



Lodge #49 – Aurora Police Department January 14, 2010

---

To: All members Fraternal Order of Police; Lodge 49

From: Chuck DeShazer, Lodge President

Subject: Current issue

Recently a fundraiser was conducted for a retiring member of the police department. The police department member is not and has never been a member of Lodge 49. The Lodge board was contacted in regards to financial support of the member. The board vote was split to not support in the form of a financial donation but encourage the membership to support the officer personally. This was a difficult decision for the Board members.

After the fact, the Board has been questioned regarding the decision and some concerns have been raised. Questioning of the decision is appropriate and members deserve an explanation of the rationale.

The Board has been entrusted to be responsible to the members. That includes fair representation with the command staff and the state lodge; to take fiduciary responsibilities seriously; to conduct business honestly and be held accountable to the membership.

We cannot be expected to know the wishes of each FOP member. Lacking any input from the membership currently or in the past in these types of situations led to personal internal conflict as some Board members voted against Lodge financial support. Not one Lodge member made an effort to indicate their desires in this particular incident prior to vote. Please understand, in the matters of fund expenditures, we represent the Lodge as a whole. This position requires us to put our personal feelings aside and conduct business from a logical approach absent personal beliefs.

If this is a cause the membership would want their organization to support, we need to know. So our plea is for the members to show up at the meetings, email and provide input to convey what direction they want us to take and where we draw the line.

The Board desires to have feedback from the membership. We want open lines of communication with the membership. Each FOP member has an email address which can be forwarded to your personal email account. We pushed last year to get the members to do just that so we could communicate pertinent information. We also have a web site to convey information.

To help alleviate some of the communication problems, please contact the web master, Johnny Lee, to have your FOP email forwarded to an email account you check often. Due to the City's email policy, this cannot be your City email account. So please do not ask Johnny to do this.

Please also check the FOP website frequently. Recently we learned the other labor organization lost their web site, so we are in the process of putting a vacation calculator for your use.

Lastly, please come to the meetings, contact your Board members and let us know what your positions and feelings are. We are here to represent you and are more than willing to do that but we need the direction of the membership.