

# Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association Meeting

October 21, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Business Meeting

Embassy Suites, Columbus, OH

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Booker at 11 am. President Bob Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call of the Executive Board and District representatives was conducted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ginny Fogt. The Executive Board in attendance were as follows: President, Bob Booker; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ginny Fogt; Secretary, Christine Untrauer; and Treasurer, Brenda Collins. Past President, Richard Collins; and Superintendent Charles Jones. The District Representatives in attendance were as follows: Warren District, Lou Gliozzi and the Cambridge District Representative Dave Peters were in attendance. There were 31 Association Members in attendance.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS: Ginny Fogt

As in the past, the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting were posted on the OSHP Retirees' website. Brenda Collins made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes and accept them as written. Jim Pickering made the second to the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Brenda Collins

Treasurer, Brenda Collins provided an overview of the Treasurer's Report. The current total for all accounts is \$107,074.50 which includes five Certificate of Deposits. Shel Senek made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Tom Rice second the motion. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership and Credentials: None

Resolutions: None

Historical:

Past President Butch Collins reminded everyone that a digital copy of the Highway Patrol Year Books can be found on our website at [www.oshpretiree.org](http://www.oshpretiree.org).

Past President Butch Collins discussed the fact attendance is down at our meetings. We meet four times a year. He conveyed to those in attendance the Executive Board is recommending we combine the Sunbird Reunion, which is normally held in August and the Annual Meeting, which is held in October. The combined meeting would be held sometime in September. Those retirees in attendance did not voice any objection to this. This change would save retiree's and the association money, as well, in hopes to encourage better attendance. The 1st quarter meeting would be held during the Snowbird in Florida, which is held in late February or March. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting would be conducted before the Police Memorial Ceremony at the Academy in May. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting would be prior to the Colonel's Cookout in June. Combining the Sunbird and the Annual Meeting would be the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting.

#### RETIREMENT SYSTEM UPDATE:

Carl Roark, Executive Director of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System, deferred most of his comments to the luncheon program, but answered questions.

The OSHPRS employer contribution is 26.5% per employee. Recent news coverage has reported the Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System and the State Teacher's Retirement System are seeking to raise the employer contribution. Ohio Police and Fire currently have a disparity between police, which has an employer contribution of 19% for police and 24% for fire. This is something for all of us to keep an eye on in the legislature.

#### ACTIVE RANKS UPDATE:

Colonel Charles Jones deferred his comments until after the luncheon.

#### SPECIAL ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The following are ailing members or members on the mend:

Nancy Skaggs, wife of retired Tpr. Randy Skaggs, continues receiving treatments for breast cancer.

Retired Tpr. Philip Sheaffer has been diagnosed with metastatic cancer of the liver. He is in consultation with his physicians to determine treatment options.

Retired Lt. Colonel Tom Charles was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer some time ago. He currently is under Hospice Care.

Cheryl Booker, wife of retired Major Bob Booker is having a heart catheterization procedure this Monday, October 23, 2023.

J.J. Holt remains on the prayer list with ongoing health issues.

Retired Captain Less Reel recently underwent triple by-pass open heart surgery. He credits the OSHPRS Health and Wellness Program with discovering the blockages in his heart. He encourages all retirees and their spouses to participate in this program.

Retired S/Lt Bill Feiger is being treated for an advanced stage of dementia. He has been admitted to the Sage Park Memorial Care Center.

Retired S/Lt. Don Slemmer is now a patient in an extended care facility.

Retired Jim Pickering has been diagnosed with bone cancer. He began receiving chemotherapy treatment one month ago.

Addresses for our ailing members or members on the mend can be found in the OSHPRS Directory on the Members Only page. This is updated daily.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

In honor of the Patrol's 90th Anniversary, a dedication will be held marking the site where Colonel Lynn Black swore in the first Academy Class for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This is scheduled to occur on November 1, 2023. The information is posted on [www.troopertotrooper.com](http://www.troopertotrooper.com). Everyone is invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS:

Several weeks ago, a notice was sent out to all members and posted on the website for those who are interested in a position on the Executive board to respond. There were no responses received.

Past President Butch Collins asked if there are any nominations from the floor to run for any of the offices on the Executive Board. There was no response from those in attendance. By a voice vote from those in attendance the current officers for 2023 will be the list of slated officers to be sworn in today after the luncheon.

Retired Lieutenant Joe Gebhart has agreed to be the District Representative for the Piqua District. He will be sworn in at the luncheon today along with the Executive Board. An Alternate is still needed. Retired Lieutenant Dave Peters, Cambridge District, expressed a desire, along with Alternate Del Dunlap, to be replaced as the District and Alternate Representative for the Cambridge District. They have served in these respective positions for many years.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING:

President Bob Booker conveyed we will next meet at the Snowbird Reunion to be held March 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary, FL

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Peters made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Keith Miller seconded the motion. President Bob Booker adjourned the meeting.

#### AFTER LUNCHEON REMARKS:

President Bob Booker welcomed everyone to the Annual Luncheon of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retiree's Association.

A Memorial Ceremony was held honoring our own. President Booker and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ginny Fogt read the names of those members and their spouses who had passed away in the last year. In addition, those spouses of retired member who have passed away in the last year were also recognized. Past President Butch Collins and 2<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ginny Fogt placed a white carnation on the Patrol Patch. Secretary Chris Untrauer assisted. Treasurer Brenda Collins chimed a bell after each name was called.

#### SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS

Retired Colonel Tom Rice conducted the swearing in ceremony of the members of the Executive Board. The officers from 2023 will continue in their respective positions for 2024. Retired Lieutenant Joseph Gebhart was also sworn in as the new Piqua District Representative. He replaces, Retired Sgt. David E. Stevenson who passed away this year from cancer.

#### REPORT ON OHPRS

Carl Roark, Executive Director of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System, advised the monthly reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for health care will increase from \$183.33 to \$225 a month beginning in 2024. Open Enrollment for health insurance through Via Benefits is currently underway. Please review those plans that are available as you may find a better plan that fits your needs. You are encouraged to make an appointment with a representative with Vita Benefits to assist you.

There are changes coming to the health insurance coverage. Please read the monthly newsletter and the information you receive in the mail.

Those members who are pre-Medicare age will transition to a Pre-Medicare Health Reimbursement Arrangement, HRA, in 2024 to cover out of pocket expenses. These members will go through the same process at the Medicare age members did last year.

The Retirement System just entered into a new two-year contact with Delta Dental. The cost to each member will increase to \$10 a month beginning 2024. Spouses and children's cost will increase to \$25 a month. These costs have not seen an increase since 2013.

Carl conveyed the Retirement System is in good health. Unfortunately, there will be no Cost-of-Living Adjustment in 2024. The Board desires to provide some Cost-of-Living Adjustment in the near future.

The \$100 Visa Gift Card for participating in the Health and Wellness Program will be discontinued as of December 31, 2023, along with a second \$100 Visa Gift Card for the body scan. Retirees and their spouses are encouraged to participate in this program. Retired Captain Less Reel participated in the program a few months ago and underwent triple By-pass Open heart surgery, recently. He is a strong supporter of this program.

#### REPORT ON ACTIVE RANKS

Colonel Charles A. Jones, Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol

Colonel Jones reported we are down 260 in the number of sworn troopers, but still getting the job done. Many of the posts only have seven or eight troopers assigned to it where normally we have at least twelve assigned. Fatalities are down 4%. The possibility of the legalization of marijuana in the coming election will be a challenge. Recruitment is a big challenge currently, but with the recent pay increases we are not losing troopers at the high rate as we were before.

Our new enforcement vehicle is the Dodge Durango. We are changing the color of our enforcement vehicle to a darker gray.

The material used to make the standard uniform shirt is being changed to a lighter material. This is a result of the change that we made earlier this year to allow for tattoos. This is with the stipulation those officers that have tattoos are now required to wear long sleeve shirts all year long.

In honor of the Patrol's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a dedication at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH, marking the site where Colonel Lynn Black swore in the Ohio State Highway Patrol 1st Academy Class. This is scheduled on November 1, 2023 at 1 pm. The dedication will be lived streamed on the Ohio Channel, so anyone can watch it.

The 172<sup>nd</sup> Academy class will graduate on November 17<sup>th</sup> with 39 new troopers. The 173<sup>rd</sup> Academy class is scheduled to begin December 4 with 60 cadets. Five (5) of those cadets will be current Ohio Peace Officers transitioning to become troopers. Those five will start with the class then be separated to complete the training in 12 weeks. They will start their Field Training after the 12-week course and return to graduate with the 172<sup>nd</sup> Class.

Colonel Jones conveyed that he greatly appreciates the support of Governor Mike DeWine and Public Safety Director Andy Wilson.

Report from Executive Director – State Troopers of Ohio, Inc. –

Retired Colonel Tom Rice, Executive Director, reported there are 550 supporting the State Troopers of Ohio, Inc.

Overview of Snowbird 2024

The 2024 OSHPR Annual Snowbird Reunion will be held at Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary, FL. A golf outing will be offered on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. For those not desiring to play golf a scenic boat tour will be offered in the Winter Park area. A shopping outing will also be offered at a nearby mall. The luncheon and meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

# OSHPRA TREASURER'S REPORT

#3783	Checking Account (.05%)		\$ 806.13
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$ 9,561.09
	CD Total		\$ 73,525.64
	*Anniversary Checking Account (.05%)		\$ 618.84
	<b>OSHPRA Regular Account Total</b>	<b>#3783 Total</b>	<b>\$ 84,516.70</b>
#5643	<b>OSHPRA Benevolent Account</b>		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$ 3,642.40
	6 Month CD (3.2%)	11/5/2023	\$ 6,357.38
	<b>OSHPRA Benevolent Account Total</b>	<b>#5643 Total</b>	<b>\$10,004.78</b>
#6708	<b>O. W. Merrell Award Account</b>		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$1,611.12
	6 Month CD (3.2%)	11/13/2023	\$4,320.92
	<b>O. W. Merrell Award Account Total</b>	<b>#6708 Total</b>	<b>\$5,932.04</b>
#6822	<b>Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account</b>		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$1,216.87
	6 Month CD (3.2%)	11/13/2023	\$4,320.92
	6 Month CD (3.2%)	11/13/2023	\$1,083.19
	<b>Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account Total</b>	<b>#6822 Total</b>	<b>\$6,620.98</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>\$107,074.50</b>
	*Anniversary Account is NOT part of regular monies	-\$618.84	\$106,455.66

Report prepared with all statements through 9/30/2023  
and all other available information through 10/16/2023