



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

July 2026 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

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Message From the Executive Director

Explore the HPRS Benefits Video Library

Planning for retirement is easier when you have the right information. The HPRS Benefits Video Library provides members with convenient, on-demand access to educational videos covering the most relevant retirement benefits such as: Joint and Survivor Annuity (JSA), Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), Dental and Vision benefits, and more.

Whether you're early in your career or preparing to retire, the video library offers reliable information directly from HPRS, allowing you to learn at your own pace and revisit topics whenever needed. Take advantage of this valuable resource to better understand your benefits and make informed decisions about your financial future. If there is a topic that you feel needs added to the library, please let us know.

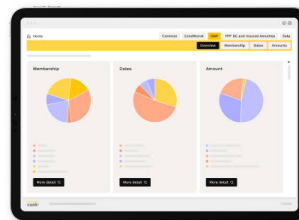


Board News

As a result of the 2026 retiree election, Major (retired) Darryl Anderson was re-elected and will be sworn in as a retiree trustee on August 20, 2026. Major (retired) Anderson received the most votes from the two candidates vying for the retiree position.

HPRS Pension Insight Dashboard

The Pension Insight Dashboard, located in the secure area of the HPRS website, has been updated to reflect the data from the most recent actuarial report. This document provides a summary of the historical experience for the most relevant categories of data, using graphs and charts to illustrate the experience. Please review and don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.



HPRS Newly Appointed General Assembly Investment Expert: Dustin Neely

Dustin Neely was commissioned as an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper in October 2002 as a member of the 139th Academy Class. During his 17-year career with the Division, he served approximately seven years as a road trooper before advancing into several specialized assignments. These included service in Capitol Operations at the Ohio Statehouse, Investigator, Investigative Supervisor, and ultimately Lieutenant in the Office of Personnel - Labor Relations.

While serving with OSHP, Dustin earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and later completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Organizational Management. In 2019, after 17 years of public service, he transitioned to the private sector and began a career in the insurance industry.

Dustin's first role in insurance was as the Cleveland Coordinator for the First Responder Task Force, where he specialized in life insurance solutions for first responders across 18 counties in Northeast Ohio. Later, he joined a State Farm agency as an Insurance and Financial Services Representative and Agent Aspirant, pursuing the opportunity to operate his own agency. During that time, Dustin obtained both the Series 6 and Series 65 securities licenses.

In 2022, Dustin joined Otto Insurance Group in Newark, Ohio, as an independent insurance agent and currently serves as a Senior Risk Advisor. His professional focus includes Property and Casualty Insurance, Commercial Insurance, and Life Insurance. He holds licenses in all major lines of insurance in the State of Ohio and is committed to helping individuals, families, and businesses manage risk and protect their financial futures.

In addition to his professional career, Dustin has remained active in community service and public leadership. He served on the Boards of Trustees for Mental Health America of Licking County and the Licking County Historical Society. In 2021, he was appointed by the Licking County Republican Central Committee to fill a vacant At-Large seat on Newark City Council. Later that year, Dustin was elected by the citizens of Newark to continue serving in that position, where he remains today as an At-Large Councilman. Most recently, he was appointed by the Ohio General Assembly to serve as a Trustee on the Board of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System.

Dustin and his wife, Cindy, reside in Newark, Ohio, with their two daughters, Madyson and Abygail. Cindy serves as a Vice President in Retail Banking with Park National Bank. Madyson is a student at The Ohio State University studying Psychology with plans to pursue a career in business, while Abygail attends Cleveland State University, where she is studying Political Science and Psychology with aspirations of attending law school. Outside of work and public service, Dustin enjoys traveling with his family, reading and collecting books, and spending time with friends over a good cigar and a bourbon.



New Ohio Employer Withholding Rates Effective August 1, 2026

The Ohio Department of Taxation has issued new Ohio withholding tables for payrolls that end on or after August 1, 2026. This change was necessary due to income tax rate reductions authorized under House Bill 96 (136th General Assembly).

You can find the new Ohio withholding tables under the "Tax Rates" drop down on the [Employer Withholding Tax webpage](#). Percentage and optional computer methods for calculating withholding as well as daily, weekly, biweekly, semi-monthly, and monthly tables are available.

Myths and Misconceptions

Misconception -- All pre-Medicare coverage plans are reimbursable from your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA).

Although the HPRS Pre-Medicare HRA uses an open model—meaning you do not need to obtain health care coverage through Via Benefits to qualify—not all coverage-related costs are reimbursable. For example, indemnity plans and sharing plans are not considered health insurance by the Internal Revenue Service, so tax-free HRA funds cannot be used to reimburse those expenses. Please contact Via Benefits with any questions about whether an expense is eligible for reimbursement.



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.

August 2026 HPRS Meetings

The Annual Board Conference is scheduled to be held in Berlin this year at the Berlin Grande Hotel on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 0900 hours, and Friday, August 21, 2026 at 0830 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 Sunbird Reunion - Saturday, August 8, 2026 - 11:00 a.m. - All Occasions Banquet Facility, Waldo, OH
- 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:

~ no closures in August

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, August 12, 2026, at 1300 hours
- 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

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

Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System

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