



# HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

March 2026 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



*"Our History Is Our Pride"*



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## Message From the Executive Director

### **Keep Calm and Stay the Course**

Market ups and downs are a normal part of investing—but they can feel unsettling when headlines are volatile and account balances fluctuate. During these periods, remaining calm is one of the most important decisions an investor can make.

History shows that market declines, while sometimes sharp, have been temporary. Investors who react emotionally by pulling out of the market often miss the recovery that follows. In contrast, those who stay invested are better positioned to benefit when markets rebound.

A long-term retirement strategy is built with market cycles in mind. Diversification, regular contributions, and a focus on long-term goals help cushion short-term volatility. Market downturns can even present opportunities—continued contributions during lower prices may buy more shares, setting the stage for future growth.

Retirement investing is a marathon, not a sprint. By trusting your strategy and avoiding knee-jerk reactions, you give your plan the stability it needs to work—even when markets are turbulent.



### Board News

On July 31, 2026, the terms of Lieutenant Christian Niemeyer as employee-member trustee and Major (retired) Darryl Anderson as retiree-member trustee will end.

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

### Top 5 Social Media Platforms with the Most Scams

**Facebook:** Coming in as the riskiest social media platform is Facebook. The most common digital threats on Facebook are malvertising (malicious advertising), phishing attacks, e-shop scams, and financial scams. Tech scams and dating scams were also prevalent. Facebook is the largest social network by average monthly users, so it's little surprise that it's such a popular target for fraudsters.



**YouTube:** YouTube was found to be the second-riskiest social media platform. The most common threats on YouTube were malvertisements, e-shop scams, and phishing attempts, with dating scams a distant fourth.

**X (Twitter):** While lower on the list, X users are still at risk of cyber-threat exposure, particularly generic scams, followed by phishing attacks, malvertising, and e-shop scams.

**Instagram:** Coming in at fourth-riskiest is Instagram, fueled primarily by e-shop scams, phishing, malvertising, dating scams, and financial scams.

**Reddit:** Closely following Instagram is Reddit. The most common threats on Reddit were malvertisements, phishing scams, and e-shop scams.

The most common social media scam tactics across all social media platforms by scammers and hackers are malvertising, phishing, e-shop scams, generic scams, financial scams, and tech scams.

- **Malvertising:** Malvertising involves cyber-criminals using online ads to spread malware or trick users into clicking harmful links. These ads often appear on legitimate sites and can infect a device or lead to phishing pages.
- **Phishing:** Phishing scams, a form of social engineering, use fake messages or posts designed to fool people into revealing personal or financial information. Victims are often directed to bogus websites that capture login credentials or payment details.
- **E-shop scams:** E-shop scams lure users into visiting fake online stores that may look highly realistic. But if you make a purchase, you're just sending your money or credit card information to a fraudster. The item you buy will never arrive. If you're lucky, you might get a counterfeit item.
- **Generic scams:** Generic internet scams cover a range of deceptive tactics, such as fake giveaways, impersonation attempts, or requests for money or personal data. They usually rely on creating urgency or establishing trust to convince users to act without doing any research.
- **Financial scams:** Financial scams promise easy money, fake investment opportunities, or quick loans in exchange for upfront payments or sensitive data. These schemes exploit users' financial worries or desire for profit. Various crypto scams are particularly common types of financial scams.
- **Tech scams:** Tech scams, such as fake virus alerts, may trick users into believing their device is infected or compromised, then push fake "support" services or software. Scammers may demand payment or remote access to install real malware.

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

### **Elected Active Member Representative Lieutenant Christian J. Niemeyer**

Lieutenant Christian "C.J." Niemeyer first ran for and was appointed to an unexpired term on the Highway Patrol Retirement System Board in 2021. He has remained focused on serving the membership and ensuring that the retirement system remains solvent and continues to flourish. C.J. works diligently to understand the interests of both active and retired members and the importance of balancing those interests for the long-term health of the system. He recognizes the challenges ahead and believes that an elected trustee must be both passionate about service and committed to guiding the fund responsibly. C.J. remains dedicated to providing this leadership on behalf of the Ohio State Highway Patrol family.



C.J. graduated from the 147th Academy Class in 2007 and went on to serve at the Wilmington, Granville, and Columbus Posts. He currently holds the position of Post Commander at the Columbus Highway Patrol Post, where he oversees daily operations. In addition to his current role, he previously served as Assistant Post Commander at Capital Operations, Mount Gilead, and the Columbus Posts. A major highlight of C.J.'s career came in 2013 when he was selected as the Ohio State Trooper of the Year. He is also the recipient of the Colonel Thomas Rice Leadership Award, the Columbus Post Trooper of the Year Award, multiple Criminal Patrol Awards, and the ACE Auto Larceny Award. Beyond his service with the Patrol, he served in the Ohio Army National Guard as an enlisted infantry soldier and later as an officer from 1999 to 2012, receiving an honorable discharge at the rank of Captain.

C.J. holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University with a minor in Military Science. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Residing in Canal Winchester with his wife Kristen and their two children, Ashton and Avery, C.J. enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He enjoys seeking out countless adventures with his family exploring the nearby parks and working on his hobby farm.



## Myths and Misconceptions

### **Myth: I can always catch-up retirement savings by investing more later.**

A common misconception is that delaying retirement savings isn't a big deal because you can make it up with larger contributions later in your career. In reality, time is one of the most valuable factors in building retirement security. Starting early allows compound interest to work longer, often resulting in greater growth with smaller, more manageable contributions. Waiting may require significantly higher savings rates to reach the same goals—and that can be challenging as other financial responsibilities increase. Starting sooner, even with modest amounts, can make a meaningful difference over time.



## 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.

## April 2026 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 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 16, 2026, 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](http://www.ohprs.org) for the most current meeting dates and times.

## Save the Date!

- OSP Memorial Ceremony - Friday, May 8, 2026 - 1:00 p.m. - Academy



Please visit our website for more details and for RSVP information, [www.ohprs.org](http://www.ohprs.org).



## Our office will be closed:

~ no closures in April

## 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, April 1, 2026, at 1300 hours
- Friday, June 5, 2026, from 0900-1030 hours (Annual Retiree Cookout)
- 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	Aetna Vision - 877.973.3238
Via Benefits ( <b>Medicare</b> ) - 833.431.1358	Delta Dental of Ohio - 800.524.0149
Via Benefits ( <b>Pre-Medicare</b> ) - 800.667.2184	Social Security - 800.772.1213
Medicare - 800.633.4227	Ohio Def. Comp. - 877.644.6457

## HPRS Staff Email Directory

Carl Roark, Ph.D., *Executive Director* - [c.roark@ohprs.org](mailto:c.roark@ohprs.org)  
Michael Press, *CIO/General Counsel* - [mpress@ohprs.org](mailto:mpress@ohprs.org)  
Anthony Bradshaw, *Chief Operations Officer* - [a.bradshaw@ohprs.org](mailto:a.bradshaw@ohprs.org)  
Holly Carr, *Executive Assistant* - [hcarr@ohprs.org](mailto:hcarr@ohprs.org)  
Renee Young, *Benefits Specialist* - [ryoung@ohprs.org](mailto:ryoung@ohprs.org)  
Charmaine Carter, *System Accountant* - [ccarter@ohprs.org](mailto:ccarter@ohprs.org)  
Jackie Huntzinger, *Project Manager* - [j.detter@ohprs.org](mailto:j.detter@ohprs.org)  
Krystal Tennant, *Administrative Assistant* - [k.tennant@ohprs.org](mailto:k.tennant@ohprs.org)

## 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*  
Craig Warnimont, *Appointed Investment Expert*

## **Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System**

1900 Polaris Parkway, Suite 201  
Columbus, Ohio 43240-4037  
614.431.0781  
[www.ohprs.org](http://www.ohprs.org)