

# **Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association Meeting**

March 16, 2024

10:00 AM

1st Quarter Business Meeting 2024

Marriott Orlando Lake Mary

1501 International Parkway Lake Mary, Florida 32746

Meeting called to order by President Bob Booker at 10:02AM

Pledge of Allegiance by 1st Vice President Dale LaRue

Roll call of board & district representatives by Secretary Christine Untrauer. A quorum of 12 officers were in attendance. (President Bob Booker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dale LaRue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ginny Fogt, Secretary Christine Untrauer, Treasurer Brenda Collins, Colonel Chuck Jones, Past President Richard Collins, District Representatives: Findlay, Ken Walerius, Pam Sullivan; Warren, Lou Gliozzi; Florida Representatives Steve Brode, Nestor Vincenty) There were 12 Association Members in attendance. (Director Carl Roark and Lt. Colonel Chuck Linek were also in attendance)

Executive Board Reports: Christine Untrauer

Minutes from 2023 4th Quarter meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as prepared Charlie Linek

Second by Dale LaRue

Discussion none

Motion carried

Treasurer's report: Brenda Collins

The current total for all accounts is \$109,640.71. The Anniversary Account holds \$618.98.

Last year, monies were approved from the Benevolent Fund to help Steve Mender with fuel costs while receiving treatments. Steven passed away on February 14, 2024.

The O. W. Merrell Award was presented this year to Trooper Shawn Grim, funds were taken from that account to cover costs. Other awards provided by the OSHP Retirees' Association presented this year were the Outstanding Retiree Award to Dale LaRue; Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award was presented to Sergeant Jerrold "Trevor" March; and Robert M.

Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award was presented to Trooper Adrian Wilson.

Motion to approve report as prepared by Ernie Wilson

Second by Chuck Jones

Discussion none

Motion carried

(Report is attached to this document)

#### Committee Reports:

##### Membership and Credentials:

No Report

##### Resolutions:

No Report

##### Historical:

No Report

#### State Troopers of Ohio: Butch Collins

Bill Swank, a friend of the OSHP and the creator of Light Ohio Blue, attended an STO meeting at the invitation of Ken Marshall. He designed and provided a unique challenge coin to be presented to each donor to the STO. (they were given out during the meeting). All those who are in attendance today are current STO members. Presently, there are around 550 donors. There have been many members who asked if they could give more. Carl Roark said the Retirement System cannot take more than the current \$5.00 per member. Robbie Hartsell and Ken Marshall proposed the "Stetson Club" (for a dollar a day or \$365 a year), anyone who participates will receive a black polo shirt with the STO logo on the left chest and the Stetson Club logo on the sleeve. Thank you for your support.

The Batchelder Co. said there is not much going on in Columbus right now. Our two biggest supporters, Representatives Kevin Miller (OSHP Retiree) and Haraz Ghanbari (frequent ride along) will be facing opponents in the upcoming primary. They need your continued support for the upcoming election.

## Retirement System Update: Executive Director Carl Roark

A full report will be given at the luncheon.

Carl and Tony update, currently there are 1,400 active members, paying in to the system. There are 1,559 retired members and 293 surviving spouses, receiving monthly benefits.

## Active Ranks Update: Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Jones

Reserve comments for the Luncheon

## Special Order & Announcements:

Ailing members: Alan Moore, Sid Stark, Nancy Skaggs (spouse of Randy Skaggs) Phil Sheaffer, George Williams, Larry Pilzecker, Walter Poffenbaugh, Denny Bueno, Ben Joehnk, Dave Gillespie, Randy Scheaffer (OSP Auxiliary retiree), Mary Arend, Jim Pickering, Fred Raby, Don Anweiler, Don Mack, Warren Davies, and Don Slemmer.

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:

The IRS 900-NZ form, our annual non-profit, tax exempt paperwork was filed in January in 2024 with the IRS, maintaining our status. We also filed with the Ohio Secretary of State, required every five years for our corporation of non-profit status. Our next renewal is due 12/2027.

## New Business: President Bob Booker

Gravesite Project: Ginny Fogt

Information will be sent out to those who participate in this program by mid-April. All graves will need to be taken care of, prior to the Memorial Service on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Next Business Meeting: President Bob Booker:

The next business meeting will be at the Memorial Service on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Academy. A formal announcement will be posted on [www.TroopertoTrooper.com](http://www.TroopertoTrooper.com), [www.OSHP Retiree.org](http://www.OSHPRetiree.org) and the OSHP Retirement System website.

Good of the Order: Bob Booker

The Snowbird has been held at this location for the past 5 years. This location has been a good one with restaurants close by, the hotel has treated us very well. We are looking at options for the 2025 Snowbird. There was discussion about moving the reunion back to February, to avoid spring break. We would need to avoid the Daytona 500 and Bike Week. We will check with the hotel to see if the first or middle weekends of February are available. There was a suggestion that we take a pause for a year but the feeling is if we do, it will end the Snowbird. There are currently 70 retirees who live in Florida. We need to reach out to these members and encourage them to attend. We also need someone to host the events. Unlike in the past when the hosts had to use their own money to pay the deposits on the hotel, handle contracts, and purchase items for the event, now these are all handled remotely. The hosts would be the “face” of the event with the venue.

We are currently looking for other ideas, for other locations. If you have something in mind, please forward it to the board for consideration.

Gil Jones was the one who first urged me to attend the Snowbird, where I could to meet and really begin to know folks I had worked with.

What can we do to make it better? Maybe someone you know just needs a little encouragement.

(There was much discussion by members. It was decided to check with the hotel to see if either weekend in February were available. This would hold the date until we make a firm decision or until some other event wants the same weekend. After Note: The hotel was booked for those weekend)

Ernie Wilson:

Ernie asked if there was a way we could recognize those retired members as they reach 30+ years of retirement. (similar to the Over the Hill award presented to active members) We will be looking into this.

Motion to adjourn by Dale LaRue.  
Second by Brenda Collins.  
No Discussion  
Motion carried

Adjournment – President Bob Booker

Time 10:45 AM

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Luncheon Program: Bob Booker

Due to a prior commitment, Dale LaRue was not sworn in as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Butch Collins completed the swearing in of Dale to begin the luncheon program.

Retirement System, Executive Director Carl Roark

Carl passed out a PowerPoint outline of his report. If you would like a copy of the powerpoint please contact Carl. During the meeting, there were a few points that were discussed:

### **Update on HPRS**

1. Every 10 years, a fiduciary report is completed. After the report was completed, the report said there were no violation, but made a few recommendations.
2. The Actuary looked back to determine what was thought would happen and what did happen. After the report was complete a few changes were made.
3. Markets were up last year. With our diversified portfolio, the returns were 14% or above, the expectation for the year was 7.25%. Last year, there was a 10% loss, with the expected rate of return of 7.25%.

### **HPRS Stats (as of 3/7/24)**

1. The numbers of our troopers who are joining the DROP are increasing, retirements have slowed down.

### **Wellness Programs**

1. The wellness exams and screenings are still available to all retiree and spouses. The cost to the system is \$625 per exam for those who are using the exams, every two years, but is saving lives. Les Reel was completing the cardio portion of his exam when there was something that showed up. He was told he needed to see his cardiologist as soon as possible. During his heart catheterization, he

ended up needing a triple bypass, which was completed. The board continues to support the exams. Less than 10% of our members use this program.

### **Cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA)**

During the first year of healthcare changes, one million dollars were saved. This means the possibility of a COLA is greater.

Darryl Anderson:

We are in better shape than we have ever been and our staff is doing a great job. Our oldest retiree is almost 100 years old. At this time, we have 1.1 billion dollars in our retirement account and \$125 million in the healthcare fund. The monies in the healthcare fund will insure the people in the current academy class will have coverage, when it is time for them to retire.

There have been complaints of our members calling ViaBenefits and getting someone who they can't understand. If this happens to you, get the person's name, the time of date of the call, disconnect with them and call the office with the information. Part of the agreement when we went with ViaBenefits was to have agents who speak English as their first language.

Active Ranks: Colonel Charles Jones

Thank you all for being here and doing what you can to get the attendance up. It's good to see everyone! I will be doing my part to bring in new members to the Association.

Thank you to my wife Royel for her love and support. It makes it easy to do what's needed for me to do my job.

Family is the fabric to hold the patrol together. The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations around the state focused on involving our families.

The 173<sup>rd</sup> class currently has 53 cadets, and are 3.5 months in, but still have people leaving the class. This class will graduate on June 14<sup>th</sup>. (There were 4 lateral entries in the class who were released from training 2-3 weeks ago.) The 174<sup>th</sup> class begins on April 15<sup>th</sup> and will start at least 50, and will again include 3-4 laterals.

Recruitment is working to get the largest classes possible to start the next class. Social media and district recruitment teams are being used to handle recruitment.

Operations, comparing 2022 and 2023:

Fatal crashes were down, crash-causing violation and removing impaired drivers was the focus.

We were still helping in cities, Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati.

Enforcement for impaired drivers were up 8% and 14% for marijuana impaired drivers.

Commercial enforcement was up 24%

During the State of the Patrol address, I recognized we have great leaders in the ranks, those that are not interest in promotion but show exceptional leadership qualities. The designation of Master Trooper has been established. This will come with a uniform insignia and a certificate. For the Class A & B uniform, there will be a single chevron on the sleeve with the word Master Trooper on it. In the Class C uniform, a collar pin with one chevron will be worn.

Employee Wellness is an important part of taking care of family. A therapy dog, Hope, an English Labrador will be joining the patrol. Hope will be available in a year to visit patrol facilities. This does go against what we normally do but is important to mental health and wellness.

The memorial service will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We will again, pick retirees, put them in uniform and have them participate in the ceremony.

The Colonel's Cookout will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Highway Patrol is in a great place, morale is high, working short, doing everything to get the job done.

State Troopers of Ohio: Butch Collins

The board is meeting once a month. We have met with the Batchelder Group, Troy Judy and Chad Hawley, building relationships. We will be meeting with Senators McColley and Cirino, in the next few months. Speaker of the House Bill Batchelder was the biggest supporter of the patrol. We need to continue to improve our relationship with the general assembly members.

Snowbird: Bob Booker

Thank you to the Executive Board and Chris and Nestor for the local support. We are looking forward to having it in February, plant seeds to get more people involved. For the Florida retirees, give them a call and invite them, to get more retirees involved!

The golf outing was won by the team of Steve Brode, Ernie Wilson and Keith Miller. (Ken Walerius was awarded his trophy because of his great morale support) The team had score of 70 for 18 holes.

Door prizes were selected and everyone attending the luncheon received a door prize.

Steve Brode supplied two large boxes of Flying Wheel Magazines dated from 1973 to 2024. They were a big hit in the hospitality room! Thank you, 1305.



#3783	Checking Account (.05%)		\$	1,220.06
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$	5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$	11,438.79
	CD Total		\$	74,521.51
	*Anniversary Checking Account (.05%)		\$	618.98
	<b>OSHPRA Regular Account Total</b>	#3783 Total	\$	87,804.34
#5643	<b>OSHPRA Benevolent Account</b>			
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$	5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$	3,421.05
	6 Month CD (5%)	5/5/2024	\$	6,479.26
	<b>OSHPRA Benevolent Account Total</b>	#5643 Total	\$	9,905.31
#6708	<b>O. W. Merrell Award Account</b>			
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$	1,551.46
	6 Month CD (5%)	5/13/2024	\$	4,402.02
	<b>O. W. Merrell Award Account Total</b>	#6708 Total	\$	5,953.48
#6822	<b>Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account</b>			
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$	1,091.02
	6 Month CD (5%)	5/13/2024	\$	4,402.02
	6 Month CD (5%)	5/13/2024	\$	1,103.52
	<b>Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account Total</b>	#6822 Total	\$	6,596.56
	<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS</b>			\$110,259.69
	*Anniversary Account is NOT part of regular monies	-\$618.98		\$109,640.71

Report prepared with all statements through 2/29/2024  
and all other available information through 3/9/2024