



POLICE AND FIRE RETIREES OF OHIO INC.

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2022 Dues Notice

Important numbers:

OP&F Pension Fund: 1-888-864-8363

OP&F General Information: (614) 228-2975

Aon: 1-844-290-3674 Health plans & Stipend

AMBA: 1-877-290-3164 -Pfro dental/vision plans

Dear

Happy New Year! It's **2022** and time to submit your annual dues. We at Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and will have a happy, healthy New Year. As the holiday season is winding down, we are transitioning into our busy time of the year.

The Legislature has started the new year with a full schedule. As you will read in your Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund Winter newsletter, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters has joined in the support of House Bill 512. This bill would increase the employer contribution, which hasn't changed since 1986, to 26.5% over a five-year period. This would help provide stability to the fund for years to come. The Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio are strongly supportive of this bill. You can keep abreast on updates at Byers, Minton & Associates website: <https://www.byersminton.com/this-week-at-the-statehouse>. In your OP&F Winter newsletter, **check out on Page 6**, the Helps Act exclusion (*Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Servants Act*). It allows retired public safety officers to exclude from their gross income, each year, up to \$3,000 of their state or local retirement benefit; if the amounts are used to pay premiums for health care or long-term care insurance and if the premiums are paid directly by the retirement system to the insurance provider.

PFR Corporation Scholarship News: In 2009, we started our PFR Corporation "Scholarship fund raiser." We have given out four or five \$500.00 scholarships each year since it began. PFR would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket (or more) for this cause. The first drawing for 2022 will be held on **April 3, 2022** at our Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio Board meeting. At this meeting **four winners** will be drawn in the amount of **\$1,000.00** per winner and the seller of each winning ticket receives **\$100.00**. The next drawings are *July 17, 2022 and October 23, 2022*. Four new winners will be drawn at each of these meetings. **The price of a ticket is only \$10.00.** This scholarship program is open to all of our members, their families, children, grandchildren, and the public. A **current paid** member (2022 year) must sign the scholarship application. If you would like to purchase additional "tickets" or need a "scholarship form," please contact us at **1-888-309-7041 or 614-866-1352**. Scholarship forms need to be submitted by **April 1, 2022**. <https://pfro.com/index.php/scholarship>

In order to ensure our continued progress for your organization, we need your help. By joining our organization, **each of you** collectively creates a voice that can and will be heard. **Please take a minute to send in your 2022 annual dues.** Your dues money as well as your continued membership are important to us and will allow us as an organization to work for you and to protect your future. As a paid member, you will receive a membership card, a Quarterly newsletter, lobbying representation, Association Member Benefits (AMBA) special group rates/merchant discounts, and the continued representation you deserve.

If you have recently sent your dues to the State Office, your dues card will be sent as soon as it is processed. Please do not hesitate to call the state office to confirm your payment. **Also, if you belong to one of our 33 local chapters, please continue to pay your dues through them.** Please check our website for any updates at <https://pfro.com>. **Thank you, once again, for your continued support throughout the years.**

Gary L. Monto, President

February 2022

Retirement Legislative and Regulatory Updates

The Ohio Legislature is back in session and currently deliberating issues such as state legislative and congressional redistricting, the Medicaid managed care system overhaul, and Ohio's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. Even with the truncated legislative schedule this year, due to the primary and general election cycle, we have seen an uptick in legislative activity related to public retirement issues. Outlined below are several pieces of active legislation we are monitoring and engaging with on behalf of the PFRO. With the increase in legislative introductions and committee activity, we are also continuing to see legislators reach out for guidance and input from the PFRO and its broader membership.

House Bill 184 (Carfagna) This week, House Bill 184 was passed by the Ohio Senate unanimously and will head back to the House for concurrence. The bill is designed as an administrative change due to a shortage of Ohio physicians and the ability for the OP&F Fund to conduct independent physical exams. Individuals and the Fund can now use a range of qualified practitioners such as a physician assistants or nurse practitioners to conduct initial examinations for disability benefits and permanent disability under certain circumstances.

Ohio Senate Bill 16 (Schaffer) The PFRO has remained engaged with Senator Schaffer and members of the legislature on Senate Bill 16 which would increase penalties for crimes, such as assault and menacing, targeting first responders and their family members. At the request of Senator Schaffer, PFRO has participated in the committee process as a proponent of the legislation which passed the Ohio Senate unanimously (33-0) and has already received a second hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee on February 8, 2022.

Ohio House Bill 512 (Abrams, Baldrige) On December 15th, Representatives Cindy Abrams and Brian Baldrige introduced House Bill 512, which would increase employer contributions to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund. Citing benefit cuts, health care cuts, and a recent increase in the employee contribution in comparison to an unchanged employer contribution increase over the last 36 years. The legislation would increase the employer contribution to 26.5% over a five-year period. HB 512 was officially referred to House Insurance Committee and has yet to receive a hearing. While we expect this to be a contentious issue between pension funds, membership organizations, and local governments, we will be closely monitoring this legislation and providing periodic updates as it moves through the legislative process.

Other Newly Introduced Legislation - January-February 2022

HB 539 (Kelly, Ghanbari) Requires the state retirement systems to publicly broadcast board meetings, except for executive sessions and/or discussions of medical records or degrees of disability of a member excluded from public inspection. **Referred:** House Insurance Committee (2.15.2022). No Committee Hearings to Date.

HB 540 (Kelly, Ghanbari) Requires the state retirement system boards to disclose certain financial information regarding alternative investments including fees and expenses paid directly to the alternative investment vehicle, fund manager, and related parties, among other relevant disclosures. **Referred:** House Insurance Committee (2.15.2022). No Committee Hearings to Date.

HB 541 (Kelly, Ghanbari) Prohibits state retirement systems from doing business with a former state retirement system employee, officer, or board member in decisions or recommendations affecting the investment policy of the system, and in which such individual would benefit by any monetary gain. **Referred:** House Insurance Committee (2.15.2022). No Committee Hearings to Date.

SB 280 (Fedor) Beginning July 1, 2022, the State Teachers Retirement Board may adjust the cost-of-living increase to an amount that is greater than the increase required under current law if the board's actuary, in its actuarial valuation required determines that an adjust does not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. **Referred:** Senate Insurance (1.26.22). No Committee Hearings to Date.

Check # _____ \$ _____ Grand Total

Dues 2022

\$ _____ Dues - \$25.00 Retiree/Widow/er

\$ _____ Dues - \$25.00 Spouse

\$ _____ PFRO Donation

\$ _____ PAC Fund

\$ _____ Decals \$1.00 (no shipping)

\$ _____ PFRO scholarship tickets \$10.00 each

\$ _____ Angel pins Police _____ or Fire _____ \$5.95 each

\$ _____ Pewter Police Badge \$5.95 each

\$ _____ Blue Crystal Police Angels \$5.95 each

\$ _____ Blue Crystal Fire Angels \$5.95 each

\$ _____ Charm Bracelets Police _____ or Fire _____ \$14.95 each

\$ _____ Shipping \$4.50 for total Pin and Bracelet order

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

V-code _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____ American Express

\$ _____ Credit card fee \$1.00

\$ _____ Polo w/logo \$23.00 M L XL / \$24.00 XXL

\$ _____ Polo w/PFRO \$23.00 M L XL / \$24.00 XXL

\$ _____ Windshirt \$40.00 L XL / \$45.00 XXL

☐ Pullover ☐ Zip-up (Navy only)

\$ _____ Fall/Spring Jacket \$40.00 L XL / \$45.00 XXL

\$ _____ Sweatshirt \$25.00 M L XL / \$30.00 XXL

☐ Crew ☐ Hooded (Navy only)

\$ _____ Hat \$18.00

\$ _____ Black Stainless Steel Mugs (20 oz) \$15.00 each

\$ _____ T-shirt short sleeve \$18.00 M L XL / \$22.00 XXL

_____ Red _____ Navy

\$ _____ T-shirt long sleeve \$22.00 M L XL / \$26.00 XXL Navy only

\$ _____ License plate frames # _____ \$18.00

\$ _____ Shipping \$9.00 for Merchandise (hats, mugs, windshirts, sweatshirts, shirts and license plate frames)

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Member Id: _____

Spouse: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Retired From: _____ Police _____ Fire _____