



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

August 2025 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

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Message From the Executive Director

As we move through the final stretch of summer, I want to thank each of you for your continued trust and confidence in our retirement system. August is often a time of reflection and planning, and here at HPRS, we've been doing just that. We are currently engaged in a strategic plan update to more closely align staff and board actions with the mission, values, and priorities.

This year has brought both challenges and opportunities. We've seen increased interest in retirement counseling, and our team has worked diligently to ensure members receive timely, personalized guidance. We're also continuing to monitor legislative developments that may impact our members and we remain committed to advocating for policies that protect and strengthen your retirement security.

Whether you're a new HPRS member or decades into retirement, our mission remains the same: to serve you with integrity, transparency, and care.

Actuarial Report

Foster & Foster Actuaries and Consultants presented the final December 31, 2024 actuarial valuation for HPRS. The report reflected a 19-year amortization period and a funded ratio of 73.3% for the pension system. The health care fund is projected to remain solvent until 2045.



Board News

On August 21, 2025, retired Sergeant Michael Kasler, Sergeant Brice Nihiser, and Sergeant Derek Malone were sworn in as a result of being re-elected. Additionally, Major Matthew Them was re-elected board chair and retired Major Darryl Anderson was re-elected vice-chair.

HPRS Board/Staff Member: Spotlight of the Month

Governor's Investment Expert Appointee - JP Allen

JP Allen began his service as a Highway Patrol Retirement System board member in February 1998 when he was elected to complete an unexpired term. He continued to serve as an active elected member until his retirement in September 2005. In January 2009, JP was elected to fulfill the remainder of a retiree representative term, serving through July 2010. His dedication and expertise led to his appointment in August 2012 by Governor John Kasich as the Governor's Investment Expert Appointee. Since then, he has remained an active and highly respected member of the Board, contributing valuable insight and leadership.



Graduating from the 92nd Academy Class in 1971 and dedicating 34 years to the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP), he served in a variety of leadership roles. He retired in September 2005 as Commander of the Office of Planning and Information Services. Throughout his distinguished career, he held key positions including Hamilton Post Commander and is especially recognized for his service as the Patrol's legislative liaison. In that role, he worked closely with Ohio's senators and representatives to advance the mission and priorities of the OSHP. His commitment to excellence was further reflected in him being honored five times as Trooper of the Year at the Wooster Post.

JP currently resides in Wooster, Ohio. He is a proud father of a son who recently retired from the OSHP, continuing the family's legacy of public service. JP is also a devoted grandfather to three grandchildren and great-grandfather to two great-grandchildren. A passionate sports enthusiast, he is an avid supporter of the Ohio State Buckeyes, Cleveland Browns, and Cleveland Guardians. When he is not cheering on his favorite teams, JP enjoys staying active by working around his home and spending time fishing for perch and walleye.



Wellness Program Discontinued after 2025

After extensive debate and consideration, the HPRS wellness program will be discontinued at the end of this year. This decision was not an easy one for the board, because there are many stories of early detection of medical issues for our members. However, efforts to continue the program have been unsuccessful.

There are several events that forced this change, starting with Central Ohio Primary Care withdrawing from our agreement to provide screenings. The search to replace the testing in central Ohio was unsuccessful. When reviewing the wellness program overall it was found that less than 5% of those eligible participated in the screenings and wellness exams. A survey of the members found the top two reasons for not participating were not being located near central Ohio, and the availability of similar tests through their doctor.

HPRS consulted with a medical advisor to determine what tests to offer, and although there are standard tests, many tests are available. The recommended practice is for members to continue prioritizing their well-being through regular visits with their healthcare providers. By working with your primary care physician, you can get personalized and comprehensive guidance tailored to your individual health needs.

Health screenings are eligible for HRA reimbursement. Please direct any questions or concerns to Executive Director Carl Roark.

Myths and Misconceptions

Misconception: "I'll pay less in taxes once I retire."

This isn't true for many. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from tax-deferred accounts like 401(k)s and IRAs can push retirees into higher tax brackets. Plus, Social Security benefits may be taxable depending on your income. Members are encouraged to consult with a financial planner and/or tax professional to best plan for retirement.



Business and Government Impersonators Go After Older Adults' Life Savings

Scammers posing as government agencies or well-known businesses are increasingly going after retirees' life savings. They weave a web of lies about some bogus crisis, then they trick older adults into giving them tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The scams start with lies designed to create a sense of urgency and fear.

Lie #1: Someone is using your accounts. Scammers pretend to be a bank employee with a warning about suspicious account activity, or claim to be an Amazon rep following up on potentially fraudulent purchases.

Lie #2: Your information is being used to commit crimes. Scammers might say they're with the government and tell their target that their Social Security number is linked to serious crimes.

Lie #3: There's a security problem with your computer. This lie might start with a computer security alert that warns of a hacked computer with a phone number to call for help.

Once they've convinced their mark that the crisis is real, they make empty promises and offer fake "help." They say the only way to get out of the situation is to follow their very specific instructions - which always involve moving money. They tell the target that doing so will protect the money in their accounts or clear their name. Some say they're helping catch the "real" criminals.

How can you protect yourself from a business or government impostor scam?

1. Never transfer or send money to anyone in response to an unexpected call or message. Even if they claim you're moving money to "protect it."
2. Talk about it with someone you trust. Especially if the stranger on the phone says it's serious, involves a crime, or claims to be from the government.
3. If you think the message could be real, verify the story. Contact the organization in question using a phone number, website, or email address you know is real. Don't use the contact information in the unexpected message.



Job Opportunities for Retirees

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

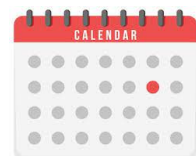
September 2025 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, September 17, 2025 the Health, Wellness, & Disability Committee will meet at 1300 hours.

Some committee meetings may be canceled from time to time. Please refer to the HPRS website at www.ohprs.org for the most current meeting dates and times.

Save the Date!

- Retirees' Association 50th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, November 8, 2025 - TBD - Aladdin Shrine Center - Grove City, OH
- 2026 Snowbird Reunion, March 5-7, 2026 - Lake Mary, Florida



Our office will be closed:

~ Monday, September 1, 2025 - Labor Day



Retiree Qualification

The Academy Range will be hosting annual retiree qualifications in 2025. 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, 2024, then you must qualify on or prior to May 1, 2025.

Upcoming scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy for 2025 are:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 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 to Melissa Fellure at 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 or 614.644.4325.

Important Numbers For You To Have On Hand

HPRS - 614.431.0781
Via Benefits (**Medicare**) - 833.431.1358
Via Benefits (**Pre-Medicare**) - 800.667.2184
Medicare - 800.633.4227

Aetna Vision - 877.973.3238
Delta Dental of Ohio - 800.524.0149
Social Security - 800.772.1213
Ohio Def. Comp. - 877.644.6457

HPRS Staff Email Directory

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HPRS Board of Trustees

Major Matthew Them, *Chair*
Major (ret.) Darryl Anderson, *Vice-Chair*
Colonel Charles Jones
Sergeant (ret.) Michael Kasler
Sergeant Derek Malone
Lieutenant Christian Niemeyer
Sergeant Brice Nihiser
Trooper Cynthia Wilt
Major (ret.) JP Allen, *Appointed Investment Expert*
Craig Warnimont, *Appointed Investment Expert*