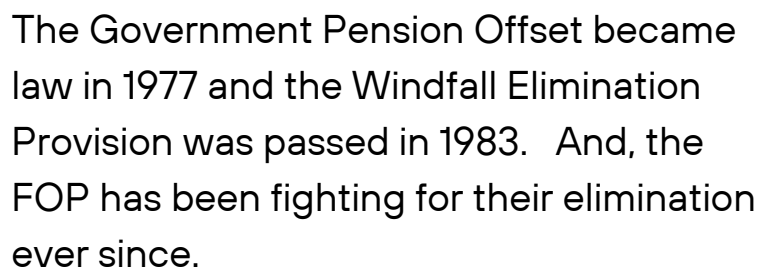


## Issue #5

## **SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT PASSES SENATE!!!**



In 2024, we have succeeded in righting this hugely unfair penalty that impacts every single FOP member in the Buckeye State.

We know many of you are nervous about the bill being signed by President Biden but the NFOP and I both are confident he will.

We have so many people to thank but we must first start with Sen. Sherrod Brown. Sen. Brown fought for this for so many years and we are grateful for his leadership. Next, every other member of the Ohio congressional delegation voted in favor of this bill. We must thank the NFOP and their professional staff. We also must thank our friends in labor who pushed so hard alongside of us. **Lastly, we must thank all of you who called, emailed and helped make this happen!**









# Ohio Police and Fire Pension Bill Stalls

Our top Ohio legislative priority, House Bill 296, was not passed during the lame duck session of the General Assembly. Despite passing the House in an historic and bipartisan fashion, it was not taken up by the Senate. This means we will have to start all over again once the General Assembly begins after the first of the year.

Bill sponsor Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) said she has no intention of letting the issue lie heading into next session. "I would like for the folks that are against the bill to come forward with the solution," Abrams said in an interview. "I'm all ears and have been for three years."

OP&F Executive Director Mary Beth Foley expressed disappointment regarding the legislature's lack of final action. "OP&F and our police and firefighters, their families and supporters have worked for three years now seeking equality of employer rates for police officers, and the severe underfunding of the plan since inception," Foley said. "We will take it up again in 2025 and hope the Senate will join with 66 House colleagues in righting this wrong."

Senator Mark Romanchuk told FOP members that he believes that we must give OP-F Board members (instead of the legislature) the ability to reduce the COLA for retirees. We will fight this approach in the legislature, and we will keep you updated.





## PRE-65 Retiree Health Insurance

We have had several emails lately about Thin Blue Line Insurance and we have seen the online messages on Facebook.

The FOP has reached out to and have had several conversations with the CEO of the company about the allegations posted online. Here is what we have been told:

- The company is not in any financial danger
- They have had staffing issues due to growth and they are also considering civil action against a former employee who they believe fraudulently used TBL's name and using social media platforms amongst other online resources to pose as TBL members stating false negative remarks that TBL is insolvent.
- They have made changes to provider access and there have been some implementation challenges.

Here is what we have done in response:

- We have had several communications with the CEO of TBL
- We reached to National FOP Secretary Holderfield to see if other states were having similar complaints, they are not
- We have responded to each individual concern and have worked out several problems for our members but the online issues are making it harder for TBL to respond because so many people are calling about general concerns due to FB postings that those who have specific concerns are being caught up in the wash.
- We have encouraged more communication about what is going on between TBL and our members. We will help facilitate that communication to help our members get information.



# Ohio FOP Leaders meet with Senator-elect Bernie Moreno

President McDonald and Secretary Parker met with Senator-elect Bernie Moreno and other members of Labor just before Christmas.

Mr. Moreno discussed immigration, consent decrees and grant funding with the FOP. He also introduced us to key staff members to assist us with legislative matters once he takes office.

“I am very confident that the FOP will have an outstanding relationship with Senator Moreno moving forward” said President McDonald.

After the meeting, Senator-elect Moreno invited President McDonald to Washington to attend his swearing in on January 3rd.



# FOP of Ohio supports Akron FOP 7 members!



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611

(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775

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



December 18, 2024

Mayor Shammas Malik  
Akron City Hall  
166 S High St, Akron, OH 44308

Chief Brian Harding  
Akron Police Department  
217 S High St, Akron, OH 44308

Mayor Malik and Chief Harding,

The safety and security of Akron's police officers, and by extension, the residents they serve, have been severely undermined by your actions. Releasing the names of the officers involved in the recent shooting has opened them up to threats, harassment, and danger. This decision erodes the fairness of their due process and does nothing to serve justice for the officers or community.

Due process and justice are owed to everyone, including police officers. Officers who face critical incidents deserve to be investigated fairly and without undue public pressure or threat. By releasing their names, you have denied them that opportunity and emboldened those who seek to intimidate or even harm them physically. That's not accountability; it is scapegoating.

Morale among Akron's officers is already fragile. Decisions like this make recruitment and retention nearly impossible. Officers now face the dangers of the job and a lack of confidence that their leaders will protect their basic safety and rights. Those who remain on the force are left to work under heightened hostility, which endangers the entire community.

We call on you to take immediate steps to reverse this toxic environment. Publicly affirm your commitment to due process for all involved, condemn the threats against Akron's officers, and take tangible action to ensure their safety. Let the process play out as it should. Leadership must be a source of strength and stability—not fear and uncertainty.

This is not just about the officers involved in this incident. It is about ensuring trust, improving morale, and ensuring that Akron's police officers can continue to serve and protect the people of this city without fear for their safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Jay McDonald'.

Jay McDonald

President, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio



# Dayton recognizes fallen 1st Responders

The City of Dayton revealed plans for new memorial signage honoring fallen officers and firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Dayton community members.

Ohio FOP 5th District Trustee Jeff Spires and IAFF local 136 Vice President Stephen Post showcased the signs that will be installed over the next few weeks.

31 memorial signs for Officers with their End of Watch date will be installed starting near the Safety Building and progress east along Third Street. 17 memorial signs for Firefighters will be installed with their Last Alarm date starting near Fire Headquarters (Station 4) and progress south on Main Street.



# FOP of Ohio supports Whitehall PD Officers



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611  
(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775  
[www.fopohio.org](http://www.fopohio.org)



December 17, 2024

Thomas Potter, President of City Council  
City of Whitehall, Ohio  
360 S Yearling Rd, Columbus, OH 43213

President Potter and all members of the Whitehall City Council,

The FOP of Ohio and our over 23,000 members join Capital City Lodge #9 in asking the Whitehall City Council to authorize an independent, third-party investigation into the complaints of your own employees. The time for action is now before irreparable harm is done to the Whitehall Police Department and the officers who swore an oath to protect the residents of your great city.

Morale is at rock bottom and the actions of the Whitehall police administration is making it worse. Who would want to join a department where the union representatives are fired, one after another? The officers you have are actively seeking other opportunities to escape. Those who want to stay and try to fix things are targeted and retaliated against.

This isn't an isolated incident; it is a well-documented pattern. City Council must authorize an independent investigation into allegations of the department's unlawful ticket and arrest quota, set up by Whitehall Police Department, and the subsequent intimidation and, even, termination of officers—especially union grievance representatives defending the city's officers.

We are asking you not to take our word for it. We are just asking that an independent investigation be carried out due to the reports of your own employees citing a toxic work environment exists in your police department. Please help us restore the strong leadership needed to oversee the department, reestablish trust between the department and officers, and improve morale. This will have a positive impact on the city government, the police department, and the people of Whitehall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jay McDonald".

Jay McDonald  
President, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio



# Cops and Kids events makes memories all over Ohio









# FOP of Ohio Legislative Report

Mike Weinman - Director of  
Governmental Affairs



The 135th General Assembly concluded with a busy lame-duck session, during which several bills were significantly amended, resembling "Christmas Trees" adorned with numerous additions. One such bill, Senate Bill 100, now makes it illegal to install a tracking device on another person's property without their consent.

The House Criminal Justice Committee contributed parts of House Bill 230 to Senate Bill 100, specifically allowing oral fluid testing for drugs in relation to Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence (OVI) cases. The State Highway Patrol initiated this oral fluid testing provision, so training for its implementation should be coming soon.

Notably, one amendment that would have benefited Greater Cleveland RTA police officers was not included in Senate Bill 100. The Buckeye State Sheriffs Association opposed this amendment and successfully prevented its passage.

House Bill 111, which establishes a presumption of prison time for individuals convicted of third-degree felony domestic violence and increases the sentencing range for such offenses, was recently signed into law. This law applies to offenders who have pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more domestic violence offenses or similar municipal ordinances.

We will provide further updates as we continue to review the changes made during the extremely busy lame-duck session. If I can help out in any way, you can reach out to me at [mweinman@fopohio.org](mailto:mweinman@fopohio.org)

# **Is your Lodge getting ready for the 2025 National FOP Conference?**

**It will be August 2nd through the 8th in Miami.**

The Ohio FOP will be staying at the Marriott Biscayne Bay and the total room cost will be \$253.12 per night. We know that is expensive but it is on the less expensive side of the options we were presented. We have contracted for less rooms than usual, so when the time comes to book, do not wait to secure your lodging.

The event package is not out yet.

There may be NFOP elections and Constitution changes to vote on. It looks like a NFOP per capita increase will be on the floor to be decided, plus loads of other important issues to be discussed. If your local lodge can attend, they absolutely should.





Did you know that the FOP in Ohio has a statewide lodge for members who do not have a local lodge to belong to? We call it the Buckeye Lodge and it is open to qualified members who do not have a local lodge in their area. These members can get legal defense and every other benefit that the State and National FOP provide.

If you know someone who fits this criteria, please send them our way to join the Buckeye Lodge! Contact Rob Hawley at [rhawley@fopohio.org](mailto:rhawley@fopohio.org).





## LEGAL DEFENSE PLAN

**Did you know that Reserve or Auxiliary Officers can obtain FOP legal defense insurance if they become FOPA members? Did you know that County agencies can use Furtherance of Justice (FOJ) funds to pay for legal defense plans for reserve or auxiliary members?**

**If your agency uses reserve or auxiliary officers to supplement full-time members, make sure that they know they can get this vital protection.**

**Also, command level law enforcement officers outside of their collective bargaining agreement should also purchase legal defense through [foplegal.com](http://foplegal.com) to make sure that they have criminal and civil protection. They can get this coverage as FOP members.**

**No cop should be on the street without a vest, a gun and legal defense!**

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

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



**To all retired law enforcement 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/>.**

**We also offer exclusive access to the Thin Blue Line Healthcare,  
amongst many other benefits of membership. You can learn  
more at <https://thinbluelinebenefits.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).**



# FOP of Ohio Pushes out App

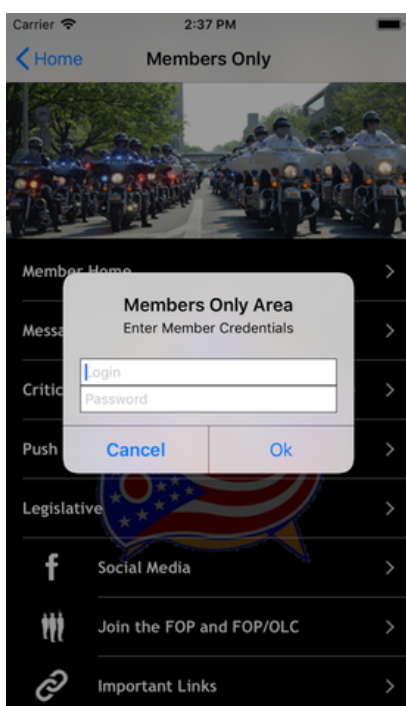
We have quite a lot going on at the State Lodge. We have hit the ground running and have been working hard. One of our ongoing initiatives is to ensure that we are getting information out to the membership in as real time as possible. Several of these initiatives will be better served with your participation.

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."





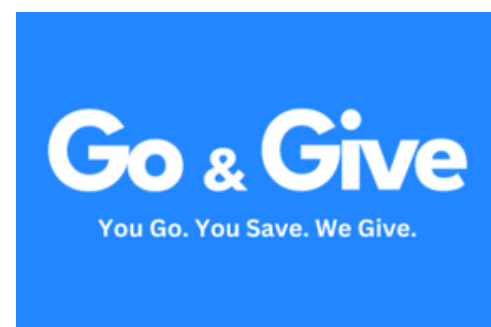
FOP Perks was built especially for retired FOP members who don't want or need fully insured dental and vision plans or any member looking for more ways to save money. FOP Perks provides significant savings on dental services, vision care, chiropractic, and many other healthcare services. You also have rewards and discounts on apparel, home office supplies, flowers, gifts, shows, concerts, sporting events and MUCH more. Pick your plan and sign up today to start utilizing your discounts and get cashback on groceries, gas, travel and more!.



We're dedicated to getting it done for you. We have home financing solutions for every type of borrower, with competitive rates you expect from a nationwide lender. FOP members and their families enjoy no lender fees\* on a home purchase or refinance loan.



PRE-65 Retiree Health Insurance



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



# Important Dates

January 24-25, 2025	Ohio FOP Board Meeting	Columbus
February 3-5, 2025	NFOP Day on the Hill	Washington D.C.
February 11-12, 2025	Labor Summit	Las Vegas
February 17-18, 2025	Wellness Summit	Nashville
February 19-22, 2025	Leadership Matters	Nashville
March 13-15, 2025	NFOP Board Meeting	Salt Lake City
May 1, 2025	Ohio Law Enforcement Memorial	London
May 2-3, 2025	Ohio FOP Board Meeting	Canton
May 13-15, 2025	Police Week	Washington D.C.
July 13-15, 2025	Ohio FOP State Conference	Cincinnati
August 2-8, 2025	National FOP Conference	Miami

## Ohio Police

