

Meeting Dates & Events

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

Mon., Jan. 5
Retiree's Meeting

Mon., Jan. 12
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., Jan. 13
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., Jan. 14
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Mon., Jan. 19
Martin Luther King Day;
FOP Hall Closed

Mon., Jan. 26
Regular FOP Meeting;
Dinner at 5:00; Meeting at 6:30

Fri., Jan 30
Class 117th Graduation

Wed., Jan. 28
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

"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 31, ISSUE 1

CINCINNATI, OHIO

JANUARY 2026

FOP President's Message

Last month, the Ohio Supreme Court came out with their ruling as it relates to the application of Marsy's Law and Ohio Law Enforcement Officers. In their landmark decision, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Marsy's Law DOES apply to Ohio Law Enforcement Officers. This was absolutely the right decision. I hope everyone understands the positive impact this has on protecting officers. The days of blasting an officer's picture on the news for protecting themselves or others is over, thankfully. This decision highlights, at least on a statewide level, the pendulum is beginning to swing back to where law and order and law enforcement is valued in Ohio.

Also last month, every Executive Board member made the commitment to serve this lodge for 2 more years. There are no contested races so the Executive Board will remain the same. I want to thank every board member for their continued commitment to serving this lodge. Their hard work does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

I want to take this time to thank the Children's Christmas Party Committee and the countless volunteers who made this year's party a huge success as always. Fraternalism is strong and proud within Queen City Lodge 69.

Finally, as 2025 winds down, I want to take a minute to thank each and everyone of you for the work you go out and do day in and day out for our city. While we are faced with violence that plagues our city and media outlets who consistently try to create division, you face these challenges with the utmost dedication and professionalism. I hope you all get a chance to get away from the grind and enjoy your friends and family for the holiday season. Remember, the FOP is just one call away. Be safe!

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

**The regular FOP meeting times have changed.
They will now be held at 6:30pm
with dinner being served at 5:00pm.**

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 January 5, 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 January 13th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

2026 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.

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 January 5th.

The Legends Party is on January 26th.

The Executive Board has changed the start time of the Board and Regular Meetings for 2026 to 1830 hours.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON

John Burke

Great time at our Christmas luncheon at APG today! Special visit by President Trump who judged the ugly sweater contest. There were five entries but the Grand Prize went to Rick Krummen hands down! About 65 in attendance as we plan for the January 2026 luncheon on Tuesday the 13th. Hope all can make it.



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.

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.

IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Sergeant Glenn William Amann

Glenn was born on December 6, 1935. Glenn joined the Cincinnati Police Division on March 24, 1958. He was promoted to Specialist on February 27, 1966, and Sergeant on April 14, 1968. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 1, 6, 7, and Crime Bureau. He retired on June 2, 1979, with 21 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Sergeant Amann died two hours after his 90th birthday on December 7, 2025, at 2 a.m. He was the 5th oldest living retired Cincinnati Police Sergeant and the last living member of the 35th Recruit Class.



Police Officer Kevin Schroeder

Kevin was born December 7, 1957. Kevin joined the Cincinnati Police Division on March 2, 1980. Throughout his tenure, he served in District 1 and Traffic Section. In 1989, Officer Schroeder left the Division after nine years of service to the City of Cincinnati. He died peacefully on December 8, 2025.



© 2026 – All rights reserved to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

FOPA AWARD William Holzman Facebook

At the December 2nd FOPA meeting, our representative, PO Jackie Metz, spoke about the tragic incident that occurred on May 2nd, which resulted in the death of Deputy Larry Henderson.



PO Jason Wallace and PO Casey Carver were the first officers on scene at approximately 1300 hours. Sgt. James Perkins arrived shortly thereafter and, after speaking with several witnesses, was not yet aware that this was a crime scene. PO Kyle Cole and Sgt. Austin Lee then arrived on scene. Sgt. Lee immediately called for the Traffic Unit and Fire, and ensured traffic was cleared so Fire could respond and transport Deputy Henderson for emergency care.

While awaiting Fire's arrival, Sgt. Lee and PO Cole took turns performing CPR on Deputy Henderson. Sgt. Perkins managed an exceptionally large and complex crime scene, all while dealing with UC graduation traffic and maintaining constant communication with Dispatch.

It must be noted that the extraordinary efforts of PO Cole and Sgt. Lee to sustain Deputy Henderson's life allowed his family the invaluable opportunity to say their goodbyes. Deputy Henderson ultimately passed away at 1635 hours.

My sincere congratulations and gratitude to all involved. I cannot imagine the immense stress each of you endured during this tragic event, and your professionalism and dedication did not go unnoticed.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

This month, our crisis communications in the news comes from the Hoosier State (sorry Ohio State fans!). Some idiots decided to try "swatting" members of the Indiana General Assembly, presumably because they were mad about something the elected officials had done. This prompted the Indiana State Police (ISP) to release a statement on social media.

Here's what they said in the statement:

The Indiana State Police is aware of and are currently investigating multiple instances of the crime known as "swatting" which have recently targeted members of the Indiana General Assembly.

Swatting is an incident in which someone with ill intention notifies law enforcement via phone call, email or other form of communication of a false emergency at a targeted location. The end goal of this is to generate as large a scale law enforcement response as possible.

The Indiana State Police warn that not only is this potentially dangerous to all involved, but it is also against the law. While the motives for this type of activity may vary, we are working diligently with local, county law and federal law enforcement partners around to identify those responsible for these reckless, careless and illegal activities.

Our goal is to seek criminal prosecution against those involved, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The public can also be of significant assistance by contacting the Indiana State Police at iifc@iifc.in.gov with any information they have which may lead to the identification of those responsible. If you see or know something...say something.

This isn't a bad statement, but it's also not very good and it contains one of our biggest pet peeves! First off, we never recommend using "is aware of" or "been made aware" because it's very passive, sounds weak, and just accomplishes nothing. Let's instead be active and tell folks what we are actively doing to remedy a situation. We also quibble with the use of "ill intentions." This sounds like someone who is sick with the flu instead of someone trying to commit a felony.

Here's a bold way to rewrite this to get more attention from the news and maybe the bad guys too:

The Indiana State Police (ISP) is actively hunting those responsible for recent "swatting" attacks targeting members of the Indiana General Assembly. We want to be crystal clear to the cowards behind these acts: We will find you, and you will go to prison.

Swatting is not a harmless prank. It's a dangerous felony that weaponizes emergency services, placing the targets, their families, first responders, and the entire community at grave risk.

(continued on page 4)

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

If you're wondering why I consistently share articles and updates on legislative issues—both at the state and national levels, our Constitution and By-Laws direct the 9th District Trustee to do exactly that.

“The Ninth District Trustee shall inform the members of their district of the legislative activities of the State Lodge. The Ninth District Trustee shall perform such other duties as are required by the State President or the Board of Trustees.”

Over the past several years, Queen City Lodge 69 has significantly expanded its legislative footprint. We participate in both State and National Day on the Hill events and respond to requests from the State FOP whenever advocacy is needed at the State Capitol.

Why do we do this?

Because it is our responsibility to protect your rights and advocate on your behalf on critical issues, including:

- Elimination of the Windfall Elimination Provision (Social Security)
- PTS funding
- Marsy's Law

Below is a recent press release issued by FOP of Ohio President Jay McDonald, along with an update from Chief Counsel Gwen Callender, highlighting a major legal victory for law enforcement:

Brothers and Sisters,

Please see the attached press release from the FOP of Ohio and the email below from Chief Counsel Gwen Callender.

I am incredibly proud of the work our attorneys have done in this case. This is a significant victory for law enforcement across Ohio—and hopefully across the nation. I am thankful to be part of a team of talented and dedicated professionals who fight every day for those who protect and serve.

Most importantly, this decision helps ensure that officers who are victims of crime can be protected. I am grateful to the Ohio Supreme Court for doing what is right.

*Jay McDonald
President, FOP of Ohio*

FOP Board,

I want to provide an update on a critically important legal victory for law enforcement in Ohio.

Today, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its decision in State ex rel. GateHouse Media Ohio Holdings II, Inc. v. Columbus Police Department, and it represents a tremendous win for the safety, privacy, and rights of police officers statewide.

As previously reported at our Board meeting, the FOP of Ohio filed an amicus brief urging the Court to deny the Columbus Dispatch's request for unredacted body-worn

and dash-camera footage following a 2023 officer-involved shootout.

Case Background:

- *In 2023, a Columbus police officer was shot five times, and another officer was directly threatened by an armed suspect.*
- *The Columbus Dispatch requested unredacted video footage, including the identities of the officers involved.*
- *The Columbus Police Department denied the request, citing Marsy's Law, which protects the privacy of crime victims.*

Legal Question Before the Court:

Are police officers, when criminally attacked, considered “victims” under Marsy's Law and therefore entitled to the same privacy protections as any other citizen?

The Supreme Court's Answer: YES.

The Court ruled clearly and decisively that:

- *Police officers are victims under Marsy's Law when crimes are committed against them—even while on duty.*
- *Officer identities must be protected when they are victims of violent crimes.*
- *Law enforcement agencies must redact identifying information before releasing video footage.*
- *The media is not entitled to unredacted footage that reveals an officer-victim's identity.*

The Court rejected the argument that officers “can never be victims” simply because they are on duty, stating that such a position is unsupported and inconsistent with the Constitution's plain language.

Gwen Callender

Chief Counsel, FOP of Ohio

We will continue to work on your behalf.

This year alone, 92 officers have been killed in the line of duty. Please watch out for one another and stay safe.

(continued from page 3)

To those using these criminal tactics to express political disagreement: If you don't like the decisions of an elected official, committing a felony is a bad choice of protest. In a civil society, we debate, we protest, and we vote; we don't terrorize families in their homes.

We are deploying every resource available—working in lockstep with local, county, and federal intelligence partners—to identify suspects. When we catch you, you will face the fullest extent of the law, and you will go to prison.

The safety of every family in Indiana is our mission, and our tolerance for this criminal behavior is zero.

Anyone with information regarding these crimes is urged to contact the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center immediately at iifc@iifc.in.gov.

Lazarus Law Drives Statewide Correction to SERB Wage Report, Raising the Benchmark for Public Safety Pay

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

When the Ohio State Employment Relations Board (SERB) released its 2025 third-quarter fact-finding and conciliation report statistics, the published data appeared to reflect relatively modest increases in wages in public-sector fact-findings. For many, the report looked routine. For Lazarus Law, LLC—it did not.

A closer review revealed that SERB inadvertently failed to include a recently issued fact-finding award for Lazarus Law client Hamilton City Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF, Local 20. The Hamilton IAFF Fact-Finder granted an 8% wage increase in Year 1, followed by 4.5% wage increases in both Year 2 and Year 3. Because SERB's quarterly analysis relies on three-year averages to establish statewide wage trends, the omission lowered the reported figures and significantly understated the correct overall percentage increases in public sector wages in Ohio. After Lazarus Law contacted the agency, SERB performed an internal review, confirmed the omission, and issued a corrected report that incorporated the Hamilton IAFF award.

The impact of the correction was immediate and measurable, as the table below demonstrates:

	SERB Initial Report	SERB Updated Report
2025 Increase:	2.75%	3.78%
2026 Increase:	3.25%	3.39%
2027 Increase:	3.50%	3.63%
Average Annual Increase:	3.17%	3.60%

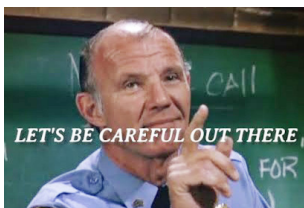
The revised statistics reflect a dramatic increase in wages to the benchmark. These statistics are one of the most important up to date benchmarks used by public sector unions and employers when framing economic proposals.

Because SERB's fact-finding/conciliation report statistics are routinely cited in collective bargaining, fact-finding, and conciliation proceedings, the inclusion of the Lazarus Law Fact-Finding win has influence far beyond one contract. Statewide trend data is the backdrop against which wage demands are measured, criticized, justified, and ultimately negotiated. Raising those figures by nearly half a percent across three years changes the economic reference point for every public safety bargaining in Ohio.

Lazarus Law is proud of their efforts that directly led to the revised SERB data, to the benefit of all unions in their efforts to secure fair wage increases for their members.

Legal Lesson Learned: SERB Wage reports are more than statistics—they drive expectations, strategy, and leverage. When statewide averages move up, so does the baseline for every fire and police negotiation that follows. Accurate data protects bargaining power, and bargaining power protects paychecks. With higher average wage increases, every union negotiates from stronger ground. Lazarus Law stands with dozens of Police & Fire unions all over Ohio to negotiate for the best wage increases possible.

For further information on our law firm, contact Steve Lazarus at 513-607-4455 (24/7) or SteveLazarus@hlmlaw.com



ROLL CALL

Brent Eve

New FOP Hall Photo Update – FOP 69 Facebook Page

The new home of Queen City Lodge 69 and the Blue Line Foundation is coming along. More than 9 years of work is finally paying off.



FOP Christmas Party – Jim Brown Facebook

From the “Undercover Elves” wrapping the presents to the visit from Santa Claus, Lt. Shannon and her Merry Elves made the 2025 FOP Christmas Party a huge success. There were miles of smiles and countless memories made today. Merry Christmas, everyone.



Legends Party – William Holzman Facebook

Legends met Friday, December 12th at Jim & Jacks and announced the new names to be inducted.

Brett Stratmann, Mike Bell, Chip Knapp, Joe Ruchti and Tim Bley. Retired Captain Bob Morgan held the meeting, and a very fine crowd cheered on the new inductees. Congrats, guys.



Honor Guard Lays Wreath – FOP 69 Facebook Page

December 15th, CPD Honor guard and many FOP members gathered to lay a wreath in memoriam of Sgt. Robert Lally's line of duty death which was 50 years ago.



Skyline Chili Served – FOP 69 Facebook Page

No better way to finish the week than to cater Skyline Chili for a bunch of Cincinnati's finest!



Executive Board Sworn In – FOP 69 Facebook Page

December 8th, Queen City 69's Executive Board was sworn in. Every board member returned for 2 more years. They are great men and women doing outstanding work.



West Side Breakfast – Jim Brown Facebook

Merry Christmas from the CPS Westside Breakfast PoPos. Thanks to the staff at Price Hill Chili for providing good food and excellent service at our Saturday morning gatherings. A big thank you to the Cincinnati Police Federal Credit Union for picking up our breakfast tab. This is a much-appreciated Christmas tradition from the Credit Union. Folks, this is what over 550 years of Law Enforcement looks like. I was fortunate to work with and for each of these LE Legends. Merry Christmas and to all and Happy New Year.



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
1900 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

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

COPFCU CAR & TRUCK LOANS

Winter Roads. Warmer Rates.

Finance your next car, truck or recreational vehicle with a great low rate, plus get **up to 0.50% in Rewards Plus rate rebates.**

- ✓ Cars & Trucks from **5.49% APR***
- ✓ Recreational Vehicles from **7.49% APR***
- ✓ Purchase, Refinance or Lease Buyout
- ✓ eSigning from the comfort of your home

APPLY TODAY!

copfcu.com | 513.381.2677



*Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) quoted are available as of 12/4/25 for members with a credit score of 720+ financing a titled car or truck for up to 76 months or a boat, motorcycle, RV, camper, UTV, or ATV for up to 60 months. **Higher financing terms available. Actual rates may vary based on creditworthiness. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Speak with a loan officer for full details. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.