



MINNESOTA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

On February 14th and 15th Pat Chelmo from Lodge 6, Immediate Past President Gary Cayo and I will be attending the annual Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. hosted by the Grand Lodge Legislative Office. Day on the Hill 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 officers no matter their uniform color or rank or agency size. We will be speaking 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 are always looking for legislation ideas that will benefit all police officers across the country. If you have additional issues that you would like brought up please send them to me at mhagen@fop.net or Pat Chelmo at Patrick.Chelmo@hennepin.us.

With national political party changes, there is now an opening for the position of the U.S. Marshal of the District of Minnesota. Lodge 6 member and Edina Police Department Sergeant, Kevin Rofidal, is seeking the appointment to this position, which is appointed by the President of the United States for each state or district. Typically a recommendation is made by the senior sitting Representative or Senator in the state or district from whichever political party the President of the United States is affiliated with. In this case, Erik Paulsen is the senior Representative in Minnesota and will make the recommendation to President Trump. At the January State Board Meeting a motion was made and approved by the membership to endorse Brother Rofidal in his bid to be appointed U.S. Marshal of Minnesota. A letter was drafted in support for Brother Rofidal on behalf of the members of the MNFOP. I will keep the membership updated as the appointment process moves forward.

The new website is up and running thanks to Lodge 6 member Ryan Damm and RD Designs. The new page is very professional looking and is much easier to navigate. I have received a lot of positive comments about the site from members and the public. The new site has all of the information from the previous site including the online LDP application. Ryan is offering a special to any local lodges for website design through the end of February. If your lodge would like to design a new website or update your current one Ryan will do this for you for \$500. This is a significant savings of what a website designer would typically charge. If your lodge is interested contact Ryan Damm of RD Designs at rd_designs@icloud.com. If your lodge has a website or Facebook page that you would like linked to the webpage or if you would like to accept online dues payment for your lodge please let me know. We are always looking for new information to be added to the webpage. If you have anything that you would like to see added to the page please let me know.

In October, the membership voted to enter into a contract with Dalor Marketing for direct mail fundraising services. I am happy to report that the first donation letters were sent out the week of November 7th. Per the contract, Dalor Marketing would keep all incoming donations for the first month and then after that we would receive a guarantee of \$200 per week or 25% of the weeks donations, whichever is greater. We started seeing our portion of the donations during the second week of December. I am happy to report that donations have been coming in at a fairly steady rate. The best part is that I have not received any complaints and have heard nothing but positive feedback from the donors. Dave and Lori from Dalor Marketing were on hand at the January State Board Meeting to give an update on the fundraising, and to offer suggestions on how we can improve things. If you receive any questions regarding our direct mail solicitation please direct them to me. If you do receive questions about phone solicitations please let people know that we are not longer doing phone solicitations. If they receive any calls for solicitation on behalf of the MNFOP they are a scam and should be reported to the MN Attorney General's Office.

The state conference is right around the corner and will be held at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa again this year from April 23rd to April 25th. The prices will remain the same again this year and per the contract next year we will see modest increases in the package price. Please encourage your members to attend so they have a voice in the direction that the MNFOP is going. If your lodge would like to assist with hosting the hospitality room for the conference, please let me know. If you have any items that you would like to see added to the agenda or addressed at the conference, please let me know. I have attached the link from Grandview Lodge for booking rooms. Each member or lodge that is attending is responsible for booking their own lodging. If you have any questions about the State Conference or if you have any issues booking rooms please let me know.

State Conference Rooms: <https://grandviewlodge.formstack.com/forms/fop2017>

Just a reminder that all of the state board positions are up for election at the State Conference. Nominations for all of the State Board positions were accepted at the January State Board Meeting. All of the current State Board positions received nominations and I have listed them below. Per the bylaws, nominations will still be accepted for all of the State Board positions. They need to be sent to State Secretary David Miller at dmiller325@fop.net prior to the **February 23rd** deadline. If you have proposed amendments to the state bylaws they need approved by your local lodge and submitted in writing to State Secretary David Miller no later than **February 23rd**. These proposed amendments would then be placed on the ballot and voted on at the state conference. If you have any questions regarding the elections or bylaws please let me know.

President	Matt Hagen Lodge 6
Vice President	Josef Garcia Lodge 11
2 nd Vice President	Patrick Chelmo Lodge 6
3 rd Vice President	Todd Jorgenson Lodge 13
Treasurer	Fawn Krosch Lodge 8
Secretary	David Miller Lodge 8
State Trustee	Ruben Marichalar Lodge 11

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 28th-31st. I have signed the agreement for the block of rooms for the delegates attending from Minnesota. Individual members or lodges will be responsible for booking their own hotel rooms and making their own travel arrangements. The conference starts on Monday morning and will conclude by Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately we will be the last state to vote so we will be there for the duration of the business session on Thursday. As the conference gets closer, I will receive periodic updates from the hotel with the number of rooms booked and the number of rooms available in our block. Please do not book extra rooms since we only have a limited number and the hotel is sold out. If you have questions regarding the national conference in Nashville please let National Trustee Marichalar or myself know. Please use the link and password that I have listed below to book rooms. If you are having issues booking rooms please let me know.

National Conference Rooms: <https://aws.passkey.com/e/16238487>
Password: mnfop1993

The foundation is doing well, in no small part due to some great partnerships that have been formed in the last year. In the coming months, we need to continue to build on these partnerships and look to form new ones. We have worked hard with the MNFOP Foundation to keep expenses at a minimum and to insure that as much money as possible can go to assist officers and their family members in a time of need. There are a couple of recent changes to the MNFOP Foundation board. Fawn Krosh has stepped down as the Treasurer of the MNFOP Foundation so she is able to assume the position as State Treasurer. Per IRS rules she is not able to hold both treasurer positions at the same time. Immediate Past President Cayo has assumed the role of MNFOP Foundation Treasurer until a replacement can be found. If you are interested in the position of MNFOP Foundation Treasurer please let me know. There were 2 requests made to the foundation at the January Meeting. The first was from Patrick Chelmo a Lodge 6 and LEMA member. Each year LEMA hosts the ceremony on May 14th and 15th at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul. Brother Chelmo requested up to \$1,000 to cover food and refreshments for those LEMA members and police officers from across that stand guard at the memorial in memory of those officers from MN that have made the ultimate sacrifice. A motion was made and approved by the membership for a donation to LEMA for up to \$1,000. I made a second request for up to \$3,000 to cover hotel expenses for 4 members to attending and assist with National Police Week in Washington D.C. A motion was made and approved by the membership. The donation will cover the cost of 2 hotel rooms from May 12th-16th at the same hotel as the National Memorial Committee. The members selected to attend will be responsible for covering their own airfare and other expenses related to the week. The members selected to attend will be responsible for assisting with the planning, setup and site security and cleanup of the National Honor Guard Competition on May 14th and the National Peace Officers Memorial service on May 15th. For the past 6-7 years several members have attended Police Week on their own. This is a way to support the Grand Lodge and the National Memorial Committee to insure a successful Police Week. If you have members that would like to be considered for National Police Week please have them send me a letter of interest by February 1st. In the future if you have donation requests for the foundation please contact President Cayo at gwcayo@gmail.com or myself at mhagen@fop.net.

In the current climate in law enforcement, you need to make sure that you protect yourself and your partners. Rob Fowler and Joe Ditsch were on hand to give a quarterly update for the Legal Defense Plan. Unfortunately it has been an extremely busy time for them. Several of the new cases that they opened were for DWI's. Please remember to be safe if you are going out with coworkers or friends. You do not want to face the consequences at your agency for a night out. Plan on a sober ride or take advantage of UBER or cab. The \$50 or \$100 you have to spend may end up saving your thousands or your job in the future. The MNFOP LDP provides the best coverage of any plan on market. 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.

This past year has been a particularly difficult one for law enforcement. We saw a dramatic rise in officers being killed in the line of duty and we have seen intense scrutiny of how we perform our jobs each day due to the media. We were very fortunate that in 2016 we did not have any officers killed in the line of duty in Minnesota. However we will still be working at Police Week in Washington D.C. to honor our brothers and sisters from across the country that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Police Week 2017 will be an extremely busy year because in addition to honoring the 140 officers killed in 2016, we will be honoring the 80+ officers who have passed from 9/11 related cancer. With these additional 80+ officers being honored this year it will add additional work and strain to those on the National Memorial Committee. If you are going to be traveling to Washington D.C. for Police Week in 2017 and would like to assist with the National Peace Officers Memorial Service at the U.S. Capitol on May 15th please let me know. Volunteers to assist with site setup prior to the service, security and logistics during the service and cleanup immediately after the service are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Volunteering at the National Peace Officers Memorial Service is a great way to honor our brothers and sisters from across the country that have made the ultimate sacrifice. It's a way to make the loss of a loved one, friend or partner more bearable for the survivors in attendance. If you are attending and not able to assist with the service but would like FOP VIP Seating, please let me know as soon as possible. I will need specific information for all of those who will be attending and this will need to be submitted no later than April 15, 2017.

The Backing the Blue Line annual Blue Line Ball will be held on Saturday May 20th at the St. Paul River Center. At the January State Board Meeting the membership voted to split a "Captain Level" Sponsorship (\$2,500) of the Blue Line Ball with Fowler Ditsch Law. The membership felt that this was a good marketing and advertising opportunity for the MNFOP. For our sponsorship we will receive 4 tickets to the ball and a table to be used to promote the MNFOP. The Blue Line Ball is a great time and if you have not attended in the past I strongly encourage you to attend. It's a great way to meet other officers from across the state and a time when you can relax and unwind. If you are going to be attending the Blue Line Ball and would like to assist staffing the table periodically throughout the evening please let me know. This will be a great opportunity to promote the MNFOP and all of the benefits that we have to offer.

During these difficult times for law enforcement across the country please remember that the FOP is here for you here at home in Minnesota and in Washington D.C. We offer many resources and you 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 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. As always, if there is anything that I can do for you or your lodge please let me know.

Below you will find a list of upcoming events locally and nationally. If your lodge is interested in hosting the October 2017 or January 2018 State Board Meeting please let me know.

Day on the Hill	February 13-15, 2017	Washington D.C.
State Conference	April 23-25, 2017	Nisswa, MN
National Police Week	May 12-16, 2017	Washington D.C.
Blue Line Ball	May 20, 2017	St. Paul, MN
National Conference	August 27-31, 2017	Nashville, TN
State Board Meeting	Tuesday October 10, 2017	TBD
State Board Meeting	Tuesday January 9, 2018	TBD

Fraternally,

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