

Greetings,

A recent discussion has been held to address the future of the lodge's needs. As the secretary of FOP lodge #108, I am sending this message to update you on the status of these needs. The lodge has had an extensive history in this community and with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office since it was chartered in 1975. Currently we have approximately 600 members and an associate lodge of approximately 150 members. The Associate Lodge is made up of and welcomes friends and family of law enforcement officers. Although the FOP, nationally, is the strongest police union in the U.S., Lodge #108 has chosen to remain a Fraternal Lodge and not enter the "union arena". The primary focus of our Lodge has been to provide an association to local law enforcement officers, both active and retired where they can meet and continue to build relationships. Since its inception, Lodge #108 has been very active in community programs, and even sponsors athletic activities for the youth of Hillsborough County. The Lodge, in addition to its monthly dues, survives on the personal and business donations within Hillsborough County. There are currently three FOP Lodges within Hillsborough County and over the past several years our lodge has teamed up with Tampa FOP Lodge #27 for fund raising efforts. In 1995 Lodge #108 instituted a scholarship program for the members of the Lodge and/or their families. Since 1995 Lodge #108 has been instrumental in helping over 20 students further their educational opportunities.

While the above information is impressive upon first glance, it is disparaging when you consider the amount of new employees the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has, who are not members. Our membership numbers should have increased with the retiring of the many members throughout the years. There are many people who benefit from this lodge and it is our responsibility to ensure people continue to benefit.

In the trying economic times many people are looking for family events and places to associate at an inexpensive setting. We do not have the funds to advertise our needs and benefits. However with technology there is not a great need for funding. The greatest tool people have when there is a need, is their ability to network with each other. This lodge has always been and will always be a place for fellowship and camaraderie. I am asking you to reach out to other you may know who are not current members. Let them know about our lodge and invite them into our family. Make sure they understand we are not a lodge with any association in the collective bargaining arena. On September 13, 2011, the monthly meeting will be a "Fish Fry". Yes, I will be sending reminders to everyone as it comes closer. We ask that you invite eligible members to this meeting. The cost for non members will be \$5 and no charge for members. I look forward to seeing everyone at this meeting and thank you for your time.

If there is any need, please contact me.

Frank Tagliarini, Secretary  
Fraternal Order of Police #108  
(813)323-5728