

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., Dec. 2
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., Dec. 3
FOPA Meeting

Mon., Dec. 9
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., Dec. 10
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., Dec. 11
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Sat., Dec. 14
FOP Christmas Party

Mon., Dec. 16
Regular FOP Meeting

Thur., Feb. 13
Hoxworth Blood Drive at FOP Hall

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Two-Six NEWS



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Editors . . . Doug & Bobbi Utecht

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CINCINNATI, OHIO

DECEMBER 2024

FOP President's Message

We have two very important pieces of legislation making their way through the government. First, is HB 296. That is a bill that will increase the employer's contribution to Ohio Police and Fire Pension fund from 19.5% to 24%. Employers currently pay 24% for our firefighter counterparts. This bill needs to become law to shore up our pension. It passed the House Committee 12-3. It is now going to the Senate. Without these changes, I fear we will face more pension cuts. So, what can you do to help? Below are our local representatives in the Ohio Senate. Shoot them an email to let them know they need to support it.

Louis Blessing: Blessing@ohiosenate.gov
Catherine Ingram: Ingram@ohiosenate.gov
George Lang: lang@ohiosenate.gov

The next piece of legislation we need your help on is the Social Security Fairness Act. We have gotten it through the House of Representatives. It is now at the United States Senate. This bill will allow those with a public pension to receive their full social security benefits instead of forfeiting 2/3 of your earned benefit solely because you have a public pension. Ohio is one of 11 states who this affects. This is as close as we have been to getting this passed in decades. So, what can you do? Below is the contact info for our two Ohio Senators. Leave them a voicemail asking them to support this very important piece of legislation.

Senator Sherrod Brown: 202-224-2315
Senator (Vice-President elect) JD Vance: 202-224-3353

Finally, as we enter the holiday season, please take some time to step away from work, relax a little, and enjoy your time with your family. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

Fraternally,
Ken Kober

POLICE RETIREES NEWS

By Mike Bolte

Retirees for Cincinnati and Hamilton County Officers Meet the First Monday of the month and begins at 1900 hours and will be on December 2nd, 2024. Call Michelle at the FOP Hall, 513-381-2550, to join IF you are not a member.

Luncheons and Breakfasts

All LEO Retirees, Active Officers and Supporters are encouraged to come and have breakfast and/or lunch at these events.

West Side: The West Side luncheon at Triple Cats is the 2nd Wednesday and LAST Wednesday of each month. Both are in Harrison and start at noon. The West Side breakfast is EVERY Saturday at Price Hill Chili in the Garden Room and starts at 0800 hrs.

East Side: The East Side L-18 Luncheon is always at the Anderson Pub & Grill at Beechmont/Nagel. The luncheon will be on December 10th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

WESTSIDE HOLIDAY CLUB

Bucketheads 6507 Harrison Ave. Next date is Monday, November 11, 2024; Veterans Day, 12:00 p.m.

2024 FOP LEOSA Qualifications

Please contact Carl Rauschenberger by email or by cell phone for information: carler272@yahoo.com or 513-325-8022. Certification course is at the Fairfield Sportsmans Assoc., 6501 River Rd. There is a \$5 guest fee, and a \$40 charge for the qualification with 1 or 2 guns. The dates for training are flexible.

Recent Retirements:

David Knox Deon Mack Kenneth Baker
Albert Brown Christopher Thomas

Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and The Shield

The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and the Shield are always accepting donations. If you are a member of the Cincinnati Police Federal Credit Union, you can fill out a form and make a monthly donation to one or both. It is easy and tax deductible.

Florida 2025 Police Reunion Information: February 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2025

Red Lions Lake Buena Vista
5150 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
Kissimmee, Florida 34746

Make sure to call the FOP Hall at (513) 381-2550 to notify them of a death of a retired police officer.

Our contact is Elisa Quinones or her assistant, Salha. Tell them you are with the Cincinnati Police Reunion. Phone number to call is 407-997-3224

Price of the rooms are now:

King Rooms and 2 Queen Rooms are \$85 plus tax a night. If you plan on playing golf, contact Dave West at 513-604-1532.

The price for the Social Nights will remain at \$35 per person.

Checks are to be made out to Sandy Vickers, and sent to: Sandy Vickers, 10790 Autumnridge Dr., Independence, KY 41051.

The FOP Retiree Meeting is on December 2nd.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on December 16th.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON John Burke

The November L-18 APG luncheon was another success as 70 attended and enjoyed the food and networking. Come and see what it's all about at the December 10th luncheon, our Christmas version.



**Please contact Austin Lee at:
austin.lee_21@yahoo.com
to have your police or police family
owned business added to the newsletter.**

FOPA OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

The November FOPA was held on Tuesday, November 5. Officer Kim Horning was recognized for her efforts and assistance in solving a 2007 'cold case' officer involved shooting.

In September of 2007, District 2 officers were dispatched to a 911 disconnect. The first officer on scene encountered a victim running out of the house and a suspect fleeing from the rear. The officer was able to put out a broadcast of the direction of the suspects. Officer Don Meece was in the area and responded. PO Meece encountered the suspect, and shots were fired at him. PO Meece returned fire, but no one was struck. The homicide and criminalistics units responded and completed the investigation.

Several items of evidence were collected and submitted to the Hamilton County Coroner's Lab, but no match was returned at the time. In September of 2023, PO Horning was approached about looking into the cold case. During the course of her investigation, a CODIS hit was found. PO Horning went through the entire case and submitted additional evidence to the lab. The result of her investigation led to the identification and indictment of the suspect, Darnell Chivers, on five felony charges including Aggravated Burglary, Burglary, Kidnapping, Felonious Assault on a PO, and Aggravated Robbery.

Officer Horning's dedication to her fellow officers and the victim of this case make her more than deserving of this award.



WEST SIDE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Jim Brown

Another great LE Holiday Club Luncheon at Buckethheads. Monday, November 11th, we celebrated and saluted our Military Veterans. Thank you for your Bravery, Honor, Respect, and Love of Country. Several of our regular Attendees were on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Those in attendance shared some epic stories from their days and nights with CPD and from their days in the US Military. Enjoy the pictures and don't forget to thank your Veterans and while you're at it thank the men and women for Law Enforcement and Firefighting, too!

Next LE Holiday Club luncheon is Monday, January 20, 2025, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 12:00 pm at Buckethheads on Harrison Avenue!



FOP LODGE #69
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: December 14, 2024
TIME: 9:30AM-11:30AM, 12:30PM-2:30PM, & 3:15-5:15PM

WHERE: FOP Hall, 1900 Central Parkway
WHO: All children of FOP#69 members, Active & Retired (NB to 10 yoa)

DETAILS: The session from 3:15pm-5:15pm will be for children with Sensory Related Challenges & Other Family Needs.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

PLEASE CALL MICHELLE AT THE FOP HALL WITH CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES AND TO RESERVE A SESSION & TIME SLOT. MICHELLE CAN BE REACHED AT 513-381-2550, M - F, 0830 - 1600 HOURS.

Magic Show Presented by **MBT Magic**

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DECEMBER 6, 2024

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, YOU CAN DIRECT THEM TO SHANNON HEINE at 513-708-4219. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES!

****RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEADLINE****

IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Cincinnati Police Sergeant Jerry Lee McQueary

Jerry joined the Cincinnati Police Division on March 12, 1967, in Recruit Class Number 48-1. He was promoted to Patrolman on June 4, 1967, issued Badge 482, and assigned to District 1. He was rotated to District 3 on August 17, 1969. Patrolman McQueary returned to District 1 on February 25, 1973, then transferred back to District 3 on February 2, 1975. On June 18, 1978, he was promoted to Sergeant, issued Badge S-148, and assigned to District 5. On February 15, 1980, Sergeant McQueary and another officer delivered a baby in the District 5 driveway. On March 23, 1980, he was rotated to District 4. Sergeant McQueary transferred a few more times before settling in as the Administrative Assistant in District 3. Sergeant McQueary retired August 8, 1992, with 25 years of service.



Sergeant McQueary died the morning of November 17, 2024, at the age of 81.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Carol, and the rest of his family and friends.

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Sgt. Charles F. Handorf 50 Year Anniversary Memorial

Nick Handorf would like to invite everyone to attend the 50th Anniversary Memorial for Sgt. Charles F. Handorf on Friday, December 6th, 2024, at 1:00 PM at 3201 Warsaw Avenue. This event will be held rain or shine. Please save the date.

NEVER FORGET



Specialist Ronald Jeter
EOW December 6, 1987



Officer Daniel Pope
EOW December 6, 1997



Sergeant Charles F. Handorf
EOW December 8, 1974



Sergeant Robert A. Lally
EOW December 8, 1975

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

H.R. 82 passed the House on an overwhelming 327-75 vote. This represents a mandate to end the unfairness and injustice that steals billions from hardworking public servants every year. We need to make sure that our Senators understand the stakes, and the clear need to act. Our bill will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which has been a top legislative priority for the FOP since 1997.

ALL MEMBERS must reach out to their Senators and tell them they must VOTE YES for H.R. 82, the “Social Security Fairness Act!”

The House Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing: Migrant Children Victims of the Biden-Harris Administration.” In his opening statement, Glen C. Higgins’ (R-LA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement, described how current border policies have allowed children to be preyed upon by cartels, criminals, and human traffickers. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs marked up numerous pieces of legislation, including H.R.3208, the “DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act” H.R.7832, the “Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act” S.5315, the “Cooperation on Combating Human Smuggling and Trafficking Act” S.5317, the “Streamlining Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act”

I will be traveling to Columbus for a mini lobby day on December 4th. The Senate is set to vote on the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Bill HB 296/SB 194. This bill increases the employer contribution to the OP-F for police officers by equaling it out to the 24% that is already paid for each firefighter incrementally over 6 years. I will send out an email as soon as I know the vote outcome and report it at the December Meeting.

This year we have seen 123 Officers killed in the line of duty, 45 by gunfire, 40 auto-related, 21 medical, and 12 others. Please watch each other and cover over. As I have said many times, one is too many.

Management Cannot Circumvent the Discipline Procedure by Giving Discipline a Different Name

Steve Lazarus, Esq. • Lazarus Law, LLC • SteveLazarus@hlmlaw.com • (513) 607-4455

Management must follow the agreed discipline procedure outlined in their collective bargaining agreement or risk discipline being reversed on procedural grounds. In *Colerain Twp. v. AFSCME Ohio Council 8*, an employee of the township went on FMLA leave due to ongoing medical issues. Near the expiration of the employee's FMLA leave, the township sent a letter to the employee notifying him that their leave was about to end and provided several options for the employee. The letter also stated that if the township did not hear from the employee by the date the leave expired, the township would assume that he abandoned his position, and his employment would be terminated. Subsequently, the employee submitted further documentation from his physician and remained in communication with the township. However, shortly after, the township informed the employee that since he failed to provide documentation that he was released for full duty, he abandoned his job.

The parties' CBA requires a disciplinary hearing for employees who are suspended, reduced, or terminated so that "the employee can have an opportunity to explain the alleged misconduct." The CBA also states, "If the Employer fails to answer grievance in a timely manner, it shall be deemed a settlement on the relief requested." The union filed a grievance on the employee's behalf, challenging the township's termination of the employee without a disciplinary hearing. The Union also argued that because the employer failed to respond to the grievance, the employee should be reinstated. The township argued that the employee was not entitled hearing because the employee was not "terminated" or "suspended" but instead "abandoned" his position. The township also argued that the grievance did not require an answer because there was no contract violation. As a result, he was not entitled to due process.

The matter was then brought to arbitration. The issue presented to the arbitrator was whether the employee abandoned his position or was disciplined. The arbitrator found that the employee was disciplined and ordered the employee reinstated and "made whole." As a result, the township was obligated to follow the grievance procedure based upon the CBA's "unequivocal language" and failure to follow the procedure was "a settlement of the relief requested." A court of common pleas vacated the arbitration award based on the fact that the arbitration award did not draw its essence from the CBA and clearly conflicted with the express terms of the CBA because reinstatement and make whole went beyond the grievance's only requested relief of a disciplinary hearing. The union then appealed the decision to vacate the arbitration award.

The 1st District Court of Appeals reviewed the case and found that the arbitrator acted within her authority when she ordered the employer to reinstate the employee based on

procedural grounds. The reinstatement occurred so that the employee could be afforded his contractually mandated disciplinary hearing and opportunity to "offer an explanation of the alleged misconduct." Furthermore, the "make him whole" award simply placed the employee in same position he was in at the time of termination.

Legal Lesson Learned: If the Employer initiates a disciplinary action against an employee, the Employer must follow due process as set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

We're headed up to the unspeakable state up north for this month's crisis communications in the news.

There was an accident in which the City of Warren Fire Department and Police Department both responded. The following media statement was put out by the Fire Department:

The Warren Fire Department is providing an update on a single- vehicle accident that occurred today, 10/04/2024, at 23211 Van Dyke. The incident involved a 40-year-old female driver who collided with a construction sign, several barricades, and a light pole before the vehicle came to rest in front of the construction site for the new fire station.

Upon arrival, Warren Fire Department crews were assisted by Warren Police officers to extricate the injured driver from the vehicle. Warren Firefighters promptly administered advanced life support treatment and transported the patient to Ascension Saint John Macomb Hospital for further care.

The circumstances surrounding the accident are still under investigation.

No further information will be provided about the patient's medical condition due to privacy concerns.

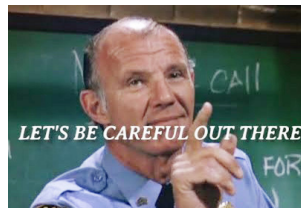
Please direct questions regarding any other issues to Fire Commissioner Wilburt McAdams @ 586-756-2800.

If you've been reading this newsletter for a while, you can probably guess what we're going to do to improve the statement. We're going to write in a way normal people speak and lose the jargon along with including a little more empathy considering the woman was seriously injured. They can probably make this a little more concise too.

Here's how we would re-vamp the statement:

On October 4th, the Warren Fire Department (WFD) responded to a car accident where the driver ran into a construction sign, barricades, and a light pole near the construction site for the new fire station. Along with Warren Police officers, WFD promptly treated and transported the woman driving the car to a local hospital for further care.

While officials are still investigating the details of the accident, we're praying for a full and speedy recovery for the driver. We always strive for transparency with the public and will release additional information as soon as we can.



ROLL CALL

Doug & Bobbi Utecht

Retiree Ceremony at Northern Row Brewery & Distillery - CPD Facebook Page

On October 23, the FOP celebrated the retirement of several retirees. We appreciate each of them and their years of dedicated service to our department. Happy retirement!



2024 Cops for a Cure Race - Jim Brown Facebook post
Early Registration for the “Run for the Cure” was held on Wednesday October 23, at Fretboard Brewing Company in Blue Ash. The run was Sunday October 27,

At Spring Grove Cemetery. Over 200 adults and kids registered for the run. The weather was excellent for the runners and over \$17,000 was raised in the continuing

Fight to find “The Cure” for Breast Cancer. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked so hard and to the runners for making this such a successful event!



Lodge #69 Provides Support & Supplies to Hurricane Victims - Queen City Lodge #69 Facebook Page, President Kober

Lodge #69 Law Enforcement Support Team responded to Avery County, North Carolina in early October to provide supplies/support to the victims of Hurricane Helene. Pictured is the team that went, along with Kim, who was our contact in Avery County. She’s an awesome person who is doing great work to get Avery County back on their feet. I can’t thank our corporate sponsors enough for making this trip happen. Thanks to the following:

- JTM Food Group
- LaRosa’s Pizzeria
- Sam’s Club
- Target
- Constellation Insurance
- Adams Water
- Uweld Services
- AAA Tire Harrison
- Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio
- FOP Capital City Lodge #9
- Many active and retired local Police Officers and Fire Fighters as well as the community.

We learned a lot. While we hope there’s not a next time, when the need arises, we will be ready to deploy to areas in need.



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Cincinnati, OH 45214

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2025-2026 COPFCU

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

\$15,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ Irvin Specht Memorial Scholarship - **\$4,000**
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- ✓ COPFCU Bright Futures Scholarship - **\$4,000**
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- ✓ Second Runner Up Scholarship - **\$1,500**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 14, 2025



APPLY NOW

Online: copfcu.com/scholarships

Mail: 959 W. 8th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
or deliver to any branch

Email: marketing@copfcu.com