

**October 2011**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Dear Valued Member:**

**This letter contains important information concerning your dues and how you may receive information in the future. Please be sure to read the entire letter.**

**Active Member and Retired Active Member dues are due each year on January 1<sup>st</sup> and must be received before January 31, 2012. Associate Member dues are due each year on May 1<sup>st</sup> and must be received before May 31, 2012. This will be the only bulk notification for 2012 dues. Please make a note on your calendar.**

**Your Lodge is attempting to cut down on expenses and provide a better and less expensive form of communication than the U.S. Postal Service. We began building an email data base several months ago and our plan is to begin in 2012 utilizing email as the main source of communication. Other sources of communication will be through regular monthly meetings, word of mouth, and/or the website. You may still continue to mail your dues or letters to our Post Office Box, however, very few, if any bulk membership letters are planned to be mailed in the future. We realize some members do not utilize computers and we will consider a separate U.S. Mail list on an individual basis.**

**For those current members that we have email addresses, you will also receive an email in addition to this bulk letter letting you know that you are already in our email data base. This data base, like all of our personal data, will not be sold or given to anyone. We are aware that we cannot totally prevent all annoyances, such as a current member capturing addresses and utilizing them for personal business purposes. We intend to utilize the most current resources to prevent the capture of these addresses by all recipients. However, our membership is hereby warned that if you find a way to capture and utilize the email addresses for personal purposes, you may be subject to disciplinary action including denying continued membership. Active Member data bases and Associate Member data bases will be kept separate. If you are on our email data base and wish to be removed, just let us know and we will delete your email from that data base. If you do not receive an**

email from Lodge 43 by January, 2012, and you wish to continue to receive notices of dues and other information, please provide us with your email address as soon as possible. You may do this by an email to [lodge43@bellsouth.net](mailto:lodge43@bellsouth.net). Also, if you change your email address, please remember to let us know of that change as soon as possible.

Concerning dues, during the May, 2011 regular meeting, the membership voted to change the Retired Active membership dues from voluntary to mandatory. However, the dues amount for Retired Active Members remains at the sum of \$15. This sum represents the amount the Lodge must pay the Alabama State Lodge and Grand Lodge to register Active Members. Every Lodge pays these fees that are called "per capita tax". The motion that carried this change stated that the change would take place in January, 2012. Therefore, Retired Active Members desiring to be members of Lodge 43 must pay \$15 for their membership. A Retired Active Member is a Law Enforcement Officer that has retired in good standing with a Law Enforcement Department/Agency.

Further, effective 2012 the grace period for being delinquent in dues payment will change.

**Active Member:** Dues in the amount of \$50 are due on January 1 of each year and are delinquent on January 31 of each year. If unpaid at the end of January, you will be dropped from the Active roll so as the Lodge does not have to pay the fees per Active Member to the Grand Lodge and State Lodge.

**Retired Active Member:** Dues in the amount of \$15 are due on January 1 of each year and are delinquent on January 31 of each year. If not paid by the end of January, you will be dropped from the Active roll.

**Associate Member:** Dues in the amount of \$50 are due on May 1 of each year and are delinquent on May 31 of each year. Lodge 43 appreciates the support of each Associate Member and your ideas and attendance at Lodge meetings is welcome. Your membership is the same as an Active Member with the exception of voting/motion privileges.

**Changes in gate lock combination:** These changes are necessary from time to time and may not coincide with the issue of your membership card. In that case, you will receive new combinations via your email address. In addition, the gate should display a sign for several days announcing a change and a phone number to call in the event the member did not receive the email notification or did not attend the previous meeting.

In the way of announcements, each member should be aware that Lodge 43 holds regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. A fellowship meal usually begins around 6:30 pm and the meeting begins as closely to 7:00 pm as the meal permits. We have occasionally held door prize drawings at no cost to the

membership or participants and we began in July, 2011 including ammunition as prizes.

Our annual cook out will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. The menu will include fried fish, slaw, beans, and hushpuppies or light bread. Past President Roland Howell is the Chairman for the committee planning and logistics. The event will begin at 5:00 pm and the meal will be served as close to 6:00 pm as possible. Lodge 43 has voted to make the Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch an annual recipient of a donation. We plan to present a check to the Alabama Boys Ranch during this cook out or the Christmas party. Just in case you have not been to the Lodge facilities recently, they are located at the intersection of County Road 13 and Manley Road, Fairhope. The address is 18492 County Road 13. There is a sign on the gate.

Lodge 43 website address is [www.foplodge43.org](http://www.foplodge43.org) and our email address is [lodge43@bellsouth.net](mailto:lodge43@bellsouth.net). We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and our socials.

**Executive Board**  
**Fraternal Order of Police**  
**Lodge 43**