



Highway Patrol Retirement System

Newsletter

December 2014

Firearms Concealed Carry Qualification

In its third year, many retirees took advantage of the firearms concealed carry qualifications at the Patrol Academy range. Qualified retired officers can complete the requirements of The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (H.R. 218), enacted in 2004, to carry a concealed weapon under Federal authority. Under the provisions of this Federal resolution, Patrol Retirees who have separated from the division in good standing can qualify with their firearm, at their own expense, once every twelve months by completing a course of fire that meets the same standards as active duty Patrol officers. The Academy is offering this service again in 2015.

Training and qualification dates for 2015 have been scheduled:

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, from 1300 hours to 1600 hours

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, from 1300 hours to 1600 hours

Wednesday, August 19, 2015, from 1300 hours to 1600 hours

Wednesday, November 4, 2015, from 1300 hours to 1600 hours

Permits are valid for one calendar year from the date of previous qualification, and qualification dates are established to maximize the 12-month cycle. The August date is unavoidably one week later than in 2014 due to the Ohio State Fair.

OSHP retirees must complete a written request for approval (HP-15C). This approval application can be obtained from <http://statepatrol.ohio.gov/training.stm> or from our website. Applications received later than 14 days prior to the qualification date will be deferred to the next qualification date. Retirees must bring their ID card with them to the qualification and must supply their own weapon(s) and ammunition.

Additional information about this concealed carry program will be provided on the day of your qualification or by calling Lt. Steven Click, Division Armorer, at 614-752-7083. If this is your first time to qualify, it is recommended you contact Lt. Click in advance with any questions you may have.

1099-R FYI

- We are in the process of preparing 1099s for 2014 and plan to have them mailed by the middle of January 2015.
- 1099s will be available on our secure website beginning in January 2015. Simply log in and print at your convenience!**
- Remember to update your address if you have moved so your 1099 will be mailed to the most current address.

2015 Pension Deposit Dates

January 20	July 20
February 20	August 20
March 20	September 21
April 20	October 20
May 20	November 20
June 22	December 21



Snowbird & Aztecbird 2015

The 28th Annual Snowbird Reunion will be held in Orlando, Florida at the International Palms Resort from February 27-March 1, 2015. The hotel reservation deadline is January 27, 2015.

The 12th Annual Aztecbird will be held on January 10, 2015, in Mesa, Arizona. Please RSVP by January 5, 2015.

For more details on both events, please visit www.ohprs.org and click on "Upcoming Retiree Events".



Pre-Retirement Seminar

On October 8, 2014, the Patrol hosted a pre-retirement seminar in the newly opened Leadership Wing at the Academy. Approximately 90 future retir-

ees and spouses attended the one-day event. We continue to work with the Patrol to better prepare active members for retirement.



2014 Retirees' Association Annual Meeting & Dinner

The Retirees' Association Annual Meeting and dinner were held Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Aladdin Shrine Center, Columbus, Ohio. Over 100 were in attendance. Association officers for 2015 were sworn in and include: President Gil Jones, 1st Vice President Lou Gliozzi, 2nd Vice President Pam Sullivan, Secretary Kevin Titler, and Treasurer Brian Landis. We thank them and Past President Richard (Butch) Collins for their service.



Beginning in 2015, you may notice a slight variance in your pension checks due to the new Federal tax tables being released in January.

Medical ID Cards

All Medical Mutual of Ohio enrollees will receive new medical ID cards for 2015. Please begin using these on January 1.

There will not be new cards issued for Aetna Medicare Advantage, Express Scripts, or Aetna Vision enrollees.

Delta Dental does not issue cards. For the dental group number, please visit www.ohprs.org.

HPRS Investment Returns

Date	Investment Portfolio Market Value	YTD Increase/(Decrease)
12/4/2014 (est.)	\$837,000,000	6.8%
12/31/2013	\$813,953,000	19.6%
12/31/2012	\$717,036,000	11.9%
12/31/2011	\$679,404,000	

Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft

The past few months have seen an increase in spam, viruses and internet security attacks. Confidential information stored on your computer can be at-risk for theft or fraud. Here are some tips for protecting your personal information when you use the internet:

- ⇒ Install a well-rated anti-virus software (such as Norton AV, AVG, VIPRE or Kaspersky) to prevent malware attacks. Do not rely on free or trial-version programs, as they quickly expire and will leave you unprotected. Anti-virus software can help prevent a hacker from searching your email address book and sending emails masquerading as you.
- ⇒ Be wary of opening email from people you know that have suspicious attachments, links, or content that is out of character with the person you know.

- ⇒ Watch out for bogus websites you access by surfing the internet or from a link in a spam email. The email can sometimes appear legitimate and may purport to be from your bank, credit card company, etc. The link may download a virus or ask you to enter personal information. **NEVER ENTER YOUR DATA INTO SUCH A WEBPAGE!** No legitimate bank or credit card company will ask for personal data via a web page.
- ⇒ Sometimes viruses will pretend to be an anti-virus program and issue repeated notifications that you have infections on your computer. They will offer a web link where you can pay money and “download” a fix. These are always scams and result in you losing your money, handing credit card information to someone who will abuse it, and potentially downloading a program that will send data to a scammer.



HPRS Facts & Figures

	Number	Average Benefit	Average Age
Service Retirees	1,123	\$43,775	66.4
Surviving Spouses/ Children	248/22	\$16,954/\$2,176	75.5/21.1
Disability Retirees	125	\$34,661	53.8
Total	1,518	\$38,073	66.2

Data as of 12/8/2014

Our office will be closed on —

December 25 (Christmas Day)

January 1 (New Year’s Day)

January 19 (Martin Luther King Day)

February 16 (Presidents’ Day)

IRS Announces Deferral Limits Increase

Active members can now defer more into their Ohio Deferred Compensation account in 2015 as the IRS recently announced that employees’ annual deferral limits will increase. The 2015 limits are:

- Regular Deferral Limit** **\$18,000**
- Age 50-Plus Deferral Limit** **\$24,000**
- Catch-Up Deferral Limit** **\$36,000**



Changes to Final Average Salary (FAS) in 2015

The final change to the 2012 pension reform legislation will take effect January 1, 2015. For those who retire on or after January 1, 2015, the final average salary (FAS) will be calculated on the average of the highest salary paid during any 5 consecutive or nonconsecutive years.

December 27, 2014 is the last day to submit a DROP Application and enter DROP in order to be grandfathered for FAS. The application must be in the HPRS office by Friday, December 26.



From the Director

In October, we sent out a satisfaction survey to all active and retired members and surviving spouses. 183 active members and 469 retired members and surviving spouses responded. To compare what progress we have made, many of the questions were the same as the 2011 and 2012 surveys.

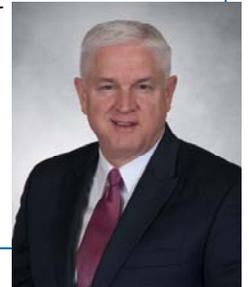
Over the last three years, HPRS staff has made a concerted effort to provide better customer service to its membership. Areas we wanted you to evaluate included:

Responsiveness to your requests; Friendliness of service; Timeliness of service; Accuracy of information; Willingness to search for answers; Level of knowledge; and Customer focus.

According to the survey results, we are achieving that goal. In all of these categories, the ratings have steadily increased, and in a couple of areas, pretty significantly. We will continue to strive to provide the highest level of customer service to our membership.

We appreciated the many positive comments that were included, but the few negative comments were also appreciated. This allows us to address specific issues to which otherwise we may not have been aware. Part of our mission is to be customer service oriented. Feedback from you helps us to accomplish this.

—Mark Atkeson



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