

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., Dec. 1
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., Dec. 2
FOPA Meeting

Mon., Dec. 8
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., Dec. 9
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., Dec. 10
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Fri., Dec. 12
Living Legends Party

Sat., Dec. 13
FOP Christmas Party

Mon., Dec. 15
Regular FOP Meeting

Thur. & Fri., Dec. 25 & 26
Christmas; FOP Hall Closed

Wed., Dec. 31
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Thur., Jan. 1
New Years Day; FOP Hall Closed

"Two-Six" STAFF

Editor.....Brent Eve
Retired Info.....Mike Bolte
Photographers.....Jim Brown
Bill Holzman

LODGE OFFICERS

President.....Ken Kober
1st Vice President.....Don Meece
2nd Vice President.....Sean Woods
Financial Secretary.....Jennifer Lane
Treasurer.....Eric Vogelpohl
Recording Secretary.....Ryan Jones
Administrative Asst.....Michelle Comarata
Chaplain.....Austin Lee
Conductor.....Mark McChristian
Outer Guard.....Shannon Heine
Inner Guard.....Tim Lanter
Trustees.....Charles Bell
Frank McGraw
Matt Cornacchione
Building Fund
Administrators.....Bill Vogel
Cliff Bell
Mark Bode
Past President.....Kathy Harrell

STATE OFFICERS

State Treasurer.....Greg Toyeyes
9th District Trustee.....Jon Halusek



Two-Six NEWS



Official publication of F.O.P. Queen City Lodge No. 69
1900 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214 (513) 381-2550
Email: info@fop69.org • Internet: www.fop69.org
Follow us on Twitter: FOP Queen City Lodge #69 (@fop_#69)
Published monthly

All articles that appear in this publication, especially those with by-lines, are the responsibility of the writer and do not reflect the opinion of the "Two-Six" or the F.O.P.

Editor . . . Brent Eve

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 12

CINCINNATI, OHIO

DECEMBER 2025

FOP President's Message

I am happy to report that every Executive Board member is returning for another two years, we won't have elections as there are no contested races. This Executive Board has done a lot of work to advance the mission of the FOP. I am proud to be a part of it.

Last month, the floor passed several constitutional amendments that I believe are worth discussing. The first amendment addresses membership. This amendment changes who is eligible to become a member. The old language essentially said you have to have either 25 years of service or medically retire to stay a member. The new language simply says if you left in good standing and are vested (15 years), you can be a lifetime member. This falls in line with the mission of the National and State of Ohio FOP to grow our membership.

The next amendment that was passed allows the Executive Board to determine the time of the monthly meeting for the following year. This was done in hopes of finding a time that will increase attendance at the monthly meeting. The Executive Board will be discussing this at the December Executive Board meeting. If you have any thoughts on a time, send me an email at president@fop69.org.

Finally, the per capita dues are going to be increasing significantly over the next several years. To lighten that burden, an amendment was passed to increase lifetime dues from \$350.00 to \$450.00. This will only affect future retirees. If you aren't aware, our lodge is one of the only lodges in the state that has a one-time due payment for retirees, and we haven't increased it in over a decade.

As we begin the holiday season, I hope everyone gets some time away from the the daily grind to enjoy time with your loved ones. Our profession can take a toll on ourselves and our families. A little time away can do wonders. Be safe and don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of help.

Fraternally,
Ken Kober

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

President Ken Kober – 513-283-3219 (CALL FIRST)
1st Vice President Don Meece – 513-607-5408
2nd Vice President Sean Woods – 513-919-1091

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 1, 2025. 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 9th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

2025 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:

Donald Elsaesser Jeffrey Wiczorkowski

Recent Promotion to Sergeant:

Lakisha Gross

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.

CPD Florida Reunion 2026

The CPD Florida Reunion February the 24-26, 2026. It will be held again at Red Lions, Lake Buena Vista, 5150 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway, Kissimmee, Florida 34746.

To book a room, contact is Eliza Quinones, Head of Sales, or Salha @ 407-997-3224. They have king rooms poolside or 2 queens rooms available at the same price as last year - \$85 a night plus taxes. They also have pet rooms which are \$85 a night plus an additional \$35 a night plus taxes for bringing a pet. If you are thinking or planning to attend next year's reunion, please book a room ASAP!

We are trying to lock down as many rooms as possible at this time. If you came this year (2025), you are already booked for next year with same amount of days. This saves time of you having to call in. If you can't make it, let me know and we will cancel your room. We can also change days or add

days to your reservation. Their policy is you have 72 hours before your arrival to cancel your room if you can't make it, without any charges. The fee for the Socials remains the same - \$35 per person.

A check or cash needs to be sent to me, in my name:

Sandy Vickers

10790 Autumnridge Dr

Independence, Ky 41051

Sorry, I do not do Venmo or other things like that. Cell number is 813-382-7171 or home 859-359-0128.

For those golfing, it will be at Kissimmee Bay February 24th and 25th. Tee times will be both days at 10:00 am (please make sure you pay attention to the start up time, since it has changed). Golf and range balls are \$55 each paid at Pro Shop. 12 miles from Red Lions Hotel. Bar is open till 6pm.

The FOP Retiree's Meeting is on December 1st.

The Legends Party is on December 12th.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on December 15th (changed due to Christmas).

FOP haircuts by Retiree Eric Vogelpohl at 1288 Ebenezer Rd. - \$20. Call Eric for appointment 513-505-1050.

FOP LODGE 69 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual FOP Children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the FOP Lodge #69 located at 1900 Central Parkway. This year there will be three sessions. The three sessions are as follows:

1. 0930 to 1130 hours
2. 1230 to 1430 hours
3. 1515 to 1715 hours – Designated for children with Sensory Related Challenges, special needs and other family needs. Those encountering scheduling issues can also attend the last session.

All active and retired Cincinnati Police officers and their family members are invited. Children 10 years of age and under are eligible to receive a Christmas gift.

Reservations to attend must be made no later than Friday, December 5, 2025 by 1600 hours.

You must contact Mrs. Michelle Comarata at 513.381.2550 to reserve a session and time.

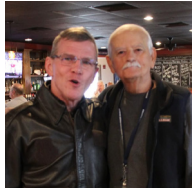
Volunteers of all ages are NEEDED. Please advise if available when making reservation or notify Committee Chair Shannon Heine.

Please remember to call Michelle Comarata at (513) 381-2550 if you have moved, have gotten married or divorced, have added a child/dependent, and also to check or update your death beneficiaries.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON

William Holzman

So, we had the L-18 Luncheon November 11th, and only 47 people were in attendance. Dr. Jay was there, along with Bill Hilbert, who was a first timer. It was great seeing them. We had the quiz, as John Burke thought they were very good questions, thanks to Steve Eggers. I didn't do many photos, but with Christmas next month, I will make up for it.



BUCKETHEADS Jim Brown

There were about 50 attendees that braved the cold and snow to attend the Veterans Day Luncheon at Bucketheads. The luncheon was held on Monday 11/10/25, which was also the 250th Birthday of the USMC. Roger Loth played the Bagpipes to honor the Marines, Navy, Army and United States Air Force. Thank you to all members of the US Military for your Service, Dedication and Sacrifice to the United States of America.

IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Lieutenant Donald Charles Andres

Don was born on July 15, 1938. Don joined the Cincinnati Police Division on May 22, 1961 in its 39th Recruit Class. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 1, 3, 4, the Tactical Unit, Internal Investigations Section, Chief's Office, and Traffic Section. He retired on July 13, 1990 with 29 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Lieutenant Andres died on November 23, 2025 at the age of 87.

© 2025 – All rights reserved to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

FOPA OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

On August 2, 2025, Ms. Tauber filed a report for theft from a motor vehicle where she alleges Mr. Allen broke into her vehicle and stole \$3,000 worth of property. Detective Remley was assigned the case and found a video where he observed Mr. Allen under the rear of Ms. Tauber's vehicle. When Mr. Allen got out from underneath the vehicle, he removed his shirt and wiped off his fingerprints from the vehicle. Mr. Allen then proceeds to enter Ms. Tauber's vehicle and stole \$3,000 worth of property.

Ms. Nicole Tauber reported Mr. Sean Allen was stalking her and damaging her property. Ms. Tauber and Mr. Allen had dated in the past. After the breakup, Mr. Allen began stalking her and she moved to North Carolina to get away from him. Mr. Allen followed her to North Carolina where the stalking and harassment continued. Ms. Tauber eventually moved back to Cincinnati/Kentucky area and Mr. Allen followed.

When she returned to the tristate area the stalking and harassment started again causing Ms. Tauber to file several police reports for stalking, criminal damaging (slashing her tires) and theft from a motor vehicle with Cincinnati Police Department and Ludlow Police Department (Kentucky).

Detective Remley obtained a search warrant for Mr. Allen's cell phone for the dates of the stalking and thefts. He was able to show where Mr. Allen's location was following Ms. Tauber's location on multiple occasions in Cincinnati and in Kentucky. On multiple occasions Mr. Allen used his work vehicle. Detective Remley obtained a search warrant for the GPS associated with the work truck and was able to show where he was in the same location as Ms. Tauber on multiple locations. Most notable was when he drove from Norris Lake in Tennessee to her residence and back in the middle of the night.

Detective Remley provided the information to the Kentucky police agency who filed seven felony charges on Mr. Allen. Detective Remley charged Mr. Allen with Grand Theft and Stalking, both of which were indicted by the Hamilton County Grand Jury.

NEVER FORGET



Specialist Ronald Jeter
EOW December 6, 1997



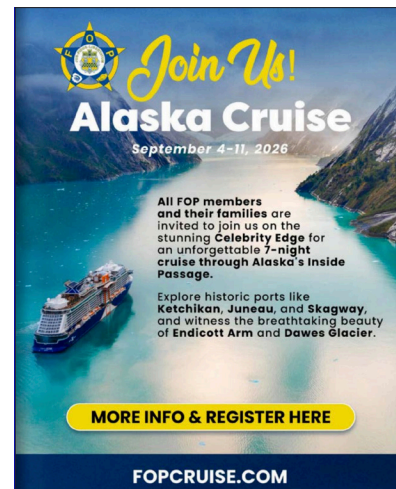
Officer Daniel Pope
EOW December 6, 1997



Sergeant Charles F. Hundert
EOW December 6, 1974



Sergeant Robert A. Lally
EOW December 6, 1975



Join Us!
Alaska Cruise
September 4-11, 2026

All FOP members and their families are invited to join us on the stunning **Celebrity Edge** for an unforgettable 7-night cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage.

Explore historic ports like Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway, and witness the breathtaking beauty of Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier.

MORE INFO & REGISTER HERE

FOPCRUISE.COM

Ohio Public Officials Allowed to Keep Frequent Flyer Miles Earned During Official Travel for Personal Use

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

In August 2025, the Ohio Ethics Commission (“Commission”) approved an Advisory Opinion (“opinion”) revising Ohio’s Ethics Law restriction on the personal use of frequent flyer miles and other reward points. The updated guidelines allow public officials and employees to use frequent flyer miles, hotel points, and other reward points accrued during official work travel for personal use.

In 1991, the Commission issued an opinion prohibiting employees from using frequent flyer miles accrued during official work travel for personal use. Since the 1991 opinion was issued, it has become increasingly difficult for employees to opt out of frequent flyer programs when purchasing flights for official travel because most airlines now use frequent flyer account numbers as personal identifiers for the purchaser. The Commission recognized in the August 2025 opinion that removing restrictions on personal use of frequent flyer miles will increase administrative efficiency by removing the need to track rewards miles accrued on an individual traveler’s account. The federal government has allowed federal employees to retain frequent flyer miles for personal use since 2002.

The opinion revises the previous Ethics Law standard, now allowing a public employee to use frequent flyer miles that were earned during official travel for the employee’s own personal use, so long as the employee earned the miles under the same conditions as the public and at no additional cost to the government. The opinion applies to other reward points programs such as credit card rewards, hotel rewards, and gas rewards. However, employees are prohibited from choosing an airline based on its frequent flyer benefits. Additionally, a planner who books trips for a large group of employees is prohibited from retaining the reward points received from a large group booking.

In its analysis, the Commission applied the Revised Code Ethics Law to frequent flyer miles rewards programs, considering conflict of interest, public contracts, and supplemental compensation laws. The Commission noted that frequent flyer miles programs do not violate conflict of interest laws because: 1) frequent flyer miles are available

to both private citizens and public employees; 2) frequent flyer miles uniformly accrue to all eligible employees; and 3) frequent flyer miles are not offered to public employees for performing their official duties, but because they are travelers on the airline. Further, although Ethics Law prohibits a public official from having any interest in any public contract, the Commission determined that the interest in the context of frequent flyer miles is minimal and are a uniform benefit provided by the airline to any ticket buyer. Finally, the Commission determined that Ethics Law concerning supplemental compensation is not violated because the miles are automatically rewarded based on the traveler’s status and not at the discretion of the employer, remaining distinct from fringe benefits and an employer’s compensation package.

The Ethics Law sets the minimum standards that public employees must follow to avoid violating criminal laws. A public agency cannot create policies or rules that are less restrictive than the Ethics Law, but agencies are permitted to implement policies or rules that are more restrictive than the Ethics Law. The Commission recommends that public agencies adopt policies that determine whether employees are permitted to use frequent flyer miles accrued during official travel for personal use. The Commission also recommends that agencies implement policies that ensure public employees select the lowest reasonable rate offered by the airline that meets the agency’s needs to avoid improper influence by possible reward point benefits.

Legal Lesson Learned: Public agencies should implement travel policies that permit or restrict a public employee from using frequent flyer miles and other reward programs accrued during official business for personal use. If a public agency implements a policy allowing an employee to use frequent flyer miles and other rewards points gained from official business for personal use, that agency should implement a policy requiring its employees choose the lowest reasonable rate offered by the airline that meets the agency’s needs.

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

If you are notified to respond to Internal or CCA, please notify Michelle at the FOP Hall to schedule a rep. Please give them as much notice as possible.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

This month's crisis communications in the news will take us down south to quaint Savannah, Georgia. But we're not there for ghost tours...

This isn't a normal statement following one incident, as we usually talk about. This time, Savannah police Chief Lenny Gunther wrote an open letter to the community following several videos on social media of alleged excessive force by his officers.

With all that chatter, along with the department's own process of placing those officers involved on administrative leave, Gunther released the following statement to Savannah:

"The Savannah Police Department immediately reviews every incident of use of force to ensure that it complies with our policy. There are no exceptions to this policy. We take these matters very seriously. As Chief, I am duty-bound to ensure that the interaction between Savannah Police Officers and the public is conducted professionally and within the parameters of our policies. We are also obligated to be transparent with the public. I assure you that once any use of force investigation is complete the results will be made available to the public."

We like the fact that he said something rather than nothing, which is rule number one in crisis communications. There are some other good components here too: he assures the public that investigation results will be made public, an aspirational statement about his role for the public, and that there are no exceptions to the use of force policy.

Here's one sentence we would change: "We are also obligated to be transparent with the public."

This sounds like they're only being transparent because they're "obligated" to. If we were residents of Savannah, we'd rather our police chief be transparent out of ethics over obligation. That should also come off generally in the tone.

Here's how we'd rewrite it:

"The Savannah Police Department takes allegations of excessive use of force very seriously, and we immediately review every incident in light of the law and our policy. I can assure the public that I will release the results of recent use of force investigations once they're complete. As Chief, I want to be as transparent with the community as the law allows me to be, and I want to ensure that interactions between our department and the public are always professional and in compliance with both internal policy and the law. Thank you for your trust, and I'll share as much information as I can as soon as possible."

Notice how the substance is very similar, but our tone is more "we really want to be transparent with you because we care" rather than "we're being transparent because we have to."

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

Update on the Thin Blue Line is as follows:

The Ohio Department of Insurance has filed an emergency motion asking the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to liquidate Thin Blue Line Benefits' Ohio assets, specifically the "Ohio-Only Premiums Account." This action comes after months of failed efforts to get the company to turn over accurate financial and claims information.

Despite being placed under a court-ordered conservatorship in June, Thin Blue Line has refused to cooperate, providing incomplete or false information about its finances and claims. The Department has independently verified that Thin Blue Line's sworn statements about paying claims are untrue.

The emergency motion asks the Court to:

1. Appoint the Superintendent as Liquidator;
2. Authorize immediate liquidation of the Ohio-Only Premiums Account;
3. Allow direct claims submission from Ohio policyholders; and
4. Begin a structured, court-supervised process to distribute remaining funds equitably to affected Ohio retirees.

The State argues that immediate liquidation is the only way to prevent further harm to retired Ohio first responders, given Thin Blue Line's ongoing failure to pay claims or supply reliable records.

Below is the fight the State FOP has been fighting for on PTSD:

This morning (11/10/25) will begin to reach out to our legislators on our push to include PTSI treatment and funding into the marijuana legislation. Attached to this email are a letter that was sent to the Governor and leaders of the General Assembly from us, fire, the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable.

Senate Bill 56 is in a conference committee, to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The conferees are Brian Stewart; Tex Fischer; Bride Rose Sweeney from the House and Steve Huffman; Shane Wilkin and Bill DeMora from the Senate. Here is our plan to try and get this over the finish line in the next 7-10 days.

Bob Paduchik is working his contacts and connections with leadership on our behalf.

I am asking Taylor to work DeMora; Assion to work Fischer; Weinman to work Wilkin and Sweeney; Steel to work Stewart and Parker to work Huffman. Try to set up meetings and use the talking points attached.

Weinman and I will work Matt Huffman; McColley, Antonio and Issacson and DeWine.

I am asking all of you if any of the highlighted names are your personal Representative or Senator, to call them and email them.

I will begin the work to get our members engaged in the issue. I will use email, social media and lodge visits over the next 7 to 10 days to get our members to call and email the legislators.

Below is an article in Gongwer, a Statehouse news service.

Jay

Weed conferees outline priorities heading into negotiations

Differing views on dispensaries, expungement and beverages are all providing fodder for discussion as the two chambers hash out their differences over marijuana and intoxicating hemp.

So too is a new ask from a coalition of business and first responder groups asking that \$40 million in related tax revenues be dedicated to officers and firefighters requiring treatment for post-traumatic injuries.

Those are a few of numerous lingering discussion points laid out by members of the recently appointed conference committee in interviews and in a stakeholder letter sent this week to legislative leaders.

After Senate conferees were named this week to finalize the latest version of the marijuana bill (SB 56), House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, told reporters that negotiations really began in June.

"I'm glad that it's happening now in earnest," he said. "I think I can say my

expectation is that that bill will be passed before we leave for Thanksgiving.” Huffman added that the House added an extra as-needed session on Nov. 20 in case an agreement cannot be reached by Nov. 19.

Legislative action — which had been at a standstill for months — was spurred by Gov. Mike DeWine’s executive order banning all sales of intoxicating hemp products. DeWine told reporters that despite its court blockage, his order did what he intended.

“While the executive order I issued has been held up by the courts, we hoped that it would be sustained, but if it wasn’t sustained, we hoped at least that would prod the state Legislature into taking action, and that’s what they’re starting to do,” he said.

DeWine also said it makes sense to have intoxicating hemp and marijuana in the same bill with similar regulations.

“I’m reasonably confident that we’re going to end up with a hemp bill that really provides regulation,” he added.

Asked whether the final version should include an emergency clause, Huffman said, “It would be a great idea.”

“I haven’t talked about that directly with conferees but given we had close to 80 votes in the House, my guess is that we could probably get that if it doesn’t substantially change.”

He called conferee Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney, D-Westlake, a “smart, reasonable person” and said he believed Rep. Brian Stewart, R-Ashville, and Rep. Tex Fischer, R-Boardman would work with her to ensure the final product is something House Democrats would also support.

They will be joined by Sen. Steve Huffman, R-Tipp City; Sen. Shane Wilkin, R-Hillsboro; and Sen. Bill DeMora, D-Columbus.

Conferees’ priorities

Fischer said in an interview he believed it would be difficult to get enough House votes unless the bill maintains House provisions related to beverages and hemp business licenses.

“Those two issues were the biggest holdups in getting the bill done earlier,” he said. “It would be hard to have House votes on something that didn’t have those two pillars protected.”

Under House language, beverages that contain 5 mg or less of THC would be allowed to be sold in restaurants, while beverages with a THC content of up to 10 mg would be allowed to be sold for carryout at locations that sell alcoholic beverages. The drinks will be taxed at \$1.20 per gallon, which will be borne by the manufacturer when sold to the distributor or retailer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 18, 2025)

DeMora said he believed the House’s beverage language would generally remain intact with “a couple minor tweaks.” He also said he believed there would be other minor changes, like defining synthetic THC, and to align hemp regulations with those for marijuana.

Sweeney said her priority is ensuring the regulatory framework approved by voters remains as untouched as possible.

“We were mostly successful in the House pushing back on efforts to recriminalize marijuana and making sure we have a system that is fair, that gives consumers confidence in the product they’re choosing to use and on top of that, keeping the integrity of marijuana,” she said.

“I view marijuana and hemp connected in that I believe Ohioans want a system that is not criminalized, that’s legal, that has fair regulations and high consumer protections.”

Sweeney said she is also dedicated to ensuring it contains an expungement process for previous marijuana misdemeanor convictions.

“It’s a real barrier,” she said. “It holds people back from housing, from work and it doesn’t make sense to have a barrier on thousands of Ohioans when this is a legal product.”

DeMora said he is also focused on expungement, but said Senate Democrats want the process to be free for those seeking expungement.

“We want money set aside to pay clerks of court for the fees that are incurred for getting someone expunged,” he said. “The reasonable bill we

passed a month after the ballot issue had a couple million dollars in a fund to pay for these things and my caucus would like to see that happen again, but if not, at least having the fee waived for folks.”

Sweeney said that although the House version does not set a required fee for expungement, the general cost is around \$50.

“There is the ability, though it’s not in there, for clerks to waive the fee,” she said. “I think that’s better than nothing. They could have prescribed a fee. There’s things we could have done further to make the work more expedited....In a system where Democrats are in charge, it would be automatic.”

Wilkin and DeMora previously spoke out against the House changes prior to the Senate’s vote refusing to concur last month.

Wilkin took issue with several provisions, including the allowance of untested, unregulated hemp products for 300 days after passage and the number of permissible hemp dispensaries. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 29, 2025)

First responders

The committee may also now consider the additional \$40 million ask, which came relatively late into marijuana discussions but has been an issue for about 15 years, according to coalition members.

In a letter sent this week to President Rob McColley, R-Napoleon, and Huffman — and copied to other lawmakers and Gov. Mike DeWine — the groups said a \$40 million allotment of adult-use marijuana tax revenues for PTSI treatments “honors our first responders while maintaining a favorable business climate.”

They asked the money be deposited into the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund, which was established via HB 308 of 2020. The fund has never received money.

“If we secure this initial funding, the organizations are confident we can reach a consensus on a comprehensive plan that delivers meaningful PTSI benefits to first responders,” they wrote. “We look forward to submitting our final proposal to your offices in the near future.”

FOP President Jay McDonald called the coalition “historic” as the groups had previously been at odds over how it would impact the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation.

He explained that several years ago, the cost to provide PTSI treatment without a coinciding physical injury was estimated at \$30 million.

“We don’t have a November 2025 estimate and we want to make sure there is adequate funding to deliver services needed by police, fire and paramedics,” he said.

McDonald and OAPFF President Jon Harvey said that the hope is that lawmakers include the appropriation in SB56 and that the group will later provide the Legislature with a proposal for how to handle claims for future legislation.

Both also acknowledged the late timing of the request but emphasized how long the issue has been discussed.

Harvey said the conference committee “absolutely” has enough time to consider their request for SB56 inclusion.

“The lack of funds has been an issue for four General Assemblies,” he said. “We’re one of three states that don’t have this treatment accessible to first responders. Ohio should be breaking new ground, not lagging. It’s long overdue.”

McDonald said the group is currently working on setting up meetings with the conferees, leadership and the governor’s office.

Sen. Tom Patton, R-Strongsville, who carried the legislation creating the fund and has championed PTSI coverage, said he was encouraged first responders and businesses were able to come together on a single proposal.

“I think money is always going to be assigned from marijuana taxes to law enforcement in one form or another and I can’t think of a better way to spend those dollars than in this area,” he said.

Sweeney said she would support it, given lawmakers have already deviated from the revenue scheme approved by voters.

"My colleagues decided to give billions of dollars to the richest people in the state," she said, referencing operating budget language (HB 96) to use unclaimed funds to support the new Cleveland Browns stadium. "If they can do that, I'm not sure why we couldn't make sure first responders suffering from PTSI can't get the support they need."

FIRST RESPONDER PTSI: A NEEDED RESPONSE

Ohio First Responders suffer every day from the mental toll of their job.

- They're hailed as heroes, but carry the burden of what they see and do each day to keep their communities safe.
- There doesn't need to be a workplace injury to cause PTSD – what they see, hear, and experience each day is enough.
- Dozens have died from suicide just since this topic has been on the desks of legislators.

LONG TIME COMING

- The FOP has been calling for common-sense mental health coverage for 15 years.

There was overwhelming support. Passed the House 83-2 and unanimously in the Senate.

- The General Assembly passed HB 308 in 2021.

Establishes a separate Post Traumatic Stress Injury Fund (PTSI) for first responders suffering from PTSD without an accompanying physical injury (which would trigger workers' comp).

The PTSI fund was established, but the legislation stipulated that "there shall be no payments made from [the fund]."

- Without funding and a fix to the legislation, this remains an empty promise, leaving first responders unprotected.
- We need to complete the job here, nearly five years later, to provide this vitally important coverage for first responders.

BROAD COALITION OF SUPPORT

- After years of disagreement about the path forward, First Responders and the business community are working collaboratively on a solution.
- There are substantive discussions about next steps.
- The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Business Roundtable, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, and Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters are in earnest talks.
- It's a rare alliance uniting labor and business for one goal: protecting Ohio's first responders."

COMMON SENSE NEXT STEPS

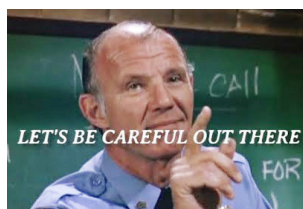
- Asking legislature to set aside \$40 million from the adult-use marijuana tax revenues to help provide start-up money for the PTSI fund.
- The funds should be directed to the PSTI Fund as provided for under HB 308 in 2021.
- We'll need legislative action to release the funds, but the next step is to secure the funds to initiate the program.
- This represents significant progress, transforming recognition of a problem into tangible assistance for first responders.

As you can see the State FOP is working on your behalf. I will keep you informed on its progress.

So far this year, 86 officers have been killed in the line of duty (up 9 in a month):

- 42 from gunfire
- 29 from auto-related incidents
- 9 from medical emergencies
- 6 from other causes

Please continue to watch over one another and stay vigilant — as always, one is too many.

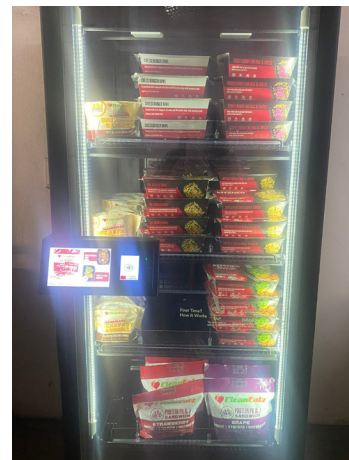
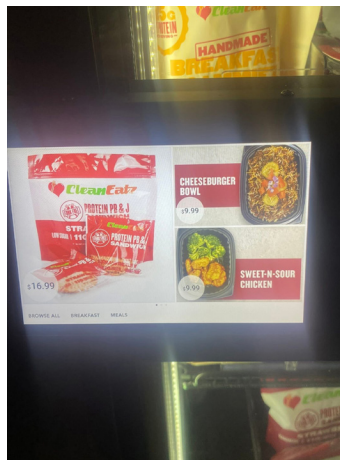


ROLL CALL

Brent Eve

Clean Eat3 Vending Machines – FOP 69 Facebook Page

Thanks to the awesome work of the CPD wellness Unit teaming up with Clean Eat3, the FOP hall now has a fully stocked healthy choice vending machine. It's located in the garage near the entrance to the weight room so Officers will have 24/7 access to healthy options. There is another vending machine at District 3.



Dr. Jay – John Burke

At our last APG luncheon, we had a visitor who had worked at University Hospital as a trauma surgeon. He was instrumental in treating CPD Officer Katie Conway. He's returned to our area, loves LE, and asked me to share his contact info for any retired or current LE officer who needed anything medical or mental health-wise. His info: Dr. Jay Johannigman (Dr. Jay), 513-325-2771; jay.johannigman@gmail.com. He is planning on coming back to future luncheons. Please do not hesitate to contact him if needed.



REMINDER

THE ANNUAL "LIVING LEGENDS" PROGRAM
IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
JIM AND JACK'S ON THE RIVER

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
1900 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 7939

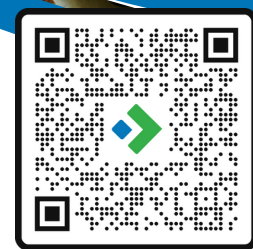
2026-2027 COPFCU

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

\$15,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ Irvin Specht Memorial Scholarship - **\$4,000**
- ✓ Emily Argo Memorial Scholarship - **\$4,000**
- ✓ COPFCU Bright Futures Scholarship - **\$4,000**
- ✓ First Runner Up Scholarship - **\$2,000**
- ✓ Second Runner Up Scholarship - **\$1,500**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 13, 2026



APPLY NOW

Online: copfcu.com/scholarships

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

Email: marketing@copfcu.com