



TO: All FOP Members
FROM: Patrick Yoes, National President
DATE: 14 March 2020
RE: FOP activity in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Brothers and sisters,

I wanted to make sure all our members are fully informed about the activities of the National FOP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and direct your attention to the specific actions we have taken to date:

- **14 March:** The National Legislative Office provided FOP members with information regarding the measures undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Prisons with respect to keeping officers, correctional staff and incarcerated offenders healthy and safe. We urge our members who work in corrections at the local and State level to also review the guidance in addition to following your own agency's plan. The BOP information can be found here: <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>
- **13 March:** President Donald J. Trump, flanked by business and health leaders, declared a National Emergency in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. This declaration expands the powers of certain Federal officials and allows for Federal monies to assist local and State response, including law enforcement, to the virus. Executive Director Jim Pasco was in constant contact with the White House and the Administration about this issue specifically and about the role of local and State law enforcement. You can see the declaration here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak>
- National Auxiliary President Linda Hennie, Memorial Committee Co-Chairman Andy Maybo and myself participated in a teleconference regarding the forecasted impact of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) to Police Week, May 9th through May 16th. While it is impossible to predict what the status of the virus will be two months from now, we are all keeping a close eye on the situation. **At this time, there are no immediate plans to cancel events of National Police**

Week 2020 in Washington, DC

- **12 March:** The National Legislative Office provided FOP members with two documents from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)— [Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for COVID-19 in the United States](#) and [What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). ***Please make sure your lodge members and your agency review these documents and follow these guidelines for your own health and safety!!!***
- **11 March:** I sent a letter to the House and Senate leadership and appropriators identifying the needs of local and State law enforcement officers and their role in responding to the COVID-19 epidemic. You can read both of those letters here: <https://fop.net/CmsDocument/Doc/House%20letter%20on%20covid-19.pdf> and <https://fop.net/CmsDocument/Doc/Senate%20letter%20on%20covid-19.pdf>
- **9 March:** I sent a letter to President Trump thanking him for his leadership on the pandemic and identifying the needs of our members as they work to keep our citizens safe during these difficult times.

In addition to these specific actions, staff in our National Legislative Office has been in constant contact with the White House, the U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, as well as the CDC and the President's Coronavirus Task Force. Various components of the Administration have been hosting numerous conference calls with local and State political leaders, including law enforcement, on which our staff has participated.

I want to assure all members that the National FOP is working closely with the Administration and the Federal government as our nation battles this pandemic.

Please make sure you, your family and loved ones are washing their hands and following the CDC guidelines to inhibit the spread of this virus. When not on duty, practice social distancing and be smart about where you go and with whom you interact!

In the coming weeks, the public will be looking to **POLICE OFFICERS** for reassurance and calm. We will be the very real face of the government's response to this pandemic, so be cognizant of our role in the community at this time. I have no doubt our members will rise to the occasion and serve with honor and distinction. Our members are no strangers to serving in harms' way and, while the virus represents a different kind of danger than we are used to, we must face it with courage and hope.

May God bless all of you and the United States of America.