



# HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

August 2023 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



## *"Our History Is Our Pride"*

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### Pre-Medicare Health Reimbursement Arrangement Project Update

*As a reminder, the Pre-Medicare HRA project pertains only to the Pre-Medicare (under age 65) Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) that will begin in January 2024.*

The official announcement letter is scheduled to be mailed on August 28, 2023, to all that will be impacted by the upcoming changes. Applicable members are encouraged to visit the Via Benefits website address provided in the letter to create their account and set up their profile. Informational videos are available on their website.

The Via Benefits phone number for HPRS members is provided in the letter, and members are encouraged to call Via Benefits to complete their pre-enrollment assessment. If you do not proactively contact Via Benefits, a care team member may call to help you prepare. Be sure to

answer their call — and know you are safe sharing your personal information with Via Benefits. Schedule your enrollment appointment during your assessment, or you can schedule one using the Via Benefits website.

Live webinars are scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day, for members that want to learn more about the transition to an HRA. All four of these virtual meetings will provide the same presentation from Via Benefits. The content of these presentations is aimed primarily at addressing the needs of those that do not have access to health care through an employer, spouse, etc., and need to purchase it from the Marketplace.

## Board News

On August 17, 2023, Trooper Cynthia Wilt was sworn in as a result of being re-elected. Additionally, Captain Matthew Them was re-elected board chair and retired Major Darryl Anderson was re-elected vice-chair.



## Wellness Program and VISA Gift Card

All retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses that complete a Wellness Examination or Screening prior to December 31, 2023, will receive a \$100 VISA Gift Card. The wellness programs will continue in 2024, but the VISA Gift Card will not be awarded to participants that complete exams after the end of this year. For more information on the wellness program, please go to <https://www.ohprs.org/ohprs/healthBenefits.jsp>.

## Catastrophic RX Coverage

This is a reminder for those that are currently eligible for reimbursement as part of the Medicare Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). Additional benefits are available once you exceed the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap. If you experience large out-of-pocket prescription costs, your Medicare Part D plan will communicate to you when and if you enter the "catastrophic" phase, where your cost switches to 5% of the drug price.



HPRS has additional coverage in place to assist with costs that exceed the coverage gap. If you believe you may be in or nearing this phase, contact your prescription drug plan provider. They can advise where you are in the coverage gap, also referred to as the "donut hole", or if you have already exceeded it. For those who have reached the catastrophic phase, you will need to contact Via Benefits (1.833.431.1358) to begin the reimbursement process for the additional coverage available.

## Actuarial Report

Foster & Foster Actuaries and Consultants presented the final December 31, 2022 actuarial valuation for HPRS. The assumption and benefit changes approved produced a 21-year amortization period and a funded ratio of 73.9% for the pension system. The health care fund is projected to remain solvent until 2037.



The board approved an increase in the active member contribution rate to 14% for 2024, starting with the first full pay period in January 2024, a 0% COLA in 2024, and a 0% allocation to the health care fund for 2023.



## Increase to Medicare HRA Allowance

The HPRS Board approved an increase to the Medicare Health Reimbursement Arrangement for 2024. Medicare HRA retirees will see an increase from \$183.33 to \$225 per month. Medicare HRA surviving spouses will see an increase from \$91.67 to \$112.50 per month.

## Job Opportunities for Retirees

As a reminder, job opportunities are listed in the secure area of our website ([www.ohprs.org](http://www.ohprs.org)). Please check this periodically to ensure you are aware of any new postings.



## Call for Stories from Retirees

Major Lisa Taylor (Ret.) is asking all OSP retirees for funny, unusual, crazy, or heartwarming stories from your time on the road. She will be compiling these stories into a book entitled, **"Life Behind the Wheel."** Major Taylor would like to collect your stories along with your permission to "clean them up," both grammatically and perhaps use of language. All participants will receive credit for their tales. This is one way for you to be published with very little work, and virtually NO cost to you. What a great memento for you and your family!

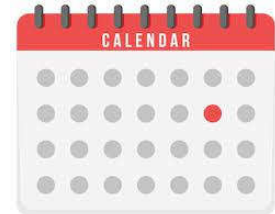
If you are interested, she will need the story, your rank, post/assignment, date you were hired, as well as your retirement date. Send stories to her at [proflisa1095@gmail.com](mailto:proflisa1095@gmail.com) or they can be mailed to her home address that can be found in the Retiree Directory on our website.

## September 2023 Committee Schedule

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the Health, Wellness, & Disability Committee will start at 1300 hours.

Some committee meetings may be canceled from time to time. Please refer to the HPRS website at [www.ohprs.org](http://www.ohprs.org) for the most current meeting dates and times.

### Save the Date!



- **OSP Districts 90th Anniversary Celebrations\***
  - **Jackson District** - September 23, 2023 - 1100 hours - 1800 hours - Uncle Buck's Riding Stable and Dance Barn, 73930 Buck Lane, New Marshfield, OH 45766
- 2023 Association Annual Meeting & Luncheon, October 21, 2023, Embassy Suites
- 2024 Snowbird Reunion, March 15 - 16, 2024, Lake Mary, Florida

\*Please visit our website for more details and for RSVP information, <https://www.ohprs.org/ohprs/RetireeEventsCalendar.jsp>.

### Our office will be closed:

~ Monday, September 4th - Labor Day



### Retiree Qualification

As a reminder, your qualification under the LEOSA rules is only good for one year from the date of qualification. This can be found in 18 USC 926C: Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. For example, if you qualified on May 1, 2022, then you must qualify on or prior to May 1, 2023.

The upcoming scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy are:

- Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 1300 hours

Additionally, all retirees may also reach out to their local District Headquarters for local weapons qualification availability.

You must complete a Weapons Qualifications Record (HP-15C), that includes your personal weapon information, and submit it to Melissa Fellure at [mjfellure@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:mjfellure@dps.ohio.gov) no less than 14 days prior to the qualification date. Retirees must bring their Division-issued ID Card with them to the qualification, and the retiree must supply weapon(s) and ammunition. If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Brian Nelson of the Academy Range at [bwnelson@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:bwnelson@dps.ohio.gov) or 614.644.4325.

## Important Numbers For You To Have On Hand

HPRS - (614) 431-0781  
VIA Benefits\* - (833) 431-1358  
Medicare - (800) 633-4227  
Medical Mutual of Ohio - (877) 520-6729  
Express Scripts\*\* - (866) 472-6249

Aetna Vision - (877) 973-3238  
Delta Dental of Ohio - (800) 524-0149  
Social Security - (800) 772-1213  
Ohio Def. Comp. - (877) 644-6457

\*VIA Benefits currently services Medicare-eligible beneficiary recipients only, for health care and prescription coverage. For those not yet Medicare-eligible, health care coverage is provided by HPRS through Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO).

\*\*Express Scripts coverage through HPRS for non-Medicare enrollment.

## HPRS Staff Email Directory

Carl Roark, Ph.D., *Executive Director* - [c.roark@ohprs.org](mailto:c.roark@ohprs.org)  
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## HPRS Board of Trustees

Major Matthew Them, *Chair*  
Major (ret.) Darryl Anderson, *Vice-Chair*  
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Sergeant (ret.) Michael Kasler  
Sergeant Derek Malone  
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Trooper Cynthia Wilt  
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Joseph Thomas, *Appointed Investment Expert*  
Craig Warnimont, *Appointed Investment Expert*

## **Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System**

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