President's Message

John T. Waterman

Summer is fast approaching. It seems like this past winter just flew by. I apologize that the Lodge has not put out more newsletters this past year. We have attempted to keep members informed by utilizing the website as some of our initiatives move forward. I do agree with many of our members that having a newsletter to actually put your hands on is sometimes more effective. I can assure you that the Lodge has been busy. The Board currently consists of only six members who do all the work keeping us moving forward. We need more assistance if we are to continue the momentum.

The Lodge continues to be a player at the table in both the DOI and NPS. This open dialogue has been beneficial to Lodge members and I am happy to see numerous positive changes being made that benefit all of our members.

We have been active in pursuing peace officer status for rangers in Pennsylvania. We recently teamed up with FLEOA to pursue legislation which has been introduced into committee of the State House and Senate to finally make that a possibility.

We continue to pursue possible legislative assistance in moving 6(e) legislation forward. Several months ago I was able to meet up with Lane Baker for an open discussion on ranger issues and current WASO initiatives. The Lodge continues to have open dialogue with WASO and we look forward to meeting directly with the new Associate Director Steve Shackleton. There have been some small wins with rangers gaining back time after receiving assistance from their congressional representatives. We are monitoring closely to see if there might be further openings to assist more members with this avenue.

Several of our members who were assisted by the Lodge have won some recent EEO and medical waiver cases. With the recent approval of a new contract with CHS, the medical standards program has been put back in service with a vengeance. It is our understanding that WASO has begun pulling together all the review board cases since 2000 to gain a better idea as to exactly what conditions have been granted waivers and to see if perhaps it should be applied to the current expired standards. It is amazing to us that this has not been done, especially given the number of FOIA requests made to Risk Management by rangers for this exact same information. I applaud WASO for taking the initiative.

It is time for a solid impartial review of our standards and for corrections to be made. In the meantime, I am hearing that the process has been streamlined with the folks in Risk Management and that their assistance in working through the waiver process has been helpful. I can’t urge members enough that if you are faced with going before a review board that you have legal assistance. This is your career on the line!

Recent waivers by the review board have shown that if you have a condition that normally can be considered to make you not medically qualified, but you demonstrate that it is being monitored and controlled with assistance from a physician, then the ranger is receiving a waiver. I applaud this common sense approach by the Board. We are an aging workforce and it is important that we take care of ourselves.

The Lodge has learned that the new ten week seasonal program developed at FLETC will be put into place with the new ProRanger Program at Temple University located in Philadelphia, PA. It had been our hope that it would be implemented in all the academies. I find it troubling that the NPS has an excellent field training program for our permanent rangers which involves more then nine months of training and evaluation, but then is pushing for an expansion of the hiring of seasonal employees who in many cases get less then nine weeks of training. The seasonals are then expected to fill voids in the loss of permanent ranger positions. We are not doing justice to seasonal employees by failing to properly train them. Our jobs are not getting easier and they are becoming more dangerous.

The Northeast Region has been very aggressive recently in preparing a gap analysis of officer-involved shootings that have occurred since
1978. Their review and subsequent implementation of a Tactical Leadership training program has been an eye opener. I urge all of you to check out the Northeast Region's website to see recent excerpts of the training and upcoming review of three recent NPS shootings. I applaud Regional Chief Ranger Jill Hawk and Branch Chief Steve Clark in their efforts.

At a training session held at Delaware Water Gap recently, Brother Duane Buck and I had the chance to talk about a shooting that occurred at Valley Forge. We then attended the rest of the training.

There is no way a nine week seasonal training course is coming close to preparing our seasonals for an armed confrontation, yet our agency continues to promote increasing the usage of more seasonals. This is clearly an unsafe practice and unfair to these seasonal rangers. We will continue to support FLETC's move to push for the ten week training course for all of the seasonal academies which has more emphasis on officer safety.

The Lodge remains strong. We continue to keep our finances in the black and membership numbers have remained fairly steady from the previous year. It is important to remember that your membership is vital for supporting our initiatives that benefit all of us. Ours is a bare bones operation where our Board puts in countless hours assisting members. I can't stress enough that we need your input. As always, we honor all requests of confidentiality.

More members are needed to assist the Board. I remind everyone that the Ranger Lodge is part of a much larger brotherhood and sisterhood comprising the Fraternal Order of Police, which offers assistance and activities in many areas. Become involved!

As always, it continues to be a pleasure to serve as your President. Should you have any questions, wish to offer comments, or just want to catch up with more details on our initiatives, do not hesitate to contact me. Have a great and safe summer.

**VA Lodge News**

The last time I wrote to you, I expressed concern over a recent push by the State Lodge to have its local lodges require its members to be a part of the Grand Lodge's Hylant Insurance plans. At the present time, our lodge members receive no discount to participate in the Hylant program. For many years the Ranger Lodge has expressed frustration in trying to work with a company that is supposed to be supporting us. I personally spoke with Grand Lodge President Chuck Canterbury at length about the problems and included supplemental information giving specific examples. I also sent a letter to the State Lodge President and received very little support.

In January, during the State Lodge rally weekend held in Richmond, Virginia, I had the pleasure to sit down with numerous lodges who had similar issues that we have experienced including the lack of lawyers willing to participate, lack of customer service, billing issues, and failure to provide coverage when the officer needed it. During the Directors meeting, I spoke out on the issues. What ensued was an attempt by the State Lodge President to prevent me from continuing the discussion. The membership took it to vote and the President's motion was overturned allowing me to continue.

I had hoped this would be a sign to the State Lodge board that the membership wanted further input. Instead, the State Lodge President recently sent a memo out to the Lodges stating he was unable to find any further issues and had spoken to the Grand Lodge President who denied ever hearing of any problems with the Hylant Group, even after my documented forty five minute conversation with him. This is upsetting and certainly one of our main concerns of the Hylant group where the fox is guarding the hen house.

The State Lodge is supposed to be our support network and it has been made obvious that the current president is unwilling to stick his neck out for the members he is suppose to represent. That said, I can't emphasize enough how very important it is that all members obtain some kind of legal defense insurance.

Obviously, I personally no longer support using the Hylant Group. If members are choosing to, then great. For years, we have listed Hylant as the insurer we generally use. In this issue, we summarize other legal defense plans out there. Please look them over and if you find a better one, switch to that plan. The Ranger Lodge is making it a point to place on our website as many companies as possible that offer legal defense insurance to Federal Officers. We need members to let us know their experiences with the companies they are choosing both good and bad so that we may pass on this information.

On a more positive note, this year's Rally day was once again an enjoyable experience, showing the true brotherhood and sisterhood the Fraternal Order of Police has to offer. We spent two days working directly in the Virginia State house meeting with Congressional representatives and Senators. I concentrated on supporting our Brothers and Sisters at Prince William Forest and Manassas. I also had a chance to spend a short amount of time talking with the new Governor, Bob McDonnell.
Trustee Needed
The Ranger Lodge is still looking for someone who is nearby Virginia to act as our State Lodge Trustee. We are required to participate in two major meetings per year which last three days each. These meetings are all expense paid by the State Lodge. The next one is going to be held in August. This is a great chance to work on FOP business at the local level and meet some really nice folks.

Lodge VP Duane Buck Receives Regional Yount Award

Valley Forge law enforcement ranger Duane Buck was selected as the Northeast Region's Harry Yount award winner.

Regional recipients receive a cash award of $1,250 and a custom-designed plaque containing a metal engraving of Harry Yount. These awards are presented to the regional recipients at a suitable ceremony in their region.

The Washington Office, Division of Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Services, in partnership with the National Park Foundation, sponsor the Harry Yount Award program.

The seven National Park Service regional winners will compete for the National Harry Yount Award to be presented in Washington D.C. later this month.

The regional Harry Yount Award recipients are:

- Scott Taylor, Alaska Regional Office, Special Agent, Investigative Services Branch.
- Scott Emmerich, Inter-Mountain Region, Park Ranger, Glacier National Park.
- Michael J. Larsen, Midwest Region, Park Ranger, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
- Travis Baker, National Capital Region, Chief Ranger, Monocacy National Battlefield.
- Duane Buck, Northeast Region, Park Ranger, Valley Forge National Historical Park.
- Anthony Winegar, Southeast Region, Park Ranger, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Membership & Newsletter Notes
George Durkee

Along with John, I apologize for not getting more newsletters out to our members. As we've often mentioned, there are just too few people doing the Lodge's work (along with our regular jobs and time with family!) to do everything. To put together a newsletter, we need stuff to print. Alas, when calls for articles are sent out the response is, too often, nonexistent.

I am proud to note, though, that this issue marks Volume XX: Twenty years of continuous publication of news to law enforcement rangers! That is a great record and, I like to think, an important service for LE rangers.

What has made our Lodge so effective as advocates for ranger issues has been our ability to get opinions and expertise from rangers in many scattered – even isolated – parks and pull that together into unified strategies and recommendations for needed change.

From Issue 1 Volume 1, Ranger Alliance Newsletter, Summer 1988.

Even before the FOP had formed, our second issue of the National Alliance of Park Rangers and Firefighters in October of 1988 had an article by Randy August: How to Win Law Enforcement Retirement.

At the time, few LE rangers had ever considered that as a possibility. By educating our members on what LE officers were qualified for and entitled to, the NAPRF – and then the FOP – created a field ranger push for change at both WASO and
Seasonal Service Award

From: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

Subject: Length of Service Recognition for Seasonal Commissioned Rangers

The Division of Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services (LESES) is pleased to announce the new program to recognize the length of service of returning seasonal commissioned rangers.

Seasonal commissioned rangers are eligible for special awards for completing three, five, ten, and twenty seasons of service. The three- and five-year awards are in the form of a “challenge coin” medallion, and custom plaques are available for those completing ten and twenty seasons of service.

Seasonal commissioned rangers can receive credit for past seasons served without a law enforcement commission if they are currently commissioned. Because of limited funding, we will not be able to make awards retroactive to cover former commissioned seasonal rangers.

Our seasonal commissioned employees are an incredible asset. The contributions of those that return year after year – and their dedication to the mission of the NPS – deserve our appreciation and recognition. We are delighted to make this program available.

Update on the 1801 Series

John Waterman

In the last newsletter I wrote to you about a proposal to move rangers to the 1800 series. It sparked some of the most dialogue within the Lodge membership that I have ever seen. In October of 2009, I teamed up with FLEOA NPS Chapter President Tim Alley and had a meeting with Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh and numerous other key officials both from DOI and the NPS. The meeting was very productive with open and honest dialogue.

We had been promised a chance to participate in further discussions and were asked to provide additional questions and concerns in writing, which we did. As time progressed, I did not feel we would be invited to participate further until several weeks ago, when I was contacted by Kim Thorson, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for LE, Security, and Emergency Management to participate in an open discussion on the progress of the 1800 series move. Participants in the meeting were all the key players in DOI including Human Resources along with NPS, BLM, and FWS.

Once again the meeting was full of open and honest dialogue. There have recently been some updates to the 1800 series classification which has strengthened the current 1801
Position Description. Many of the issues brought up by the Lodge were corrected or updated and the PD cleaned up further. Percentages were taken out and job descriptions were abbreviated further to make them more applicant-friendly and fit the overall purpose of the job.

As has often been the problem with the NPS, the idea is that the Position Description states the fundamental purpose of the position while the individual work plan is how managers can shape the actual job duties for each specific site. For years the NPS has gotten it wrong and has gone unchecked as they continued to rewrite the PD's to shape it towards the whim of the current manager of a specific park. With the current PD as it is written, park managers will still be able to shape the job duties through the individual employees work plan which is designed to be updated, frequently for the benefit of the park unit and the advancement of the employee.

Switching over to the new series has currently been made optional, but it was made clear that the writing is on the wall that all the bureaus will be directed in the near future to move all Law Enforcement employees over to the 1801 series. At this time, the NPS and BLM have decided not to move anyone over, but instead will continue to participate in further development of the position descriptions for the 11, 12, & 13 position descriptions which are in the early developmental stages. The FWS will be immediately transitioning which is a welcome decision that will fix the many of the current 6(c) issues they are facing.

It is the intention of DOI to right the wrongs of past years where the 6(c) issue has been mishandled. I was reassured during the call that there is no intention by FLERT to begin reviewing current 025 approved 6(c) positions should the NPS decide on its own to make the switch over to the 1801 series. DOI stated they are not looking for any battles and see no reason to go back and review the positions. They feel that the newly written 1801 PD is more defensible and in line with proper job classifications. It is their intent to begin training from the top down, Human Resource Officers in the proper application of both the PD and formulating work plans to avoid the many problems encountered in the past.

Although the NPS will have a hard time with its historically nostalgic views of the sacred 025 series, most of the views expressed by Lodge members is that they are ready for the move now. My experience so far with DOI management has been that they are going out of their way to be open and transparent which has been a pleasant surprise. I am still hesitant based on past practices, but at the present moment, I see no reason why we should not move forward.

I am grateful to Kim Thorsen for allowing the Lodge the opportunity to express our thoughts, concerns and input and look forward to continuing the dialogue. Once I have a copy of the updated PD, I will post on the Lodge website. It is my understanding that a memo with answers to frequently asked questions will be coming out soon to help further explain the changes. More to follow later. Certainly if members wish to get a more detailed report, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Legal Defense and Liability Insurance

The Lodge urges in the strongest possible terms that you purchase and maintain both legal defense insurance and liability insurance. The policy you buy has to have a clause that states the insurance company will pay for a lawyer in a case of an administrative action against you that can easily cost you your career.

There are many companies that provide both of these coverages and we will list five to give you a flavor of what’s out there nationally; you can probably find a statewide insurer if you look. In all probability, the national companies will have more experience with federal officers though.

There is a difference between Legal Defense Insurance (LDI) and Liability Insurance (LI). LDI will pay for your lawyer when you have to go before an administrative tribunal, civil court and/or criminal court. Look for a policy that is not capped at a certain amount: In other words, after the ceiling is reached, you're on your own. The best policies allow you to speak with a lawyer before you are charged with anything but you strongly feel that you will be charged. A good policy will pay for a lawyer to advise you when your supervisor calls you in for a counseling session that can lead to discipline against you.

LI pays damages that are assessed against you. If you run over someone or something in your patrol car and then you are sued in civil court and have to pay for your actions, and your agency won't pay
it, your LI will. Often the sums are quite high and you’ll never financially recover. Fortunately, these cases are rare but LI is usually inexpensive. You can be liable for damages for slander or libel too, and these policies cover that. A good LI policy will provide a lawyer to try and stop you from getting assessed damages in the first place. To see how important LI is, just remember, the NPS is required to pay half the annual premium.

You need LDI and LI as much as you need your body armor and other defensive equipment. Look at it as another item in your daily tool kit that will allow you to come home safe and sound. The Lodge urges you to purchase these coverages.

When you look for a policy, make sure your job category is covered. Some companies won’t cover a dispatcher for instance, and it may be hard to find out if that’s the case or not. If you are a dispatcher, please doublecheck that you are covered. If you are not a dispatcher but are a sworn federal officer, ask yourself if you want a policy from a company that doesn’t cover an integral job like a dispatcher. If the company will cut corners here, will they cut corners with you when crunch time comes?

Here are the names of a few companies and associations that offer these types of coverage. What follows is in their own words and you will need to probe beneath the advertising. You should get a useful overview of the strengths and limitations of these offerings though.

**Wright and Company**

This may be the oldest company in continuous operation insuring federal employees. A few years ago they upgraded their coverage to include LDI.

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(From their literature):

**Top 10 Reasons to Buy Federal Employee Liability Insurance (FEPLI) from Wright USA**

1. Wright USA invented Federal Employee Liability Insurance. Our name is synonymous with FEPLI (Wright USA = FEPLI).
2. Wright USA has proven our commitment and stability through nearly a half century of exclusive service to current and former Federal Government Employees.
3. Our optional $2,000,000 liability limit is double what our competition offers.
4. We provide round-the-clock protection at affordable premiums that can break down to less than $1 a day.
5. All federal agencies are required to reimburse qualified employees up to half (50%) of their annual premium for their coverage purchased from Wright USA.
6. Wright USA is very easy to work with, fast and efficient. You can even buy your FEPLI policy online from us.
7. Our customer service is superior. Wright USA has paid more FEPLI claims than all our competitors combined.
8. Wright USA has a National Panel of former Assistant U.S. Attorneys and Federal Government employees with the subject matter expertise and appropriate security clearances to help you.
9. Wright USA also has a unique Professional Liability program specifically designed for Former Federal Employees.
10. Wright USA has no potential conflicts of interest. We do not represent, associate with or otherwise accept funding or sponsorships from federal employee associations, unions, or agencies.

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Our FEPLI policy provides you with coverage for liabilities arising out of acts, errors and omissions that you commit as a federal employee.
- Up to $2 million to pay civil court judgments against you.
- Up to $200,000 in defense costs for federal government initiated administrative proceedings and investigations.
- Up to $100,000 in defense costs for criminal proceedings or investigations.
- Loss Prevention Helpline available ($50 additional annual charge for $1,000,000 Liability Limit plans; No charge for $2,000,000 plan). Provides up to 2 hours of phone consultation with a legal professional to try to reduce your liability exposure before a claim is even filed.
- No deductibles.
- 36 month extended reporting period after you leave the federal government.

As you can see, Wright & Co offers a large range of services in their policy and are a provider of both LDI and LI. There is a cap however and this may be a concern for you.

**FOP Plan through Hylant**

The FOP plan was designed by the staff at the Grand Lodge and put out for bid and Hylant won the contract. We have had many members invoke their policy usually with good results. However, there is, in our view, a big hole in the Plan: you cannot speak with a lawyer until you are charged with something. We have done our best to close that hole by offering our members a free consultation with an attorney from the firm of Passman & Kaplan who only handle federal cases and have built up a wealth of knowledge in this area.
What follows is just an overview from the FOP Grand Lodge home page. You can get complete information by going to the home page and calling the toll free number supplied.

The Fraternal Order of Police Legal Defense Plan, Inc. was created by the National FOP to administer the FOP Legal Defense Plan, Inc. This program is designed specifically to cover the law enforcement exposures faced by members of the FOP Legal Defense Plan, Inc. pays legal defense costs on behalf of participating members for the following actions and proceedings:

**Coverage A** - Administrative  
**Coverage B** - Civil  
**Coverage C** - Criminal  
**Coverage D** - Administrative Off-Duty

For the law enforcement professional, duty related legal defense protection is a necessity as the frequency and cost of allegations against peace officers continues to rise. The FOP Legal Defense Plan, Inc. offers you and your lodge members a very affordable and comprehensive coverage plan. Please refer to the options above for additional information on Plan coverages, enrollment and claims services.

**FLEOA**

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association provides legal defense directly through their own attorneys and your coverage comes with your membership. You are defended by a FLEOA lawyer, so if using a lawyer of your choice is important to you, then you may want to weigh the pros and cons here.

We have had several members receive outstanding defense from a FLEOA lawyer and you can pick up the phone and speak with a lawyer as soon after an incident occurs as you choose.

FLEOA provides 24hr Legal Services to members needing legal assistance. Join FLEOA immediately if you are not yet a member. You must be a FLEOA member in good standing at the time of the occurrence for which you are seeking legal advice and assistance. Make sure your renewal is up to date. Problems? Call the Legal Counsel.

FLEOA has a team of experienced attorneys, with Larry Berger as FLEOA's General Counsel. Assistant Counsels James J. Osgood, Esq.; Jeff Jacobson, Esq. And Joy Bertrand, Esq. are also part of our legal team. Don't Go it Alone! Visit FLEOA's web site for more details.

**Federal Employee Defense Services**

FEDS offers both LDI and LI so it's worth considering on that basis. Having a company where you can get both makes a certain amount of sense and is probably cost effective. From their web site:

Membership in FEDS entitles a federal employee who is accused of misconduct or wrongdoing in the course of rendering a professional service or scope of employment to the following:

- Legal fees paid up to $200,000 in an administrative investigation, disciplinary action or judicial sanction proceeding.
- $100,000 for criminal legal defense and up to $1,000,000 for liability damages in a civil suit.
- 36 months extended reporting period after leaving federal service.

There is information at their site on how to contact them to either sign up or request more information. They are not law enforcement specific but will cover any federal employee.

**PLEA**

We asked the executive Director of PLEA to write a few words because we have gotten the impression that few of our members have heard of the organization. Her writing a lead to the web site material should not be taken for a Lodge endorsement. We are grateful that Ms McMahon took the time to write.

The Professional Law Enforcement Association has a comprehensive LDI/LI policy that is worth checking out. They have been in business for quite a while now and several of us have had positive experiences with them with no negative. From their web page:

- Legal Defense while "moonlighting."  
- Available to all Law Enforcement Personnel, including Dispatchers, Correction Officers, etc.  
- Grand Jury investigations also covered.  
- Optional Non-Duty related administrative available.  
- Over twenty years experience in Legal Defense.  
- NO DEDUCTIBLES!  
- No Deductible when using a non-plan Attorney.  
- No Exclusion or limitation when you are defended by your city, county, etc.- we're there with you!  
- No Exclusion for "activities not carried on in a professional
The Lodge strongly encourages all members register on our website (rangerfop.com). Our website posts timely and important information, as well as hosting a discussion board regarding issues important to rangers.

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If you haven’t already provided it, please send us your email address for our files. That way we can quickly get news to you or ask questions. Write us: foplodge@sonic.net.

The Lodge has adopted the following policy regarding the use of the Marks by individual members on social networking websites, such as Facebook. By using one or more of the Marks on any social networking site or other website, individual members agree that they are bound by the following policy:

1. Individual members of the Fraternal Order of Police are permitted to use one or both of the collective membership marks of the Fraternal Order of Police on social networking sites, subject to the terms of this policy.

2. The collective membership marks of the Fraternal Order of Police are (a) the name “Fraternal Order of Police”; and (b) the Fraternal Order of Police star emblem registered as “FOP Jus Fidus Libertatum”.

3. Members may use the collective membership marks for the sole purpose of identifying themselves as members of the Fraternal Order of Police.

4. Members may not use the collective membership marks in connection with any commercial or for-profit purpose.

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**Membership Notes**

Paige Meier
Business Manager

In the last issue we reminded you that the Grand Lodge and the Virginia Lodge (which is our state lodge) have requested that ALL members provide them with their current address. We asked everyone to go to the Grand Lodge website to make sure that they have a current address on file. Thanks to all of you who did that. There are still about 100 members who have not yet done this. If that’s you, please take a few minutes to do this. This will ensure that you will continue to receive mailings from both the Grand Lodge and the Virginia Lodge, and will also help those lodges by not having to try and track you down or deal with returned mail.

If you’re not sure how to do this, please send us an email and we’ll send you this information.

The Lodge is going green! In an effort to be a little more green, we are changing the way we send out renewal notices to our members. Effective this year, we will only send out one notice by mail. Second notices and final notices will only be sent by email. About 10% of our members have not given us an email address. If you think that might be you, please contact us.

Thank you!

**Do You Have a Facebook Page?**

**From The FOP Journal of the Grand Lodge:**

Individual Members using FOP Marks on their Personal Profiles

In accordance with Article 1, Section 1 of the Bylaws, the National Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy regarding the use of the Marks by individual members on social networking websites, such as Facebook. By using one or both of the collective membership marks of the Fraternal Order of Police on social networking sites, subject to the terms of this policy.

1. Individual members of the Fraternal Order of Police are permitted to use one or both of the collective membership marks of the Fraternal Order of Police on social networking sites, subject to the terms of this policy.

2. The collective membership marks of the Fraternal Order of Police are (a) the name “Fraternal Order of Police”; and (b) the Fraternal Order of Police star emblem registered as “FOP Jus Fidus Libertatum”.

3. Members may use the collective membership marks for the sole purpose of identifying themselves as members of the Fraternal Order of Police.

4. Members may not use the collective membership marks in connection with any commercial or for-profit purpose.

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**Incident** means an actual or alleged act or omission to which this plan applies, which is first reported to the Legal Defense Fund during the period the participant is covered by the plan. An incident can occur on or off duty.

**Duty Related** means actual or alleged acts or omissions of the participant while acting within the scope of his or her authority as a law enforcement officer.

**Reimbursable Costs** means filing fees, court costs, and transcripts.
5. Members may not use the collective membership marks in any manner which is profane, abusive, indecent, inappropriate or otherwise improper in the sole judgment of the Grand Lodge.

6. Members shall be subject to discipline, pursuant to Article 1, Section 2 of the Fraternal Order of Police Bylaws, for any use of the collective membership marks in violation of that provision or this policy.

Chief Teresa Chambers Wins Important Court Victory

It has been a long and costly struggle, but former US Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers has won a great victory in her quest for justice. In 2003, she was summarily fired from her position by the NPS/DGL. You may recall, the USPP was given an impossible task of protecting the nation's treasures in Washington, DC, without anywhere near the resources needed to carry out the job. When a reporter asked her opinion, she told the truth and said her force was understaffed. Her supervisor, one Mr. Murphy, relieved her of her position in a most humiliating manner.

The Ranger Lodge was among the first to offer Chief Chambers our support and was the first to call for the dismissal of Murphy. Other organizations were shocked that we called for Murphy to be canned and the Chief to be reinstated but later came around to our view.

We are delighted with Chambers' victory and hope justice will arrive for her finally. She deserves all our admiration for continuing the fight with the odds stacked against her. Bravo!

Chief Chambers Continues to Fight - Continues to Win

April 22, 2010 - For the second time, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has ruled in favor of Chief Chambers. In its most recent decision (April 21, 2010), the Court handed down a pivotal decision in reversing the most significant remaining administrative charge (Charge #2) against Chief Chambers and in recognizing her as a whistleblower. Among the critical findings of the court were that the actions taken against her were in reprisal for her statements to the Washington Post and that many of those statements were protected under the Whistleblower Protection Act.

For updates, see her website: www.honestchief.com

Police Week

This issue of The Protection Ranger will probably reach you too late as a reminder for members to participate in Police Week in your local community or in Washington DC. We strongly encourage all rangers to urge your park to send uniformed representatives to local ceremonies honoring fellow fallen officers.

Time to Renew?

If you have recently received a notice of renewal (check your mailing label on the newsletter for your expiration date), please send your dues in soon.

You may renew using the envelope provided or go to our website and use PayPal:

www.rangerfop.com/join

The continued support of each of you is critical to continue our efforts on your behalf. Please renew when you receive our note.

If you've moved, please send us an email at foplodge@sonic.net and tell us your new address. We only update you in our database. You will also need to go to the Grand Lodge website, sign in, and update your address there so you can continue to get VA and Grand Lodge mailings: www.fop.net.

Member support is always available by email or phone: 800-407-8295.

Please call only between 10AM and 7PM Eastern Time.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Rangers Erika Jostad and George Durkee at Fresno County Police Memorial services.