

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., March 4
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., March 5
FOPA Meeting

Sun., March 10
BLF Painting Fundraiser

Mon., March 11
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., March 12
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Tue., March 12
APC

Wed., March 13
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Mon., March 25
Regular FOP Meeting

Tue.-Thur., March 26-28
Reunion in Orlando, FL

Wed., March 27
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Fri., May 3
Awards Dinner

Fri., May 17
Memorial Parade

Thur., June 6
FOP Picnic

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Two-Six NEWS



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Editors . . . Doug & Bobbi Utecht

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

CINCINNATI, OHIO

MARCH 2024

FOP President's Message

This month we welcome the start of the 115th recruit class. The class started in late February and will be hitting the streets by the beginning of September. We're having a difficult time keeping up as we are continuing to see many retirements each month. The city is going to have to do something to find a way to RETAIN its police officers!!!!

The wage team has now met twice and has completed a large list of proposals for the upcoming contract. The next step is to meet with the city face-to-face to exchange proposals and begin the negotiating process. Please refrain from asking the wage team members specific questions about proposals. They have been instructed not to discuss what's going on. This is a commonly used strategy. In due time, everyone will be made aware as to what's going on. Rest assured, we're looking out for your best interests!

I have spent the greater part of last month meeting with city leaders, police department leaders, Metro, CPS, Hamilton County Prosecutors office, and the Hamilton County Juvenile courts to find solutions to the juvenile crime issues you are facing everyday. We know that something must change, it's just a matter of some other elected officials realizing the same thing. While I don't know what the outcome will be, know that I'll continue to advocate that everyone needs to step to the plate to solve this. The POLICE are not the problem. I've noticed that since the juvenile court system issues have been in the news, it appears many juveniles are being held. Having a juvenile court liaison will hopefully prove to be an effective tool. If you have examples of violent juveniles being released without bond, please let me know.

Finally, after having given Judge Silverstein an ample amount of time to respond to a request for a meeting and having that fall on deaf ears, I sent out a media release outlining her lack of support for law and order. The public needs to be aware of judges who are destroying this city and county.

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 March 5, 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 is at noon on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am. Last month, the Eastside Breakfast group celebrated the 95th birthday of retired Lt. Bill Beahr!



West Side Holiday Club: Cliff Bell and Dave Reinhardt hosted approximately 85 Law Enforcement Family and Friends at Bucketheads for the LE Presidents' Day Luncheon. The staff at Bucketheads were on their "A GAME" with good food and excellent service. The stories shared were like a fine wine, they just get better with age. Cliff and Dave are going to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Monday March 18, 12:00 at Bucketheads. Monday, May 27 is the date for the Memorial Day LE Luncheon-same time, same place!



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:

Christopher Perry Walter Murphy Jr. Michael Drexelius
Michael Silberstein Doris Scott Dan Carder

Recent Promotion to Lieutenant

Jacob Mapel

Recent Promotion to Sergeant

Kevin Tighe

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.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON John Burke

The February L-18 Eastside luncheon was another success as we had 74 attendees that enjoyed a great lunch and networking! Steve Eggers once again provided some awesome trivia questions that resulted in some mediocre prizes for the trivia winners! The March meeting is set for Tuesday, March 12th, and we would love to see you all!



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

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

The active OP&F Board Member ballot will be mailed to all Active Members. Clay Cozart is the FOP endorsed candidate. Please fill out your ballot and return it as soon as possible.

The retired OP&F Board Member ballot will be mailed to all Retired Members. Mark Drum is the FOP endorsed candidate. Please fill out your ballot and return it as soon as possible. It's important to fill out and mail your ballots back to keep FOP members on the board.

For the first time, the nation's oldest and largest organization of law enforcement officers will be joining 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 will come together in our Nation's capital to highlight the important issues facing our public safety organizations. We will be talking about the challenges and the needs of our memberships', including recognizing 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)!

On Tuesday, March 5, from 11am-12pm the FOP-IAFF will hold a rally on the Capitol grounds to call on Congress for immediate action on H.R. 82/S. 597, the "Social Security Fairness Act," to repeal the WEP and GPO. We will be headed to Washington DC for Day on the Hill to join our brothers from around the nation to talk with our senators and congressmen about this issue and others.

From the House:

The House considered and passed H. Res. 863 on a 214-213 vote, adopting two articles of impeachment against Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Representative J. Michael Johnson (R-LA), Speaker of the House, announced that legislation reauthorizing Section 702 the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, would not be considered on the floor this week after dueling amendments were offered in the Committee on Rules, including H.R. 4639, the "Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act," which the FOP strongly opposes. This is the second time the House has tried and failed to reauthorize this provision. The "Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act," would have a profoundly negative effect on public safety and on the ability of law enforcement to conduct investigations because it would cut off access to commercially available data collected by third parties and impose a probable cause standard for this type of information, meaning routine investigations will become arduous and time consuming. This data is critical because it allows investigators to identify and pursue leads which in turn are used to gather evidence and establish probable cause for an arrest and prosecution. Without access to this type of data, investigators will not be able to "connect the dots"—to see patterns and establish links between the crime and the perpetrator. The legislation would also impose these restrictions on U.S. intelligence agencies that use the data to protect our national security.

The House considered and passed H.R. 5856, the "Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act," on a 414-11 vote. The bill, which reauthorizes several programs that prevent human trafficking, was transmitted to the Senate for further action.

From the Senate:

Before going into recess, the Senate considered and passed H.R. 815, the "National Security Act," as amended, on a 70-29 vote. The bill, which would provide \$60 billion for Ukraine, \$14.1 billion in security assistance for Israel, \$9.2 billion in humanitarian assistance, and \$4.8 billion to support regional partners in the Indo Pacific region in addition to other policy provisions, was transmitted to the House for further action.

Senator Vance voted against this Act.

The Senate-passed bill also includes the text of S. 1271, the "Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence (FEND) Off Fentanyl Act," which the FOP helped develop. The bill would direct the resources of the U.S. government to target the fentanyl supply chain.

From the Ohio State House:

The State of Ohio FOP Day on the Hill in Columbus will be held on April 10th. We will be meeting with our local congressmen and senators to discuss local issues.

Last year saw only sixteen bills passed into law—a historically low number for the General Assembly. Legislative activity may pick up after the March 19th primary. The fight over the next Speaker continues with the incumbent members being primaried over their vote for Speaker Jason Stephens.

HB. 230 Drug and Human Trafficking, is to increase penalties for drug trafficking above certain amounts and to prohibit organized trafficking of persons.

HB. 296 Police, Fire Pensions, is to increase the amounts that employers of full-time municipal police officers must make to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

HB. 333 Police Quotas, is to prohibit law enforcement agencies from using quotas for arrests and citations.

There is a bill floating around again to ban release time for unions. This release time is used for our President to conduct the business of the FOP, for its members, without any reprisal from the city. As of now, there is no movement regarding this, and they do not expect any.

This year 18 officers have been killed in the line of duty; this is down 10% from last year. Six have been killed by gunfire, eight from auto-related incidents, two from medical issues, and two from other related on duty issues. Please watch each other and cover over, as I have said many times, one is too many.

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, our crisis communications in the news comes from Oklahoma City after a startling amount of threats hit local schools.

Here's the statement that the Oklahoma City Police Department released in response:

The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority, and we feel it is crucial to inform you about recent on-line threats made toward metro schools. Over the past week, we have encountered an alarming number of hoax threats made against schools in our area. These incidents not only disrupt the educational environment but also create fear and anxiety within our community while placing a significant strain on law enforcement resources. Our dedicated officers work tirelessly to investigate each threat thoroughly and fortunately none of the incidents were viable, and no one injured. In one case, charges of making a bomb threat, violating the computer crimes act, and threatening acts of violence were accepted by the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office this week. This underscores our commitment to holding those responsible accountable for their actions. We want to make it abundantly clear that any threats against our schools will not be tolerated. If you have any information related to threats, please call 911 immediately, together we can make a difference in keeping our schools and community safe.

We will start with what was done well in this statement. Overall, it was written with many of our top crisis communications tips in mind.

The statement is standalone, it reiterates the aspirations of the department to keep the community safe, it seeks to be transparent, and it relays what has already been done by the department to pursue justice.

The biggest criticism we would have about this statement is that it's a tad long. While much of the information is great and should be included, we could probably make it a bit more concise. Here's how we would clean it up:

Over the past week, local schools were subject to a startling number of threats. While, thankfully, our officers worked tirelessly and discovered none of the incidents to be real threats, we take these incidents extremely seriously. The safety and well-being of our community is always our top priority. We're working in cooperation with the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office to bring charges against those found to be suspects – with several charges already having been accepted. Suspects are innocent until proven guilty, but we will work around the clock to bring criminals to justice. If you have information related to these threats, please call 911 immediately. We will provide updates to the public as soon as we can.

Notice how most of the important details and components of the previous statement are still included. We dropped a couple of details that weren't central to the message, and by doing so, we were able to shorten the statement significantly.

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RED WHITE AND BLUE LINE PATRIOTIC
ANY COMBINATION OF SEVERAL LINES



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THE HELP OF FEW
INSTRUCTORS! AGES 10+
CAN PARTICIPATE WITH
REGISTRATION FEE!
TAKE HOME YOUR ART!

Door Prizes



WIN!

Sunday, March 10, 2024
2:00 – 5:30 P.M.
FOP HALL LODGE 69
1900 CENTRAL PARKWAY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45214
(AVAILABLE FREE STREET PARKING)
SODA/SNACKS/CAKE PROVIDED



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THANK YOU FOR BACKING THE BLUE!!

EASTERN HAMILTON COUNTY FOP LODGE 74 FALLEN OFFICER GOLF OUTING



EASTERN HAMILTON COUNTY FOP LODGE 74
FALLEN OFFICER GOLF OUTING
MAY 10, 2024 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION - SHOTGUN START 10:00 A.M.
FAIRFIELD GREENS GOLF COURSE, FAIRFIELD, OHIO

THE EASTERN HAMILTON COUNTY FOP LODGE 74 WILL HOST A GOLF OUTING ON FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 WITH A SHOTGUN START AT 10:00 A.M. PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT THE FOP LODGE 74 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

THE GOLF OUTING EVENT IS FOR EVERYONE. PARTICIPANTS WILL ENJOY FOOD, HOLE PRIZES, AND VARIOUS RAFFLE EVENTS & PRIZES. JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF GOLF AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE.

EVENT DETAILS:

- 10:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START
- 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE
- \$100.00 PER PERSON FEE
- DINNER TO FOLLOW
- PRIZES AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE FINISHERS

SIGN-UP

- DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP: MAY 1, 2024
- REGISTER AT EASTERN HAMILTON COUNTY FOP LODGE 74 OR MAIL IN ATTACHED FORM
- MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EASTERN HAMILTON COUNTY FOP LODGE 74
- CONTACT **RICH KRUMMEN** 513-563-9761 EMAIL: FOPLODGE74VP@GMAIL.COM



WWW.FOPLODGE74.COM

Ohio Court of Appeals Overrules Trial Court, Rule of Three Does Not Require Highest Rated Employee to be Promoted

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

On December 19, 2023, the Tenth District Court of Appeals of Ohio issued a decision reversing the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, ruling that the City of Columbus did not have to promote a firefighter to Lieutenant.

In November 2021, the Firefighter's Union of the City of Columbus filed a grievance against the City of Columbus. The Union alleged that the City wrongfully overlooked a firefighter for promotion to Fire Lieutenant, in violation of the Parties' collective bargaining agreement ("CBA"). The City denied the grievance, citing the CBA's "Rule of Three," which provides that the appointment for the position must be made from a group of the three highest eligible candidates. The Union appealed the grievance to arbitration, and in August 2022, the arbitrator denied the grievance.

The firefighter in question was the highest-scoring candidate for the position of Fire Lieutenant. The Union argued that the City's refusal to promote the firefighter was inconsistent with the City's prior practices of choosing the candidate with the highest examination score. The City did not provide a reason for denying the firefighter's promotion. However, the Union suggested that the firefighter's involvement in a traffic accident in 2018 may have played a role in his lack of promotion.

After the arbitration, the Union filed a motion to the Frank-

lin County Court of Common Pleas to vacate or modify the arbitrator's award. In December 2022, the trial court granted the Union's motion and declared that the arbitrator had exceeded his authority by not considering whether the City violated section 10.1 of the CBA, requiring that firefighters be treated in a reasonable, fair, and non-discriminatory manner. In addition, the trial court ordered the City to promote the firefighter to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

The City appealed the trial court's decision to the 10th District Court of Appeals. That Court held that the trial court incorrectly vacated the arbitration award, and the City was not required to promote the firefighter, even if he was the highest-scoring candidate. The Court stated that the arbitrator correctly rejected the Union's argument that the firefighter was not treated in a reasonable, fair, and non-discriminatory manner, as required by the CBA. The Union's evidence and arguments did not persuade the arbitrator, who ultimately concluded that the City did not improperly deny the firefighter's promotion.

Legal Lesson Learned:

The "Rule of Three" dictates that a selection for promotion is made from the highest three eligible candidates. Cities do not need to select the firefighter candidate with the highest score for the promotion, even if that is the common practice.

3rd Annual FOP Family Auxiliary easter egg hunt

When: Saturday March 16th
2:00-4:00 pm

Egg Hunt Starts Promptly at 2:30
Stay after for light refreshments

Where: CPD Police Academy
800 Evans St Cincinnati, OH 45204

Who: All CPD family members
10 and under are welcome

Please Call or Text Erin Wolff at 513-226-0788
to RSVP with # of kids and ages
All RSVP requested by 3/14/2024





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JUNE 7TH, 2024 2ND ANNUAL FALLEN HEROES GOLF CLASSIC

Entry is \$125/player or \$500 per team

Our 2nd Annual Fallen Heroes Golf Classic provides lifesaving equipment needs to first responders across the Tri-State region. This event is our major fundraiser where first responders, veterans, military service members and civilians all try their hand in competition for bragging rights, trophies, and prizes galore all while remembering those that sacrificed so greatly to protect our communities/country.

Food and non-alcoholic drink is provided plus 2 free beers with each player registration. Register via website link. Mulligan packages are also available in person (Limited 1 per team)

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES ALSO AVAILABLE

Please email btbrmarketing@gmail.com or asmith11354@gmail.com for more details if interested.



When: June 7th, 2024
12pm-6pm

Special Guest
Michael Winslow!

\$1,000,000 Shootout

\$10,000 Putting
Contest

Plus, many more
prizes!!!!

Lunch & Dinner
Included

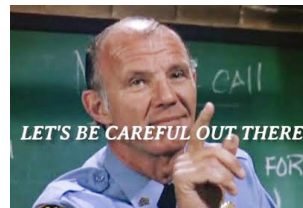
ADDRESS FOR EVENT

2000 Ellick Rd
Batavia, OH 45103

EVENT WEBSITE

Fallen-heroes-golf-
classic.perfectgolfevent.com

Registration Closes May 24th,
2024, unless full sooner



ROLL CALL

Doug & Bobbi Utecht

Chief Theetge speaks to Seton Students - PIO Facebook Page

On Thursday, February 22, Chief Theetge spoke to students from Seton High School's Accelerated program. This speaking engagement was a part of the Department's recruitment efforts, as well as providing empowerment to the students. Seton High School posted the following on their Facebook page, "Seton High School thanks Police Chief Theetge for inspiring our Saints, not only the first female chief of police for the city of Cincinnati, but also for all that you have accomplished throughout your career! Thank you also to Lt. Jonathan Cunningham, Lt. Shannon Wayhoff Heine ('95), Officer Nancy Hagedorn-Streckfuss ('85), and her daughter Allie Streckfuss ('22) who is a marketing major at UC's Lindner College of Business and is currently an intern in the CPD Public Information Office".



WILLS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Documents/Services Provided:

- Will
- Living Will
- Health Care Power of Attorney
- HIPAA Authorization Form
- Donor Registry

The above are provided free of cost to first responders by volunteers.

To schedule your appointment, email Beth Radigan at elizabeth.radigan@cincinnati-oh.gov.

March 9th, 2024 (by appointment only)

St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center
3861 Olympic Blvd, Erlanger, KY 41018

Sponsored by:



Seton Saints Deliver Appreciation Bags to CPD Officers - PIO Facebook Page

Seton Helping Saints members assembled hundreds of appreciation bags filled with treats and signed posters for local fire and police personnel! Student board members then made surprise deliveries to our officers in District 3, Special Services Section, and our CFD Fire Station 24 to thank everyone for all they do to keep our community safe. Thank you, Seton Helping Saints!



Spreading the Love - PIO Facebook Page

On Valentine's Day, members of the Department spread some love to Good Samaritan Hospital by gifting them some stuffed animals! CPD uses plush toys to help comfort children during difficult times. Now, the amazing TriHealth team is distributing stuffed animals to patients to offer extra support and comfort. We appreciate these partnerships!



Story Time with PO Sneed - PIO Facebook Page

On Friday, February 23, Officer Sneed stopped in for storytime at Our Kids Place. Thank you, Officer Sneed, for taking time out to engage with these students!



Recruit Class 115

On Monday, February 19, the 115th Recruit class started their journey. We look forward to their graduation in September and wish them luck these next six months!



Olivia Zick Memorial Workout

On February 11, members of both Cincinnati Police and Cincinnati Fire Departments remembered Olivia Zick with a memorial workout then brunch at the FOP hall. Thank you to all who came and to Ben Williamson, Elaine Hurd, and Nick Bicknell for organizing the event!



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