

Asheville



Harold C. Enloe Lodge # 1

Brothers and sisters of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 1 Asheville, " Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." This is scripture that my dad quoted many times and even in difficult times I watched as he stayed true to his calling as a minister. I have relied on this scripture many times in my life and seen it fulfilled. I know now is a time that has everyone that is involved in law enforcement questioning your calling. The local and national narrative seems to be against your profession. Locally we find ourselves weary of the atmosphere and direction coming from our elected officials from city halls and county commissioners, to the courts and often our own leaders in our departments. Many of you have told me that you were frustrated by the events taking place and I fully understand and you have every right to be. I also am frustrated, But at this time in history we must remain strong and support each other as the family we are.

Let me encourage you that FOP Lodge 1 is always vigilant to your concerns and to the well being of our profession. Therefore the executive board of your lodge came together and collaborated to give you the following information to keep you updated on our efforts. This list is not a comprehensive list but it will give you a great start to see what we are doing locally, state and nationally. First, a link to the latest version of NCFOP BlueNote can be found [here](#) . It is, and always has been, available on the State website www.ncfop.org. There is also a "Subscribe" button there to send it automatically to your Inbox. Secondly, The National FOP still sends out their Journal to all members if they have a current a/dress for you. Otherwise all issues are also available online dating back to 2002 at www.fop.net. Both of these sites hold valuable information, training, and benefits. Take advantage of these sites. We have also revamped our local website at www.ncfop1.com and you will find a link to our local Facebook page which is extremely valuable. The Facebook page is how we share a ton of information. The website also has a link to our twitter page, the state and national website. Finally, we have started an email campaign that will be directly sent to you as soon as we get the information in the same way this letter has reached you.

As an organization we cannot condone actions like the "blue flu" and refusing to answer calls for service. We do, however; encourage a call for action. In our many conversations with Mayor Manheimer she has made it clear to us that she will serve the folks that make the most noise. So, that means if we want to address change we need to make some noise. So, how do we do that? Everyone must make the time, take the

time, to get together and work together on common issues. 200+ voices are more impressive and will get the attention of the local leaders a lot quicker. Information sharing is a must for us to be able to move forward on change. We have made it easy for you to share your voice to any of us on the executive board. If you go to www.ncfop1.com and go to the executive board page you can send any of us an email with those concerns. Once we find an issue to address we will need to get our voices heard in the political arena such as city council meetings. We need folks to be there with us as we address these issues with the council or county commissioners. You must commit from the beginning to the end with us and if you do we will see the change that we all want.

Remember, we meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the lodge. Please come and get involved. Also, we have office hours at the lodge every Tuesday from 9am until 12pm with several executive officers on site to answer questions or concerns.

Finally, you have to remember your why. Why you took the job. Whether you have been on the job for 25 years or you just started. For most of us our "why" is to live a life of service to others at the cost of our own well-being. I believe that retired NYPD Lt. Charles Ferrara sums it up a lot better than me:

"Integrity encompasses a wide range of behaviors. It is not merely rejecting a bribe or resisting taking something that doesn't belong to you. It is being obedient to your supervisors. It is honoring and respecting others and their property. It is telling the honest truth and not distorting or embellishing the facts. It is having the reputation of being dependable. It is being punctual and prepared. It is being loyal to those you have promised to be loyal to. It is being moral in all situations. It is practicing fairness in dealing with others. It is being humble and not thinking of yourself more highly than you ought. It is being decisive and making those decisions based on what is right, rather than what is popular and easy. It is maintaining self-control by keeping your thoughts, words, deeds, and attitude under a moral code. It is being courageous in the face of difficult or unpopular circumstances."

I'm not sure when this will end. I do know this, I am proud of our profession. I am proud of the work you do, standing in between good and evil and running toward the problem rather than running from it. What you do day in and day out means something and you must never forget that. Don't give up, fight the good fight and be proud of who you are and what you do. The FOP executive board and our members will be steadfast and we will not grow weary in well doing. You have our solemn oath that we are diligently looking out for the evils that would attempt to destroy our calling. God bless, keep your heads up, take care of each other and we shall reap if we faint not.

Fraternally,

Rondell Lance

President, Harold C. Enloe Lodge 1