

# A Lodge UPDATE



Issue 19

Quarterly Newsletter from The FOPA of Ohio

November 2023

## From the President

Greetings Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful fall weather, this is just my favorite time of year!

I'd like to begin by welcoming a new lodge to our organization, Upper Ohio Valley FOPA Lodge #102 will be holding their first meeting this month. From the conversations I've had with their president, I expect we'll be seeing great things from them.

Our next board meeting will be January 26th and 27th at the Marriot in Dublin. Also coming up in 2024 are State Board elections. All executive board positions will be open for nominations to be voted on and all Trustee positions will be filled during the caucus of each district. If you have any questions about the individual positions or how to get involved please reach out any time.

Lastly, many of your lodges have Christmas parties or participate in 'Shop with a Cop' type events, please send us stories and pictures from those events so we may share them in our February issue.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season,

Theresa A Drennen, State President

## Lifetime Dedication Award

This year at our State Conference banquet we recognized John P. Nicholson with a Lifetime Dedication Award. He has served the FOPA for over 50 years. In his own lodge, Capital City #5 he has served as inner and outer guard, trustee, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president and president as well as serving as chairman for their Steak Fry for many years. On the state board he has served as a trustee, vice president, and president. As well as serving as parliamentarian and serving on various committees.

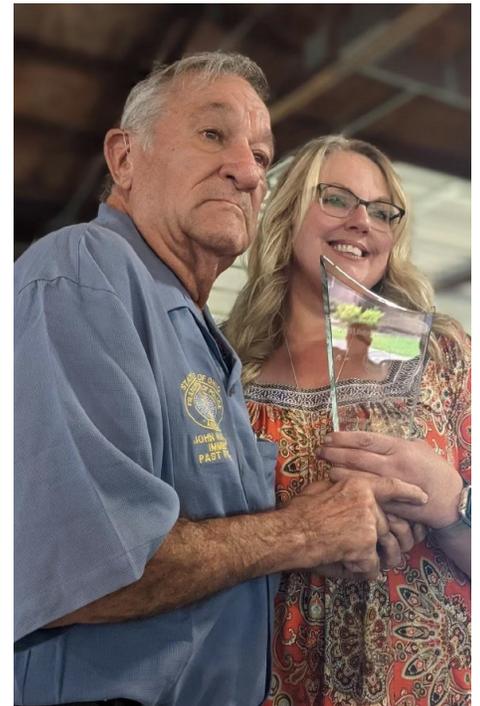
He was a founding member of the and served as chairman of the Keystone Cops, attending many parades, visiting nursing homes, and participating in special Olympics opening ceremonies as a Keystone.

He was also a commissioned officer, he served over 20 years as a reserve officer first with Gahanna then Blendon Township.

A few years ago when the state president position was abruptly vacated, the FOP State President asked him to return to his former position and serve as our FOPA State President, to help get us back on the right path, he again accepted the call to serve. He serves us still as our Immediate Past President.

Somehow we able to keep this a secret and I was honored to be able to present this award to John in person at Akron Lodge 6's Annual Corn Roast.

**Thank you John, for all you have done and continue to do for the FOPA!**



*FOPA Immediate Past President John Nicholson and FOPA State President Theresa Drennen*

# State Secretary-Treasurer Report

## Greetings from your Secretary/Treasurer, Elaine Domonkos.

I can tell it is Fall, as the leaves have turned, and the temperature has dropped and football season is well under way. My favorite time of year! Not much has been going on since my last submission. Per Capita continues to come in – thank you to those lodges that continue to send in their per capita as they receive payments. Some of my correspondence may be a repetition, but I want to make sure that everyone has this information:



## NEW E-MAIL

I have set up a new email account specifically for FOPA business. Please start using the following email for any correspondence you may have: [FOPAOhioStateSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:FOPAOhioStateSecretary@gmail.com)

## PER CAPITA PAYMENTS – 2023 SHOULD BE COMPLETED

By now all 2023 per capita should have been sent. You should start winding down and make sure your lodge is up to date with their 2023 payments. The information on the website, needs to be updated NOW, as this is where Denise Young gets the information for the membership cards. If you have members that did not pay for 2023, please make sure you mark them as “inactive” on the website. We should not be printing cards for those who have not paid in the past.

Again, a reminder: ALL CHECKS NEED TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO: FOPA of Ohio Inc! Please do not make your checks payable to the FOP - check need to read FOPA. We are two separate entities.

One more reminder: ALL per capita payments need to be accompanied by a list of who is being paid for. Example: If you submit a payment of \$100, you should have a list of 5 name to accompany this payment. If it is for a new member, then the address needs of the new member (in addition to their name) needs to be included as well.

Why do I continue to repeat this? I still have lodges that do not send in the names of those being paid for. Let's all try to get on the same page with this if we could.

## 2024 STATE CONFERENCE

The 2024 State Conference will be held in Columbus (Dublin area), July 20 – 23, 2024. The FOPA has secured a block of rooms at the Hyatt Place. (This is the same hotel that has been used the last couple of times that the conference was held in Columbus. The room rate \$119 per night (plus taxes). You can begin making your reservations now. This will be the overflow hotel to the FOP, so make your reservations early to make sure your room is secure. You can call the Hyatt Place at 614-799-1913 or you can go online as well. For those of you who are Trustees, we have already secured your room. Your confirmation number will be given to you at the Winter Board meeting.

We will be having “hospitality” immediately following the Monday session. There will be no alcohol served during this time or in this room. Please note that alcohol is not permitted in this room. You can have it in your personal room, but we cannot have it in the meeting room. We will have more information as it becomes available.

## 2024 - ELECTION YEAR

The 2024 State Conference will be our next Election. During this conference, we will be voting on our Executive Board, and Trustees. If you would like additional information on a particular office, please let me know, as I would be happy to review it with you. Please consider running for a position. If you're leery, start out by running for Trustee to get some experience under your belt. We are always looking for members who want to help with the State Board. I do plan on running, once again, but please do not let that stop you!

*Continued on page 3*

# State Secretary-Treasurer Report

*Continued from page 2*

## **BANK BALANCE FROM JULY 21, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

General Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$93,866.30

Ending Balance \$94,475.13

Difference \$588.83

The payments made during this time period ranged from the State Conference officer expenses, lodging expense, officer travel. We have had many deposits reflecting per capita during this time.

Scholarship Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$15,058.14

Ending Balance \$14,058.14

Difference \$1.00

Payments include scholarship installments to the following:

Sydney Kunkel \$500.00 2023 Scholar Winner (Check cashed this quarter)

Grace Beck \$500.00

We are still awaiting verification of grades on several other students. Once received, this will complete our obligation for the Spring Semester.

As always, your State Board is here to help you in any way that they can. Please feel free to contact me via email (FOPAOhioStateSecretary@gmail.com) or phone 614-323-5557 if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Fraternally,

Elaine Domonkos

FOPA State Secretary/Treasurer

## **In Memoriam**



Jozef "Joe" Fiser passed away peacefully on August 16, 2023 surrounded by family and friends following an aggressive battle with brain cancer.

Joe, son of the late Margaret and Karl Fiser was born on May 30, 1960 in Yugoslavia and moved to the United States at age 11. Joe is survived by his devoted wife of 20 years Jacci (nee Naujoks), daughter Danielle Wuebker (Richard), son Jozef M. (Lauren), and daughter Jaime Landenberger (Kenneth). Four grandchildren; Alyssa, Caden, Sadie, Grayson and granddog Millie.

Joe was a hard working entrepreneur by nature, owning various businesses including stands at the West Side Market in Cleveland, Java Joe's Coffee Shop in Parma and Floorworks in Strongsville/Brunswick. Joe's love for Harley Davidson, spending time with his family and friends, and a good cigar, with an unforgettable personality to be remembered by all. Joe was an avid member of the community, supporting the Fraternal Order of the Police and was serving as the current sitting President of F.O.P.A. Lodge #14.

Joe will be sincerely missed by his family and friends; now reunited with his beloved dog Rocky.

## Member Spotlight

### Kevin Kochheiser, Wayne County FOPA Lodge #53

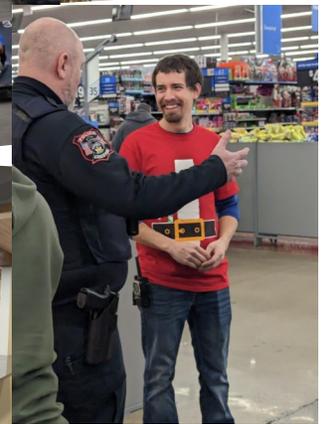
I have been an official FOPA member for about 3 years now but have been active at the lodge for roughly 7 years. My FOP journey first started when I was a scoutmaster for boy scout troop 122 out of Doylestown, Ohio. Our troop lost our meeting place and we learned FOP lodge 94 was looking to sponsor a local group. We soon met with the board, toured the property, and began meeting at the lodge. As Scoutmaster, I started to attend a few meetings to keep in touch with the group and to learn what the FOP/FOPA actually was. My troop began to do service projects around the lodge such as landscaping and maintenance as a 'thank you' for letting us meet there. When our Troop closed, I still wanted to be involved with the lodge after gaining new friendships and learning about the things they did for the community, so I became a member.

I was soon asked to be the Trustee of maintenance after learning I was kind of a jack of all trades. I soon became Secretary and then took on the role of Treasurer and have held that position for over a year now. Since joining I have built an outdoor Pistol range, installed many feet of drainage tile, removed trees and overgrown brush, completely gutted and remodeled the kitchen and both men's and women's bathrooms, repaired the roof, maintained the driveway and currently installed a pond fountain and will soon put in a new flagpole.

I also participate in the yearly charity events such as the 'Shop with a Hero' program at Christmas (Our annual event where children with children's services are paired with a member of law enforcement, firefighter/EMT or County highway worker to shop for their family and themselves for Christmas. all at no cost due to our fundraising) and 'Cops and Kids' in the summer where we take the same kids, rent out all of a kid's fun park for them to play laser tag, putt putt, go carts and get a book bag filled with items for back to school.

I have been married to my wonderful wife, Paige, for 3 years. We live in the city of Wadsworth with our 5 cats that we have rescued. We own property in Wadsworth as well where we hope to soon build our dream home. My main hobby is anything to do with the railroad. (Eastern US railways to be exact) I have built a HO scale train layout and collected over 30 lanterns along with various locks, keys, dining car china and other memorabilia. I also own a few working railroad signals that reside in the backyard.

**Thank you, Kevin, for all you do, keep up the great work!**



**Would you like to see your lodge's event or fundraiser featured here? Deadline for submissions for the February 2024 issue is January 15th. Please email submissions to [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)**

**Please include details of the event/raffle and who to contact for tickets or for more information.**

## Around the State

### Lima Lodge #8

The Allen County Ohio National Night Out was held at the Allen County Fairgrounds in Lima Ohio on August 1st. The FOPA Lima Lodge #8 set up a tent to participate. We handed out police safety coloring books, police stickers and chapstick with our logo. We had membership applications available for potential members to fill out and an informational sheet to give out with information on our lodge. We received 6 new members from this event.

The Lima FOPA Lodge #8 also entered a float in this years Labor Day parade. We distributed police stickers, police coloring books and candy. We received a lot of positive feedback from this event. We had many members participate!! We all had a blast !!



President Laura Ball, Vice President Bill Miron and Secretary/Treasurer Tammy White.



Lexi Williams and her dog Travis, Steve Adams, Chris Adams, Doris Cole, Rebecca Kreher, Beth Seibert, Heather Cole, Randy Crossley and Tana Crossley. (L-R sitting in trailer) Bill Miron, Laura Ball, Pam Sinica & Tammy White.

Lodge #8 would also like to recognize their 2022 Members of the Year. These members have spent the majority of their lifetimes doing volunteer work, mostly behind the scenes out of the limelight. They have worked for Lima City Schools for many years and have spent countless hours working with the youth in the Lima community. They show up early on lodge night and help prepare the meals and always stay to help clean up. They have volunteered many hours to the lodge through events and outings and their dedication is appreciated!

For the first time Lodge #8 is honoring two Members of the Year, Pam Sinica and Tina Bauer (pictured right).

**Congratulations ladies on a well deserved award!**

**Keep up the great work Lodge #8!**



## Around the State

### FOPA Beachwood Lodge #88

Last winter our State Trustee for districts 7 and 8, Gene Rheaume, spoke with some members of Lodge #88 and had some concerns with the way the lodge was being run. He, along with the FOP District Trustee and officers from FOP #86 worked together with lodge members to get things moving in the right direction. Last May new leadership was elected. Moving forward their lodge president Robert Marimberga said, 'My goal is to get involved with our "P" lodge as well. I will also be attending our P Lodges meetings and events and try to get us involved with them. Up until I became President of our lodge, our "P" lodge never even knew we existed.'

Since the installation of new officers, the lodge has been much more active. They are meeting regularly and hosted an annual summer picnic They have gotten to know their FOP lodge and look forward to working with them. President Marimberga mentioned he'd like to see their members help with holiday events like 'Shop with a Cop' He also said, 'we would like to get more involved with the Beachwood Community. Our plan right now is to get involved with the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce and network with various businesses in the community. I would like to see some fundraisers at our local restaurants and businesses. I would also like to see some younger members join our lodge.'

President Marimberga also expressed an interest in working with other local FOPA lodges for possible events and joint fundraisers. If your lodge is in District 8 or around the eastern Cuyahoga County area, you can reach out to him at [Rob2u@aol.com](mailto:Rob2u@aol.com)

**Great job on turning things around Lodge #88! We look forward to hearing more from you in the future!**



*Merle Gorden, Maxwell Zugay FOP Lodge 86 President, Rob Marimberga FOPA Lodge 88 President, Ptl. Amy Dansizen, Sgt. Erik Marti, Ptl, Terrill Rodgers, Ptl. Jake Bertone, Ptl. Russ Bell, Ptl. Colton Pekarski, Ptl. Patrick*



*Rob Marimberga FOPA Lodge 88 President and former mayor Merle Gorden*

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**Please see submission details on page 7 for more information.**

# *A*Lodge UPDATE



## Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to see your lodge featured or would like to recognize one of your members please let us know! We are happy to share your stories as well as your events and fundraisers.

## Submission Guidelines

- ◆ The quarterly newsletter is sent out the first week of February, May, August and November. Any submissions are due no later than the 15th of each month prior to publication.
- ◆ If you would like to see your lodge or member featured, we have questionnaires to help. Let us know if you're interested and we can email the questionnaire forms.
- ◆ Picture submissions need the names (and positions if lodge officers) included.
- ◆ Fundraiser and event submissions need a contact phone or email that will be published for members to contact if they need more information.
- ◆ If your local FOP lodge or Auxiliary lodge would like to share their fundraisers, we will be happy to include those as well. These will also need a point of contact included.
- ◆ Please make all submissions in Microsoft Word format or in text format.
- ◆ All submissions and inquiries can be sent to [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)