



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

November 2025 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"



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Message From the Executive Director

HPRS members have three different and unique organizations dedicated to supporting those who served with honor and distinction in the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This article will briefly describe them, and refer you to their website for additional information.

The **Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association** or OSHPR (created in 1975) is likely the one you have heard the most about. OSHPR fosters camaraderie among retired members, offering opportunities to stay connected and provides for the commonly known events such as the Snowbird and Sunbird. They are a key supporter of the Annual Retirees Cookout at the Academy. OSHPR also provides for messages to their members about retiree events and other news such as a retiree passing. Their website is <https://www.oshpretiree.org/>.

The **Ohio State Troopers Retirees Association** or OSTR (created in 2001 under the Ohio State Troopers Association umbrella) works to ensure the voices of their members are heard regarding benefits. As stated on their website at <https://www.ohiotroopers.org/ohio-state-troopers-retirees-association>, their purpose is to look after the interests of Troopers and their families after retirement.

Complementing the efforts of these two retiree associations, **State Troopers of Ohio Inc.** (created in 2022) works tirelessly to advocate for legislation, regulations, and government programs that benefit the active and retired members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. For additional information on how to become a patron, or stay up to date on their efforts, please go to <https://www.troopertotrooper.com/STO.html>.

Best Practices for Password Security

Effective password security relies on creating long, complex, and unique passwords for each account, using a password manager to generate and store them, and enabling two-factor or multi-factor authentication (MFA) whenever possible. Avoiding common pitfalls like reusing passwords or using personal information is crucial, as a strong password is your first line of defense against data breaches and identity theft.



Creating strong passwords

- **Make them long:** Aim for at least 16 characters or more, as length is the most significant factor in a password's strength against brute-force attacks.
- **Use a mix of characters:** Combine uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols to increase complexity.
- **Avoid personal information:** Do not use easily guessed information like birthdays, names, or addresses. Also, avoid sequential characters (1234 or ABCD) or repeated characters.
- **Use passphrases:** A long, random passphrase of four or more words can be a secure and memorable alternative to a complex string of characters.

Managing your passwords

- **Use a password manager:** This is the most effective way to manage a large number of unique, complex passwords without needing to remember them all. A password manager can also help identify weak or reused passwords.
- **Use unique passwords for every account:** Never reuse a password. If one account is compromised in a breach, attackers cannot use that password to access your other accounts.
- **Change default passwords:** Always change the default passwords on new devices or accounts, as these are often well-known to attackers.

Protecting your accounts

- **Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA):** This adds an extra layer of security, requiring something you know (your password) and something you have (like a code from a phone), or a fingerprint.

- **Be wary of phishing:** Stay alert for phishing scams that try to trick you into revealing your credentials.
- **Never share your password:** Sharing your password compromises your account security.

They send you to a site that looks legitimate, with an official-sounding URL and government-looking seals - all fake. It'll ask you to enter your birth date and social security number to "look up how much you owe." It might ask you to pay up to \$10,000.00 in fines on the site, or send you to a "government kiosk" to pay by cryptocurrency. But every bit of this is a scam.



Social Security Benefits to Increase by 2.8% in 2026

The Social Security Administration announced that its benefit payments for 71 million recipients in 2026 will increase by 2.8%. The average monthly benefits for retired workers will rise by about \$56, to \$2,064 from \$2,008, starting in January, following the announcement of the annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Nearly 7.5 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will also see a 2.8% cost-of-living adjustment next year. In total, 75 million U.S. residents will receive either or both increased payments.

The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will also increase next year, to \$184,500 from \$176,100.

HPRS Board/Staff Member: Spotlight of the Month

Staff Member - Benefits Specialist Renee Young

Renee Young, originally from Centerburg, Ohio, began her career with the Highway Patrol Retirement System (HPRS) in November 1995 as a Bookkeeper. Over the past 30 years, she has held a variety of roles within the organization, demonstrating dedication, adaptability, and a deep commitment to serving Ohio's retired highway patrol personnel. Today, she serves as HPRS's sole Benefits Specialist, a role in which she provides invaluable support and guidance to members navigating their retirement benefits.



She attended Columbus State Community College, obtaining an associate's degree in accounting. Other than a part time job during college, she has made HPRS her career.

Renee currently resides in Delaware. She has a son, Andrew, who currently attends Columbus State Community College pursuing a degree in Social Work. When not at work, she remains highly active in her neighborhood homeowner's association. Renee enjoys spending time at Lake Erie, thrifting, going to craft shows, decorating & football.

Myths and Misconceptions

Misconception: My payroll records show the exact amount of HPRS service credit that I have towards retirement.



For several reasons, HPRS service credit can be different from what is shown on a member's payroll information. Most commonly, members may have worked for other agencies in

Ohio but were not actually paying into HPRS. Additionally, if a member had a break in service, unpaid leave, or periods without retirement contributions, those may reduce credited time even though payroll shows continuous employment. If you have questions about your service credit, please contact HPRS.



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.

December 2025 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, December 17, 2025, committee meetings will begin at 1300 hours, starting with the Administration Committee, followed by the Health, Wellness, & Disability Committee, and then the Health Care Funding Committee.

On Thursday, December 18, 2025, beginning at 0900 hours, the Audit Committee will meet, followed by the Investment Committee at 0930 hours, and the Board meeting at 1200 hours. As a reminder, Board meetings are made available to everyone via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information can be found on the corresponding agenda for each meeting, which is posted to our website.

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 Snowbird Reunion, March 5-7, 2026 - Lake Mary, Florida

Please visit our website for more details and for RSVP information, <https://www.ohprs.org/ohprs/RetireeEventsCalendar.jsp>



Our office will be closed:

- ~ Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day
- ~ Thursday, January 1st - New Year's 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, January 14, 2026, at 1300 hours
- 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 **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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Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System

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