



HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

September 2025 Newsletter

Contact Us: 614.431.0781



"Our History Is Our Pride"

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Message From the Executive Director

October marks National Retirement Security Month—a timely reminder for retirees to take stock of their financial well-being and ensure retirement plans continue to support the lifestyle they have worked so hard to achieve. Whether you're newly retired or have been enjoying your golden years for a while, this month offers a valuable opportunity to revisit your financial strategies and make adjustments where needed.

Retirement security isn't just about having enough savings—it's about feeling confident that your income, healthcare, housing, and daily expenses are covered for the long haul. With inflation, market fluctuations, and changing healthcare needs, it's wise to periodically review your budget, investment allocations, and insurance coverage. Consider speaking with a financial advisor to explore options like annuities, long-term care insurance, or optimizing Social Security benefits.

National Retirement Security Month also encourages retirees to stay informed. Organizations like Ohio Deferred Compensation offer free webinars, workshops, and resources to help you navigate the complexities of retirement planning. Staying engaged and proactive can make a big difference in maintaining peace of mind and financial stability.

So take a moment during the next month to celebrate your retirement—and to ensure it remains secure, resilient, and fulfilling for years to come.

Get Ready for Medicare Open Enrollment

IMPORTANT

As a reminder, Medicare Open Enrollment starts October 15 and ends December 7, 2025. Most importantly, make sure that any changes that you consider are made through Via Benefits to avoid losing your Medicare HRA allowance. We have had some members enroll in Medicare coverage through another broker and lost their HRA for the year. Please be cautious and avoid that mistake.

Health insurance premiums often change yearly, due to rising healthcare costs, admin fees, etc. All members are encouraged to review the plans available to them to ensure the coverage they are enrolled in continues to be the best available to meet their individual needs. Watch for additional information that will be sent from Via Benefits.



New Ohio Withholding Rates Effective October 1, 2025

The Ohio Department of Taxation has issued new Ohio withholding tables for payrolls that end on or after October 1, 2025.

This change was necessary due to income tax rate reductions authorized under House Bill 96 (136th General Assembly).

Percentage and optional computer methods for calculating withholding as well as daily, weekly, biweekly, semi-monthly, and monthly tables are available.

HPRS Board/Staff Member: Spotlight of the Month

Ex Officio Member - Colonel Charles A. Jones

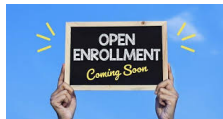
Colonel Charles Jones joined the HPRS Board in August 2022 as the Ex Officio Member. He serves on the board by virtue of his role as Superintendent of the division. With a distinguished career that has seen him rise through every rank, Colonel Jones brings a wealth of experience and a well-rounded perspective to the board. His deep understanding of the needs of both active and retired members informs his thoughtful and compassionate approach to decision-making. Known for his sound judgment and integrity, he consistently applies reasoned analysis to every matter before the board.



Colonel Jones, a graduate of the 126th Academy class in 1994, began his distinguished career at the Marion Post. He was later promoted to sergeant and assigned to the Delaware Post, where he also contributed to the Patrol's Training Academy. Advancing to the rank of lieutenant, he remained at the Academy and served in various roles including the Office of Personnel, the Columbus District Criminal Patrol, and as post commander at the Marion Post. His career continued to progress with a promotion to staff lieutenant, during which he served at both the Academy and the Bucyrus District Headquarters. As captain, he oversaw daily operations, demonstrating strong leadership and operational expertise. He then served as major in the Office of Training, Recruitment, and Diversity, followed by a promotion to lieutenant colonel. Ultimately, Colonel Jones was sworn in as the division's 20th Superintendent, marking the pinnacle of a career defined by dedication and service. Prior to joining the Ohio State Highway Patrol, he began his law enforcement journey as a dispatcher and jailer with the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

He holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and also attended the United States Army War College.

Colonel Jones resides in Carlisle, Ohio with his lovely wife, Royel. They are proud parents of two adult daughters and recently welcomed their first granddaughter. In his free time, he enjoys spending quality time with family, attending church, golfing, and fishing.



2026 Open Enrollment - Dental & Vision

The 2026 open enrollment period is November 1st - 30th. Please submit a Dental & Vision Election form for new enrollment or to add an eligible dependent. The form can be found in the secure area of our website at www.ohprs.org, under "Forms". If you do not have any changes, coverage will continue as previously selected. *Termination of dental and vision may also be done during the open enrollment period. The Termination of Coverage form can also be found on our website under "Forms".*

Myths and Misconceptions

Misconception: An HPRS pension alone will be enough to maintain the same lifestyle throughout retirement years.



While the HPRS pension is a valuable benefit, it is important to recognize the need for additional retirement income for greater financial security. For decades, members have been encouraged to participate in the Ohio Deferred Compensation (ODC) program or explore other investment opportunities to supplement retirement income. The concept of the "three-legged stool" remains a powerful symbol in retirement planning—representing a balanced approach that includes your HPRS pension, Social Security, personal savings. By diversifying your retirement income, you can better prepare for future expenses and enjoy greater financial freedom in your retirement years.

Ohio Department of Taxation Warns of New Text Message Scam Including Website Impersonation

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) is warning taxpayers about text messages falsely claiming to be from the department that leads recipients to a website impersonating ODT's site.

The text message states, "Your tax refund request has been approved and is now pending release." It asks recipients to finalize processing by clicking on the link provided to confirm their account details. The fraudulent link takes users to a webpage that mimics ODT's page and improperly displays ODT's logo and branding.

"Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, even going so far as to copy our logos and create fake websites that look official," said Ohio Tax Commissioner Patricia Harris. "I want Ohioans to know that the Department of Taxation will never contact you by text about your taxes or refunds. If you receive one of these messages, do not click the link—go directly to tax.ohio.gov to ensure you are on our official site."

Important Reminders for Taxpayers:

ODT **does not** use text messaging to contact taxpayers about tax matters and **does not** request or disperse payment through text.

Here are some other important tips to keep in mind:

- **Do not** click links or respond to suspicious texts.
- **Do not** share personal or financial information via text.
- Verify the web address. Taxation's official website is **tax.ohio.gov**.
- When in doubt, contact us through our official channels, found on tax.ohio.gov. Use the phone numbers and email options listed on our Contact Us page.

If you feel you have been the victim of an imposter scam, you should always contact local law enforcement as well as the credit reporting agencies to let them know your information has been compromised. You should also report it to the **Ohio Attorney General** as well as the Office of Consumer Affairs within the Division of Financial Institutions at the Ohio Department of Commerce at (866) 278-0003 or **webdfi-oca@com.ohio.gov**.



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.

October 2025 HPRS Meetings

On Wednesday, October 15, 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, October 16, 2025, 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 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!

- Retirees' Association 50th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, November 8, 2025 - 5:00 p.m. - Aladdin Shrine Center - Grove City, OH
- 2026 Snowbird Reunion, March 5-7, 2026 - Lake Mary, Florida



Our office will be closed:

~ no closures in October



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, 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

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Craig Warnimont, *Appointed Investment Expert*

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