



Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio, Inc.

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**Organized April 1948
Benefiting over 20,000
Retirees**

Legislative News

April 2012

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Once again the rumor mill is working in high gear.

I felt that you should hear directly from your retirees' organization. The FOP and OAPFF have put out letters to their members stating just how much they have accomplished by working closely with the elected OP&F board members.

It seems that the legislators now want to show Ohio voters just how hard they are working and that they are better than their counterparts in Washington. There is one small catch though. While the Senate wants to get something passed before the election, the House does not seem to be in as much of a hurry.

A bill will be introduced shortly to address the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund's issues with the 30 - year funding. This action is taking place despite the Ohio Retirement Study Council having requested an actuarial study before any action is taken (this study will cost \$244,000.00 even if the legislators chose not to use it).

It now appears that the 30 - year funding plan that has been offered for the last several years to the legislature is now acceptable. Although, there has been talk about a few tweaks to the plan. We are still unsure how this will affect health care costs in the future.

Some other changes that will be in the bill will affect the active duty officers. First, they will be changing the age of retirement from 48 up to 52. Also, they will increase the contributions made into the fund by these officers from 10% up to 12.5% and accelerate the implementation of the increased contribution as to when these changes will be made.

The retiree organization has been involved, for you, since day one. We have had our representatives at all of the OP&F meetings, and now after several years, along come the active duty unions to again take credit for all of our hard work. Not once has either of these groups offered to help the retired police and firefighters when the cost of health care went through the roof. Of course this issue did not affect them directly at that time, but they are willing to take credit for our hard work.

As you know, the five state pension systems have been under very close scrutiny in the last few years, and the Police and Fire Pension Fund has especially been examined. There are those that feel our benefits are excessive and that the Fund cannot be sustained. Market volatility in the last few years has certainly taken its toll on the fund. But the fund has come back very well and is currently doing much better.

The state legislature, and especially the Ohio Retirement Study Council, has been looking at several issues for some time. Several months ago, each of the funds submitted their plan to attain the mandated 30 year funding level. Your PFRO has been in support of that plan. The ORSC however has hired an "independent" firm to evaluate the pension systems and offer their opinion on what needs to be done. We have no idea what those recommendations will be.

The Ohio Senate has stated that they want to move now and pass those reforms as proposed by the Police and Fire Pension Fund, the active groups, and the retirees. We support that position. Even if the legislature passes changes prior to the independent study release, it does not mean that is the end of the story.

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That is why it is imperative that we support those legislators who support our positions, and help to elect new legislators that share our views. To do this we must actively support these individuals. And that support is becoming more and more necessary. Your Police and Fire Retiree Political Action Committee is one of the most important ways we can show our support and help to elect those that support us. The demands on this PAC are huge. We can't afford to not participate. IT IS CRITICAL that we maintain the viability of our PAC. **PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN** to help sustain our effort. It is YOUR future benefits that you are helping to protect. Please contribute all you can to this effort. If you have been a regular contributor we thank you, and ask for your continued or increased support. For those of you, who have not contributed, **PLEASE HELP YOUR FELLOW RETIREES IN THIS EFFORT. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY ALSO!**

The Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio will continue to work hard for all of its members today and in the future.

Gary Monto, President

Ric Oxender, Legislative

NEW! We now have **"Red" t-shirts** for Sale. They are like our **"Navy" t-shirts** with the logo on the front and **"Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio"** on the back. They are **\$18.00** for Large and XLarge and **\$22.00** for XXLarge. Shipping is **\$7.50**. If you would like to order one please fill out below.
Red or Navy (circle color)

Large **\$18.00 each** ____ XLarge **\$18.00 each** ____ XXLarge **\$22.00 each** ____ Shipping **\$7.50** ____ Total \$ ____

Make checks payable to: **Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio, Inc., PO Box 627, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068**

Check # _____ \$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Member id: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 (PAC donation requires a street address)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Retired From: _____ Date retired: _____ Police Fire

April 2012