HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

August 2026 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781

"Our History Is Our Pride"

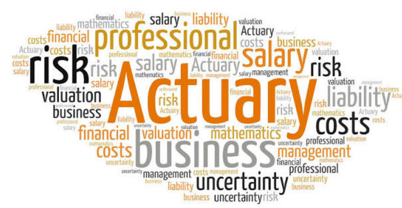
In this newsletter:

Board News

On August 20, 2026, retired Major Darryl Anderson, retired Major JP Allen, Craig Warnimont, and Lieutenant Christian Niemeyer were sworn in as a result of being re-elected and re-appointed.

Additionally, Major Matthew Them was elected board chair and retired Major Darryl Anderson was elected vice-chair.

Actuarial Report



Foster & Foster Actuaries and Consultants presented the final December 31, 2025 actuarial valuation for HPRS. The report reflected a 18-year amortization period and a funded ratio of 73.5% for the pension system. The health care fund is expected to remain solvent until 2046.

When an Obituary Becomes a Scammers Roadmap

An obituary is meant to honor someone’s life and inform friends and family of their passing. Unfortunately, scammers may see it as something very different: a source of information they can use to target the people left behind. This is a reminder to be careful about how much personal information is shared publicly—especially online.

An obituary can sometimes provide a surprising amount of information, including:

- The deceased person's full name
- Names of spouses, children, grandchildren and other relatives
- Where family members live
- Names of funeral homes, churches or cemeteries
- Dates and locations of services
- Military, employment or organizational affiliations
- Family relationships and nicknames
- Photos of family members

The Ohio Attorney General has warned about “obituary pirates”—scammers who use information from online obituaries to target deceased individuals and their surviving family members. In some cases, scammers may even wait months or years before using the information.

With information gathered from an obituary, social media, and other publicly available sources, criminals can create highly personalized scams.

Artificial intelligence can help scammers write convincing messages, create fake social media profiles and even clone someone's voice. The FBI warns that AI-generated voices can be used to impersonate family members and other trusted individuals.

Imagine an obituary announces the passing of a retired officer. It lists his wife, his daughter and his grandson, including where the funeral service will be held. A few days later, his wife receives a phone call.

> “Grandma, it's me. I’m in trouble. I was in an accident and need money right away. Please don't tell Mom and Dad—I don't want them to worry.”

The voice sounds exactly like her grandson. The caller may even know his name, the name of his parents and details about the family. But it isn't her grandson. It could be a scammer using information gathered from the obituary and social media, combined with AI-generated or voice-cloned audio. The goal is to create fear, urgency and trust before the victim has time to think.

If someone contacts you with an emergency involving money, personal information or access to an account: STOP. DON'T ACT ON EMOTION. VERIFY. Even if the voice sounds exactly like someone you know. Hang up and call that person directly using a phone number you already have—not a number provided by the caller. You can also contact another family member to confirm the situation.

The Federal Trade Commission gives similar advice for family-emergency scams: slow down, verify the situation independently and don't allow pressure or urgency to force you into making a financial decision.

One simple way to fight AI voice-cloning scams is to establish a family password or secret phrase. For example:

> “If anyone calls claiming to be a family member and needs money urgently, they must tell us our family phrase.”

Choose something that isn't publicly available on Facebook, an obituary or another website. If the caller doesn't know it, don't send money. The FBI specifically recommends creating a secret word or phrase with family members to help verify their identities.

When writing an obituary, consider whether every detail needs to be public. You may want to limit:

- Exact home addresses
- Full birth dates
- Personal phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Detailed information about surviving relatives
- Children's or grandchildren's schools or workplaces
- Travel plans or information about when the family will be away from home

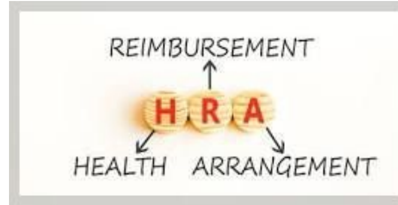
You can still create a meaningful obituary without providing scammers with a complete family directory.

Be especially suspicious when someone:

- Demands immediate payment
- Says “Don't tell anyone”
- Claims to be a family member in an emergency
- Requests gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers or unusual payment methods
- Sends a link and tells you to click it immediately
- Contacts you from a new phone number or social-media account
- Claims to be a funeral home, attorney, police officer, government agency or financial institution
- Requests passwords, Social Security numbers or verification codes
- Becomes angry or threatening when you say you want to verify the information

Remember: Caller ID can be spoofed, and a familiar voice is no longer proof that the caller is really who they claim to be. Scammers may also use information from an obituary to impersonate a funeral home or other legitimate business. The FTC has warned about scammers posing as funeral-home employees and demanding immediate payment from grieving families. If someone contacts you requesting money, independently call the funeral home using a phone number you already know is legitimate.

2027 HRA Allowance



The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) allowance was analyzed closely for the ability to increase it for 2027. The board took into consideration the rising costs of health care, as well as the solvency period of the Health Care Fund based on the most recent valuation. The decision was made to increase the HRA allowance for both the Pre-Medicare HRA and the Medicare HRA. For Medicare-eligible retirees enrolled in coverage through Via Benefits, the Medicare HRA will increase from $225 to $255 (13.33%) per month. The Pre-Medicare HRA allowance will be increased by 12.5%. By increasing the base from $800 to $900 (12.5%), everyone receiving a Pre-Medicare HRA allowance will experience a 12.5% increase. The updated chart for 2027 is posted to our website **(click here)**.

Job Opportunities for Retirees

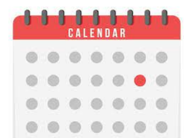
Job opportunities are listed in the secure area of our website (**www.ohprs.org**). Please check this periodically to ensure you are aware of any new postings.

September 2026 HPRS Meetings

On Tuesday, September 15, 2026 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!



- 2026 Retirees' Association Annual Meeting & Dinner- November 14, 2026 - Aladdin Shrine
- 2027 Snowbird Reunion - February 26-27, 2027 - Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Florida

Please visit our website for more details and for RSVP information, **www.ohprs.org**.

Our office will be closed:

~ Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day

Retiree Qualification

The Academy Range will be hosting annual retiree qualifications in 2026. 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.*

Upcoming scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy for 2026 are:

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 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

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