



Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio, Inc.
P.O. Box 627
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Toll Free 1-888-309-7041
(614) 866-1352 Local
Email: pfrostateoffice@gmail.com
website: pfro.com



Organized April 1948
Benefiting over 20,000 Retirees

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President's Message

Hello Members,

I am hoping this newsletter finds everyone healthy this year. We have gone through a few changes this year. As of May, our leased office was sold. Until we find a permanent office space, we are working from a temporary location. **Please mail future correspondence to our P.O. Box 627, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.**

Our Quarterly Meeting will be held on July 18th, 2021. We will be discussing our upcoming budget, scholarship winners, and pending legislation.

PFRO Corporation News

Congratulations to all of our scholarship raffle winners: **John Brady, Roger Matz, Kathleen McCabe and Tim Brown.** The week of July 19th, we will be announcing the upcoming names for our May, June, July, and August scholarship raffles, as well as our Scholarship Fund winners. Please check our website the week of July 19th for the names of the winners.

Playball News

Unfortunately, our Playball outing is cancelled this year. We are planning on 2022 for the next Playball. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the ball field!

OP&F Pension News

On January 4, 2021, the OP&F installed the newly elected Trustees to the board; Mark Drum, Retired Delaware Police Department; Tanya Czack, Active Parma Heights Police Department; and John Deal, Active Cincinnati Fire Department. **Congratulations,** we look forward to working with these new trustees.

As of March 31st, the OP&F Executive Director John Gallagher retired. We wish John the best in his future endeavors. Currently, Mary Beth Foley, General Counsel, is the Interim Executive Director. As of this newsletter, the board is still interviewing candidates for this position.

OP&F's investment portfolio value: Value as of 5/25/21 is \$18.0 billion. On May 26, 2021, we were able to attend the first open meeting at the Pension fund this year.

For our monthly OP&F report, check our website for the link of the board report. <https://pfro.com/index.php/news/health-care-information> or under our "News" tab click on "Health Care Information."

Membership News

It's time to pay your 2021 membership dues. We have attached a dues/merchandise slip for your convenience. If you would like to pay your dues online in the future, visit our website at pfro.com and click on our "Membership tab." There you can click on "Join Online," then fill out "Annual Membership" or a "Recurring Annual Membership."

President

Gary L. Monto
Toledo

1st Vice President

Bill Biasella
Akron

2nd Vice President

Chester Ashton
Cleveland

Secretary

Anna Romito
Akron

Financial Secretary

Richard Anthony
Canton

Sgt. At Arms

Judy Allen
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Lima

7th District

Cleveland

8th District

Terry Baker
Cincinnati

Legislative Agent

Byers Minton & Associates

Updates from OP&F Pension Fund

More options now available for retirement interviews

OP&F continues to ease the restrictions that were necessary during the pandemic, including the resumption of in-person retirement interviews at our headquarters in downtown Columbus.

While our members education area is conducting a limited amount of interviews, virtual retirement meetings have become a popular option. An OP&F staff member can connect with a member and their spouse with their smart phone, tablet or computer.

OP&F has developed brief video instructions on how to access a video conference. These videos are available at the Plan for your Retirement page on the OP&F website. A link to these videos is also included in the email sent to members confirming the appointment.

OP&F going paperless for monthly benefit statements

Beginning this summer, OP&F will no longer mail benefit statements to retirees when their benefit amount changes. Instead, an email will be sent alerting the member that a new monthly statement is available in the secure member area of the OP&F website. Besides saving money, this method protects members' personal information.

The new process will begin with an email in late July alerting those members with a benefit change that their August 2021 statement is available online to view, download or print. No personal member information will be included in the email, just a link to log onto the secure Member Self-Serve portal at op-f.org.

Retirees who prefer it can call OP&F and request that a statement be mailed.

Newsletter distribution

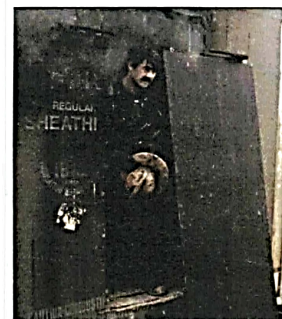
During the May 26th OP&F Board of Trustees meeting there was a question about who receives the quarterly Member's Report newsletter.

It is our goal to send this publication to all OP&F members via U.S. mail, including active members, retirees and survivors. For the spring 2021 newsletter, the mailing list included 60,515 names, plus an additional 200 names of interested parties that are not OP&F members (these include legislators and bargaining units, among others).

For each of these mailings, we do receive a small quantity returned to us because of an incorrect address. For these, our Member Services Department works to contact the member and update the address we have on file.

Marco Miller, OP&F Retired Fire Trustee

CAPTAIN LEE CURRY



RESCUE AND
FIREHOUSE MEMORIES
THE COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The book talks about how the fire department was run, different fires, and rescues, training, history of fires, past and present, and the danger of the job, along with a lot of funny stories in and around the fire department.

...

CAPTAIN LEE CURRY had more than thirty-five years in the fire service. He has made numerous rescues and saved a lot of lives. He served on one of the busiest rescues and was on the bomb squad for twenty-five years. He has done about every job in the fire department.

Captain Curry started as crash rescue crew member in the USAF. After discharge, he was a firefighter on the Newark and Columbus (Ohio) Fire Departments. When he started in the old fire department, the equipment was a lot different than it is today and has now moved on to a more modern department.

Links for book on line
www.authorhouse.com
www.amazon.com
www.barnesandnoble.com

BENEFITS STILL FIT?

TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **PFRO & AMBA**:

- Dental & Vision Insurance
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Learn more: 1-877-556-4582

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POLICE & FIRE RETIREES OF OHIO, INC.



PFRO Corporation

Gary Monto, Managing Director
Bill Biasella, Assistant Director



The Scholarship raffle winners/sellers - 2021

January winner/seller: John Brady.

February winner/seller: Roger Matz

March winner/seller: Kathleen McCabe

April winner/seller: Tim Brown

May winner/seller: TBA July

June winner/seller: TBA July

July winner/seller: TBA July

August winner/seller: TBA July

Please allow **6-8 weeks** for your merchandise. You can combine merchandise and any other items in one check or credit card order.

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

Or go to our website: "Membership" tab and click on "Join Online" to join or renew your membership.

TOTAL_____ Check #_____		2021 Dues Slip	
\$_____	Dues - \$25.00 Member		
\$_____	Dues - \$25.00 Spouse		
\$_____	PFRO Donation		
\$_____	PAC Fund		
\$_____	Decals \$1.00 (No Shipping fee)		
		<div><div>\$_____ Polo w/logo \$21.00 M L XL / \$24.00 XXL</div><div>\$_____ Polo w/PFRO \$21.00 M L XL / \$24.00 XXL</div><div>\$_____ Windjacket \$40.00 M L XL / \$45.00 XXL</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Pullover <input type="checkbox"/> Zip-up w/hood (Navy only)</div><div>\$_____ Fall/Spring Jacket \$40.00 L XL / \$45.00 XXL</div><div>\$_____ Sweatshirt \$25.00 M L XL / \$30.00 XXL</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Crew <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded (Navy only)</div></div>	
		<div><div>\$_____ T-shirt short sleeve \$18.00 M L XL / \$22.00 XXL</div><div>Red Shirt Navy Shirt</div><div>\$_____ T-shirt long sleeve \$22.00 M L XL / \$26.00 XXL</div><div>Navy only</div></div>	
		<div><div>\$_____ Shipping \$9.00 for Merchandise (hats, mugs, windshirts, sweatshirts, shirts, license plate frames)</div></div>	
<div><div>\$_____ Angel pins Police____ or Fire____ \$5.95 each</div><div>\$_____ Blue Crystal Police Angels \$5.95 each</div><div>\$_____ Blue Crystal Fire Angels \$5.95 each</div><div>\$_____ Charm bracelets Police____ or Fire____ \$14.95 each</div><div>\$_____ Shipping \$4.50 for total Pin order</div></div>			
<div><div>\$_____ License plate frames #_____ \$18.00 each</div><div>\$_____ Hat \$15.00</div><div>\$_____ NEW Black Stainless Steel Mugs (20 oz) \$15.00 each</div></div>			
<div><div>Credit Card #: _____</div><div>Exp. Date: _____ V-code _____ \$ _____ \$1.00 fee</div><div>____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ Discover ____ American Express</div></div>			
<div><div>Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Member Id: _____</div><div>Spouse: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____</div><div>Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</div><div>Email: _____ Retired From: _____ Police _____ Fire _____</div><div>Date of retirement: _____</div></div>			



Legislation History

- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 739** (Feb. 1983) Allowed the first retired Police or Fire member to the Board of Trustees of the Police & Firemen's Disability & Pension Fund.
- Testified and helped pass **HB 268** (Apr. 1984) provides benefits to survivors of members who die of service related causes.
- Lobbied and assisted in passage of **HB 270** (Oct. 1977) Increased some members benefits \$300.00 a year. Increased widows benefits \$100.00 a month.
- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 580** (Sept. 1984) Allows a retiring member to take a reduced pension to provide a larger income for their spouse in the event of the member's death.
- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 112** (Jul. 1986) provided pension increases to members, widows and dependents and raised the minimum to \$350.00 per month.
- Testified and lobbied for **HB 721** (Jul. 1986) instituted COLA for future retirees.
- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 389** (1988) to increase benefits for surviving dependents of retired members from \$310.00 to \$410.00 and to increase the member benefits for pre 86 retirees giving them a \$360.00 a year COLA.
- Introduced and lobbied into **HB 377** (Nov. 1989) \$1,000.00 lump sum burial allowance to beneficiary payable upon death of the retiree.
- Testified and lobbied **HB 340** (1989) deletes requirement of marriage to Police or Fire member while in active service in order to receive death benefits from the state.

- Introduced, lobbied and testified, passed **HB 365** (Sept.1996)
Allows a widow to re-marry after age 55 and not lose her benefits. Changed the method of calculating yearly COLA, when members have no bank to borrow from it gives them an increase up to 3%.
- Testified and helped pass **SB 116** (1996) reimbursement of medicare part B costs, and removed the workers compensation “offset” for the bill.
- Testified and lobbied for the passage **HB 479** (Mar.1997)
Allows the second retiree on the board of Trustees on the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund.
- Testified and helped pass amended **SB 82** (Mar.1997)
changes to the health care coverage and disability re-evaluation.
- Testified and helped pass **HB 648** (1998) changes made to the five Ohio retirement systems.
- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 275** (Jul.1999) Increased widows benefits from \$410.00 to \$550.00 plus a 3% COLA. Removed the “cap formula” from the \$30.00 COLA for pre 1986 retirees.
- Introduced and lobbied into law **HB 194** (Jul.1999) increase in widow benefits and introduction of all widows and dependent children with a COLA.
- Testified and lobbied into law **HB 222** (Nov.1999) changing the Police and Firemen’s Disability and Pension Fund name to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund and the name of the Death Benefit fund to the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund.
- Testified and lobbied into law **HB 157** (Feb.2002) provides that the COLA for the retired members and beneficiaries will be 3%.

Legislative News



State Operating Budget

The 134th General Assembly is currently undergoing the final stages involved in passing the biennial operating budget. The bill was passed by the House on April 21st, passed by the Senate on June 9th, and is now in conference committee. The conference committee, made up of Representatives, Senators, and leadership from the Governor's policy team, is the final step in negotiating the different provisions in the budget that have been debated throughout the past five months. This committee will meet to sort out all the differences between the various versions of the bill with the intent of finalizing the legislation of the Governor's signature before July 1.

Major sources of consternation in the budget involve support for broadband expansion, a new funding formula for K-12 education, pandemic-related municipal income tax changes, and potential impact on the Department of Medicaid's procurement process. The budget includes a specific provision for the Police and Fire Death Benefit Fund, which specifies the timeline, oversight, and distribution amounts of the fund partnership with the OP&F Board of Trustees, Department of Administrative Services, and Office of Budget and Management. In addition, the current version of the budget includes a transfer of up to \$1.15 million into the Statewide Community Police Relations Fund.

Ohio Retirement Study Council

Outside of the budget, the Ohio Retirement Study Council, led by Chairman Rick Carfagna, has met three times this year. Meetings have largely consisted of approving the council's FY 2022 budget as well as reporting on necessary actuarial and fiduciary audits. The committee also advocated in favor of allowing retirement systems to adopt a policy that allows for members to attend meetings via tele- or videoconference, a provision that is currently being debated in the budget. The

PFRO Merchandise

Prices listed in Item descriptions **DO NOT** include shipping/handling.

**Shipping Fees: \$4.50 for TOTAL pin order;
\$9.00 TOTAL for all other Merchandise.**

See our website at www.pfro.com for colored photos.



Firefighter Charm Bracelet:
Silver plated bangle with Angel in Dress Blues
and Fire Symbol charm.
\$14.95



Police Charm Bracelet:
Silver plated bangle with Angel in Dress Blues
and handcuffs charm.
\$14.95



Hats are navy blue with the PFRO logo.
\$15.00 each



committee also stated its intent to focus on post-pandemic research, consistent updates on investment performance, and updating in the employee handbook.

Legislative Updates

- **HB 22 - Obstructing Justice:** Expands the offense of obstructing justice to include failure to follow a lawful order from a law enforcement officer or diverting a law enforcement officer's attention.
- **HB 109 - Criminal Penalties:** Increases penalties for certain assault, vandalism, and riot offenses, to allow peace officers to bring civil suits against persons participating in a riot, and to prohibit bias motivated intimidation of first responders.
- **HB 157 - Municipal Taxes:** Modifies municipal income tax employer withholding rules for pandemic-related work-from-home employees.
- **HB 184 - OP&F Disability:** Revises OP&F Pension Fund disability determination procedures.
- **HB 225 - Income Tax:** Grants income Tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer peace officers, firefighters, or emergency medical service technicians.
- **SB 16 - Civil Actions:** Regarding a civil action for an emergency service responder based on a civil rights abridgment or false complaint, and certain crimes regarding conduct directed at an actual or perceived emergency service responder, public servant, family member, co-worker, or BCI investigator or at a public emergency.

For further information go to our website and check for our weekly updates at <https://www.byersminton.com/this-week-at-the-statehouse/>.

Legislative Agents:
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T-shirts are **NAVY BLUE/RED** with the PFR0 Logo on the left chest and *"Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio, Inc."* written on the back.

T-shirts short sleeve: M, L, XL \$18.00, XXL \$22.00
T-shirts long sleeve (Navy Only): M, L, XL \$22.00, XXL \$26.00



License Plate Frames are chrome frames with Police in blue ink, Fire in red ink, and Retirees of Ohio in black ink.
\$18.00 per frame



“New” 20 oz Black Stainless Steel
Travel Mugs with white Police & Fire Logo
\$15.00 each

Not pictured: Angel Pins
Check out our color photos
on our website at pfro.com