

# Ohio Police



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August 2025

[www.fopohio.org](http://www.fopohio.org)

Issue #12

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## **FOP of Ohio 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference!**

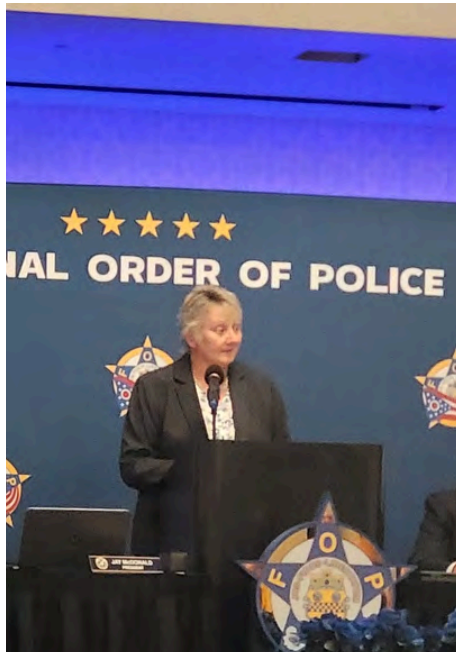
About 250 delegates of the FOP of Ohio gathered in Sharonville, Ohio to conduct the business of the lodge earlier this month. We heard from our elected leaders, National FOP officers and from the officers and committees of the FOP of Ohio.

Queen City Lodge #69 did an outstanding job in hosting this conference and the delegates passed a resolution congratulating them on their outstanding work.

The efforts leading to the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act was discussed in depth. This monumental victory is due to the hard work of the members who made the calls, wrote the emails and spoke to their leaders about why this was so important to all of us.

President McDonald and our Political Advisor Bob Paduchik gave a presentation on our Protect Ohio Police initiative. Included in this effort, is a new Super PAC called Ohioans for a Safer Future that local lodges will be able to use to help elect or defeat politicians based on their support (or lack thereof), of law enforcement.

More information will be coming on this effort but we encourage every member to sign up at [www.protectohiopolicy.com](http://www.protectohiopolicy.com) to keep up to date on these efforts. It will take all of us to make a difference.





# FOP of Ohio Awards



Akrón Lodge 7 was named the FOP of Ohio Lodge of the Year for 2025 for their outstanding work representing members



Jon Sopczak of Dayton Lodge 44 was named FOP of Ohio Member of the Year. Jon, Dayton 44 Vice President, is very well deserving of this prestigious award



Bob Everett, of Lodge 4, was named a 2025 Steve Young Award winner for his decades of outstanding leadership in the FOP!



Wes Elson, of Lodge 5, was named a 2025 Steve Young Award winner because of his life long commitment to our organization!

# FOP of Ohio welcomes Senators Moreno and Husted to our annual conference!



Sen. Bernie Moreno



Sen. Jon Husted

Senators Moreno and Husted appeared before our delegates to discuss many important issues, but none more important than the need to pass the Protect and Serve Act. This important legislation was talked about several times during the conference and it was great to hear our Senators express their strong support for Protect and Serve and keeping cops safe.

Senators Moreno and Husted also talked about no tax on overtime, the increase in the budget for Border Patrol and ICE and the need to maintain law and order to achieve prosperity.

We thank Senators Moreno and Husted for visiting with our delegates!



# NFOP President Yoes presents award to former Senator Sherrod Brown

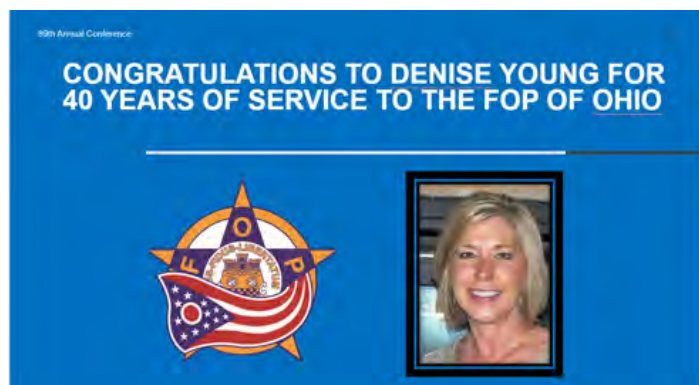


National FOP President Patrick Yoes presented former Senator Sherrod Brown the National FOP's Legislative Advocacy Award for his work on the Social Security Fairness Act.

The Social Security Fairness Act has been a 40-year priority for the Fraternal Order of Police to correct a wrong that allowed our members to lose up to 60% of their earned Social Security benefits. President Yoes credited Senator Brown for his role in passing this historic legislation, as the lead sponsor in the Senate.

"I know up close, and from a policy perspective, that communities are more dangerous today than when you took your oath as police officers," Brown said. "Nobody is more important on the street."

We thank Senator Brown for visiting with our delegates



## **FOP Office**

**Administrator Denise Young was honored at our conference for 40 years of service to the men and women of the FOP of Ohio.**



**We are so grateful for all Denise has done to help FOP members and law enforcement in general but also, we are grateful for her friendship.**



**We are looking forward to many more years of her leadership in the FOP!**



# State Legislators address FOP of Ohio



State Senator Bill DeMora and State Rep. Cindy Abrams spoke to our annual conference about vital issues for our membership, like pensions and keeping our members safe.

They also discussed items in the State Budget that impact our members and the need to for Ohio to keep first responders at the forefront of budget issues.



We appreciate them being there and talking to our delegates and spending time expressing their belief on how best to have our members advocate for the issues important to us.



**National FOP President Yoes; National Secretary Holderfield; NFOP 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Hoyt and NFOP Sgt at Arms James addressing our members**

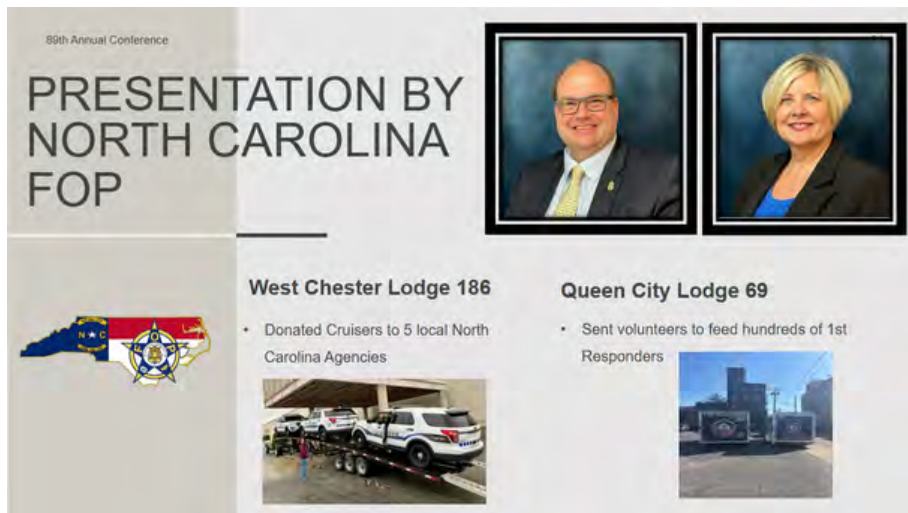


**North Carolina FOP President Chet Effler and Treasurer Kelli Jones came to our conference to present awards to the Queen City FOP and the West Chester FOP for their efforts to help North Carolina after Hurricane Helene.**

**Queen City fed hundreds of 1<sup>st</sup> responders in North Carolina in the aftermath of the storm, enabling them to do their work.**

**West Chester Township donated 5 cruisers to small towns in North Carolina who were devastated by the historic disaster.**

**We are proud of these two great lodges!**







This photo of our members at our conference who have been in the FOP for 50 years or more shows the dedication and commitment our members have to their Brothers and Sisters in law enforcement.

Thank you for all you do for the Order!!!

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**The FOP of  
Ohio  
continues to  
show support  
for Special  
Olympics of  
Ohio**





**FOP member and BCI Agent Rick Ward was given an award by the FOP-OLC for his work educating members on the processes involved after an officer involved shooting.**

89th Annual Conference

## FOP OF OHIO – A GREAT LEGACY



Joseph Pence – 1935-1936



Jack Dudek – 1946-1965



Dewey Stokes – 1987-1995



Steve Young – 2001-2003

**Did you know that the FOP of Ohio is the oldest state lodge in the FOP and the NFOP has spent more years under the leadership of an Ohioan than any other state?**

# Preliminary Qualified Immunity Plan

Proponents of eliminating Qualified Immunity need 413,487 valid signatures from at least 44 counties and are aiming for the 2026 ballot. They have not filed a campaign finance report, indicating that they have not raised substantial revenue. They do not have an established group with political muscle backing them as of now.

Follow the playbook from Senate Bill 5

**1. Build coalitions** - Unions; Police and Fire groups; Mayor's Alliance; elected officials and others have all reached out to work with us to defeat proposal

**2. Engage Experts** - Communications Counsel and Bob Paduchik remain on our team

· **Lodges should be building social media; gathering emails/phone numbers; begin to think about financial resources; making sure members are registered to vote**

1. FOP of Ohio War Chest has funds that have been building since SB 5

2. FOP of Ohio will begin Social Media Efforts to build more followers

3. FOP of Ohio will work with local lodges to build bigger email/app database

· **MESSAGING:** Until we get direction saying otherwise informed by polling/testing, we are using:

**\* *Eliminating Qualified Immunity will raise taxes, increase crime and devastate the number of people willing to serve their community.***

**\* *Eliminating Qualified Immunity hurts not just law enforcement, it targets those who educate our children, care for our elderly, and all other public employees***

§ Two kinds of messaging;

· To members, tell how it impacts them so they understand the risk

· To the public and on our social media/in press, laser focus on how it impacts the community as a whole and not on us



# Thin Blue Line Update

On July 9, the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas held a hearing in the matter of the Ohio Department of Insurance and Thin Blue Line Benefits Association and a mutually agreed upon injunction was issued. In this agreement, the Ohio Department of Insurance was named as the conservator of TBL to preserve its assets. It also restrained TBL from taking on new clients or advertising in Ohio, while also sequestering policy premiums into a separate account to pay claims of Ohio customers.

Thin Blue Line sent out an email on July 22 that is copied below and we have italicized it: *Attention Thin Blue Line Customers.*

*The Ohio Attorney General's Office filed suit against Thin Blue Line Benefits Association LLC and Thin Blue Line Benefits Association Holdings LLC (collectively "Thin Blue Line") on June 24, 2025. As a result of the suit, the Ohio Department of Insurance has been appointed as conservator to oversee the transaction of business by Thin Blue Line during the pendency of the matter.*

*While Thin Blue Line continues to pay outstanding claims for policyholders—and is diligently facilitating ongoing health care services for policyholders—some claims payments may be delayed due to complications relating to claims systems issues, the transition to a new third-party administrator, and with receiving claims information.*

*Thin Blue Line has paid all claims received through June 1, 2025. If you have outstanding claims, please contact your provider and request that they rebill your claim by sending to one of the following.*

[info@thinbluelinebenefits.com](mailto:info@thinbluelinebenefits.com)

Fax 360-899-4475

EOB TPA LLC

PO Box 97

New Port Richey, FL 34656

Ohio Providers: [ohioclaims@eobtpa.com](mailto:ohioclaims@eobtpa.com)

***Do not submit your MyChart or bill you received. That is not a claim, and we cannot use that to process your claims.***

***Thin Blue Line is cooperating with the Ohio Attorney General and the Ohio Department of Insurance to accomplish the shared goal of ensuring policyholders continue to receive the health care they need and that health care providers receive prompt payment for rendered services to policyholders.***

***The plans offered by Thin Blue Line will no longer be offered as of August 31, 2025, at the end of the current plan year. At that time, Thin Blue Line will continue to process and pay claims incurred during the plan year but will not offer future health care coverage for policyholders.***

***Thank you,***

***Thin Blue Line Benefits Association***

***The Ohio AG, Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund advise to continue to keep paying your premiums unless you get a special enrollment period granted to ensure continuation of the health care stipend. It is unlikely that most people will get a SEP with the open enrollment beginning on Sept. 1, we have been advised. OP-F is also advising members to set up an appointment with Alight to begin the process of getting information on a new provider.***

***We have been advising members if they have unpaid claims, to file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Insurance and you can find that link here:***

***<https://gateway.insurance.ohio.gov/UI/ODI.CS.Public.UI/Complaint.mvc/DisplayConsumerComplaintForm>. We also have been advising members to communicate with TBL through their portal.***



# FOP of Ohio Legislative Report

Mike Weinman - Director of  
Governmental Affairs



The Ohio House of Representatives and Senate are now on their summer break and are not expected to return until September. Before they left, they sent the Amended Substitute House Bill 96/State Operating Budget to the Governor. The Governor used his line-item veto power on sixty-seven items. Several of those items included property tax issues. Other vetoed items included reimbursement to state LE agencies for CPT, ODPS being responsible for OBWC claims that occurred during mutual aid, and ODNR contracting with local agencies for responses to state parks. The House came back to Columbus to override three of the property tax items and successfully voted to override one that deals with tax levies. The other two items did not have the votes and were not brought up for a floor vote by the Speaker. The veto override now goes to the Senate, whose President has declared that they will not be returning until September. For the first seven months of the 136th General Assembly, the House has introduced 401 bills, and the Senate has introduced 235. Eleven House bills have become law, along with thirteen Senate bills. One of the Senate bills is SB 114, which eliminates ticket and arrest quotas. The Governor signed SB 114 on July 1st, and it goes into effect 90 days late.

# Register Now!

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE  
GREAT LAKES AREA COALITION**

**LABOR,  
LEADERSHIP, &  
LEGISLATIVE  
TRAINING**

**HOTEL / SEMINAR LOCATION**  
**Four Winds Casino & Resort**  
11111 Wilson Rd, New Buffalo, MI 49117

A block of rooms are available at a rate of \$149 + taxes/fees.  
Cutoff to reserve a room is September 17, 2025.  
Booking Info will be provided upon  
registration for the training

Seminar begins 8:30 am each day.  
Seminar ends 2:30pm Friday.  
Lunch Provided both days.

**October 9-10, 2025**  
**Four Winds Casino & Resort**  
**New Buffalo, Michigan**

**Police Use of Force Through the Lens**  
Dr. Mike Knetzger

**Leadership In Action**  
Chet Effler, NCFOP

**Best Practices Immediately  
Following a Critical Incident**  
Marc Curtis  
Defender of the Blue

**Health and Wellness Needs for Leadership:**  
**Taking Care of YOUR Officers**  
Mike Wierenga, 2 The Rescue

**Crisis Communications**  
Mark Weaver  
Communications Counsel

**Political Action Committees**  
Mark Weaver  
Communications Counsel

**Labor Law Updates**  
Chris MacGillis  
MacGillis Wiemer, LLC

**COMMUNICATIONS  
COUNSEL**

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Attorneys at Law

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**\$100** Includes Instructional Materials, lunch both days,  
hospitality reception and registration gift.

**REGISTER BY  
SEPT 17, 2025**

  
SCAN TO REGISTER

# Best training for the money in the FOP!





# FOP Women's Conference

## Save the Date

*What: FOP Women's  
Conference*

*Where: FOP Lodge #9  
6800 Schrock Hill Ct  
Columbus, OH 43229*

*When: Wednesday*

*October 29th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

**\*\* Classes are pending CPT approval**



SAVE THE DATE



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

# PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

One Conference, Six paths: Your Training – The FOP Way

March 29 - April 3, 2026 - Las Vegas, NV

Wellness Professionals' Forum - March 29

Excellency in Chaplaincy - March 31-April 1

Wellness Summit - March 30-31

Leadership Matters - April 1-3

Labor Leadership Summit - March 30-31

Legal Counselors Seminar- March 30-31



## OFFICERS SHOT & KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THIS YEAR

DATA COLLECTED BY THE NATIONAL FOP

1 JANUARY 2025 - 30 JUNE 2025

### OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

# 166

### OFFICERS KILLED BY GUNFIRE

# 21

**45** LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
WERE SHOT IN **36** SEPARATE  
AMBUSH-STYLE ATTACKS

NUMBER OF OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF  
DUTY IS **-14%** FROM THIS TIME IN 2024



THE NATIONAL  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [@GLFOP](#) [@FOPNATIONAL](#)

THE NUMBER ONE

# VOICE



OF AMERICA'S LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



# **FOP of Ohio Needs to be able to communicate with you**

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## **FOP of Ohio Pushes out App**

We have quite a lot going on at the State Lodge. We have hit the ground running and have been working hard. One of our ongoing initiatives is to ensure that we are getting information out to the membership in as real time as possible. Several of these initiatives will be better served with your participation.

If you have not already done so, we are asking each FOP member from Ohio to please go to [www.fopohio.org](http://www.fopohio.org) and create an account. This is a fairly simple process and does not take up a lot of time. Once you have your account created, please go to your Apple or Google Play Store on your phone and download the app titled "FOP Ohio":

Once you install the app and sign in, your smartphone app will be linked to the FOP of Ohio website.

Creating your account will not only allow us to send you important information on a real time basis but it also helps to solve our ongoing issue about keeping up-to-date contact information (member's email address and phone #) on file with the state lodge.

Please push this out to all of your members and encourage them to create their account. Keeping our members as informed as possible does nothing but benefit our organization."



**[www.facebook.com/fopohio](https://www.facebook.com/fopohio)**

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**The FOP of Ohio is looking to keep all of its members updated on important happenings in our organization. Is your private (non-work) email on file with the state lodge? Does your local lodge president and secretary have their contact info on file with the FOP? Are you following the FOP social media?**



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**Follow us on X**

**@FOPofOhio**





NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

amazon business

FOR FOP MEMBERS

GET THE GEAR YOU NEED—FASTER,  
CHEAPER, AND WITH BENEFITS THAT  
GIVE BACK TO THE FOP.

- ✓ Free Amazon Business Prime: same-day, 1-day, or 2-day shipping
- ✓ Business-only pricing: never more, often less than Amazon.com
- ✓ A percentage of eligible purchases goes directly back to the NFOP
- ✓ Access to exclusive, business-only items—including a First Responder Storefront

amazon business



What is Amazon Business for FOP?

- FREE Amazon Business Prime access with same-day, 1 day, 2 day shipping
- Business-only pricing—never more, but often less than Amazon.com
- Percentage of eligible member spend is paid directly back to NFOP
- Access to exclusive business-only items including [First Responder Storefront](#)

How do I join?

**Option 1: From your phone:** Scan the QR code below and enter your e-mail and name. Use a separate e-mail from your personal Amazon Prime account if you wish to keep those benefits.

Once National FOP validates your membership, you will receive an email invitation to join the NFOP Amazon Business account. Follow the steps in the e-mail invitation once you receive it and enjoy shopping.



**Option 2: From your computer or phone browser:** [CLICK HERE](#) and enter your e-mail and name when prompted. Use a separate e-mail if you wish to keep your personal Amazon Prime benefits.

Once validated, you will receive an e-mail invitation to join the FOP Amazon Business account. Follow the steps from the email and enjoy shopping.

Access First Responder Storefront here:



amazon business

## Amazon Business for FOP Members

Get the gear you need—faster, cheaper, and with benefits that give back to the FOP.

Free Amazon Business Prime: same-day, 1-day, or 2-day shipping

Business-only pricing: never more, often less than Amazon.com

A percentage of eligible purchases goes directly back to the NFOP

Access to exclusive, business-only items—including a First Responder Storefront

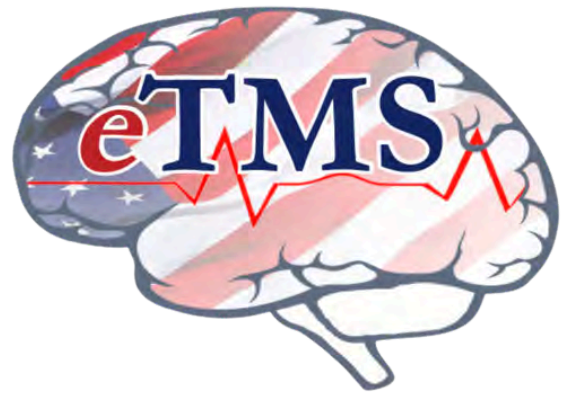
How to Join:

From your phone: Scan the QR code and enter your name and email. (Use a different email than your personal Prime if you want to keep both.)

Once your membership is verified, you'll get an email invite to join the NFOP Amazon Business account. Quick setup—big perks.

## Innovative Clinical Trial Seeks to Improve Mental Health Care for Veterans and First Responders

A groundbreaking new clinical trial is underway, aimed at expanding access to a promising non-invasive brain stimulation therapy known as eTMS (Electromagnetic Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation). The trial, titled eTMS FDA, is focused on evaluating the safety and efficacy of eTMS in treating mental health conditions such as PTSD among Veterans, First Responders, and Law Enforcement Personnel.



Led by a team of dedicated clinicians, this trial is designed to help bring eTMS one step closer to FDA approval. Unlike traditional rTMS, eTMS utilizes an individualized, precision-based approach that targets specific areas of the brain to support healing and improve overall cognitive function.

Participants in the study receive treatment at no cost, and many have already reported life-changing results. The eTMS FDA trial represents not just a scientific breakthrough, but a mission-driven commitment to serving those who have served us.

For more  
information or to  
see if you qualify,  
visit  
[www.etmsfda.com](http://www.etmsfda.com)



# **RETIREMENT DOESN'T MEAN STEPPING AWAY FROM THE BROTHERHOOD.**

**JOIN THE NATION'S LARGEST POLICE  
ORGANIZATION.**



**The FOP works in the Statehouse and Congress on pensions and Social Security to benefit all of our retired members.**

**We are proud to offer our concealed carry legal protection through the FOP Legal Defense Fund for only \$75 a year! You can learn more at <https://foplegal.com/>.**

**If you know a retired law enforcement who is interested in joining the nation's Largest Police Organization contact Rob Hawley at [rhawley@fopohio.org](mailto:rhawley@fopohio.org).**



NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

# 2025 FOP FOOTBALL RAFFLE

(2) Tickets for  
Texas @ Ohio State  
Sat. Aug 30, 2025



**\$10 Each or 3 / \$20**  
\$1,000 Value



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47  
816-786-0988

Proceeds to Benefit:  
FOP of Ohio State Lodge

**Drawing to be Held: August 15, 2025**  
Need Not Be Present To Win.

The FOP of Ohio is raffling off two tickets to the Ohio State vs Texas game this year at the Shoe! Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the FOP of Ohio. Click on the link below to purchase your tickets today!

<https://uniononly.io/o/fopohio/store/products/2025-fop-ohio-football-raffle>

We appreciate your continued support!





Do you know  
someone who  
“BACKS THE  
BLUE”? The FOPA  
is the organization  
for them!

The FOPA Ohio is a civilian affiliate of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. Our members are friends and families of law enforcement Officers, responsible and respected business persons, professional men and women, and citizens from all walks of life—people willing to devote a portion of their time and efforts toward assisting the various law enforcement agencies of our communities, states and nation.

The FOPA Ohio is an organization formed for the purpose of increasing our understanding of the rights, duties and problems of law enforcement officers; of fostering respect for them; and of bettering conditions under which they serve society. We accomplish this through public relations, as well as legislative and educational efforts. It is our aim and objective to support law enforcement throughout Ohio in every way possible. We believe that Law is the safeguard to freedom, and it is our duty to defend it.

We all need to help the FOPA help us, by recruiting a member or two to join the FOPA. If you need information on the FOPA, please email [alodgeupdate@gmail.com](mailto:alodgeupdate@gmail.com)

# Do you have FOP/FOPA Plates?



In cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the FOP offers a special FOP member-only license plate and a FOPA member-only license plate.

These plates can be ordered at any local BMV Office, but first, you must receive an approved application from the Ohio State Lodge. You will receive your approved application(s) in the mail, which you can complete based on the style of plates desired and take to any local BMV.

In order to approve your application, please fill out this web form at this address :

[https://www.fopohio.org/index.cfm?  
zone=%2Funionactive%2Fform\\_page.cfm&formID=6373](https://www.fopohio.org/index.cfm?zone=%2Funionactive%2Fform_page.cfm&formID=6373)





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**Inside**  
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PLUS...  
False confessions  
Patrol officers don't patrol




**NATIONAL  
POLICE CREDIT UNION**  
A DIVISION OF CHICAGO PATROLMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



**LEGAL  
DEFENSE  
PLAN**



**FOP JOURNAL**  
Congress Passes the Social Security Fairness Act!  
~~WEP/GPO~~  
ALSO INSIDE:  
DOES FAILING FORWARD STILL EXIST?  
NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE



**ID Theft Assist™**  
One Call. One Solution.



**College AVE®**  
STUDENT LOANS

These benefits and many more can be found  
at <https://fop.net/member-benefits/>

# Ohio Police Important Dates

|                          |  |                 |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| August 2-8, 2025         | National FOP Conference                        | Miami           |
| October 8-10, 2025       | Great Lakes Training                           | New Buffalo, MI |
| October 29, 2025         | FOP Women's Leadership Training,               | Columbus        |
| January 23-24, 2026      | FOP of Ohio Winter Board                       | Columbus        |
| March 30-31, 2026        | Officer Wellness Summit                        | Las Vegas       |
| March 30-31, 2026        | Labor Leadership Summit                        | Las Vegas       |
| March 31 - April 1, 2026 | Excellency in Chaplaincy                       | Las Vegas       |
| April 1-3, 2026          | Leadership Matters                             | Las Vegas       |
| April 24-25, 2026        | FOP of Ohio Spring Board                       | Newark          |
| July 18-21, 2026         | FOP of Ohio 90 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference | Independence    |
| January 22-23, 2027      | FOP of Ohio Winter Board                       | Columbus        |
| August 9-12, 2027        | National Conference                            | Salt Lake City  |

