



MINNESOTA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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I apologize for not getting an update out sooner, but sometimes work gets in the way of things. Since the last update we have been working on several projects that we feel will continue to move the MNFOP forward and help us recruit new members.

We are in the process of redesigning the MNFOP logo. The current logo has been used in one form or another for the last 20+ years and we felt that it was time to refresh it and update it. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see in the new logo please let me know. Our goal is to have a very elegant looking logo that really grabs peoples attention when they see it. Once we get the logo completed we are going to start working on a short 5-10 minute recruitment video. We have already been in contact with a video producer and we have a rough outline of what we think should be included in the video. If you have any ideas or items that you think should be included in the video please let me know. Once the video is completed it will be available for all members and local lodges to use for recruiting.

Since our focus for 2018 is growing the MNFOP we would like to host some membership recruitment events in 2018. If your lodge is interested in hosting a recruitment night please let me know. Fowler Ditsch is willing to attend these events if they are requested to answer any questions that potential members may have about the legal defense plan. We have seen that the legal defense plan is a great recruiting tool and currently half of our members are enrolled in the plan.

In the last couple of weeks I have traveled to St. Paul to attend the Senate and House Transportation Finance Committee hearings on renaming a section of Hwy 12 in Wayzata after Lodge 6 member Wayzata Officer William Mathews. As you are aware Officer Mathews was killed while removing debris from the roadway in September of 2017. The MNFOP got the process moving to rename the section of Hwy 12 shortly after his death as a way to honor Officer Mathews for his sacrifice. I am happy to report that the bills, SF 2484 and HF 2739 have both passed the committee hearings. SF 2484 has moved on to the Senate Floor for a vote and HF 2739 has moved on to the Ways and Means Committee. As these bills progress through the senate and house I will keep the membership updated on their progress. We plan on being there when the bills are read and when votes on them our conducted.

The foundation is doing well, but we still have a lot of room to grow. We are in the process of creating a separate website and logo for the MNFOP Foundation. We felt that this was important because it

will separate the foundation from the state lodge and give it its own identity which it has lacked in the past. If you have photos that you think would be good for the website or members who have used the foundation that would be willing to give a quick statement about it, please direct them to me. Recently Foundation President Cayo, Lodge 6 member Kevin Rofidal and I met with David Frauenshuh. Mr. Frauenshuh is a prominent businessman in Edina and has served on several different foundations board of directors. He gave us some great information on how he thinks we can improve the MNFOP Foundation moving forward. One of those ideas was to create a short 2 minute video that highlights what the MNFOP Foundation does. We would then be able to use this video when meeting with potential business or corporate donors that we need to be targeting. We are also seeking business minded people who would be interested in serving on the MNFOP Foundation board of directors. There is not a big time commitment involved and it is more of an advisory role. If you have anyone that you think would be a good fit for the foundation board please myself or MNFOP Foundation President Cayo know.

In April Vice President Garcia, National Trustee Marichalar and I will be attending the State Presidents Meeting and National Board Meeting in Seattle, WA. If you have any items that you would like brought addressed please let one of us know. I am expecting an interesting meeting due to the controversial national committee appointments that were made at the end of 2017. We are opposed to several of these appointments as are several other states. I will try to provide daily updates on Facebook for the meetings that highlight any items of importance.

Unfortunately 2017 was an extremely busy year for Fowler Ditsch Law and that has continued so far in 2018. I am proud of the work that Fowler Ditsch has done for the members of the MNFOP LDP. The MNFOP LDP provides the best coverage of any legal plan on market. To keep all of the benefits of the plan in place, in October of 2017 the membership voted unanimously to increase to cost of the LDP from \$150 per year to \$175 per year. This has been the first cost increase in the plan since it was created in 2003. While I am not a fan of increasing the cost of the plan, I felt it was necessary to sustain the plan for the future. I am happy to report that in the first 3 months of 2018 that we have seen the number of renewals and new LDP members stay virtually the same despite the increase in cost. This shows that our members see the benefit of the plan and feel that it's important to have the additional legal coverage. Remember that our plan is the only one that covers you both ON and OFF duty, because we all know there are times that you have no choice but to get involved even when you are not working. Please encourage your members to visit www.mnfop.com to review the LDP plan and take full advantage of it. You never know when you are going to need the coverage. I know that I would much rather have coverage and not need it than need the coverage and not have it.

In February 2nd Vice President Chelmo, State Treasurer Krosch and Past President Cayo and I attended the annual Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. hosted by the Grand Lodge Legislative Office. We were fortunate to be able to have meetings with all of the someone from the office of each of our respective Representatives and Senators. We had some very engaging meetings and all of them were supportive of some portion of the FOP's top legislative priorities. Most importantly we opened up a dialogue with many of them and have formed a relationship that we hope to build on in the future. Vice President Chelmo will have a full update of what was covered at our meetings at the State Conference in April.

The state conference is right around the corner and will be held at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa again

this year from April 22nd to April 24th. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the chartering of the MNFOP State Lodge. Please encourage your members to attend so they have a voice in the direction that the MNFOP is going. You will see slight increases in the package price from last year, but I feel that the rates are still very affordable. The one minor change this year is that those who register for the conference will be issued meal tickets. In the past several years the State Lodge has received a bill for those members who are not registered and still choose to eat the meals included for those who purchased the package. While I appreciate these members attending the conference it's not fair for the State Lodge to be forced to pay \$500-\$1,000 per year when other members and lodges have paid their registration fees. If your lodge would like to assist with hosting the hospitality room for the conference, please let me know. If you have ideas for training or any items that you would like to see added to the agenda at the conference, please let me know. The contract for 2018 has been signed with Grandview Lodge and I will send out reservation information to lodge presidents and trustees in the next month or so. If you have any questions or concerns about the State Conference or would like to see changes made please let me know.

Do you have a member in your lodge that continually goes above and beyond what is expected of them with the FOP or at work? If so, please think about submitting them for the 2018 MNFOP Member of the Year. If you are unable to access them and would like to see them please let me know and I will send them to you. Please send a short letter outlining why you believe they are worthy of the MNFOP Member of the Year and submit it to me or Awards Committee Chair Joe Garcia at josefgarcia264@gmail.com prior to April 1, 2018. They will then be forwarded to the Awards Committee so they can review them and make their selection. The requirements for the MNFOP Member of the Year can be found on the website under the Members Only section under the Committees tab. The 2018 Member of the Year will be awarded at the 2018 State Conference. If you have any questions about the MNFOP Member of the Year please let me know.

During these difficult times for law enforcement across the country please remember that the FOP is here for you here not only at home in Minnesota but in Washington D.C. also. We offer many resources and you have friends all across the country that you can call on if needed. The State Lodge, 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 see someone struggling please get them the help they need. I know that I would all want someone to do this for me should the need arise. If you know of members in need please let me know. Take care, be safe and remember FOP First!

Fraternally,

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