

Ohio Police



November 2025

www.fopohio.org

Issue #15

The FOP is focused on pensions!!!

President Jay McDonald testified on HB 280, the bill to provide equity to our pension system by having employers pay the same amount for police as they do for fire. We are grateful for the support of the bill sponsors, Representatives Cindy Abrams and Thomas Hall for their efforts.



Vice President T.J. Assion testified on HB 73, to establish a DROP plan for our members in OPERS. Representatives Kevin Miller and Thomas Hall have introduced this bill at our request, and we are thankful for their hard work.



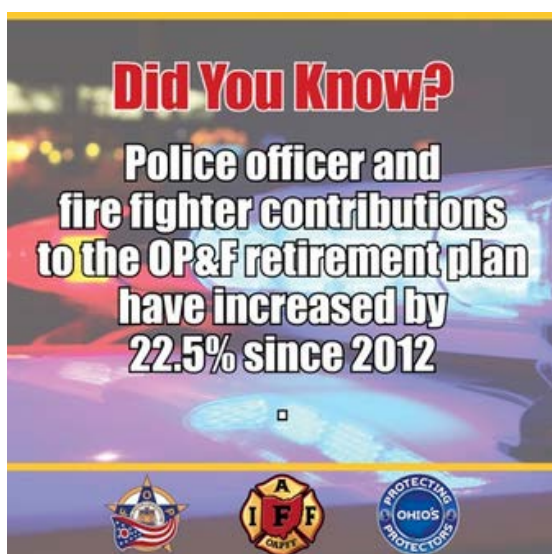
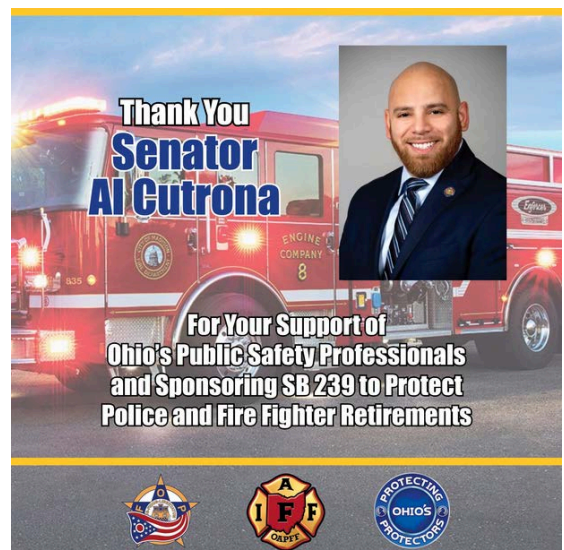
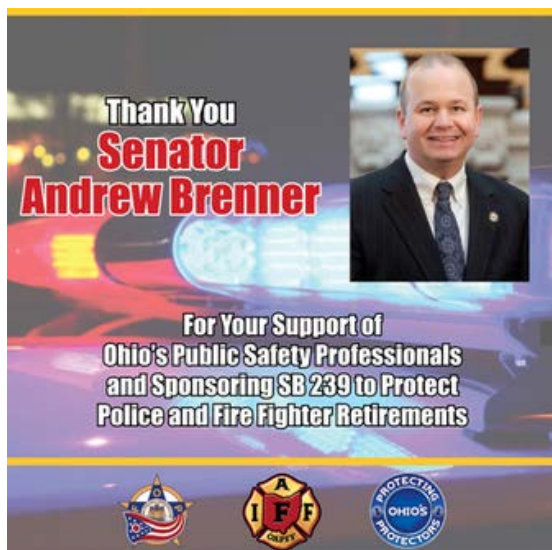
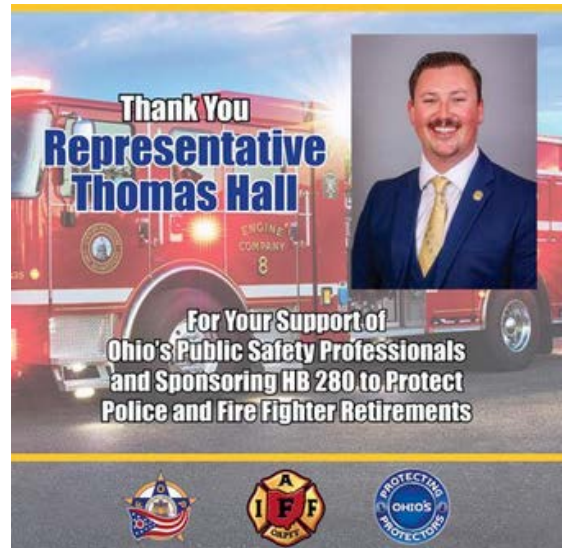
Past President of Lodge 9 Jim Gilbert testified on HB 424, a bill to rectify the issues caused by previous legislation regarding the transfer of credit for law enforcement officers between pension systems. Representative Bernard Willis and Representative Meredith Craig are the lead on this important bill and we appreciate their work to correct this wrong.



HB 473 would prohibit the bargaining for pension pickup for public employees. While rarely used, we oppose any attempt to limit our collective bargaining rights and Mike Weinman, Director of Governmental Affairs appeared on behalf of the FOP to oppose this bill.



FOP goes on social media campaign to help pass OP-F employer increase! You can help by sharing our content on Facebook and X.





**FOP of Ohio
delivered
almost
\$90,000 in
donations to
the families
of our
Brothers
involved in
the ambush
attack in
Lorain**



The FOP of Ohio thanks all of the attendees and instructors at our FOP Women's Conference last month. Over 50 attendees got together to learn about employee rights, officer wellness and leadership. We look forward to continuing to grow this outstanding event next year!



FOP of Ohio Legislative Report

Mike Weinman - Director of
Governmental Affairs



The past month has been a busy one for the legislative team, both in front of the House and Senate Committees and behind the scenes. I also testified in support of HB 492 before the House Public Safety Committee. HB 492 creates an arrestable offense for drivers who have violated Title 45 or a municipal equivalent and fail to provide their name, address, and date of birth to officers. This closes a loophole in the law that stopped officers from making an obstruction arrest for unclassified misdemeanors. President McDonald also testified on SB 188/Failure to Comply. The bill expands the offense of failure to comply with an order or signal of a law enforcement officer in the event of a barricade situation.

We have also signed onto a letter with our law enforcement coalition members in opposition to SB 270/Delinquent Children. SB 270 is another bipartisan bill that, if implemented, will exacerbate the issue law enforcement is having with juvenile defenders.

The House passed several bills: HB 132/Traffic Offenses, the bill to increase penalties for failing to slow down or change lanes when approaching specified stationary vehicles, to increase penalties for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault resulting from that offense, and to name this act Philip Wigal's Law, SB 56/Marijuana a bill to consolidate the administration of the marijuana control program, revise the medical and adult-use marijuana laws, and to levy taxes on marijuana, HB 335. Property Tax Overhaul, a bill to modify the law governing county budget commissions, property taxation, county sales taxation, and alternative apportionment formulas for local government and public library funds.

The Senate passed SB 55/OVI to amend the laws about operating a vehicle or watercraft while under the influence of marijuana and the admissibility of evidence for purposes of OVI statutes. Additionally, the Senate passed HB 23/Escaped Convict Alerts, a bill to create the escaped convict alert program, and SB 16/Traffic Laws, a bill to prohibit failing to change lanes or proceed with caution around a stationary vehicle in distress. Please note that SB 56/Marijuana is going to the conference committee, as the Senate disagreed with the changes made by the House.

November looks to be a busy month as the General Assembly will be taking the month of December off.

Thin Blue Line Update

The FOP of Ohio continues to advise members to contact the Ohio Department of Insurance to file a complaint for unpaid bills. We also continue to assist members in getting communication with TBL regarding unpaid claims that are over 90 days old.

We have asked specific questions of the Ohio Department of Insurance about what will happen if there are unpaid claims if the funds become exhausted and they continue to focus on getting claims paid and TBL still advises that all claims will be paid.

We have members telling us that TBL is still telling them that claims will be paid and some members are reporting that they have had claims paid recently. The Ohio Attorney General's Office represents the Ohio Department of Insurance in litigation against Thin Blue Line Benefits. We are aware that policyholders are reporting that Thin Blue Line Benefits is not paying medical claims. Information regarding claims payment may be relevant to the litigation. If you would like to report information regarding non-payment of claims to the Ohio Attorney General's Office, please call: Ohio Attorney General's Office, Constituent Services at (800) 282-0515. We suggest our members with unpaid bills contact both the Dept. of Insurance and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

"We continue to advocate for our members to have all of their medical claims paid in accordance with the insurance policy that TBL had in place at the time. TBL is responsible to pay the full amount of those claims and make our members whole."

Should Ohio abolish property taxes?

Property taxes have been the hot topic in Ohio politics so far in this General Assembly. Numerous bills have been heard to lower the burden of property taxes and there is an ongoing effort to collect enough signatures to place a ban on property taxes into the Ohio Constitution.

The FOP of Ohio understands and supports the effort to help with the issue of property taxes rising faster than the rate of inflation but opposes a complete abolition of property taxes.

There are about 100 township police departments in Ohio, funded solely by property taxes. Each city gets what is called “inside millage” in property tax that is often used to pay their pension obligations. Counties use property taxes to pay for Children’s Services and Developmentally Disabled agencies. If property taxes are eliminated, those agencies will not disappear and will be fighting for funding against Sheriff’s Offices.

Eliminating property taxes will make raising the rates of what our employers pay for pensions much harder impacting retiree benefits and raises for working cops less likely.

To wrap it up succinctly, an abolition of property taxes will hurt public safety, cause layoffs and be bad for all essential services.

FOP's ticket quota ban went into effect on 9/30

The FOP initiated this bill (SB 114) in response to complaints of our members about having to engage in quotas at a few select agencies and were invited to the bill signing at the Governor's mansion!

This new law prohibits the following:

- **Establishing a plan that uses a quota (a mandate of a finite number of arrests made or citations issued that an officer must meet in a specified period) as the basis for evaluating, promoting, compensating, transferring, or disciplining an officer;**
- **Requiring or suggesting that an officer must (or is expected to) meet a quota; or**
- **Offering a benefit to an officer based on the officer's quota**
- **Requires the Attorney General to establish a form for a police officer to use to report the use of quotas in violation of the above prohibitions, to investigate alleged violations, and to issue a cease and desist order if a violation is found.**
- **Allows a police officer to choose whether to submit the report anonymously or disclose his or her identity in the report.**



FOP of Ohio adds first 2 members to the #ProtectOhioPolice Hall of Shame

The FOP named Cincinnati rabble rouser Iris Rowley its very first member of the Protect Ohio Police Hall of Shame. Rowley, an anti-police activist and city paid consultant, has been harassing officers for simply doing their job. Lodge 69 created an online petition calling for Rowley to have her consultant contract terminated. You can find it here: <https://www.cincypolice.com>

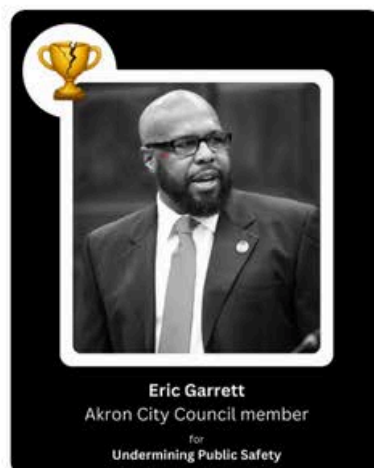
The FOP added Akron At-Large Councilman Eric Garrett to the “Hall of Shame” for undermining public safety in August.

Garrett has been a consistent and vocal opponent of the police in Akron. Most recently, he put out a statement fomenting distrust in local police after he disagreed with the decision of the grand jury not to indict officers in a 2024 officer-involved shooting.

POP, an initiative by the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, exists to hold public officials accountable when they undermine the rule of law in Ohio

Protect Ohio Police Presents:

THE HALL OF SHAME



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?

The FOP of Ohio is building on this legacy and working to grow the FOP in the Buckeye State.

If you know of any members or agencies who would like to join the FOP of Ohio, contact Rob Hawley at rhawley@fopohio.org

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



NEW REPORT

OFFICERS SHOT & KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THIS YEAR

DATA COLLECTED BY THE NATIONAL FOP 1 JANUARY 2025 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

251

OFFICERS KILLED BY GUNFIRE

35

72 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
WERE SHOT IN **52** SEPARATE
AMBUSH-STYLE ATTACKS

NUMBER OF OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF
DUTY IS **-11%** 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

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 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."

— FOLLOW US ON —
FACEBOOK
f

www.facebook.com/fopohio

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?



Follow us on X

@FOPofOhio

 **Your Path to Homeownership Just Got Easier!** 

For those who protect and serve, it's time to enjoy the rewards of homeownership with American Heroes Homes and Lending.

We've built a program especially for members of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police to make buying, selling, or refinancing simple, stress-free, and rewarding.

 **Cash Back After Closing**

 **No Bank Fees**

 **Rate Buy-Downs**

 **Free Credit Counseling**

 **Property Protection Plus Program**

 **Bundled Insurance Discounts**

 **Preferred Settlement Fees**

With experts predicting interest rates to drop soon, there's never been a better time to act.

Start today and discover how much you can save!

 **Visit ahhlusa.com/partner/ohfop to get started!**

#FOP #BlueLivesMatter #AHHL

#AmericanHeroesHomesAndLending #HeroBenefits

#HomeownershipMadeEasy #HomeBenefits #CashBack



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.

Member benefits, **OPTIMIZED**

Optavise engages, educates, and provides benefit guidance for your members.



\$10,000 Accidental Death Benefit

- ▷ Pays a cash benefit if a member dies accidentally or suffers a severe injury, such as loss of motion, sight or limb.
- ▷ Offers coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- ▷ No financial obligation
- ▷ No medical exams, forms, or waiting period
- ▷ First 12 months complimentary at no-cost



Discount Mortgage Programs

- ▷ **Mortgage program** offers no lender fees, 1% rate buy down for 2-years, and loan forgiveness up to \$525k for on-the-job deaths in certain industries.



Member Engagement and Education

- ▷ In-person and virtual engagement available
- ▷ On-site visits at roll calls one time per year
- ▷ Drawings and prizes for members who review the new benefits



Voluntary Benefits

Offer voluntary benefits specifically beneficial to law enforcement.

- ▷ **Accidental Injury protection:** Important protection from the costs of unexpected covered injuries
- ▷ **Critical Illness protection:** A simple solution that helps cover the costs of covered critical illness, including cancer, heart, stroke.
- ▷ **Hospital coverage:** valuable protection against the costs of hospital stays
- ▷ **Life insurance:** permanent, portable and term options
- ▷ Many policies include a premium-return option, which means members get their money back after a specified period of time.*
- ▷ Coverage available for members, spouses, children, & grandchildren.
- ▷ Rates never increase due to age



Membership Services

Let us help empower your organization with impactful initiatives, such as:

- ▷ Sponsoring local, state and national conventions
- ▷ Recognizing your officers at annual awards ceremonies or galas
- ▷ Being involved in outings or charities that are important to your group

* The premium-return benefit is subject to state and product availability. The benefit has an additional charge and may pay minus claims or regardless of claims based on the policy selected. The policy must remain in force until the end of the premium-return period for the benefit to be paid.

LIMITED-BENEFIT POLICIES. These policies have limitations and exclusions. For costs and complete details of coverage, contact the agent. Most policies underwritten by Washington National Insurance Company, home office: Carmel, IN. AD&D insurance provided by third-party affiliate.

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OP-1154-FS

To learn more, contact:

Amanda Krieg

330-715-8959

amanda.krieg@optavise.com



Optavise.

Member benefits
well-advised.



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

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/LicensePlates>



Join Us!

Alaska Cruise

September 4-11, 2026

All FOP members and their families are invited to join us on the stunning **Celebrity Edge** for an unforgettable **7-night cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage.**

Explore historic ports like **Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway**, and witness the breathtaking beauty of **Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier.**

MORE INFO & REGISTER HERE

FOPCRUISE.COM



You do so much for us. We'd like to do something for you.

As a gesture of our appreciation for all you do, we're happy to extend a 25% discount on our SoundGear Shield products to all verified First Responders.

How to order Shield

If you'd like to order SoundGear Shield products on our site:

Add the product to your shopping cart

Click the “First Responder” button at <https://soundgear.com/pages/first-responder-discount>

NATIONAL POLICE



FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1% Below Market, 100% First Responder Focused Your Exclusive First Responder Mortgage Benefit is Here

At National Police Federal Credit Union, we're excited to announce the First Responder Home Benefit - an exclusive mortgage offering tailored just for you.



Here's what makes this opportunity extraordinary:

- Low Rates: Save with rates as low as **1% below market**.
- Free End of Watch Loan Protection: Free coverage up to \$850,000 in the event of a line-of-duty death.
- Quick and Easy Closings: Secure your home faster.

Loan Options Include:

- Conventional Loans
- Both Purchase Money and Refinance Transactions
- Flexible Terms Between 15 - 30 Years



Company NMLS ID: 1223085
Police Mortgage, LLC NMLS ID: 268815

5-Year Adjustable-Rate Mortgage at 4.99%

Why consider an ARM over a conventional mortgage?

ARMs offer below-market rates and flexibility, making them ideal for first-time and early mid-career buyers looking to increase affordability amid rising homeownership costs.



ARM Features:

- ✓ Below-market interest rates
- ✓ Lower initial payments
- ✓ Increased borrowing capacity
- ✓ Flexibility to adapt to your needs

All Credit Union Mortgages qualify for End of Watch Loan Protection!

For more information, please email info@policemortgage.com.



Company NMLS ID: 1223085
Police Mortgage, LLC NMLS ID: 268815

<https://nationalpolicecu.com>



COLLEGE BENEFIT... YOUR EDUCATION YOUR WAY!

**Flexible. Affordable. Designed for Union
Members & Families.**

U-LEARN

- Unlimited associate or bachelor classes for \$5,250/ year!
- 100% Online
- 60+ programs
- Free Textbooks

U-MVP

- 20% Off Master's Degrees
- 100% Online
- 20+ programs
- Free Textbooks
- Transfer up to 12 Master's Credits

Tuition Up to 50% Off

- Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, & Certificate Programs
- 100% Online
- 150+ programs

How the College Benefit Works

1

Request Your Match



2

Get Matched

You are matched to an in-Network higher education institution that closely aligns with your interests, experiences, and goals.

3

Get Contacted

An admissions counselor at your matched college or university reaches out to you with more information about your next steps in the process.



Visit: ebsunioncollegebenefit.org/FOP

Hero Accident Plan

NATIONAL FOP APPROVED



The EBS Hero Plan

Tailored Benefits. Trusted Support

200k Line of Duty Death Benefit

No payroll requirement -- direct pay available



- ✓ \$3000 initial hospital benefit
- ✓ \$750 daily hospital benefit (doubles for ICU)
- ✓ Dependents eligible for coverage
- ✓ Members may self-enroll or agent assisted
- ✓ Dedicated service team for claims and coverage assistance
- ✓ Premiums waived if disabled
- ✓ Portable - coverage continues even if you change jobs
- ✓ 24-hour coverage on or off-duty or working special details



- ✓ \$100 health screening benefit for each covered person
- ✓ 25% benefit increase for organized sports injuries
- ✓ \$70 per day chiropractic benefit
- ✓ Ambulance Benefit: Ground \$600 I Air \$3000
- ✓ \$2000 gunshot wound benefit
- ✓ \$150 Doctors office or Urgent Care visit
- ✓ \$400 Emergency Room benefit

Additional Protection for Those Who Serve

- ✓ GI lump sum critical illness & cancer benefits for members & spouses
- ✓ Short-term disability with no offsets or reductions for other coverage. Pays for partial disability even on light duty. Pregnancy treated like any other illness
- ✓ Guaranteed issue hospital plan with no pre-existing exclusions
- ✓ Guaranteed issue life insurance for members, spouses and children

For Retirees, Spouses & Surviving Spouses

- ✓ Full Medicare coverage -- Advantage, Supplements & drug coverage
- ✓ Help retired LEOs to navigate Medicare
- ✓ Help surviving spouses understand Medicare

For rates and how to make this available to your members, please contact:

 GMaytubby@EBSWorksite.com

 KellyM@EBSWorksite.com

Ohio Police Important Dates

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 90th Annual Conference Independence

January 22-23, 2027 FOP of Ohio Winter Board Columbus

August 9-12, 2027 National Conference Salt Lake City

