

Ohio Police



February 2025

www.fopohio.org

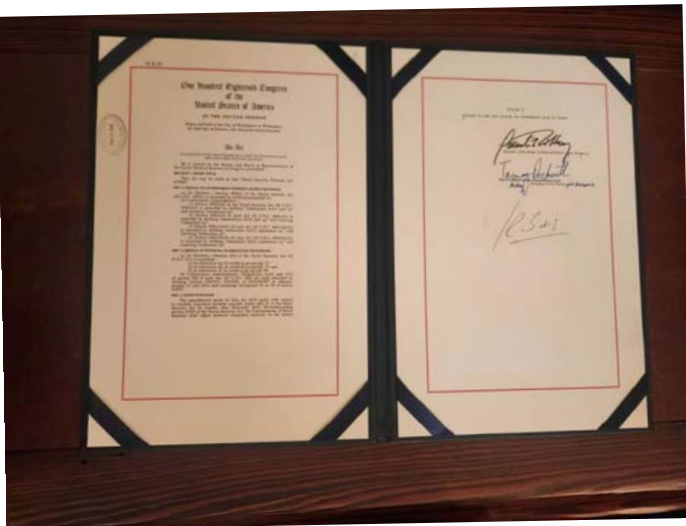
Issue #6

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT SIGNED INTO LAW!!!

PRESIDENT BIDEN FINALIZES THE RIGHTING OF A 40 YEAR WRONG



President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act into law on January 5th and the FOP of Ohio was in the Whitehouse to witness history. FOP of Ohio National Trustee Greg Toyneas and Lodge 9 President Brian Steel were invited to watch the historic event.



Keep watching
<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>
for updated information on the implementation of the law.

Tragedy Strikes in St. Clair Township

Officers from St. Clair Township Police in Columbiana County responded to a call about a suicidal man on 1/22/2025. When officers located the man walking down the street, he opened fire. Officers returned fire and when the shooting stopped, an innocent 4-year old child named Rosalie Martin was dead, Det. Dakota Wetzel was shot in the head and the suspect was also shot and killed.

Dakota is the FOP Lodge 210 President, and he is a strong local FOP leader. He is currently in UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh and is making progress, but he has a long, long road ahead of him.

The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio Foundation is accepting tax-deductible donations for the officer and the child's family as well. Donations may be made at www.fopohio.org and we are asking each member and lodge to donate if they are able.



FOP honors heroes!



The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio honored two central Ohio officers for their heroic actions that saved the lives of two people in 2024. Officer Gloria West, who has been with the Columbus Division of Police for over a year, and Officer Joshua Buchberger, a member of the Pataskala Police Department, were recognized for their heroic actions in separate incidents late last year.

Officer Gloria West is commended for her quick response and bravery in saving this severely injured man from the burning car. She is truly a hero.

Officer Buchberger's quick and effective actions after a child was severely injured likely saved the life of the child. Officer Joshua Buchberger is a hero and is to be commended.

Photos From Board Meeting





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
- Spoke to the leaders of other state FOP's about issues
- We have responded to each individual concern and have worked out several problems for our members. The online issues are making it harder for TBL to respond to members because so many people are calling about general concerns due to Facebook postings, causing those with specific concerns to be drowned out.
- We have encouraged Thin Blue Line to be more communicative with our members in regards to these changes
- Had CEO speak at our Winter Board Meeting and answer questions from our Board and members
- Asked TBL to produce a FAQ document to help answer our members questions

President McDonald Invited To Senator Moreno's Swearing In

President McDonald traveled to Washington to attend the swearing in of the senior Senator from Ohio, Bernie Moreno.

He also got to meet with members of his Senior Staff and was recognized by Senator Moreno during his speech, thanking those in attendance for being there.



FOP Congratulates Jon Husted upon his appointment as Senator



"The 23,000 members of the FOP of Ohio send their congratulations to Ohio's newest United States Senator Jon Husted. We saw tremendous success last Congress, but a mountain of law enforcement legislative priorities remain, and we look forward to working with Ohio's team of Senators, Bernie Moreno and Jon Husted, to see our agenda through."

- Jay McDonald, FOP of Ohio President

Rick Grochowski passes away



Rick Grochowski, from Akron FOP 7, served the FOP of Ohio in a variety of roles over his career and he will be sorely missed by so many.

Thank you for a life of service to the men and women of law enforcement Brother Grochowski!

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?



FOP of Ohio President, Jay McDonald is participating in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics in Cleveland on 2/22/25 and is looking for donations. You can donate at <https://support.soooh.org/goto/JayMcDonald>

OFFICERS SHOT & KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THIS YEAR

DATA COLLECTED BY THE NATIONAL FOP

1 JANUARY 2024 - 31 DECEMBER 2024

OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

342

OFFICERS KILLED BY GUNFIRE

50

79 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
WERE SHOT IN **61** SEPARATE
AMBUSH-STYLE ATTACKS

NUMBER OF OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF
DUTY IS **-9%** FROM THIS TIME IN 2023



THE NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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

NEW REPORT

FOP of Ohio welcomes new state lodges in Montana and Vermont!





VS



THU | MAR 20 | 7:00PM

The Columbus Blue Jackets and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) have teamed up to offer a specially priced ticket package which includes a discounted ticket and a donation from each ticket going back to the NLEOMF!

Please visit the link below for more information.



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
MEMORIAL FUND

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

TICKETS
STARTING AT

\$46

CONTACT ABBY SCULLY AT 614.246.3093
OR ASCULLY@BLUEJACKETS.COM WITH ANY
QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR SPECIAL REQUESTS.

BLUEJACKETS.COM/NLEOMF

The CLEVELAND CAVALIERS *Present*

First Responder Discount Night!

Sunday, March 30th @ 3:30pm



VS.



What's Included?

- Discounted ticket link for all First Responders, families, friends
- Early Entry Warm-ups Access from 1:30pm-2:00pm



Questions? Contact: atowns@cavs.com



[DISCOUNT LINK HERE](#)

FOP of Ohio Legislative Report

Mike Weinman - Director of
Governmental Affairs



The 136th General Assembly is up and running. Matt Huffman is the new House Speaker, and Rob McColley is the new Senate President. Last term, Speaker Huffman was Senate President. Former Speaker Stephens did not run for Speaker, making way for Mr. Huffman. So far, the Senate has introduced 63 bills, and the House has introduced 29.

One bill of note is Senate Bill (SB) 26. It creates a legislative task force of three senators and three representatives who will investigate law enforcement training and identify deficiencies. According to the sponsor, the panel will be seated for one year. During his testimony before the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee, the bill's sponsor, Senator Terry Johnson, feels law enforcement is not receiving proper training to deal with attacks from remote-controlled cars, underwater drones, and other technological devices.

SB 8, a reintroduction from the last General Assembly, will be closely watched by the Legislative Committee. This bill prohibits a public employer from providing paid leave or compensation for a public employee to engage in certain union activities. The bill's sponsor, Senator Steve Huffman, wants to strip you of release time. The bill did not get any traction last year, and we hope it stays that way. But we will remain diligent.

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.



Our golf outing sells out fast, don't wait!!!

WESTERVILLE, OHIO

Monday, August 11, 2025

Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio 2025 Golf Outing



The Golf Club at Little Turtle
5400 Little Turtle Way
Westerville, Ohio 43081
Phone: 614-212-4000

Monday August 11, 2025

Cost: \$125 per player
Registration 9:00AM
Shotgun start 10:30AM
Enjoy 18 holes of golf
(including cart), lunch, dinner,
prizes, and an exciting awards
banquet.

All for just \$125.00 per player

•

Closest to the pin challenge.

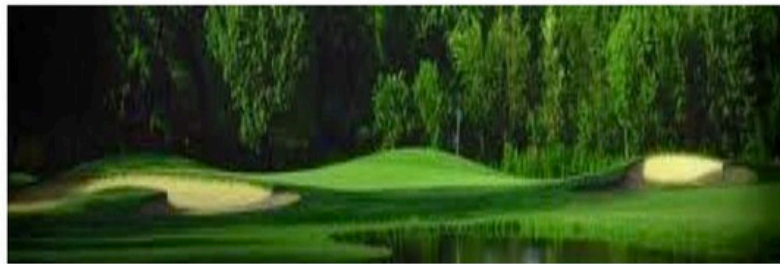
Winner will receive an
Odyssey Putter

• Longest drive contest Winner
will receive a New Titleist
driver
• Titleist Driver Raffle

Please contact:
Rob Hawley
rhawley@fopohio.org
222 E. Town St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-224-5700 ext. 1150

FOP Strong

Fraternal Order of Police 2025 Golf Outing 4-Man Scramble



This year's event will be held, August 11th at the well-manicured Golf Club at Little Turtle in Westerville, Ohio.

Registration begins at 9:00am, shotgun start at 10:30 am.

The cost for this event is only \$125 per golfer. The price includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, drink tickets, dinner, and various awards.

All Sponsorships are 100% tax deductible

HOLE SPONSOR - \$150.00

Showcase your company's logo as your logo will be prominently displayed on signage at the sponsored hole.

Closest to the Pin SPONSOR - \$250.00

Showcase your company's logo as your logo will be prominently displayed on signage at the golf course

Dinner SPONSOR - \$750.00

Showcase your company's logo as your logo will be prominently displayed on signage at the golf course.

President's SPONSOR - \$2,500.00

Champion Sponsorship package includes:

- One (1) foursome.
- Recognition on banner at golf course.

Please RSVP and return with payment by March 1, 2025
Make checks payable to FOP of Ohio Foundation.

FOP Supporter Information

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip: _____
Email Address _____
Golfer 1 _____ Golfer 3 _____
Golfer 2 _____ Golfer 4 _____



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 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.

FOP of Ohio Pushes out App

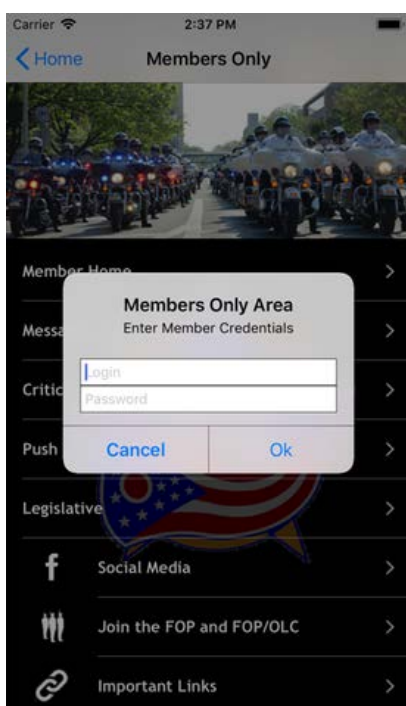
We have quite a lot going on at the State Lodge. We have hit the ground running and have been working hard. One of our ongoing initiatives is to ensure that we are getting information out to the membership in as real time as possible. Several of these initiatives will be better served with your participation.

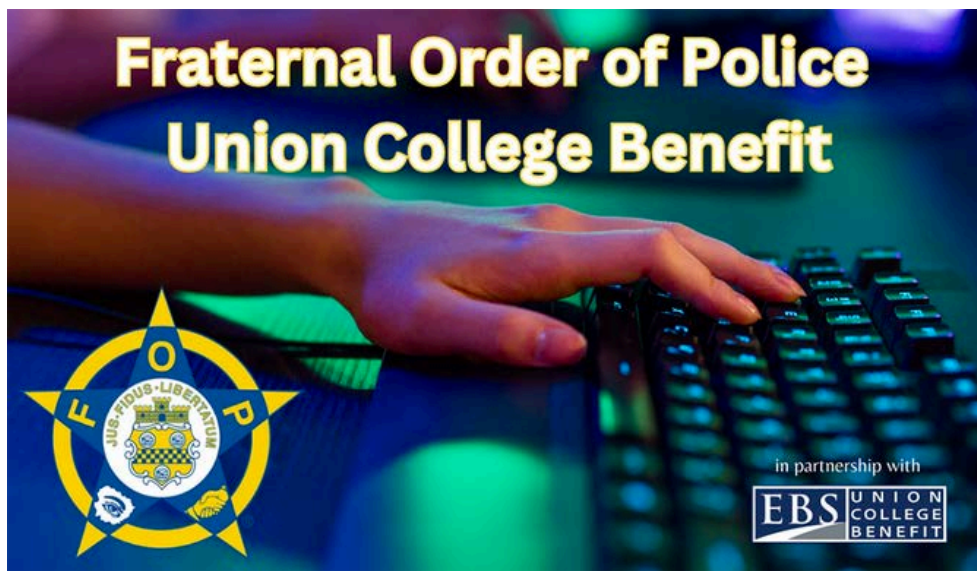
If you have not already done so, we are asking each FOP member from Ohio to please go to www.fopohio.org and create an account. This is a fairly simple process and does not take up a lot of time. Once you have your account created, please go to your Apple or Google Play Store on your phone and download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





Our new union college benefit option offers up to 50% discounted tuition rates for you and your entire family and still applies to any internal or federal grants or scholarship awards to reduce your out-of-pocket costs even further.

The EBS Network of Colleges and Universities is comprised of regionally accredited institutions that are committed to providing deeply discounted tuition rates to our union members and their families, ensuring accessibility and affordability for higher education. Whether you are interested in pursuing an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree, or seeking to enhance your professional skills with undergraduate or graduate certificates, the network has a comprehensive range of more than 50 online degree programs and certificate offerings.

To explore the available programs, such as our Associate, Bachelor, or Master degrees in Criminal Justice, and learn more about the discounts offered, visit www.ebsunioncollegebenefit.org/FOP and complete the Request Your Match form. An admissions counselor—who is employed by the college or university you have been matched to—will contact you. The admissions counselor will guide you through the admissions process, discuss your career goals and program options, and answer any questions you may have.



**SAVINGS FOR SERVICE
YOU DESERVE MORE
THAN A THANK YOU**
Support for your service. Benefits for your family.

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union@ccm.com




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Estate planning
made easy.




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Revolutionizing crisis response
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False confessions
What every police officer should know
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Patrol officers don't patrol
To make a work shift manageable, something's got to give.
By Casey L. Stinson

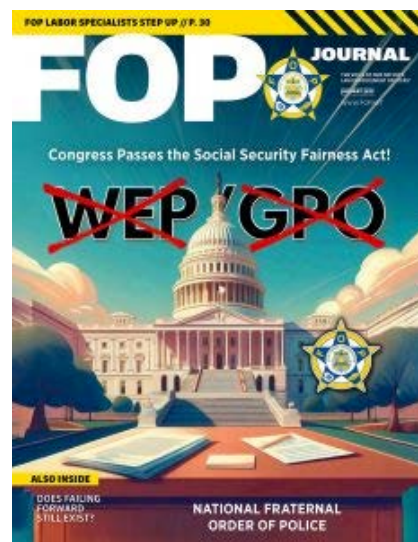
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**NATIONAL
POLICE CREDIT UNION**
A DIVISION OF CHICAGO PATROLMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



**LEGAL
DEFENSE
PLAN**



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



ID Theft Assist SM
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

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 8, 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

