HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

October 2026 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

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Message From the Executive Director

One of the valuable benefits provided by the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System is access to our Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) program. To make the most of this benefit, stay engaged with Via Benefits and review your healthcare coverage periodically. You should receive personalized correspondence directly from Via Benefits. If you are not receiving it, contact Via Benefits to confirm that your address and other information are correct. You must update your information directly with Via Benefits; changes made with HPRS do not update Via Benefits' records.

Medicare open enrollment runs from October 15th through December 7th each year. Because healthcare plans, costs, and individual needs change over time, Via Benefits offers professional guidance and access to plans that can help you find coverage suited to your circumstances.

Your Medicare HRA allowance is available only while you are enrolled in an eligible plan through Via Benefits. If you obtain coverage elsewhere, you will lose the allowance and generally cannot regain eligibility until the next enrollment period. Before making any coverage decisions, please contact Via Benefits and discuss your options with one of their licensed advisors. Doing so can help ensure you have the coverage you need while preserving access to this important retirement benefit.

Useful Tips to Improve Experience with Via Benefits:

- Estimated call wait times usually reflect a worst-case scenario in which everyone ahead of you remains on the line.
- At the start of the call, you will be asked to verify your identity using your date of birth, the last four digits of your Social Security number, and possibly additional information if you call from a phone number not listed on your account. If you do not complete verification, you may be moved to the end of the queue.
- Scheduling an appointment is the best option because it gives you priority. However, you may still experience a brief delay if advisors are running behind.

Thank you for your service and for allowing us to serve you in retirement!



Life Line Screenings: Preventative Heart Health Screenings

How Life Line Screening Helps:

As a Highway Patrol Retirement System member, you are eligible for an exclusive rate of $135 on Life Line Screening's law enforcement preventative health services, with an optional Cortisol screening add-on for just $15 (a $246 total value). Get screened for the following chronic conditions that often go undetected until it's too late:

- Carotid Artery Disease
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- Cortisol Levels
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Peripheral Artery Disease

Life Line Screening

Appointments are quick, convenient, and non-invasive. Members can choose from more than 15,000 community events nationwide and book a time slot that fits their schedule. In addition, the program is available to family members and friends. Simply share the registration webpage below

along with the priority code to help extend access to these important preventative health services.

Learn more at **Life Line Screening Registration** or call 1.888.763.4163 to schedule. Use priority code: **BPAA001**

Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Protect Yourself Online



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a great time to review how we protect ourselves from online threats. We know the importance of staying alert, recognizing suspicious behavior, and taking precautions. Those same skills are just as valuable when it comes to protecting our personal information online.

Cyber-criminals continually develop new ways to steal money, obtain personal information, and gain access to financial accounts. Scams may arrive through emails, text messages, phone calls, or social media. Some criminals even use artificial intelligence (AI) to create convincing messages or imitate the voices of family members.

Simple Tips to Stay Safe

- Use strong passwords. Create unique passwords for each account, and consider using a password manager.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA). This extra security step helps prevent unauthorized access, even if someone obtains your password.
- Think before you click. Avoid clicking unexpected links or opening suspicious attachments, even if a message appears to come from a familiar source.
- Keep devices updated. Install updates for your phone, computer, and apps to help protect against security vulnerabilities.
- Watch for urgent requests. Scammers often claim there is an emergency or demand immediate payment. Verify requests independently before sending money.
- Protect personal information. Be mindful of what you share on social media. Criminals can use personal details, family information, and travel announcements to target victims.
- Verify before you trust. If someone claims to be from your bank, a government agency, or a family member in trouble, contact them directly using a trusted phone number.

If You Suspect a Scam

Do not respond or provide personal information. If you believe your account has been compromised, contact your bank or financial institution immediately, change affected passwords, and report the incident.

Cybersecurity is about prevention, awareness, and taking a moment to think before acting. Stay alert, stay informed, and stay safe online!

For additional cybersecurity tips, visit the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency at **www.cisa.gov/secure-our-world**.



National Retirement Security Month

Every October, National Retirement Security Month (NRSM) serves as a reminder to evaluate your retirement plans and take steps towards a financially secure future. Established to promote the importance of saving for retirement, NRSM encourages individuals to reflect on their financial goals, assess their current savings, and make informed decisions to ensure a comfortable retirement.

Retirement planning is essential for maintaining financial wellness and quality of life in one's later

years. With increasing life expectancy and rising healthcare costs, having a robust retirement plan is more critical than ever. Periodically review your retirement plan and make adjustments as needed to stay on track with your goals.

Members are encouraged to seek professional financial advice. As a reminder, for participants in Ohio Deferred Compensation (ODC), a variety of resources are available. Whether you're trying to accumulate savings or develop withdrawal strategies, they have the support you need. ODC's free financial wellness program, Enrich, can assist you with your overall financial wellness.

2027 Dental Coverage Premium Change



Dental coverage premiums will increase in 2027. For retirees and surviving spouses, the premiums will increase to $12 per month. The premium for a spouse or for child(ren) will increase to $30 per month.



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.

Retiree Qualification

The Academy Range will be hosting annual retiree qualifications in 2027. 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.



2027 scheduled retiree qualifications at the Academy are:

- Wednesday, January 13, 2027, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, March 31, 2027, at 1300 hours
- Friday, June 2027, from 0900-1030 hours **(Annual Retiree Cookout - Date TBD)**
- Wednesday, August 11, 2027, at 1300 hours
- Wednesday, October 6, 2027, 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.

December 2026 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 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 17, 2026, beginning at 0900 hours, the Audit Committee will meet, followed by the Investment Committee at 0930 hours, and the Board meeting immediately following. 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 board 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 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:

~ Wednesday, November 11th - Veteran's Day
~ Thursday and Friday, November 26th & 27th - Thanksgiving

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

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

HPRS Board of Trustees

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Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System

1900 Polaris Parkway, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43240-4037
614.431.0781
www.ohprs.org