

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., Nov. 3
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., Nov. 4
FOPA Meeting

Mon., Nov. 10
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., Nov. 11
Veterans Day; FOP Hall Closed

Tue., Nov. 11
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., Nov. 12
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Tue., Nov. 18
APC at FOP Hall

Mon., Nov. 24
Regular FOP Meeting

Wed., Nov. 26
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Thur., Nov. 27
Thanksgiving; FOP Hall Closed

Sat., Dec. 13
FOP Christmas Party

"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



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Editor . . . Brent Eve

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 11

CINCINNATI, OHIO

NOVEMBER 2025

FOP President's Message

What we have seen from city hall the last month is nothing short of shameful. From Chief Theetge to the most junior officer on the department, we all deserve better. But none of this is surprising. In fact, it was predicted in 2001, after the passage of Issue 5, that one day this would be our reality.

For those who weren't around in 2001, Issue 5 was passed by a slim margin of 2%. Issue 5 took civil service protection away from the Police and Fire Chief and gave the authority to hire and fire those positions to the city manager. Twenty-four years later that absolutely must change. The Police Chief needs to be able to lead the police department free of political pressure from city hall. Until that changes, it doesn't matter who is the Police Chief. Once the election is over and the dust settles, I will begin exploring taking on the monumental task of changing Issue 5. While Chief Theetge's horrible treatment by city hall has been the catalyst, UNDERSTAND this is bigger than one person. Without changes being made, this will continue to be a problem 50 years from now. I will do everything I can to make this place better than I found it.

Aside from the political noise, we had 3 critical incidents across the city. The officers in all 3 incidents performed admirably. This is a testament to the men and women of this department that come to work, day in and day out, regardless of outside noise. To those officers, well done.

Finally, over the last year, we have been in a drawn-out process over the Community Responders. If the city had negotiated this from the beginning, we would not be where we are today. However, after months of negotiating we have reached an agreement. Moving forward, if the Community Responders are dispatched to a police run, they will be required to stage until the police advise it is safe. Police Supervisors have the option to send a Community Responder in place of an officer IF they deem it to be appropriate. This gives us the ability to dictate what the Community Responders will respond to based on our needs. There is also language in this agreement that states the city will not be using the contingent of Community Responders to erode the compliment of CPD. What I need from the rank in file is to let me know if the city is not abiding by this agreement. If they choose not to, we will take legal action.

Throughout the chaos, be safe and take care of each other. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything from me.

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 November 3, 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 November 11th. 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 Promotions to Assistant Chief:

Mark Burns Adam Hennie

Recent Promotion to Lieutenant:

Jason Hubbard

Recent Promotion to Sergeant:

Jason Greene

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.

From Cliff Bell: The upcoming Buckethead's (6507 Harrison Avenue) beginning at Noon:

November 10, 2025 – Veteran's Day

Keep Cliff Bell in your prayers as he has suffered a recent heart attack. He is home, recovering.

The FOP Retiree's Meeting is on October 6th.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on October 27th.

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

Eastside L-18 Luncheon came together October 14th as John Burke brought his granddaughter along to see how we carry on. The quiz was done with such disbelief, as some proved how knowledgeable they are. Joe Hall was acknowledged for his "Lifetime Achievement Award" that was given the week before at the annual "Crime Stoppers Awards" breakfast.



IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Patrolman David Emory Biederman

Dave was born March 22, 1939. He was appointed to the Cincinnati Police Department on March 23, 1964. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 1, 4, 5, 7, Communications Section and Traffic Section. He retired on June 10, 1989, with 25 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Officer Biederman passed away on October 16, 2025, at the age of 86.



Patrolman Frank Henry Feldhaus, Jr.

Frank was born on September 16, 1938. Frank joined the Cincinnati Police Division on May 22, 1961 as a member of its 39th Recruit Class. He was promoted to Patrolman on August 28, 1961. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 1, 3, and 7. Patrolman Feldhaus retired due to poor health on November 22, 1967 with six years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Patrolman Feldhaus died on October 11, 2025 at the age of 87.



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FOPA OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

Commendation for Officers Parker and Delraso

After exiting Columbia Parkway at Beechmont, the author experienced a flat tire. Within minutes, Officer Parker arrived and immediately began assisting with the tire change. When one of the lug nuts caused a problem that couldn't be fixed with his equipment, Officer Parker ensured the vehicle was safely moved out of traffic and called for additional help.

Officer Chris Delraso arrived shortly after. Even after learning that someone was already on the way to assist further, Officer Delraso chose to stay and see the situation through. Thanks to his persistence and teamwork with Officer Parker, the issue was ultimately resolved.

Both officers displayed outstanding professionalism, courtesy, and genuine concern for safety. They made their assistance seem like just another part of the job—but to the motorist, it was a tremendous act of kindness and dedication. Their actions went above and beyond the expectations of Cincinnati Police Officers.

Thank you, Officers Parker and Delraso, for your commitment to service and community.



COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

We're back for another crisis communications in the news column. This month, we're headed down to the deep south in Huntsville, Alabama. Pro-tip: Don't drink and drive!

Unfortunately, two Huntsville Police Department (HPD) officers didn't get this tip in time. Just a day apart, two off duty officers were arrested for DUI.

Here's the statement the chief put out:

The Huntsville Police Department takes impaired driving seriously and holds our employees to the same standards as the public.

In both recent cases, evidence of impairment led to arrests, and internal investigations are underway. While we cannot comment further, these actions do not reflect the values of the hundreds of employees who uphold the high standards of HPD.

We remain committed to accountability and to maintaining the trust of our community.

This is a pretty good statement because they include an aspirational component with their commitment to accountability and public trust and because they anticipate the primary concern from the public: a double standard. If the HPD didn't address holding its own officers to the same standard as the public, community members may question whether charges will be slid under the rug to protect their own.

However, the "we cannot comment further" line is almost always wrong and a poor choice in any statement. In the rare circumstance of a gag order from a judge, you could say "we can't comment because a judge has ordered us not to." But without that? It's just a line that people use when they're scared of answering follow up questions!

Here's how we would change it:

The Huntsville Police Department takes DUI charges very seriously, and we will hold all of our employees and officers to the same standards as the public.

Recently, two separate off-duty officers were arrested and charged with DUI. Those officers are currently on administrative leave while the criminal process and our own internal investigations are ongoing. We hold all of our officers to a high standard and any officer convicted of DUI will be held fully accountable in court and under our disciplinary policies.

We'll be transparent and release more information when we have it.

Notice how we're not committed to firing these officers. An off-duty DUI is a serious problem, but it may not get an officer fired. However, it's nearly certain that there would be some level of discipline. And, even in the unlikely event that the officers were acquitted of the charges and there was no discipline, our statement still works!

Let's all take notes from these guys and not drink and drive.

Privacy Reaffirmed: Ohio Supreme Court Clarifies Public Records Boundaries

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

In June 2025, the Ohio Supreme Court issued a decision in *State ex rel. Platt v. Montgomery County Board of Elections* that directly impacts how public records law applies to personal email accounts. For public safety employees, this ruling provides important protections for communications on personal accounts, while also making clear the responsibility to maintain public trust in how official communications are handled.

The case arose after a deputy director of a county board of elections forwarded a prosecutor's legal memorandum from his government email account to his personal email account and then to the email of a political party chairman. A citizen sought all emails relating to that memorandum, including those sent on personal accounts. The Court granted a writ of mandamus only in part, ordering disclosure of two emails: (1) the email from the prosecutor's office transmitting the memorandum to the board, and (2) the email the deputy director sent from his board account to his personal account. The Court ordered disclosure of the email forwarded to the deputy director's personal account, holding that the records contained receipt of a board memorandum, thus documenting authorized activity within a public office. However, the Court denied the petitioner's request for an email sent from the deputy director's personal email account to the political party chairman, holding that since the email was not "kept by" a public office for the purposes of R.C. 149.43(A)(1), it is not a public record.

In *Platt*, the Ohio Supreme Court departed from the broader interpretation adopted by the Court of Claims in 2019, which had suggested that records in personal accounts could still fall within the Public Records Act. By holding that only records kept by a public office are subject to disclosure, the Court significantly narrowed the reach of the statute. For public safety employees, this change offers greater privacy protections and less exposure to disputes over personal devices. At the same time, the ruling underscores the importance of clear internal policies requiring that agency business be conducted only through official accounts, ensuring transparency while safeguarding personal communications.

The lasting impact of *Platt* will be felt in the daily work of public safety. Employees now have clearer protection for communications made on personal email accounts, but must remain mindful that official business belongs on official systems. Looking forward, the decision may prompt the Ohio General Assembly to revisit the Public Records Act to address how evolving technology blurs the line between personal and professional communications. Any legislative response will need to balance the privacy rights of public

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS & BY-LAWS REVISIONS

Constitution and Bylaws proposed amendments

Below are the proposed amendments that have been submitted. We will be voting on them at the November meeting.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1.3 Classes of Membership: There shall be two (2) classes of membership, Active and Honorary:

Active:

Membership in the Queen City Lodge No. 69, Fraternal Order of Police, shall consist of Police Officers of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, and such other police officers as may be invited to membership, consisting of full-time regular police officers who are employed by the government of the United States, the State of Ohio, or its subdivisions, to perform police work in said State of Ohio, or persons who have been honorably retired from such employment because of length of service ~~or~~ disability, **honorably resigned with vested length of service** or those former Police Officers who have been laid off and have not refused recalls from the City and are therefore eligible for re-employment by the City as Police Officers at any time, but not including persons who have ceased to perform police work for any other reason. No person shall be denied membership on account of race, creed, color or sex.

Submitted by Greg Toyneas

ARTICLE V

Dues

Section 4 Lifetime member dues

4.1 Any member who retires for length of service twenty-five (25 years), **or who has honorably resigned with vested length of service** or a disability shall be offered a lifetime membership, including lifetime membership for the Retired Officers' Organization, for a one-time payment of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00).

Submitted by Greg Toyneas

Section 4 Lifetime member dues

4.1 Any member who retires for length of service twenty-five (25 years) or disability shall be offered a lifetime membership, including lifetime membership for the Retired Officers' Organization, for a one-time payment of ~~three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00).~~ **four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00).**

This was submitted by Eric Vogelpohl as a result of the National passing the per capita increase.

If both are passed 4.1 will be as follows:

4.1 *Any member who retires for length of service twenty-five (25 years), or who has honorably resigned with vested length of service or a disability shall be offered a lifetime membership, including lifetime membership for the Retired Officers' Organization, for a one-time payment of four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00).*

ARTICLE XI

Duties of Officers

Section 9 Outer Guard

9.1 The Outer Guard shall guard the door of the Lodge room from intrusion, collect the password at the door and guard against unlawful entry by any person or persons seeking admission to the Lodge. **The Outer Guard must be at each regular meeting 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Notification must be made to the President prior to the start of the meeting if they are unable to attend.** Besides the duties herein described, the Outer Guard shall serve at the direction of the President. Expenses of the Outer Guard shall be \$0.

Section 10 Inner Guard

10.1 The Inner Guard shall keep an accurate record of individual members attending each meeting and shall provide the Recording Secretary with a record thereof at the end of each meeting. **The Inner Guard must be at each regular meeting 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Notification must be made to the President prior to the start of the meeting if they are unable to attend.** Besides the duties herein described, the Inner Guard shall serve at the direction of the President. Expenses of the Inner Guard shall be \$0.

Submitted by Ken Kober

ARTICLE XII

Conduct of Business

Section 3 Meeting location and time

3.1 The regular membership meeting shall be held on the fourth Monday of each month and shall start promptly at ~~7:30~~ **to be determined by the executive board at the beginning of the year.** The meeting date of the regular membership may be changed for good cause at a regular membership meeting where a majority of the members in attendance vote in the affirmative to change the meeting date and/or time.

3.2 There shall be one (1) Executive Board Meeting each month and it shall start promptly at ~~7:30~~ **to be determined by the executive board at the beginning of the year.** Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor of Ohio or the Mayor of Cincinnati that makes the Executive Board meetings impractical, the Executive Board may hold such meetings remotely by phone or other methods that allow the Executive Board to participate.

Submitted by Charles Bell

9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

Federal Update

Government Shutdown:

With the government currently shut down, the House remains in recess. The Senate has made several attempts to advance funding legislation but without success.

- Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (H.R. 5371):

The Senate held two additional votes to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371. Neither vote succeeded, marking the 12th unsuccessful cloture vote on this bill.

- Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3012):

The Senate also failed to invoke cloture on this measure by a 54–45 vote. Supported by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the bill would provide pay to federal workers deemed essential during the shutdown.

State Update – Ohio

Senate Bill 114 (Companion to House Bill 131):

Took effect September 30, 2025, after being signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on July 1, 2025. This new law prohibits law enforcement agencies from using arrest or citation quotas.

Key Provisions:

- Agencies cannot establish or maintain a plan that uses quotas to evaluate, promote, compensate, transfer, or discipline officers.
- Agencies cannot require or suggest that officers meet quotas.
- Agencies cannot offer financial or other rewards based on quota performance.
- Agencies may still collect and analyze data on arrests or citations to ensure legal compliance and performance review.

Reporting Mechanism:

The Attorney General must:

- Create a form for officers to report suspected quota use.
- Investigate alleged violations and issue cease-and-desist orders if confirmed.
- Allow officers to report anonymously if they choose.

So far this year, 77 officers have been killed in the line of duty:

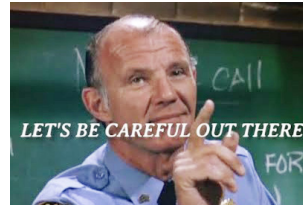
- 38 from gunfire
- 27 from auto-related incidents
- 7 from medical emergencies
- 5 from other causes

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

(continued from page 4)

employees with the public's interest in transparency, a balance that *Platt* has identified in favor of more protection for public employees.

Legal Lesson Learned: Under *Platt*, public safety employees' messages on private accounts are not public records. However, when work-related communications are moved to personal accounts, they may still be subject to disclosure.



ROLL CALL

Brent Eve

Chief Theetge

FOP Brothers and Sisters (Active and Retired),

Thank you for allowing Terri (Chief Theetge) and me to speak at our recent meeting. While Chief Theetge expressed her appreciation for the support she continues to receive, her support team's message is more about our concerns. Our concern being; if current City Leaders remain in office, the Political Scapegoat they are making of Terri, would carry over, and more negatively impact the officer(s) – and their families – who are placed in critical positions as they follow their oath, laws, policies, and responsibilities protecting the public they serve and themselves. Their 'potential' scapegoating itself can be heart breaking, and life-threatening. Should you agree, please consider such when you vote, and express this position to family and friends as they head to the polls.

If you desire to express your support for Chief Theetge, you can join her support Facebook page at 'Stand With Chief Theetge.' Should you desire to receive "I stand with Chief Theetge" yard signs or tee shirts, please contact her support team at Standwithchieftheetge@gmail.com. Thank you and be safe.

Mike Neville (513-368-1002)

Support Team Member



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.

Blessings for Our Four-Legged Friends! – CPD

Facebook Page

October 8th, K9 Officers from the Cincinnati Police Department had the pleasure of joining St. Ursula Villa for their annual Pet Blessing!

Our K9s and their handlers were honored to take part in this special tradition celebrating the bond between people and their beloved animals. From wagging tails to heartfelt prayers, it was a joyful reminder of the love, loyalty, and service our furry partners bring to the community every day.

Thank you to St. Ursula Villa for welcoming us and for continuing this wonderful event that brings faith, community, and compassion together.



COPS for a Cure 5K Run – Jim Brown

On September 11th, the Lytle Park Hotel graciously hosted members of the Cincinnati Police Department and Cincinnati Fire Department for a memorial breakfast in remembrance of the sacrifices made by first responders on 9/11.

Their hospitality and support were deeply appreciated as we came together to honor the lives lost and the courage shown on that day.



2025 FOP Golf Outing – Jim Brown

The 2025 FOP Golf Outing had over 200 Golfers packed into 12 plus hours of golf at the Western Hills Country Club.

Thanks to Connie and Mike Ammann for securing the venue. Michelle Comarata, you are a “Rock Star”. I have no idea how you do it but THANK YOU for all you do. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors of this event. Finally, thanks to the entire staff of the Western Hills Country Club. 5 Star food and staff. They treated our FOP Members as we were WHCC Members. Thank You.



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
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*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Rates quoted were valid as of 10/2/2025 for applicants with a credit score of 720 or higher financing a maximum of 80% loan-to-value. Your actual Rate/APR may vary depending on financing term selected, loan-to-value ratio and overall creditworthiness. Rates/APRs are subject to change without notice. Contact COPFCU for complete loan details. Property, title and/or flood insurance (if applicable) are required. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.