

Fraternal Order of Police Crescent City Lodge #2

Meeting – Thursday, June 10, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order by President Walter Powers – 7:02 p.m.

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Pete Menkiewicz

Roll Call of Officers

12 Present
2 Absent (Lampard, Sarver)
1 Excused (Byrd)

Motion by Jim Gallagher to excuse Ray Byrd from the May and June 2021 meetings.

Motion seconded by Chris Landry.

Motion carried.

President Powers requested that Brother Sunseri please indicate that Ray Byrd was excused from the May and June 2021 meetings.

Reading of previous meetings minutes

Motion to dispense with the reading of the previous minutes and approve them as published by Ira Austin.

Motion seconded by Pete Menkiewicz.

Motion carried.

Correspondence

The lodge received a letter from Mayor Cantrell in response to our letter to her about emergency pay for police and first responders during the stay at home order at the onset of the pandemic.

The lodge sent thank you letters to the following donors to the Louisiana FOP Foundation, to be earmarked for our lodge:

Madeline Morris -- \$100
Rebecca Benelli -- \$100

James Danner -- \$150
Stephen Villere -- \$100

The lodge received emailed letters from US Senators John Kennedy and Bill Cassidy in response to correspondence about police reform legislation.

New Members

The following individuals have applied for membership in Crescent City Lodge #2:

Devin Johnson	Second District
Hector Acosta	Third District
Joshua Pleasant	Sixth District
Heath Mouton	Eighth District
Henry Krisch	LA State Police
Dion Brackeen	UNO Police
Christopher Netter-Muses	Second District

Motion to accept new member by John Meehan.

Motion seconded by Mike Rice.

Motion carried.

Guests

President Powers recognized Deutsches Haus representatives Brian Huber and General Manager Jack Gonzales who welcomed the lodge and members to their facility.

President Powers recognized Kelly Gibson, State First Vice President, who addressed the membership regarding his candidacy for National Trustee.

Report on the 2021 National Conference

Brother Gallagher reported the National Conference will be held in Indianapolis from August 15-19, 2021. Our lodge is entitled to send 40 delegates and we authorized 4 alternates for a total of 44 members to attend the conference. The conference runs from Sunday through Thursday, and Louisiana won't vote until around 2:00 pm on Thursday. With that in mind, the lodge will pay for the extra hotel room on Thursday night. Each delegate will receive \$500 to cover travel expenses. Delegates and alternates should plan to arrive in Indianapolis on Sunday (8/15) and depart on Friday (8/20).

Delegates are urged to make their travel arrangements immediately. Per diem checks and hotel reservations will be distributed at the July meeting.

Officer/Committee Reports

President's Report – Walter Powers

Brother Powers discussed his activities since the last meeting to include writing to legislators regarding qualified immunity. Brother Powers submitted a written report.

First Vice President's Report – Christopher Landry

Brother Landry recapped his activities since the last meeting. MPERS update relative to members who retire on or after July 1, 2021, who intend to join the Reserve Division and work paid details with the Office of Police Secondary Employment.

Membership Report – Willie Jenkins

1962	Active FOP Members
14	Associate FOP Members
18	Honorary FOP Members
1994	Total Lodge Membership

Membership by Type:

1010	Active NOPD Officers
54	NOPD Reserve Officers
7	Terminated Officers
95	Other Active Law Enforcement Officers
5	Other Associate Members
806	Retired Law Enforcement Officers
17	Honorary Members

Financial Report – Secretary- Treasurer James Gallagher

Report Recap:

Regions Checking Account	\$372,124.46
LAFOP Foundation Account	\$54,776.31
Total Cash Assets	\$426,900.77

Fund Balances as of 9/30/2020:

General Fund	\$101,039.42
Legal Fund	\$(60,839.69)
Delegate Fund	\$122,582.10
Death Benefit Fund	\$55,617.15
Building Fund	\$208,501.79
Total Fund Balances	\$426,900.77

Full financial report is attached to this document.

Motion to approve the Financial Report by Susan Graham.
Motion seconded by David Tregre.
Motion carried.

State Trustee's Report – Billy Roth

Brother Roth submitted a written report of his activity since the last meeting. He mailed out 5 license plate renewal letters to lodge members.

Legislative Report – James Gallagher

Brother Gallagher submitted a written report highlighting the committee's work on two bills.

HB 609 – This bill sought to remove qualified immunity from police officers and at the same time make it easier to charge police officers with malfeasance in office. The bill was killed in Senate Judiciary B Committee through the hard work of the FOP Legislative Committee and the grassroots efforts of the membership.

HB 430 – This bill made minor changes to the Police Officer's Bill of Rights and was supported by the FOP. Our support of this bill allowed it to pass through the legislature without any major negative amendments and did not open the entire Bill of Rights to scrutiny and potential damage. HB 430 decreased the time allowed to attain representation of an attorney in an administrative investigation from 30 days to 14 days and increased the time allowed to an agency to complete an internal investigation from 60 days to 75 days, but added language stating "including Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays". There was a positive amendment added that made it clear that the investigation ended when the officer under investigation received written notification that the investigation had concluded – this was a gray area in the past.

Millage Committee – Claude Schlesinger

Brother Schlesinger reported that approximately \$475,000 will be transferred to the FOP Foundation this week in order to begin the process of locating those individuals that were unable to be located previously.

Legal Report – Donovan Livaccari

Brother Livaccari reported that the Civil Service Commission approved the administration's plan for paying employees back for the unpaid furlough days that were taken during the pandemic as well as a plan to offer an bonus annual leave day for as an incentive to any employee that has been vaccinated for COVID. Both proposals require City Council approval, which is expected.

New Business

Brother Gallagher reviewed the proposal made by the Deutsches Haus for hosting our meetings at their facility. The cost difference between the Deutsches Haus and Lakeview Presbyterian is approximately \$96 more at the Deutsches Haus. There was some discussion relative to the availability of the kitchen facilities at the Deutsches Haus. Brother Gallagher reported that the lodge executive board recommends moving our regular monthly meetings to the Second Thursday of each month to be held at Deutsches Haus, except in November of years in which an FOP election is held. Election meetings would continue to be held at Lakeview Presbyterian. In addition to maintain our relationship with Lakeview Presbyterian, the executive board would further propose holding the quarterly board and labor meetings at the Lakeview Presbyterian Church Hall.

Motion by Bob Gostl to accept the recommendation of the executive board and move the monthly meetings to Deutsches Haus on the Second Thursday of each month.

Motion seconded by George Brown.

Motion to table by Glenn Forman.

Motion was tabled.

Old Business

Motion to remove the previously tabled motion accepting the recommendation of the executive board and move the monthly meetings to Deutsches Haus on the Second Thursday of each month by Bob Gostl.

Motion seconded by Pete Menkiewicz.

Roll call vote of 71 yeas, 1 nay.

Motion to remove from the table carried.

Original motion carried.

Good of the Order

Brother Pete Menkiewicz “passed the hat” for the three members of the Teche City (New Iberia) Lodge recently diagnosed with cancer and collected \$586.

Motion by Pete Menkiewicz for the lodge to match the collections, up to a total donation of \$1000.

Motion carried.

Hilton Stein Memorial 50/50 Raffle

Winner (#302685) Andrew Sbisa -- \$132.00

Lodge share -- \$132.00

President Powers acknowledged special birthdays.

Attendance

104 members present
Membership roster is attached to this document.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Pete Menkiewicz

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bob Gostl.
Motion seconded by Becky Benelli.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Ross J. Bourgeois
Recording Secretary
Crescent City Lodge #2
Fraternal Order of Police