

Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., Aug. 3
Retiree's Meeting

Tue., Aug. 4
FOPA Meeting

Mon., Aug. 10
Executive Board Meeting

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

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

Tue., Aug. 18
APC Meeting

Mon., Aug. 24
Regular FOP Meeting
Dinner at 5:00; Meeting at 6:30

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

Mon., Aug. 31-Sept. 1
1900 Club

Mon., Oct. 5
FOP Golf Outing

Sat., Oct. 17
Car Show

Sun., Oct. 25
Cops for a Cure 5k

"Two-Six" STAFF

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Retired Info.....Mike Bolte
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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 Toyecas
9th District Trustee.....Jon Halusek



Two-Six NEWS



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Editor . . . Brent Eve

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 8

CINCINNATI, OHIO

AUGUST 2026

FOP President's Message

Last month at the FOP of Ohio state conference, Queen City Lodge #69 was recognized as the Ohio FOP Lodge of the Year. This is a direct reflection of the great work that is done by our members day in and day out to advocate for our members. Each and every one who has put in the work to make our lodge better should be proud of themselves. I am also happy to report our Brother Greg Toyecas was re-elected to be the FOP of Ohio Treasurer. Brother Jon Halusek was also re-elected to serve as the 9th District Trustee. Also recognized were Dan Mitchell, Tom Martin, Bill Vogel and Mike Bolte for having at least 50 years of service to the FOP. Although unable to make the trip, I want to recognize Cliff Bell, who has served for more than 50 years, as well.

While at the conference, the delegates voted on endorsements for the statewide races. This is your friendly reminder that these endorsements are voted on and given to the candidates who the members believe best align with the values that will advance the mission of the FOP. The 1900 Club will be meeting in the coming months to decide who to endorse for our local races. Like last year, the floor will make the final determination to accept or reject the committee's recommendations.

We officially signed our lease agreement with the Blue Line Foundation which will make the new campus on Radcliff Drive our new home for at least the next 40 years after the construction is complete. The estimated completion date is currently the beginning of 2027.

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 1830 hours, and will be on August 3, 2026. 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 11am. 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 the second Tuesday of the month. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8am.

2026 FOP LEOSA Qualifications

Carl Rauschenberger is retiring from the HR218 qualification. David Voss, who retired from Cheviot PD as a Colonel, will be doing future qualifications. For scheduling, contact him at 513-446-3351.

Recent Retirements:

Joe Richardson Michelle Phillips Nicolino Stavale

Recent Promotion to Captain:

Timothy Lanter

Recent Promotion to Sergeant:

Joehonny Reese

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 2027

The CPD Florida Reunion is February 23, 24 & 25. It will be held again at Radisson Hotel (aka Red Lions) in Kissimmee, Florida. Book your room ASAP. King rooms and 2 Queen rooms are only \$86 a night plus taxes (an increase of \$1).

The contact is Elisa at the Sales Office 407-997-3224.

The 3 night Social \$35 per person. Send check to Sandy Vickers, in her name. Contact her at 813-382-7171. NO VENMO.

Two-day golf will be at Falcon Fire Golf Course, and will be handled by Dave West 513-604-1532. Golf will be held Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 25 & 26 this year.

For more information, contact Sandy Vickers, Coordinator of CPD Florida reunions.

The FOP Retirees Meeting is on August 3rd.

The Regular FOP Meeting is on August 24th.

The Annual FOP Golf Outing is on October 5th (\$100 for FOP/FOPA; \$125 for non-members).

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

The Retirees' Meeting will start at the same time that the Regular Meeting is designated to start.

Photos from the State FOP Conference



All Ohio Delegates in attendance with 50+ years serving in the FOP



President Kober accepting the award for QC Lodge 69 being named Lodge of the Year



Vivek Ramaswamy & Jason Bolte – St Xavier High School Classes of 2003 & 1995

Retired Firearms Qualification Available at Great Oaks Police Academy

Retired Cincinnati Police officers looking to complete their annual firearms qualification are invited to qualify at the Great Oaks Police Academy.

Qualifications are scheduled by appointment rather than on a fixed monthly date. Once an appointment date is established, other retirees are welcome to join that session if space is available.

Cost: \$25 (covers qualification with one or two firearms, either semi-automatic pistols or revolvers).

Please note that the **full 25-round qualification course of fire** is used. The abbreviated 8-round "back-up gun" course is **not** offered for retiree qualifications.

To schedule an appointment or obtain additional information, contact:

Milt Proctor

Range Master, Great Oaks Police Academy

513-612-5796; proctorme@greatoaks.com

Retired officers are encouraged to call or email to arrange a qualification date.

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

August's crisis communications press release example comes from Nashville, Tennessee, where Metropolitan Nashville Police Department say a drone helped officers arrest two robbery suspects and recover a box cutter used during the crime.

Officers Arrest 2 Robbery Suspects with Assistance from the Drone as First Responder Pilot Program

The MNPd's Drone as First Responder (DFR) pilot program greatly assisted Hermitage Precinct patrol officers this afternoon as they responded to an active robbery outside a business at 931 Robinson Road.

Officers viewed the drone footage at the scene which showed the incident, including one of the suspects, Antonio Crews, 49, with a boxcutter in one hand while holding the male victim by his shirt. The victim reported that he used a cash app to put \$200 into Crews' account and gave \$100 cash to the second suspect, Donavon Steele, 23. Both men were taken into custody. Steele was in possession of the cash which was returned to the victim. With assistance from the drone overhead, officers recovered the boxcutter under a stack of pallets near where the robbery occurred.

Crews, of Nashville, is charged with aggravated robbery. Steele, of Clarksville, is charged with robbery (acting in concert). Both men remain jailed on \$25,000 bond.

The DFR test program covers an area within a two-mile radius of the Madison Precinct, from where the drones are launched.

This is a great press release topic to get picked up by local media outlets. A new law enforcement pilot program, plus cutting-edge technology, is something the community wants to know more about. Departments that only write press releases on the routine arrests, crashes, and calls for service miss out on an opportunity to showcase law enforcement in a positive light.

There are a couple changes to this release that could really help improve it. First, the headline should put the drone program first. It's a little long, and the compelling aspect of the story appears at the end. Second, the ending should provide more background on the program. People will want to know how the technology is used, which calls qualify, what safeguards are in place, etc. Use this robbery and subsequent arrest to tell a bigger story about how the department is improving with new resources.

Here is how we might have released the statement:

Drone Pilot Program Helps Nashville Police Arrest 2 Robbery Suspects

Nashville's Drone as First Responder pilot program helped officers arrest two robbery suspects and recover a box cutter outside a Robinson Road business.

Police said live drone footage showed Antonio Crews, 49, holding the victim by his shirt while carrying a box cutter. Officers arrested Crews and Donavon Steele, 23, at the scene.

The victim reported transferring \$200 to Crews and giving Steele \$100 in cash. Officers recovered the cash and returned it. The drone also helped locate the box cutter beneath pallets.

Crews is charged with aggravated robbery. Steele is charged with robbery for allegedly acting in concert. Both were held on \$25,000 bond.

The trial includes three drones and will run for up to 45 flight days. Drones may respond to emergency calls, active investigations, missing-person cases, and crashes. Police say they are dispatched only to specific calls, not for general surveillance.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON

William Holzman

The L-18 Eastside Luncheon came to order with a pleasant surprise as Danny Mitchell made an appearance. It was great to see him back!

John Burke was in charge of the quiz and, amazingly, two of the questions went unanswered by the crowd. One of them was, "What number comes after 3?" ... just kidding!

Carl Rauschenberger shared some interesting information about how certain firearms are assembled and the reasons behind their design.

We wrapped things up around 2:00 p.m.

Also, I forgot to mention that Jimmy Casto was in attendance after dealing with some medical issues. It was great to see you back, Jimmy!



9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

The delegates you elected attended the 90th Annual Ohio FOP Conference in Independence, Ohio, where we conducted the business of the Lodge and represented Queen City Lodge 69. Below are some of the highlights from the conference.

Political Endorsements

President Ken Kober served on the State FOP Endorsement Committee. Prior to the committee meeting, our delegation met to discuss each statewide candidate and provide President Kober with the direction of our delegation. He then represented our position during the committee's deliberations.

After the committee made its recommendations, they were presented to the conference delegates. Under State FOP rules, each endorsement required a supermajority vote of at least 60% of the registered delegates in attendance for the recommendation to be approved.

The Ohio Fraternal Order of Police announced the following endorsements for the 2026 General Election:

United States Senate: Jon Husted

Governor & Lieutenant Governor: Vivek Ramaswamy & Rob McColley

Attorney General: Keith Faber

Auditor of State: Frank LaRose

Secretary of State: Robert Sprague

Treasurer of State: Jay Edwards

Ohio Supreme Court: Dan Hawkins

Ohio Supreme Court: Colleen O'Donnell

State FOP President Jay McDonald stated that the endorsement process gives every candidate an opportunity to discuss their qualifications and positions on issues that are important to Ohio law enforcement officers. Those issues include pension protection, PTSD coverage, ensuring officers have the equipment and training they need, and supporting law enforcement as they continue to face increasing challenges throughout the profession.

State Executive Board Elections

Elections were held for the Ohio FOP Executive Board. All officers were unopposed and were elected by acclamation. The officers elected are:

President – Jay McDonald

Vice President – T.J. Assion

Secretary – Travis Parker

Treasurer – Greg Toyas

Second Vice President – Bill Saringer

Sergeant-at-Arms – Shari Robertson

Immediate Past President – Gary Wolske

I would also like to thank our delegates for electing me to serve as your 9th District Trustee. I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me, and I look forward to continuing to represent both our Lodge and our district.

Per Capita Issues

Three lodges experienced issues regarding their per capita payments: Beavercreek Lodge 160, East Hamilton County Lodge 74, and Attorney General Lodge 177. After discussion, the State Board voted to forgive the assessed fines.

Blue Line Update

The State FOP provided an update regarding the Blue Line issue. Approximately 2,500 police and fire members were affected, and approximately 1,800 claims have been filed.

The State FOP continues to work closely with the FBI, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Ohio Department of Insurance, and several other organizations in an effort to recover the funds that were released by the bank despite an existing court order.

If you are filing a claim, please remember that your claim forms must be notarized before they are submitted.

Years of Service Recognition

One of the highlights of the conference was recognizing members who have dedicated 50 years or more to the Fraternal Order of Police. This year's honorees included:

Mike Bolte

Dan Mitchell

Tom Martin

Bill Vogel

A special congratulation goes to Bill Vogel, who was recognized as the longest-serving member honored this year with 69 years of continuous membership in the Fraternal Order of Police.

Ohio FOP Lodge of the Year

One of the greatest honors of this year's conference was Queen City Lodge 69 being selected as the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police Lodge of the Year.

This recognition reflects the tremendous work our Lodge does every day on behalf of our members and the assistance we provide to Lodges throughout the State of Ohio. Whether it's representing members, helping other Lodges, supporting legislation that benefits law enforcement, or giving back to our community, this award recognizes the commitment and dedication that defines our Lodge.

While the award may have been presented to the Lodge, it truly belongs to you, our members. It is your hard work, your volunteerism, your support for one another, and your willingness to step up whenever needed that made this recognition possible.

On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for everything you do to make Queen City Lodge 69 one of the strongest and most respected Lodges in the State of Ohio. This award is something every member should be proud of because you earned it.

Just a reminder that Queen City Lodge 69 will be hosting the 91st Annual Ohio Fraternal Order of Police Conference at the Delta Hotels Cincinnati Sharonville on July 11–13, 2027.

Hosting the State Conference is a tremendous opportunity for our Lodge to showcase our hospitality and the great work being done here in Cincinnati. As we get closer to the conference, we will be asking for our delegates and volunteers to help ensure the event is a success. I encourage everyone who is able to get involved. It takes a team effort to host an event of this size, and I know our members will once again do an outstanding job representing Queen City Lodge 69.

Cart Before the Horse: Ohio Supreme Court Reins In Public-Records Discovery

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

The Supreme Court of Ohio recently issued a 6-1 decision in a five-year legal battle between Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost and watchdog group, Center for Media & Democracy (CMD). A March 2020 public records request by the group led to extensive litigation and a trip to Ohio's highest court. The Court's decision in favor of the attorney general sets meaningful limits on how far a records requester can reach through the discovery process.

In early 2020, the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) held its Annual Winter Meeting. Soon after, CMD submitted a public records request seeking records pertaining to the attorney general's involvement with RAGA and the Rule of Law Defense Fund (RLDF). This request sought records pertaining to the attorney general's involvement with RAGA and RLDF. The attorney general's office initially declined to produce any of the records, claiming that the records requested are not official public records of the office and thus not subject to public records requests.

CMD objected to this response, again urging the attorney general's office to provide the documents, but to no avail. The attorney general office's second response was that no such records existed. In response, CMD filed an original action in the Tenth District Court of Appeals requesting a writ of mandamus compelling the attorney general's office to provide the records requested. The Court chose to move forward with discovery, and CMD served the attorney general's office with interrogatories and additional document requests which amounted to what was originally sought by the public records request. The attorney general's office objected due to proportionality, relevancy, and the fact that some documents were outside the scope of the original request. CMD sought a motion to compel production leading to the court of appeals magistrate ruling in CMD's favor, compelling the attorney general's office to produce documents and answer interrogatories.

The Ohio Attorney General then appealed to the Supreme Court of Ohio. The result? Safeguards protecting the government from courts looking to "place the proverbial cart before the horse" in discovery. *State ex rel. Ctr. for Media & Democracy v. Yost*, Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1899 ¶37.

In a 6-1 decision authored by Justice Fischer, the Court held that discovery in a public-records mandamus action is not limitless. It must conform to the relevance and proportionality limits of Civ.R. 26(B)(1), viewed through the lens of what such a case actually decides: whether the requested records exist, and if they do, whether they meet the statutory definition of a "public record." The Supreme Court found it improper to compel the attorney general's office to produce documents and answer interrogatories that swept far beyond the original request. The court of appeals had effectively

handed CMD the very relief it was seeking without ever requiring CMD to prove it was entitled to the results. As the Court put it, discovery cannot be used "to create a black hole that would swallow the Public Records Act." *Id.* ¶34. The proper course, when a dispute remains over whether withheld records must be disclosed, is in camera review by the court — not a discovery free-for-all.

Justice Brunner, the lone dissenter, would have left the court of appeals' order undisturbed, warning that the majority was continuing to "whittle" the public's right to its own records and cautioning against a path toward government secrecy. *Id.* ¶103. But the majority's holding draws a clear line for public offices and the officials who lead them: a records request, even one tied up in litigation for the better part of a decade, does not open the door to unlimited discovery into the inner workings of a government office.

Legal Lesson Learned: For law enforcement officers, agencies, and the officials who run them, this decision provides a meaningful safeguard. Public-records requests are a routine part of public service, and when one escalates into mandamus litigation, Yost makes clear that a requester cannot use the discovery process as a back door to records they have not yet proven they are entitled to.



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.

IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Sergeant Dennis M. Clasgens

Dennis was born March 11, 1945. Police Sergeant Clasgens was appointed to the Cincinnati Police Department on February 28, 1971. He was promoted to Specialist on July 11, 1982, and Sergeant on August 4, 1991. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 2, 4, 5, and Court Property Room. He retired on July 11, 1998, with 27 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Sergeant Clasgens died on June 25, 2026 at the age of 81.



Police Officer Charles K. "Chuck" Weinschelbaum

Chuck was born on May 12, 1946. Police Officer Weinschelbaum was appointed to the Cincinnati Police Department on November 23, 1969. Throughout his tenure, he served in Districts 2, 4, and Personnel Section. He retired on April 18, 2007, with 37 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. Officer Weinschelbaum died on July 17, 2026 at the age of 80.



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BUCKETHEADS LUNCHEON Jim Brown

Seventy-six law enforcement friends gathered in July 2026 to celebrate and honor the birth of our nation on July 4, 1776, during the Independence Day Law Enforcement Luncheon at Bucketheads.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Pipes and Drums treated everyone to several patriotic selections. Everyone in attendance—including the Bucketheads staff—stood proudly for the Pledge of Allegiance and the stirring musical tribute. It was a memorable and inspiring moment.

We also took time to honor the memory of Sheriff Simon Leis and our brothers and sisters in law enforcement who have passed away. As always, the stories and shared memories were plentiful, filled with laughter, and somehow seem to get even better with age.

Mark your calendars for our next Law Enforcement Luncheon on **Labor Day, Monday, September 7**, at Bucketheads. Guests typically begin arriving around **11:00 a.m.** We'd love to see you there—it wouldn't be the same without you.

A special thank you to the staff at Bucketheads for their outstanding food, hospitality, and excellent service.



FOPA OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

On May 6, 2026, SGT. Jerry Kinebrew demonstrated exceptional awareness, professionalism, and decisive action while assigned to a Cincinnati City Council meeting at City Hall.



During the meeting, a subject known to regularly attend council meetings successfully passed through security screening and entered the council chambers carrying a walking stick. After the walking stick was confiscated, it was discovered to contain a concealed sword. SGT. Kinebrew immediately recognized the seriousness of the threat and acted without hesitation to take the subject into custody. When the subject actively resisted arrest, he quickly gained control of the situation, secured the subject, maintained custody of the concealed weapon, and calmly coordinated with responding district officers to assist with escorting the subject from City Hall.

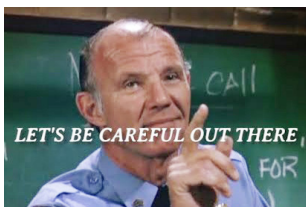
The significance of SGT. Kinebrew's actions cannot be overstated. The subject had previously made concerning statements during City Council meetings and on social media indicating a willingness to commit acts of violence in support of her beliefs and against those with opposing political views. Through his vigilance, sound judgment, and decisive response, SGT. Kinebrew prevented what could have become a dangerous and volatile incident inside a crowded government building.

His actions protected City Council members, City employees, law enforcement personnel, and citizens attending the meeting while preserving the integrity and safety of the legislative process. What could have required the coordinated response of multiple officers in a dynamic street encounter was resolved professionally and effectively through SGT. Kinebrew's calm demeanor, tactical proficiency, and leadership.

SGT. Jerry Kinebrew's exceptional performance reflects great credit upon himself, the Cincinnati Police Department, and the profession of law enforcement. His actions exemplify the highest standards of courage, professionalism, and commitment to public safety, making him highly deserving of formal recognition and commendation.

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



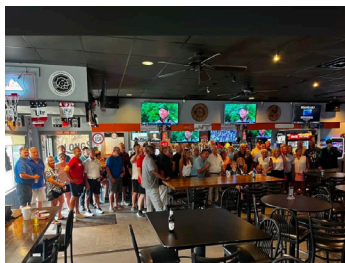


ROLL CALL

Brent Eve

Supporting Jim Robb – FOP 69 Facebook Page

On June 30th, members of our lodge gathered to show support for our brother Jim Robb. Jim is fiercely battling ALS and has become a huge advocate to bring awareness and raise funds to support others who fighting as well. Jim, keep fighting the good fight as we all know you will!



Lodge of the Year – FOP 69 Facebook Page

I couldn't be prouder of the hard work members of Queen City Lodge #69 do everyday. From advancing legislative priorities, the creation of Cops Caring for Cops and deploying our Law Enforcement Support Trailer, this lodge consistently supports its members and the law enforcement community as a whole. To be recognized as Lodge of the Year is an honor. #FOPStrong.

Ken Kober

President, Queen City Lodge #69



Triple Crown Wealth Management 1st Responder of the Month – FOP 69 Facebook Page

Congrats to Officer Henderson for being named Triple Crown Wealth Management 1st Responder of the month. Officer Henderson is more than deserving of this recognition. Thank you to Matthew McManus, Financial Professional, for your commitment to the law enforcement community.



Police Appreciation Event – FOP 69 Facebook Page

Huge thanks to Mr. Pitiful's OTR for hosting a police appreciation event. Their hospitality and generous donation to Cops Caring For Cops are appreciated. Support from Cincinnati businesses are what makes Cincinnati a great place!



Delegates Recognized at the State Conference- FOP 69 Facebook Page

At the FOP of Ohio 90th State Conference, we had 4 of our delegates recognized for having at least 50 years of service to the FOP. Members like these are why the FOP continues to be the leading voice for Law Enforcement. Thank you for your service!



Queen City Lodge 69 members in attendance at the State Conference with 50+ years with the FOP.

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