



## MINNESOTA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Thank you to those who attended the State Conference for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend and to have your voice heard. We had a full agenda and a lot of information was passed on to the membership. I will highlight a few of the items discussed in this update. We have made some great strides in the last year to move the MNFOP forward after sitting idle for too long. We have become more financially stable by eliminating our debt and supporting the organization through membership dues. We are now able to start focusing on recruiting new members and securing additional benefits for our current ones. In the last couple of months, I have made contact with each local lodge to ensure that they are in compliance with the MN Secretary of State, and that they have all of their current information on file with the Grand Lodge. The majority of the lodges were in compliance and those that were not were given instructions on how to correct their issues. If your lodge is having issues please let myself or State Secretary David Miller know, and we will assist you with the process of getting in compliance. I am hoping to have continued contact between the local lodges and the State Lodge in the future. By doing this we will keep lodges better informed of what is going on not only in Minnesota, but across the country as well. It will also ensure that lodges are current and that any issues they are having will be taken care of in a timely manner.

This was an election year and per the bylaws nominations were made for all of the current State Board positions prior to the February 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. There were not any amendments submitted prior to the February 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. A motion was made from the floor for a white ballot and was made, seconded and approved. Listed below is your 2017-2019 State Board.

President	Matt Hagen	Lodge 6
Vice President	Josef Garcia	Lodge 11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Pat Chelmo	Lodge 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Todd Jorgenson	Lodge 13
Secretary	David Miller	Lodge 8
Treasurer	Fawn Krosch	Lodge 8
Sgt-At-Arms	Karol Strey	Lodge 4
National Trustee	Ruben Marichalar	Lodge 11
Immediate Past Pres.	Gary Cayo	Lodge 6

There were 3 submissions for the 2017 MNFOP Member of the Year. They were all very worthy candidates and well deserving of the award. The following members were submitted for MNFOP Member of the Year: Gary Cayo from Lodge 6, Kelly Franco from Lodge 3 and Jim Crace from Lodge 9. After a vote by the Awards Committee, Gary Cayo was awarded the 2017 MNFOP Member of the Year. Congratulations to Gary Cayo on your award. Thank you to Kelly France and Jim Crace for your hard work and dedication to the members of the MNFOP. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by your brothers and sisters and your local lodges. Keep up the great work in the future!

I am happy to report that we have finally received our final penalty/late fee from the IRS due to our failure to submit the proper documentation in 2010. This has been a thorn in my side since I was elected State President in 2015 and it was my goal to get this issue resolved and put it behind us. Unfortunately, with the changing of State Board members we thought the required documentation had been submitted to the IRS in the past and it had not. This resulted in a civil penalty of approximately \$9,700 being assessed to the State Lodge. In September, I sent the IRS all of the required documentation from 2010. I contacted them on several occasions after submitting the documentation and was continually told, "your case is under review." On March 10<sup>th</sup> we received a letter from the IRS stating that a determination had been made and our final late fee was \$50 per late document for a total late fee of \$750. I would have liked to have gotten away without any late fees or penalties, but it would be hard for us to argue when our documentation was 6 years late. I forwarded the letter and the information regarding payment to Treasurer Krosh and she has made the final payment to the IRS. With this done, I am proud to say that the State Lodge is officially debt free! State Treasurer Fawn Krosh gave a financial update of the State Lodge. I am happy to report that financially we are in good shape. We will continue to have a conservative budget in the future and we will work to grow all of our accounts. If you would like more detailed financial information please let myself or State Treasurer Krosch know at [fkrosch@yahoo.com](mailto:fkrosch@yahoo.com).

In February 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pat Chelmo, Immediate Past President Gary Cayo and I attended the annual Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. hosted by the Grand Lodge Legislative Office. During the current climate, Day on the Hill is extremely important and is a time when FOP members from across the country can come together with a common voice and fight for the rights of all law enforcement across the country. We spoke to the "top legislative priorities" of the Grand Lodge, which include the "Officers Due Process and Accountability Act" and the "Social Security Fairness Act". We had some very productive and engaging discussions with the senators and representatives from Minnesota about these issues and others that were brought up by our members. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chelmo gave a review of our meetings and highlighted what our members can do to have their voice heard. There have been studies that have been done that show that face to face meetings are the most effective way to have your voice heard with regular mail coming in a close second. This is the reason that we travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our Representatives and Senators. I am hoping to continue this in the future and to hopefully expand on what we are doing now. If you would like to become more involved in the legislative process for the FOP please let myself or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pat Chelmo know at [Patrick.chelmo@hennepin.us](mailto:Patrick.chelmo@hennepin.us).

The National Conference will be upon us before we know it, so get your vacation requests in! The National Conference will be held Nashville, TN at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel from August 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. A contract was signed last fall for 30 rooms at the host hotel. The link for booking hotel rooms has been sent out to all the local lodge presidents and trustees. If you have not received it please let me know. We currently have 10 rooms remaining in our room block. If you still need a room for the conference, please book it as soon as possible. If we have any remaining rooms after May 15<sup>th</sup>, I will be giving 10% of them back per our contract. If you would like more information about the conference please visit [www.fop2017.com](http://www.fop2017.com). The website has information about a great events package that is sure to sell out quickly, so reserve yours today. If you have any questions about the National Conference please let National Trustee Marichalar or myself know

At the National Conference we will be electing a new Grand Lodge board. All of the positions are up for election and the following people have currently been nominated for the following positions. The currently elected board members or incumbents are listed with an "I" after their name and home state.

President	Chuck Canterbury (SC) I
Vice President	Jay McDonald (OH) I
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Les Neri (PA) I
Treasurer	Tom Penozza (DE) I
Secretary	Pat Yoes (LA) I
Secretary	Roger Mayberry (CA)
Sgt. At Arms	Kevin Ahlbrand (MO)
Sgt. At Arms	Keith Turney (IL)

At the State Conference the membership voted unanimously to endorse Pat Yoes for National Secretary and Kevin Ahlbrand for National Sgt-At-Arms. I drafted letters to National Secretary Yoes and Brother Ahlbrand congratulating them on the endorsement of the MNFOP and I offered any assistance necessary throughout their campaign.

There will also be several constitutional amendments that will be voted on. Once I receive the complete list from National Secretary Yoes I will send them out to the local lodges and I will also have them posted on the Facebook page and webpage.

In the last couple of months, I have been looking hard to find additional benefits to offer our members. At the National Board Meeting in Peoria, IL I spoke with Washington State President Marco Montebalco about the insurance benefits that they currently offer their members. He provided me with a contact to their insurance broker Russ Bong. I called and spoke with Russ and he provided me with information about the long term/short term disability insurance and medical savings accounts that they currently offer Washington FOP. I have included the information in the back of the agenda packet. Please take the time to review them and let me know if this is something that you feel we should move forward with. I also have been in contact with NPPGov, the government division of National Purchasing Partners (NPP), which is a national group purchasing company serving a variety of private and public markets. Membership is entirely free and there is no obligation to purchase. NPPGov members have access to a large variety of publicly solicited contracts to simplify purchasing while complying with procurement requirements. NPPGov's contract portfolio is continually growing to meet the needs of its members. I will be forwarding this information out to the membership in the next month. I will also post it on the Facebook page and webpage. If you have any questions about the programs or have ideas for additional benefits that we can offer our members please let me know.

The foundation is doing well financially, this is in no small part due to some great partnerships that have been formed in the last couple years. In the coming year, we need to continue to build on these partnerships and look to form new ones. By doing this it will allow us to assist more members in their time of need. Foundation President Cayo made a request to begin awarding scholarships again in 2018 in the amount of \$2000. We will be working on revising our scholarship criteria in the coming months. If you have ideas for criteria or if you would like to be involved in the process please let myself or Foundation President Cayo know. Foundation President Cayo also made a request for \$3000 to support the MN Police Explorers. This is a group that we have supported in the past and only stopped due to past financial strains. The membership approved the request and we look forward to supporting them again.

Fowler Ditsch Law provided a Critical Incident training session that highlighted what you should and should not do if you are involved in a critical incident while on or off duty. First and foremost you need to contact your attorney once the scene is secure. It was a good reminder that you need to be familiar with your agencies critical incident policy. We also discussed what questions a supervisor can ask you following an incident. Typically these questions are called the "public safety questions". If

you would like a list of these questions please let me know and I will forward them to you. If you are not a member of the MNFOP LDP there is no better time to join. The presentation highlighted the need to have legal representation that understands Critical Incidents and has extensive experience in dealing with them. Visit [www.mnfop.com](http://www.mnfop.com) and click on the Legal Defense Plan tab to join.

Emmah Beardsley from Backing the Blue Line was on hand to give an overview of their organization. We have been working with Backing the Blue Line for the last 2 years and we are hoping to expand our relationship in the future. Emmah highlighted the assistance that they provide to officers and their families in their time of need. One way they help is by assisting officers or their families with work around their house or transportation to appointments. I will also be sending out an email in the next few weeks with a contact person at Backing the Blue Line for those interested in being added to their volunteer list.

We discussed National Police Week in Washington D.C. and the possibility of donating money from the MNFOP to support the event. For those who are not aware, the National Peace Officers Memorial Service that is held on May 15<sup>th</sup> each year costs the FOP approximately \$330,000. I suggested that instead of donating money to cover costs of the event that we should send members out to Washington D.C. to assist with the execution of the service. The National Memorial Committee consists of 5 members who plan and put on the service. Without the assistance of volunteers from several states that travel to Washington D.C. the service would not happen. The National Memorial Committee relies on these volunteers for site setup and security during the service. We discussed finding ways for additional funding to send MNFOP members to Washington D.C. in the future. If you have any ideas for funding please contact President Matt Hagen.

In closing, I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as your State President. Each day of the last 2 years has been a learning experience for me, and I thank you for your patience as I gain the knowledge to serve as your State President. I will continue to work hard on behalf of the members of the MNFOP. Remember that the FOP is here for you here at home in Minnesota and in Washington D.C. We offer many resources, and you literally have friends all across the country that you can call on if needed. The National Legislative Office and the Grand Lodge are working hard each day to protect all our members from attacks by the media, special interest groups and overzealous politicians. Please look out for your partners and take care of each other. If you know of members in need please let me or another member of the State Board know, so we can get them the help that they need. I always will be proud to be FOP, and remember FOP First!

Fraternally,  
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