



# HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

June 2026 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



## *"Our History Is Our Pride"*

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### **In this newsletter:**

- Page 2** - Message from the Executive Director
- Page 2** - Board News
- Page 2** - 2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Page 2** - 2027 Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Allowance
- Page 3** - Myths and Misconceptions
- Page 3** - Job Opportunities for Retirees
- Page 3** - July 2026 HPRS Meeting Dates
- Page 3** - Save the Date
- Page 3** - Office Closures
- Page 3** - Retiree Qualification
- Page 4** - Contact Information





## Message From the Executive Director

As our country marks its 250th anniversary, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each of you whose service helped safeguard the freedoms and institutions we celebrate this year. Milestones like this remind us that the strength of the United States has always depended on the dedication of those willing to stand watch for their communities. Thank you for the role you played in that

legacy.

I hope this historic anniversary brings you pride, reflection, and meaningful time with those you hold close. I hope you enjoy a safe, relaxing Independence Day surrounded by family, friends, and the traditions that make this time of year so meaningful. As always, I encourage you to stay connected. Read our monthly updates, reach out with questions, and let us know how we can better serve you. This system exists for you, and your voice helps shape its future.



## Board News

HPRS received one candidacy form by the May 22, 2026 deadline for the employee-member trustee position. Per Ohio Administrative Rule 5505-9-01 (F), if the number of candidates is less than or equal to the number of available board seats, each candidate shall be certified as a trustee without the need for an election.

Lieutenant Christian J. Niemeyer is officially re-elected as employee-member trustee for the four-year term, August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2030. He will be sworn in at the August meeting.

HPRS received two candidacy forms by the May 22, 2026 deadline for the retiree-member trustee position. Ballots and candidate information were mailed June 11th. Ballots must be received at the HPRS office by 4:30 p.m. on July 17, 2026, to be counted. The deadline to request a ballot, if you did not receive one, is June 26, 2026. Ballots will be counted at the HPRS office on July 24, 2026.

## 2027 Cost-of-Living (COLA)

Each year, the board must decide whether to grant a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the upcoming year, to those members that qualify and, if so, at what amount. This decision is based on several factors, including the latest actuarial valuation report, input from an actuarial consultant, and a comprehensive funding policy. **For 2027, the board approved 2.68% COLA.**



## 2027 Health Reimbursement Arrangement (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 will be posted to our website soon.

## Myths and Misconceptions



A common misconception continues around waiting to enter the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), due to a recent promotion or contractual pay raise. Waiting to participate in DROP will increase the monthly pension amount due to the increase to the final average salary. However, on average it takes approximately 12.5 years to break even on the amount that would have been in their DROP account. If you take into consideration even a small amount of interest paid on the DROP assets, it pushes that break-even time out much farther. If you feel your circumstances are different or just want to have some numbers run, please feel free to contact HPRS.



## Job Opportunities for Retirees

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.

## July 2026 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, July 15, 2026, committee meetings will begin at 1300 hours, starting with the Health, Wellness, & Disability Committee.

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!



- 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](http://www.ohprs.org).



## Our office will be closed:

~ Friday, July 3rd - Independence 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, 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](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 (**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  
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Craig Warnimont, *Appointed Investment Expert*

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