

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., July 1
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., July 2
FOPA Meeting

Thur., July 4
Office Closed for Holiday

Mon., July 8
Executive Board Meeting

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

Wed., July 10
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Mon., July 15
Regular FOP Meeting

Sun., July 21 - Tue., July 23
State Conference

Wed., July 24
Retirement Ceremony

Wed., July 31
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Mon., Aug. 5 - Tue., Aug. 6
1900 Club Meeting @ FOP Hall

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Two-Six NEWS



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Editors . . . Doug & Bobbi Utecht

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CINCINNATI, OHIO

JULY 2024

FOP President's Message

Last month, we hosted our annual family picnic at Sticker's Grove. The picnic committee, led by Charles Bell, once again did an outstanding job. More than 1,700 people came to enjoy great food and company. I want to give a sincere thank you to the entire picnic committee for their commitment to making this a first-class event.

I attended the first meeting for the Juvenile Diversion Task Force that was held at the Supreme of Ohio in Columbus. The Task Force is made up of 1 senator, 1 house representative (Cindy Abrams), 2 FOP members, juvenile court judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys from around the state. There was one thing we all agreed on – the Juvenile Justice system needs fixed. We will be meeting every other month for the next year. Sometime in the spring of 2025, there will be proposed changes that will be given to the general assembly for consideration. I will give updates as to the progress being made.

Finally, there have been many rumors circulating as to the progress of contract negotiations. The wage team has met with the city's team several times and has been making progress. While I understand everyone is anxious to get this contract done, I ask that everyone be patient. The city passed an ordinance in June that grants retroactivity back to May 1st. I am confident the wage team has positioned us to do very well. As soon as we have what the team believes is a suitable contract, we will host informational sessions and hold voting for the entire membership. Until that time, I ask for your patience as the team works hard for you all. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Fraternally,
Ken Kober

POLICE RETIREES NEWS

By Mike Bolte

Retirees for Cincinnati and Hamilton County Officers Meet the First Monday of the Month and begin at 1900 hrs and will be on July 1, 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 July 9th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

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:

Phillip Penn Michael John Jeffrey Battison

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

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
Executive Suites and Jr. Suites are \$115 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 Retirees Meeting is on July 1st.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on July 15th (changed due to State Conference).

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Greater Cincinnati Credit Union is hiring a **Director of Security**.

This is a part-time position requiring 15-20 hours of work weekly.

The primary function is to ensure the security and safety of GCCU employees, its members, the organization, and their assets, through training, inspections, and investigations. Loss prevention is preferred over investigation and recovery. General responsibilities include the investigation of allegations of fraud or other crimes against the Credit Union committed by employees, members, or outsiders; use of GCCU camera systems for investigations; prepare and present cases to the courts; interface with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and other financial institution security departments; as well as several additional responsibilities as well as other duties assigned by the CEO or CTO.

Pre-requisites include: High School diploma; Five years of experience as security director or assistant director, law enforcement official, or other related fields.

Active as well as retired members of Lodge 69 are invited to contact GCCU's Director of Operations for more information and to apply. Her name is Michelle Neale. Her email address is: MNeale@GCCU.org.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR RESERVATION
TO JOIN US FOR THE

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SGT.) AT 513-300-3664 OR EMAIL
DIRECTOR@POLICE-MUSEUM.ORG**

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ONLY MUSEUM DEDICATED TO PRESERVING LAW
ENFORCEMENT ARTIFACTS, RECORDS AND HISTORY FOR
THE TRI-STATE AREA!**

FOPA OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

The May FOPA was held on Tuesday, June 4th. Police Officer Mandy Vineyard was honored as the FOPA award recipient. She was nominated by retired Officer, now LEI, Doug Perkins, for her effort and dedication as a member of the Police Academy staff.



Prior to becoming a part of the Police Academy staff, Officer Vineyard was assigned to Recruiting and Background. According to Doug, she was a tremendous asset to the Recruiting unit and often volunteered to assist with both recruit and sworn officers' training. When a Recruit Advisors position became available, her work ethic and dedication to her fellow officers made her an ideal candidate for the position, according to LEI Perkins. Since she has been with the Police Academy, Officer Vineyard has taken multiple certification courses and has assisted with developing the Continued Professional Training. She has gone above and



beyond to serve the Department her fellow officers.

Thank you, Officer Vineyard, for your hard work and dedication! It does not go unnoticed!

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON John Burke

The June luncheon featured 64 highly motivated police retirees engaging in good fellowship and food. As usual, some questionable stories were repeated, but no harm done. Next month's meeting is July 9th. Come and join us and bring a friend or two!



IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Cincinnati Police Lieutenant Paul Freeland

Paul joined the Cincinnati Police Division in the 34th Recruit Class on September 9, 1957. He graduated first in his class, was issued Badge 443, and assigned to District 1. A year later, Patrolman Freeland was rotated to District 4. He was rotated again in another year to District 5. In 1961, Patrolman Freeland was selected to attend the highly touted "Homicide Seminar" at the Kettering Labs of the University of Cincinnati. He earned an associate degree in the science of commerce in June 1962 at Salmon P. Chase College School of Law.



On April 26, 1964, on his 31st birthday, he was promoted to Sergeant, issued Badge S-44 and reassigned to District 1. Sergeant Freeland was selected to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in March of 1965. On February 19, 1967, he was promoted to Lieutenant, issued Badge L-19, and reassigned to District 5. Six months later, Lieutenant Freeland was transferred to the Identification Section (City Hall) and a year later to the Homicide Squad in the Crime Bureau. During February of 1971, the newly appointed police chief reorganized the Division to include an Investigations Bureau, commanded by an assistant chief, within which was Criminal Investigation Section-commanded by a captain. On March 7, 1971, Lieutenant Freeland was appointed Acting Criminal Investigations Section Commander. In October 1971, he was transferred to headquarters to be the chief's administrative assistant. By December of that year, he was back as acting chief of detectives.

In June 1974, Lieutenant Freeland went to Washington DC to be trained by the Secret Service in Dignitary Protection. In September 1974, he oversaw the investigation and rescue in the Allison Meacham kidnapping. Lieutenant Freeland was transferred to District 3 on October 27, 1974. About a year and a half later, he was assigned as Administrative Assistant to another Police Chief. On February 24, 1980, he was assigned as Intelligence Section Commander.

He retired on May 7, 1998, with almost 35 years of service to his country and communities. Lieutenant Freeland then went on to work for the National Football League conducting internal investigations.

Lieutenant Freeland died while under hospice care on June 14, 2024, at the age of 91.

He is believed to be survived by his wife of 62 years, Sue Carol (Rees) Freeland, sons, Steven (Anita) Freeland and Gregg Freeland; grandchildren, Joshua (Ashley) Freeland, Jacob (Ashley) Freeland, Alexis (David) Monnin, and Jordan Freeland; as well as seven great-grandchildren.

Our thoughts go out to this family and friends.

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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.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

This month's crisis communications in the news comes from Abington, Pennsylvania after a fight broke out this spring at a high school and rumors spread that there was a stabbing.

Here's the statement released by the Abington Township Police Department:

On April 26, 2024 at 1:23 PM, the School Resource Officer at the Abington High School called for assistance after two simultaneous fights broke out. Two of the involved students became physical with the police officer and school staff, and resisted their efforts to break up the fight. This prompted a large police response to the school. It was reported that there was a knife involved in one of the fights, which prompted a brief lockdown of the school. The incidents were quickly brought under control. One of the students who was involved in the fight sustained a minor injury, and was transported to a hospital by ambulance. A total of three juveniles, including the juvenile who had been transported to the hospital, were arrested.

Soon after the incident, misinformation surfaced that there was a stabbing at the school. The investigation revealed that a pocket knife was present during the altercation but was discarded by the student before any assault had occurred. The knife was not the cause of the student's injuries.

One juvenile was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, and recklessly endangering another person, and will be detained at the Montgomery County Youth Detention Center. One juvenile was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, and possession of a weapon on school property, and will be detained at the Montgomery County Youth Detention Center. One juvenile was charged with simple assault and was released to a parent. All of the students involved in the incident had mutually entered into the respective altercations.

While this statement includes a bunch of information on the situation, it has a bit too much jargon and is too long. Here's how we could clean it up:

Abington Township Police Department Officers responded to calls of two fights at Abington High School. While two students resisted officers and school officials trying to break

up one of the fights, the situation was quickly brought under control.

Rumors quickly spread that there was a stabbing at the school, which was, thankfully, untrue. However, one student did have a pocketknife, although it was not used in any fight. Three juveniles were arrested following these fights, and only one suspect was injured. All three students were charged with simple assault, and two of them face additional charges.

Each student is innocent until proven guilty, and we trust the judicial system to bring justice. Our department is committed to keeping our community safe and pursuing justice for all crimes committed. We're grateful that no one was seriously injured, and we will update the community when there is more information to share.

Notice how we minimized unnecessary details and jargon along with including a broad, aspirational statement at the end. Finally, we capped off the statement with a "more to come" statement.

While this statement is still on the longer side, we made it more concise and readable.

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

July 21st-23rd the delegates will be attending the 88th Annual Conference in Dublin, Ohio. We will be electing a few new officers. As of now there are only two contested races- first for President between Gary Wolske and Jay McDonald and for Vice President between Eric Lenhart and TJ Assion. On June 24th, the delegates decided to give the Queen City Lodge 69 endorsement to Jay McDonald, TJ Assion, Greg Toyas for Treasurer, and Travis Parker for Secretary. Nominations will be made on the floor Monday, July 22nd, and at that time other names could be tossed into any race. I will give a full report on the conference next month.

On the National Front:

This past March, the Fraternal Order of Police once again joined forces with the nation's oldest and largest union of professional firefighters, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

Rank-and-file law enforcement officers and firefighters traveled together to our Nation's capital to highlight the important issues facing our public safety organizations. They shared with Congress the challenges of public safety officers, including the right of public safety officers to collectively bargain, protecting due process for officers and firefighters, and repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO)!

Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson and Legislative Liaison David Taboh met with staff on the Senate Committee on Finance to discuss the potential path forward for S. 597, the "Social Security Fairness Act," following Senator Ronald L. Wyden's, who chairs the Committee, announcement that he would cosponsor the bill. Let us hope there is some movement.

(continued on page 5)

NEVER FORGET



Police Officer Melvin Henze
EOW: May 5, 1979



Police Officer Sonny Kim
EOW: June 19, 2015

Proposed House Bill 492 to Create Deferred Retirement Option Plan for PERS Law Enforcement Officers

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

A new House bill proposal introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives would amend portions of the Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”) Section 145 and would create a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (“DROP”) for law enforcement officers covered by the Public Employees Retirement System (“PERS”). The Bill has been introduced in the House and is currently in the House Committee for review.

DROPs are utilized exclusively for public-sector employees that are otherwise eligible for retirement. DROPs incentivize officers to continue employment for a fixed period of time by allowing the officers to continue adding funds to their retirement savings through a fixed rate established by the employer. The officer’s funds in the DROP account gain interest during the designated DROP period. Once the employee retires, the money plus interest is paid out, including any pre-existing pension. These plans are valuable to both employers and employees because they incentivize employees to continue working longer while allowing them to maximize their retirement funds.

House Bill 492 seeks to create a DROP for PERS law enforcement officers that would allow any Ohio law enforcement official otherwise eligible for retirement to postpone retirement and elect to participate in DROP for a maximum period of eight years. If the bill is passed, the officer would enroll in DROP by filing an election form with the PERS board. After no more than eight years of participation in DROP, the officer must terminate active service and begin receiving their retirement allowance and any funds accumulated in DROP. Those who participate in DROP will not be considered to have retired and will be an active service officer but will be ineligible to purchase or transfer service credit.

In calculating the officer’s retirement allowance, the board would utilize the officer’s total service credit and final average salary of the officer before their participation in DROP. While participating in DROP, 10% of the officer’s earnable salary accrues to the officer’s benefit and will earn interest at an annual rate established by the PERS board and compounded annually.

An officer’s participation in DROP ceases upon either the termination of the officer’s active service, the last day of the eight-year DROP period, acceptance by the officer of a disability benefit awarded by the PERS board, or upon the officer’s death. Once an officer terminates active service, they are not eligible to enroll in DROP again. If an officer chooses to terminate DROP participation earlier than eight years, their applicable DROP retirement funds and interest will be determined based on their age at the election of participation in DROP and their length of participation in DROP. An officer must participate in DROP for at least three years to receive DROP funds with interest and must participate

in DROP for eight years to receive the full DROP benefit. Once the officer ceases participation in DROP, the officer’s retirement allowance shall be paid to the officer one day after their final day of active service. The officer will select the method of distribution of the accrued retirement fund based on one of the distribution option plans on the DROP election form.

House Bill 492 provides that DROP participation may be forfeited if an officer is injured on duty. If an officer is injured on duty, the officer may choose to either receive their DROP retirement allowance plus interest accrued, or a disability retirement benefit. If the officer chooses to accept the disability retirement benefit, the entire DROP amount will be forfeited. The years spent participating in DROP will be treated as if the officer had continued active service and never participated in the plan and instead, the officer will be granted service credit for the time the officer participated in the plan. If an officer’s injury was not incurred in the line of duty, the officer receives the entire DROP allowance plus interest accrued. Finally, in the event of an officer’s death during DROP participation, the entire amounts accrued under DROP shall be paid to either the officer’s surviving spouse, beneficiaries, or the officer’s estate in a single lump sum payment.

Legal Lesson Learned: DROPs allow retirement eligible public-sector employees to continue employment and maximize retirement funds through employer contributions. If House Bill 492 is passed, Ohio law enforcement officers that are eligible for retirement under PERS will have the option to participate in DROP for eight years.

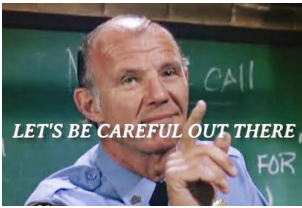
(continued from page 4)

In the House: Nothing happened in the House.

In the Senate: The Senate passed S.870, the “Fire Grants and Safety Act,” which reauthorizes through Fiscal Year 2030 the U.S. Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program. The bill would additionally make the government of China, and any entity or organization operating or incorporated in China, ineligible to be a recipient or subrecipient of Federal assistance under such programs. The bill now goes to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., who is expected to sign it into law.

The Senate attempted to pass S. 1809, which would ban the import, sale, manufacture, possession, and transfer of bump stocks and other devices, through unanimous consent. The measure failed due to an objection by Senator J. Peter Ricketts (R-NE).

Please watch each other and cover over. As I have said many times, one is too many.



ROLL CALL

Doug & Bobbi Utecht

Fallen Motorcycle Ride & Stephen Watt Day - Jim Brown Facebook page

Saturday, May 18th, was the MC Memorial for Fallen Officers. Thank you to The Shield and Hamilton County Police Association for making this year's ride a huge success.

Mayor Aftab Pureval signed a declaration declaring Saturday, May 18th, as "Stephen Watt Day" in the city of Cincinnati. Thank you, Steve, for all you do for the Law Enforcement community!



Israel National Police Story - Cincinnati Queen City Lodge #69 Facebook page

On Thursday, May 23rd, Police Chaplain Rabbi Mendy shared details from his recent trip to Israel with other police chaplains from the United States. They traveled to Israel to show their support to the Israeli National Police who lost 59 police officers on October 7, 2023. Rabbi Mendy gave a fantastic presentation, and we are fortunate to have guys like him supporting local law enforcement.



2024 Police Memorial Parade

Friday, May 17th was the annual Police Memorial Parade. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed that our fallen heroes will never be forgotten. Sincere thanks and appreciation to the FOP 69 Memorial Committee for their efforts putting on this event for the survivors of Hamilton County's fallen officers.



Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, Grandmas, Grandpas, Siblings, Active POs and Retired POs were “In the House” at Stricker’s Grove on Thursday, June 6, to enjoy the 2024 Edition of the FOP Family Picnic. A great time was had by all, and countless new memories were made, and old stories remembered and rehashed. The smiles on their faces will let you know how much the kids and the adults enjoyed the rides and camaraderie. Thanks to all the FOP Volunteers for making this event so memorable - without these volunteers, this event doesn’t happen. You are THE BEST!



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