

Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association Meeting

March 5, 2021

11:00 AM

First Quarter Business Meeting 2021 – OSHPRS Zoom Video Conference

Meeting called to order by President Bob Booker at 11:01 AM

Pledge of Allegiance by Vice President Dale LaRue

Roll call of board & district representatives by Secretary Christine Untrauer, quorum of 11 officers were in attendance. (President Bob Booker, 1st Vice President Dale LaRue, 2nd Vice President Ginny Fogt, Secretary Christine Untrauer, Treasurer Brenda Collins, District Representatives: Findlay, Ken Walerius; Bucyrus, Tim Mahoney and Richard Collins; Warren, Lou Gliozzi; Cambridge, Dave Peters; Wilmington, Bill Baugus) There were 18 Association Members in attendance. (Director Carl Roark and Holly Carr were also in attendance)

Executive Board Reports: Christine Untrauer

Minutes from 2020 4th Quarter meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as written by Dale LaRue

Second by Brenda Collins

Discussion none

Motion carried

Treasurer's report: Brenda Collins

A copy of the Treasurer's report was forwarded for review by email.

Brenda gave an overview of the report. Two CD's a 12 month (1.1% return) and 18 month (1.9%) matured and were rolled over to a .45% and .50%, respectively.

Motion to approve report as prepared by Dale LaRue

Second by Ginny Fogt

Discussion none

Motion carried

(Report is attached to this document)

Committee Reports

Membership and Credentials: None proposed

Butch reported that he and Brenda have been working with Holly to update the current membership list. They sent out 400+ recruitment post cards to civilian retirees, and have received favorable feedback. Holly sent out 26 new membership packages as a result of the post cards. Currently, there are 1,379 uniform, 53 non-sworn and 15 associate members in the Association. Bob extended a special thanks to Butch and Brenda for their hard work and dedication.

Resolutions: None

Historical: Bob Booker

Bob has been in contact with Sheldon Senek and Barb Miller to get the Living Legends interview process started again.

Special Order & Announcements:

Ailing members: Gail Platzke, (District 1); Russ Miller (GHQ), Ben Joehnk, (District 8); RT3 Curtis Kordel,(GHQ); Ed Waltz (District 5)
Former Ohio House of Representative Speaker William Batchelder (an honorary member of the OSHPR)

A reminder to all, if you know of someone who is ill, please share the information through Trooper to Trooper.

Please keep these members and families in your thoughts and prayers.

Unfinished Business: President Bob Booker - None

New Business: President Bob Booker – Road Ahead

With all activities cancelled last year, we are looking forward to gatherings this year. The Sunbird will not be held in Sandusky, as the Ohio Veterans' Home has been closed to visitors due to COVID since March 2020. Brenda recommended we look at the location the Mansfield Post has used for their get together. This will be explored. Ginny has been working with the Aladdin Shrine for the Annual Meeting. October 2nd has been reserved for the Annual Luncheon but will have until June to decide if the meeting will be held as planned. We are also looking forward to the 2022 Snowbird to be held in Florida. Further details will be shared on all events as they are received.

Retirement System Update: Executive Director Carl Roark

If you have any questions about issues, please contact the office directly. All members should be aware there is no COLA for 2021. There is a mechanism in place for older retirees, who are below 185% above the national poverty rate, to receive a COLA. These retirees will receive a COLA to keep them above this rate. There are 259 members in this category, which includes retirees and surviving spouses. The Board decides every year if COLA will be granted for the next year. The statutory retirement showed we are currently at 23.3 years of unfunded liability, the requirement is 30 years, giving us a current grade like a D-. Our goal is to have zero unfunded liability. The Board was not able to put any funds into the healthcare fund. They continue work so COLA can be granted again in the future. Currently 14.5 million dollars is spent each year for COLA. Active members of the Patrol should not plan for COLA when planning their retirement.

When the last survey was conducted, there was question whether the Drop was having a negative impact on the retirement system. It is not having a negative impact. The average person stayed 4.8 extra years, keeping them employed longer.

Other Discussion:

Rob Hartsell – Rob asked if it is possible to see a comparison with PERS, SERS and Police and Fire System benefits as far as insurance costs are concerned. Carl said it is difficult to compare systems. OPERS and Police and Fire members are receiving a stipend that can be used in the Health Care Exchange, to purchase insurance. The System's benefits are much better, especially for members 60-65, more expensive by design, for members age 48-52, encouraging members to work longer, keeping them on the State's health care longer.

Tom Rice – Tom asked how many of the 259 older retirees are slipping into the poverty level. Carl said there has been very little change. The system currently pays out 71 million dollars per year to retirees, 14.5 being COLA.

Darryl Anderson (Board Trustee) – Darryl said there are currently over 1 billion dollars of assets in the system to offset liabilities, with returns of 14

to 14.5% in 2020. The board is looking into a one-time COLA for 2022 but will have a huge effect on funding.

Members over 65 will be going to the Medicare Health Care Connector, January of 2022. There will be information available to members at the district level to help with questions. The members will receive a stipend that will be used for premiums, depending on the level of coverage, may cover all costs. This is a big change from the “one size fits all” plans.

Active Ranks Update: Colonel Richard Fambro

The House passed the current Budget Bill and has been sent to the Senate for approval. Included is a request for a long-term approval, to eliminate the need to go back every two years for funding approval. Both Heraz Ghanbari (Bowling Green) and John Cross (Kenton), are strong vocal supporters of the Highway Patrol. There was an increase proposed for a \$10 for auto registration fees, and \$2 for auto title fees but were told this was a non-starter. The house had approved 35 million, per years, biennial 70 million, with allotted 1,535 Troopers. Colonel Pride, and many other, had worked very hard to get back to 1,600 troopers in the past. The amendment was reintroduced to raise the patrol budget to 50 million per year and passed the Senate, with bi-partisan support. Since the Patrol is funded totally by fees, they don't want to return to the General Fund.

The Colonel asked if there any question from the members

Dale LaRue – Has the Patrol received any additional funding for body cams? Colonel Fambro said there is no money set aside for body cameras. The dash cameras have served the Patrol well up to this point.

Colonel Fambro thanked the retirees for their strong support from the Retiree's Association. He said he met recently with Colonel Rice for feedback and support.

Next Business Meeting: President Bob Booker

Our next meeting will be held in June, date to be announced.

Motion to adjourn by Dale LaRue
Second by Ginny Fogt
No Discussion
Motion carried

Adjournment – President Bob Booker

Time 11:58 AM