



POLICE AND FIRE RETIREES OF OHIO INC.

State Office - P.O. Box 627, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
(614) 866-1352 Fax (614) 866-5508
1-888-309-7041

pfrostateoffice@gmail.com www.pfro.com

Gary L. Monto, President

2023 Dues Notice

Important numbers:

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year! It's **2023** 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. We have exciting news. *As of February 1st*, we have purchased a new office (condo). Our new office is located at **7510 Slate Ridge Blvd., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068**, just four doors down from our old office.

The Legislature has started the new year with a full schedule. A quick update on **House Bill 512**. House Bill 512 had several hearings in committee, there were multiple factors that caused it not to pass before the end of the General Assembly. First, local governments were hesitant about that substantial cost (estimated at nearly \$120 million per year) to their local budgets that the increased employer contribution would create. Also, the Ohio Retirement Study Council legislative staff recommended the legislation not pass because of the precedent that contribution increases from either the employer or employee would not be sought to address funding challenges or provide increased benefits. Rather the ORSC recommends OP&F submit a 30-year amortization plan to the Council for review. ORSC however believes that a worthy goal for the state should be to equalize the rates for both police and fire. Essentially, there are still too many unanswered questions for members to feel comfortable passing legislation like this. 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 2023 newsletter, **check out on Page 1**, the Helps Act exclusion (*Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Servants Act*). Beginning with your 2023 tax year, "Makes the requirement for direct payment by a retirement system under the HELPS health care exclusion for retired first responders optional instead of mandatory." This allows a retired public safety officers to exclude from their gross income, each year, up to \$3,000 of their state or local retirement benefit. Watch for updates in the instructions for form 1040 in the 2023 tax year.

PFRO Corporation Scholarship News: In 2009, we started our PFRO Corporation "**Scholarship fund raiser.**" We have given out four or five \$500.00 scholarships each year since it began. PFRO would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket (or more) for this cause. The first drawing for 2023 will be held on **April 24, 2023** 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 15, 2023 and October 23, 2023*. 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 (2023 year) must sign the scholarship application. If you would like to purchase additional "tickets" or need a "scholarship form," please contact us at **614-866-1352**. Scholarship forms need to be submitted by **April 1, 2023**. <https://pfro.com/index.php/scholarship>. As of 2022, we were able to give **2 extra scholarships** away because of the generosity of **Sharon Gold, Hartville, Ohio**. Thank you, Sharon and all of our members, for their generous donations and ticket purchases.

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 2023 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.**



Speakership Election

On January 3rd, the Ohio House and Senate gavelled into the 135th General Assembly with the official swearing-in ceremonies and leadership votes. With a vote of 54-43, Representative Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) was elected speaker of the House for the 135th General Assembly including support from Democrats. Stephens defeated Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova), who prevailed in an unofficial closed-door caucus vote several weeks prior. Representative Scott Oelslager, a long-time Ohio lawmaker and finance committee chairman in both the House and Senate, was elected to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore.

Legislative Leadership & Committee Announcements

The Senate and House of Representatives have announced their legislative leadership teams as well as standing committee assignments. Legislative leadership members include:

Ohio House - 67-32 - Majority: Speaker Jason Stephens, Speaker Pro Tempore Scott Oelslager, Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz, Asst. Floor Leader Jon Cross

Minority: Minority Leader Allison Russo, Asst. Minority Leader Dontavius Jarrells, Minority Whip Jessica Miranda, Asst. Minority Whip Tavia Galonski

Senate 26-7 - Majority: President Matt Huffman, President Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring, Majority Floor Leader Rob McColley, Majority Whip Theresa Gavarone,

Minority: Leader Nickie Antonio, Minority Leader Hearcel Craig, Minority Whip Kent Smith, Asst. Minority Whip Paul Hicks-Hudson

Ohio Main Operating Budget

In mid-February, Governor Mike DeWine will submit to the legislature his Executive Budget for consideration in the House and Senate. Ohio's operating budget is the single-largest public policy vehicle and presents both potential opportunities and challenges for PFRO and its members across the state. Given the magnitude of the budget, we will remain vigilant about policy proposals being amended into the legislation to prevent any unintended policy consequences for Ohio police and fire retirees.

Introduced Legislation

SB6 - ESG POLICIES-STATE ENTITIES (Schuring)

Regarding environmental, social, and corporate governance policies with respect to the state retirement systems, Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and state institutions of higher education.

Referred to Senate Finance: Senate Finance - Chair Dolan; Vice Chair Cirino; Ranking Sykes

Please allow **6-8 weeks** for your dues & 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 you can pay your dues through our website at: pfro.com "MEMBERSHIP"

TOTAL _____ Check # _____

Dues 2023

\$ _____ Dues - **\$25.00** Retiree/Widow/er
 \$ _____ Dues - **\$25.00** Spouse
 \$ _____ PFRO **BUILDING FUND** 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 / **\$26.00** XXL
 \$ _____ Polo w/PFRO **\$23.00** M L XL / **\$2.00** XXL
 \$ _____ Windshirt **\$40.00** M L XL / **\$45.00** XXL
 Pullover Zip-up (Navy only)
 \$ _____ Fall/Spring Jacket **\$40.00** M 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) **\$16.00 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,

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Member Id: _____
 Spouse: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Retired From _____ Police ___ Fire ___