events to benefit their members and their communities. We have provided disaster assistance to members impacted by hurricanes, tornados, house fires, and the several "once in a lifetime" flooding events that seem to plague our communities every other year. Perhaps most importantly, the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police Foundation has provided over \$60,000.00 to the families of law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving and protecting our Louisiana communities.

In all, our Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police Foundation has distributed over \$1,200,000.00 in direct benefits to our members and Louisiana's law enforcement community through our Disaster Response Program, our Member Training Program, our Memorial Response Program, our Education and Scholarship Programs and our various direct charitable contributions to such organizations as Easter Seals, Special Olympics, Louisiana Concerns of Police Survivors (LACOPS) and the One-Eye Foundation, to name just a few.

Funding for the LAFOP Foundation comes mostly from our own members, in either direct contributions that they know will benefit their brothers and sisters in need, or through the bi-annual fees collected by the Louisiana DMV for our Louisiana FOP License Plates – valid Louisiana license plates issued only to active and retired law enforcement members of the Louisiana FOP.

If you do not yet have an FOP license plate on your vehicle, please consider ordering one – to show your pride in your profession and to support our great organization and the fantastic work it does on behalf of our members.

# Fraternal Order of Police Louisiana License Plates

## FOP VEHICLE PLATE



To order an FOP License Plate from DMV, you must present a your vehicle title, proof of insurance, and a letter from the Louisiana FOP State Lodge certifying your membership in the Fraternal Order of Police.

Certifying letter can be downloaded by visiting [www.louisianafop.com](http://www.louisianafop.com).

For additional information contact LAFOP License Committee Chair Billy Roth at (504) 443-2128 or via email at [brothnopa@cox.net](mailto:brothnopa@cox.net).

There will be a \$25.00 fee assessed for all new plates and two-year renewals. This tax deductible fee is being collected by the DMV to support the **Louisiana FOP Foundation.**

## FOP MOTORCYCLE PLATE





# Secretary Dawn Powell

## *Answering Your Questions*



Greetings members,

Congratulations to Patrick Yoes for becoming the new National Fraternal Order of Police President. It was great to see Pat elected at our National FOP conference in New Orleans.

I have been appointed to the national FOP election committee for the next two years and I look forward to representing Louisiana on this important committee.

I would like to thank the membership and the board for their confidence in me and for allowing me to serve two more years as your secretary! As with everything we do, I try to make decisions with YOUR best interest in mind.

The past two years seem to have been years of change. As the years go by, so do members. There has been a constant change in board members on the local level across the state. It is important to pass on information within your board so that the incoming officers have an idea of what to do. A time of transition is important so that no new member gets lost in the shuffle.

These are a couple questions that have been answered numerous times,

so I thought it would be helpful if I post the answers here for you to have as a reference:

- If your lodge board changes, you have to fill out a new roster and send in to me (mail or email) immediately. All information on the roster must be accurate. Email address are important as this is how we communicate and the secretary's email is the login for the national database.

- Per capita payments can be made in yearly or half-year increments. \$11.50 per year for national and \$8.00 per year for state. Important to know is the due dates: November 1st is the due date for the next year dues which run January 1st through June 30th. May 1st is the due date of the second half per capita (if you chose to pay in half year increments OR if someone joins in the middle of the year) which covers July 1st through December 31st. Payments must be separate checks or money orders but mailed to me at the state lodge address of: PO Box 1479 Abita Springs, LA 70420.

- All adds/losses/updates must be entered into the National database at the local level.

- Legal defense must be paid separately and the envelope should be addressed to Jim Gallagher.

On the legislative committee, we are watching out for the best interest of our law enforcement officers. We are gaining the attention of those at the capitol and are requested at the table for information and guidance. This is a great thing for us LEOs. Although that seems warm and fuzzy, we are not letting our guard down and our liaison team is vigilantly watching what is going on in the house and the senate.

I ask you to speak with your peers and co-workers about the FOP and our Legal Defense plan! You are our best promoter. If you have someone with questions, direct them my way!

I am excited to see the future of the FOP and proud to be part of it. I look forward to seeing you in Thibodaux and continuing to serve our members in Louisiana.

Be safe and watch your six!





# Sgt. at Arms Susan Hebert



## *Get the Legal Defense Plan*

Welcome brothers and sisters,

Our 64th Biennial Conference in the Big Easy is now over. I hope everyone had a good time and had memories to bring home and share.

We want to congratulate Patrick Yoes on becoming our new national president of Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you to all the members who attended the conference and cast their vote. We also want to congratulate Thomas Tizzard on his re-election as our national state trustee.

Our State Lodge 100 continues to

grow. We now have 100 members from all over the state. Once we have 10 members from the same area they can form their own state lodge. We encourage all members to get the Legal Defense Plan. The plan allows you to choose your own attorney to represent you in criminal or civil cases. A list is provided free of charge. The plan gives you peace of mind. You need to protect your family, your career and your financial security.

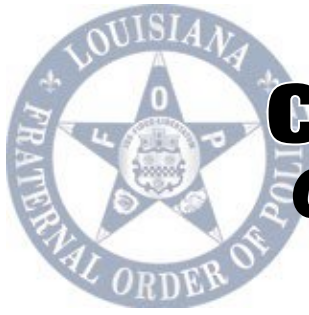
Reminder, the FOP specialty license plates for members are available. Don't

forget to get your letter from FOP stating you are a member. You must have proof of vehicle liability insurance and current vehicle registration. Show your pride.

We look forward to what we will accomplish in 2020. If anyone has new ideas or goals they would like to share, please do.

If I can further assist you, please don't hesitate to email me [sahebert710@gmail.com](mailto:sahebert710@gmail.com)

**FOP STRONG!!**



# Conductor Charles Guey

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## *Why Join the FOP?*

You ask yourself why I should become a member of the FOP? Well, there are many reasons you should become a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. You may have already heard about some of the benefits of membership. Here are a few more reasons why you too should become "Proud to be FOP"!

The FOP is the oldest and largest professional police organization in the nation with over 346,000 members in 2100 lodges. Membership is made exclusively of active and retired law enforcement officers from local, state and federal agencies.

Unlike other organizations the FOP is run from the bottom – UP. This means that the local lodges decide what

type of lodge they want to be. Local lodges can be strictly a fraternal organization, or they can be both a fraternal and labor-oriented lodge. Local locals are free to run their lodge without outside interference as long they abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Fraternal Order of Police Grand Lodge and their state lodge. Local officers can customize their lodge to cater to their specific needs. One example would be rural requirements vs. urban requirements. FOP provides the foundation on which you build the kinds of features you specifically need and want.

Local lodges are encouraged to participate in community programs and sponsor their own programs. The FOP cares about our communities!



The FOP offers its members numerous benefits, here are few of those programs

**FOP Legal Defense Plan:** The legal defense plan offers members legal representation in three areas, Administrative, Criminal and Civil. The plan is owned and operated by the FOP. For those members who are considered At-Will the plan offers Criminal and Civil representation a reduced cost.

In addition to the legal defense plan the FOP offer a **Moonlighting Liability Insurance Program** which protects individual peace officers who perform extra duty jobs. In addition to protecting the officer, coverage is extended to the non-governmental entity that has contracted the officer's services. By of-

fering protection to the extra duty employer you have a distinct marketing advantage over other programs, which may not extend coverage to the hiring entity.

However, the Moonlighting Liability Program is not a plan offered or covered by FOP Legal Plan, Inc. the plan is offered and insured by an outside independent insurance company and is endorsed by The Grand Lodge FOP.

**NFOP University:** The National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU) is a consortium of colleges and universities that provides members of the FOP with multi-varied learning programs. These programs are traditional and non-traditional forums. The NFOPU allows FOP members the ability to take courses which will accommodate the unique requirements of a working law enforcement officer's schedule. These courses can be taken

completely online allowing members to obtain their degrees on their own time. Participating colleges and universities are regionally accredited institutions.

And the most important thing is that our members could receive benefits in the form of actual tuition cost reduction or extensive credit for past degree work, POST training and FBI Academy training. Not every school in the program will offer actual decreases in tuition, but students of those schools may proceed more quickly through the program because of credits received—resulting in completion of their degree in a timely and less costly manner.

**Legislative:** The FOP also represents its members in both Washington, DC. and Baton Rouge by following legislation that effects law enforcement and maintaining contact with elected officials at both levels of government. The FOP consults with legislators on

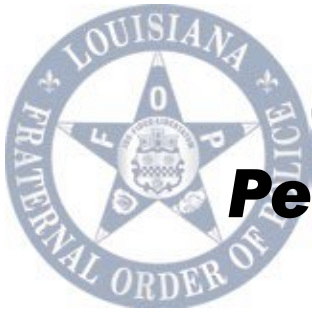
issues important to us all.

**LAFOP Foundation:** The LAFOP Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that aids FOP members during times of disaster, as well as providing educational assistance and other needs special to the law enforcement profession. The National FOP Foundation provides similar assistance at the national level.

To view all the benefits offered by the FOP please visit the National FOP website, [www.fop.net](http://www.fop.net)

If there isn't a local lodge in your area, we offer an at-large lodge, Pelican Lodge 100, where officers can join and receive the same rights, privileges and benefits as every other FOP member. To receive more information about join the Pelican Lodge visit [www.louisiana-fop.com](http://www.louisiana-fop.com) and simply click on the how to join link.

Most importantly, WE are an organization run BY cops FOR cops!



# Chaplain Pete Menkiewicz

## *In Memory of Willie Joe Greene*

It is with deep respect and great sadness that I dedicate this column to a dear and loyal friend, and legend of the Fraternal Order of Police and Louisiana law enforcement. Our worthy brother, Willie Joe Greene of Shreveport F.O.P. Lodge #3 passed away on October 3rd 2019. He was 82 years young. He will be greatly missed.

Willie Joe dedicated his life to his wife of sixty years, Colette, his family, and law enforcement, particularly the Fraternal Order of Police. He served proudly with the Shreveport Police Department for 30 years and retired as a captain. During that time and beyond retirement he was a member of Lodge #3. He served on the executive board including the office of president of the lodge. He served on the state board and was elected president of the Louisiana State Lodge in 1980. Also, for many years, he sat on the executive board of M.P.E.R.S. Pension system. (It was reassuring for us retirees to know that; Willie Joe was "looking out for our interests").



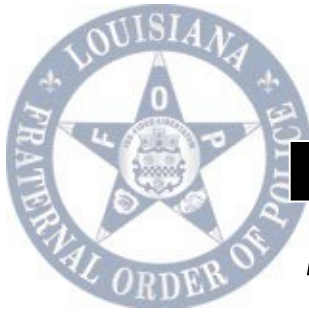
He gave freely of himself and his talents to many worthwhile endeavors, and was quick to offer wisdom and guidance to younger members. I once heard him say, "I got to give you youngsters 'di-rektion'," and that he did. He taught me a deep respect and appreciation for the Fraternal Order of Police and its members. Willie, Joe Edmonds, Charlie



Carter, Nelson Ortego, Bob Lampard Sr. and others like them worked hard and fought hard to establish our Order in Louisiana. Then they passed in on to us to carry on in their noble tradition.

Willie Joe also had a sense of humor and did love fun. He was always eager to join in a prank or joke. His ready smile and easygoing demeanor were contagious. He had talent, too. If there was a band at a Miction, he could easily be persuaded to perform his rendition of Bo Diddly's "Who Do You Love." It was great. Willie had a genuine passion for life, and was a joy to be around.

I feel privileged to have served the order with him and I am proud to have been his friend. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is not length of life, but depth of life" that matters. Willie Joe Greene's life was the deepest. He will be greatly missed by the Fraternal Order of Police and all those whose lives he touched.



# National President Patrick Yoes



## *FOP Leaders Meet with President Trump*



FOP leaders from across the country traveled to Washington DC to meet with President Donald Trump to draw attention to an issue that is endangering the lives of our members and doing untold harm to our communities. The issue is activist district attorneys and judges not enforcing the law and cutting sweetheart deals for violent repeat offenders. I don't have to spell out the dangers of our members chasing the same crook over and over again, only for them to be released with a slap on the wrist. When there are no consequences for their heinous actions, they will continue to re-offend, placing our members in more danger.

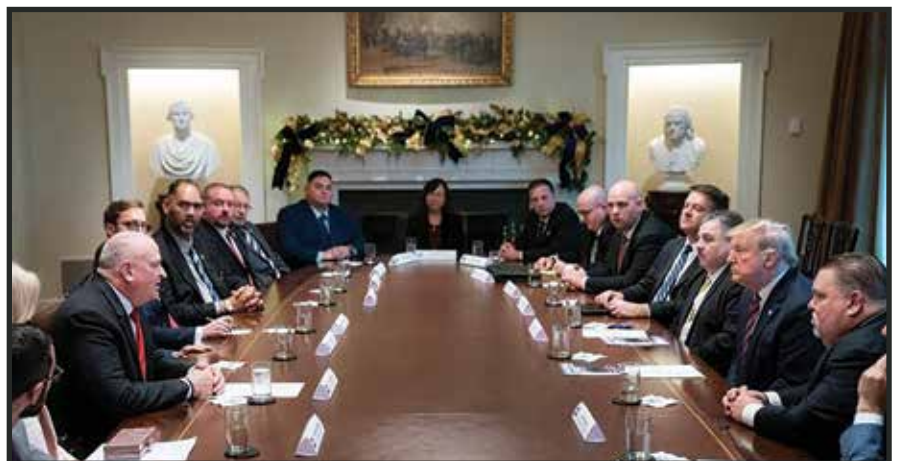
One after another, each leader passionately laid out the problems in their cities to the president. It became clear there is a real problem plaguing our country, while violent crime is trending downward nationwide, it is doing the

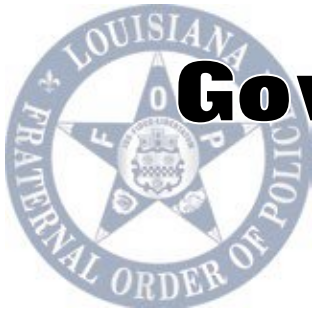
opposite in our urban cities and statistics show it's because of the weak posture on violent crime. How shocking that being soft on violent crime would lead to more of it (sarcasm).

True to his support for law enforcement the president agreed to lend his

far-reaching voice to our issue, to assist in raising awareness of this growing problem. But the president didn't stop there. He agreed to lend further assistance and resources, to encourage local US attorneys to take more cases that local DAs had punted or attempted to cut a sweetheart deals. Needless to say, the meeting went very well and it was clear that our voice had been heard.

This meeting put on full display the kind of access the Fraternal Order of Police has to the most influential people in our country. In addition, it is a wonderful representation of how that access can be utilized to assist our members in bringing problem to the national stage, and help solve these issues that impact their everyday working conditions. The meeting with President Trump was a huge step in the right direction, just another indication of what the FOP does for all of us.





# **Governmental Liaison Joe Mapes**

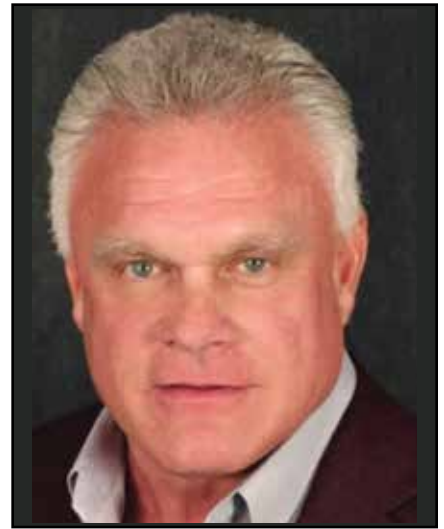
## ***Let's Start and Stay Strong for this Shortened Legislative Session***

The 2020 legislative session begins on March 9th. It's a fiscal session which means it's a shorter, smaller session.

That does not mean this legislative session is less potentially dangerous. Over 700 bills can be filed regarding any subject, including law enforcement. With ever-changing attitudes regarding law enforcement, it's more

important than ever to stay connected with your brothers and sisters through the efforts of the LAFOP.

Your LAFOP has created a place at the table for law enforcement in Baton Rouge at the capitol. Back that position up by participating in the legislative process that affects you being a police officer. When your LAFOP asks you to hit the send button in an email, do it.



It takes only a few seconds to do, and it could be the difference of one vote. We live and die by one vote around here all the time period. If you don't participate, some other groups and/or groups will be setting the table and law enforcement will be on the menu.

Cuz you know folks, you're either at the table, or you're on the menu.

# Legal Counsel

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## By Donovan Livaccari

People join the Fraternal Order of Police for various reasons. Some join because their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were members of the same lodge. Some join because they moved to Louisiana to take a job, they do not know anyone, and they figure the FOP is a good way to make some friends. All of those things are perfectly good reasons to be FOP members. I would assert, however, if most FOP members were asked to identify one reason to belong to the FOP, the vast majority of them would identify the FOP's Legal Defense Plan as the main reason.

They may come to really appreciate the Breakfast with Santa the lodge does every year, but the Legal Defense Plan is still the main reason. That being the case, it seems appropriate for FOP members to familiarize themselves with what types of things are covered. You can always call me, as general counsel for the Louisiana FOP if you are not sure and I will either give you my opinion or find out the answer.

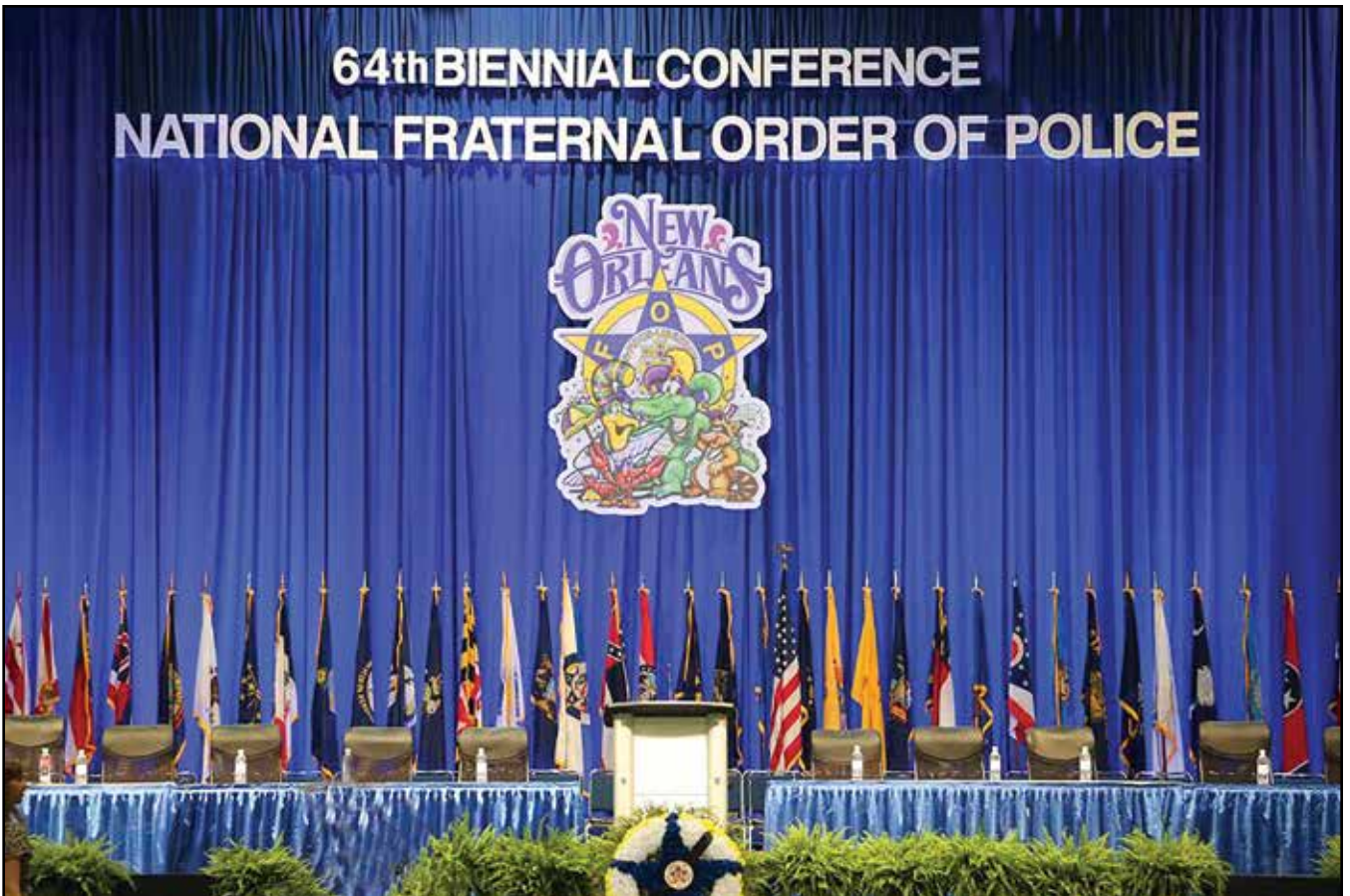
First of all, the name gives away one of the most important elements of the plan. The FOP has the National Legal Defense Plan. Defense is defined as "the action of defending from or resisting attack." The definition came from the Oxford English Dictionary. In any event, the important part is defending or resisting attack. It does not include offensive actions. The Legal Defense Plan is not going to pay for you to file a lawsuit alleging defamation. The Legal Defense Plan is not going to pay for your lawsuit against the guy who ripped your uniform shirt while resisting.

It will, however, cover defend you against allegations

made against you while you are performing your job as a law enforcement officer, depending, of course, on what types of coverage you subscribe to. Chances are that if you think something should be covered that it will be covered. It could sometimes come down to how the incident is described on the Legal Defense Plan claim form (found at [www.foplegal.com](http://www.foplegal.com)). You can also find a plan attorney in your area on the website ([www.foplegal.com](http://www.foplegal.com)).

If you have any questions, call someone who knows. We get these questions every day. Don't worry about whether we are doing other important things. Your question is important. Don't worry about whether we are busy. If we cannot answer the phone, we won't answer the phone. If we don't answer, leave a voicemail or send a text message. Sometimes I can't answer the phone, but there is nothing preventing me from replying to a text message. If it requires a conversation, be patient and we will return your call as soon as possible at 504-905-8280.

# Scenes from the 2019 National FOP Conference



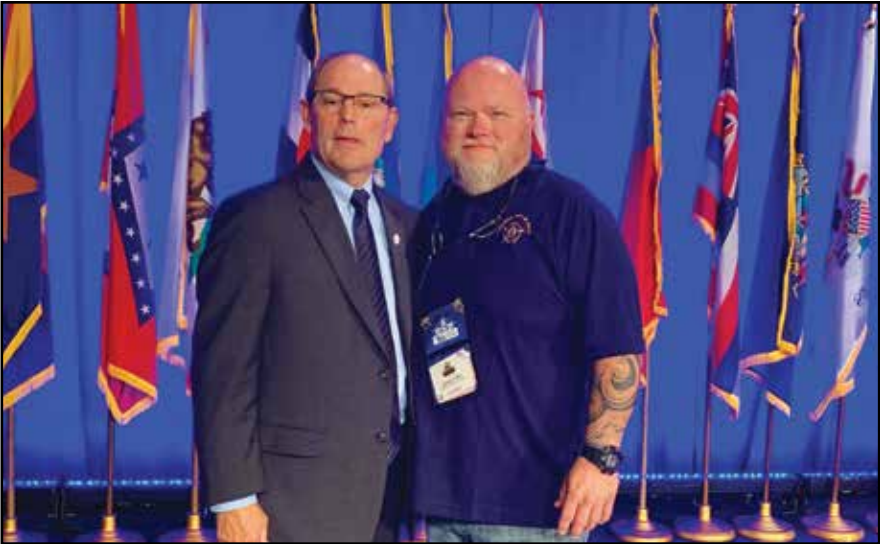


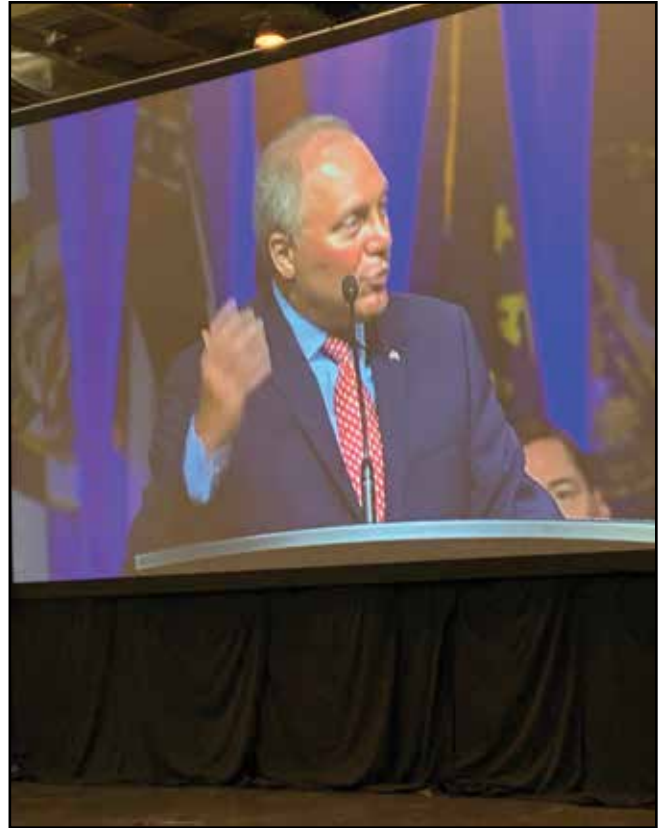


Scenes from the 2019 National Conference



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