



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

March 2025 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

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Message From the Executive Director

Tax Day will be here soon!

Although we love the many things that come with spring, like feeling the sunshine on our face, we also know that Tax Day will be here soon. For many of us it is a time of both dread and duty, as we

meet with our advisor to secure the best possible refund or, in some cases, write a check to the government. If you haven't filed your return yet, now's the time to gather your documents and complete your tax forms. The filing and payment deadline for most 2024 federal tax returns, as well as Ohio income tax, is April 15, 2025.

Retirees can access the necessary HPRS forms to file a tax return by logging onto our website. Whether you're expecting a refund or writing that check, take a deep breath, and know that you're not alone!



Board News

On July 31, 2025, the terms of Sergeant Brice Nihiser and Sergeant Derek Malone as employee-member trustees will end and the term of Sergeant (retired) Michael Kasler as retiree-member trustee will end.

Information will be distributed via read & sign for active members the end of April and will be mailed the end April for retired members. ***Watch for more information, and don't forget to cast your vote!***

HPRS Board/Staff Member: **Spotlight of the Month**

Elected Retired Member Representative Sergeant Michael Kasler

Mike Kasler was first elected for an unexpired term as a retired member representative to the Highway Patrol Retirement System Board in 2019. Since being elected, Mike has provided guidance and direction to all board members in representing our retirees. With nearly six years of board experience, he is known for providing sound logic and reasoning when addressing issues for all members.



Graduating from the 115th Academy class in 1986, Mike spent over 25 years serving the citizens of Ohio. During his career, he worked in the Columbus, Findlay, and Bucyrus Districts, ultimately retiring in 2010 as an Assistant Post Commander at the Marion Post. Since his retirement, he has remained very active, working since 2018 for the law firm Schwemer, Markley, McKinley & Seeley, LLC, as a Managing Member of the Taylor Creek Distilling Co. Ltd., as a Zoning Compliance Officer for three different townships in Hardin County, and, since 2011, serving as Company President of Kasler Oil and Gas Development, LLC.

His formal education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Findlay, and a Juris Doctor degree from Ohio Northern University.

Mike and his wife Teena currently reside in LaRue, Ohio. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. In what little free time he has, Mike and his wife enjoy getting away to their house on Catawba Island, where he enjoys fishing for perch and walleye. He also enjoys collecting muskets from the American Revolution and the Civil War.

Be Sure to Avoid Tech Support Scams



According to a recent report from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Americans 60 or older lost \$175 million in 2023 to tech support scams. This type of fraud often starts with a pop-up message with a logo from companies like Microsoft or Apple, saying your computer has a virus. You click a link or call a supposed support number, and they request remote access to your computer. The criminals can now access all the information on your machine and can install malware.

Malware is software intentionally designed to cause disruption to a computer or computer network. It is designed to access private information, gain unauthorized access to information or systems, etc. If malware is installed, the criminals can harvest login credentials to your online accounts, including financial accounts. If you suspect malware on your device, immediately contact your antivirus provider or a trusted IT professional.



Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts

How you care for your teeth and gums may play a role in your heart health.

Studies have shown that both periodontal (gum) disease and heart disease have similar underlying causes including age, tobacco use, genetics, stress, medications, poor nutrition and obesity.

However, another factor is the buildup of dental plaque over time. Gingivitis, an early state of gum disease, occurs when bacteria in the mouth grow into plaque, causing inflammation and bleeding in the gums. When left untreated, plaque can spread below the gum line, allowing bacteria to enter the bloodstream. Because of the inflammation and spread of bacteria into the bloodstream, it's believed that there is an increased risk for other systemic diseases such as heart disease.

Although more than 70 percent of Americans ages 65 and older have gum disease, there is good news. You can reduce your risk of heart disease and gum disease by practicing good oral health habits every day. Regular brushing, flossing and dental checkups are important for your smile and your heart.

Talk to your dentist if you notice any of these indicators of gum disease:

- Gums that bleed easily
- Red, swollen, tender gums
- Gums that have pulled away from the teeth
- Persistent bad breath or bad taste in the mouth
- Permanent teeth that are loose or separating
- Any change in the way the teeth fit together when biting
- Any change in the fit of partial dentures



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.

April 2025 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, committee meetings will begin at 1300 hours starting with the Administration Committee, followed by the Health, Wellness, & Disability Committee, the Health Care Funding Committee, and then the Special Committee on COLA.

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, beginning at 0900 hours, the Audit Committee will meet, followed by the Investment Committee at 0930 hours, and then the Board meeting at 1200 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!

- OSP Memorial Ceremony - Friday, May 9, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. - Academy
- Retiree Cookout - Friday, June 6, 2025 - 11:00 a.m. - Academy



Our office will be closed:

~ no closures in April

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, April 2, 2025, at 1300 hours
- Friday, June 6, 2025, from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Annual Retiree Cookout)
- Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1300 hours
- 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*

Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System

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