

# A Lodge UPDATE



Issue 29

Quarterly Newsletter from The FOPA of Ohio

May 2026

## From the President

Greetings members,

We were happy to see those of you who were able to attend our Spring Executive Board meeting last weekend. A huge thank you to the Newark lodge (and Zanesville for helping them) for the hospitality night. They have an amazing lodge and really put on a great event for all of us!

We are looking forward to our upcoming annual state conference in July. Vice President White and I will be sending out packets with the credential forms for your delegates and alternates with the schedule of conference events and registration instructions. Please make sure to get any per capita into the state office by June 1st. The number of delegates your lodge is allotted is based on the per capita received.

I sent an email to all of the lodges with a link for booking hotel rooms at Springhill Suites in Independence for the conference. In order to take advantage of the group rate reservations must be made by June 19th.

This is an election year for our organization. I've had quite a few people express interest for various board positions. The nominations for President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer will take place during our business session on Monday. The election of these officers will be held during Tuesday's business session. At the end of Monday's business session, the districts will separate and hold caucuses to select their trustees. All officers will then be installed at the close of the regular business session on Tuesday. Several members have submitted items regarding the offices they are seeking, those submissions begin on page 4.

The State Secretary-Treasurer report will be back in the August newsletter. It will no longer included the specific finances due to the fact that this newsletter is available to the public on the FOP website. If anyone would like a copy of the most recent treasurer report, I'll be happy to email it to you.

As always, if you have any questions of concerns, please reach out.

Fraternally,

Theresa Drennen,

FOPA State President



## Show Your Support

(from the Light Ohio Blue Facebook page)

Mark your calendars and get your blue lights ready. Join us in honoring our fallen law enforcement officers while showing a visible sign of support for the men and women currently serving across Ohio. The 2026 Light Ohio Blue campaign will take place May 6–16, 2026. Let's stand united and Light Ohio Blue.

## From the Vice President

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well. While the winter season in Ohio can feel long, there is much to look forward to in the coming months. I am personally eager for the arrival of spring and summer and the opportunity to enjoy warmer weather and outdoor activities.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for your continued support of the FOPA and for the strong sense of camaraderie and friendships we are building together.

We have a busy schedule ahead. The Spring Meeting was held on April 25 in Newark. I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Newark and Zanesville lodges for having a great reception and awesome hall. Thanks to all who were able to attend, it was great seeing everyone!!! The Annual FOPA Conference from July 19–21 in Independence, Ohio is rapidly approaching. Please keep your eyes out for registration information and get those rooms booked quickly. Additionally, we are wrapping up the FOPA Scholarships—including the Nick DiMarco Scholarship and the Virgil McDaniel Scholarship. We have gotten quite a few applications, and it is going to be very hard to pick a winner. THANK YOU to the Scholarship Committee for going through these applications and picking winners. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!!

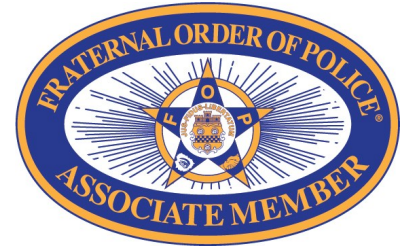
Lastly, you should have received information regarding our new online database, Velarium. By this time, each lodge should have active login credentials. It is encouraging to see lodges beginning to utilize the system and engage with it. If your secretary has not received login information, or if you need assistance navigating the platform, please feel free to contact me at [whiteohstatevp@gmail.com](mailto:whiteohstatevp@gmail.com) or by phone at 419-230-6800. I am happy to assist you. Moving forward, lodges will be responsible for entering new members and maintaining accurate membership records.

Thank you again for your continued dedication and support!!!

Sincerely,

Tammy White

Ohio FOPA State Vice President



**Would you like to see your lodge or a member featured in the next edition? We love to share stories from across the state!**

**Would you like to see your lodge's event or fundraiser featured here? Deadline for submissions for the August 2026 issue is July 15th.**

**Please email submissions to [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)**

**Please include details of the event/raffle and who to contact for tickets or for more information.**

# Around the State

## Lima Lodge #8

We are so fortunate to be able to continue to grow our membership at Lima Lodge #8. We swore in 4 new members at our March meeting.

On the fundraising front, the 8th Annual FOP/FOPA Purse Bingo for Lima Lodge #8 was a huge success!! We had over 280 people playing bingo and over 30 volunteers!!! This is one of the biggest fundraisers for our lodge!!! We are already planning for a bigger and better event for 2027!!!

*Submitted by: Tammy White Lodge 8 Secretary-Treasurer & State Vice President*

**Welcome new members! Great work Lodge #8!!**



L to R Terrell Simpson , Denis Fairburn, Kathy Fairburn and Terri Dawson.



## Erie County Lodge #35

Lodge #35 held their annual Wing and Pizza Party fundraiser last weekend and it was a huge success! 104 people attended and we raised over \$3000 for our lodge! We couldn't do it without our great volunteers.

*Submitted by: Mary Meade Lodge #35 Treasurer & State Trustee*

**Great work Lodge #35!!**



# VOTE FOR Tammy White

## FOPA State President



I am announcing my intent to run for Ohio FOPA State President, bringing proven leadership, experience, and dedication to our organization. I have proudly served as Scholarship Committee Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Membership Committee Co-Chair, working to strengthen member engagement and support key initiatives. My efforts have been recognized through honors as both Lodge and State Member of the Year. I am committed to fostering transparency, improving organization, and ensuring timely, accountable leadership at every level. I believe in building a stronger, more connected FOPA by supporting our members, enhancing communication, and promoting growth. Together, we can continue to move our organization forward with integrity, purpose, and a shared commitment to excellence.

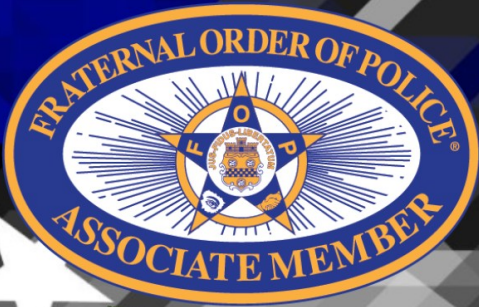
Sincerely,

Tammy White

Ohio FOPA State Vice President



## Vice President Candidate



My name is Mary Meade and I am running for Vice President for the FOPA Ohio State Executive Board.

I am a 2011 charter member of Erie County Lodge 35. We are celebrating our 15th Anniversary this year. Our Lodge is honored to have received the Ohio State FOPA Lodge of the year twice, 2017 and 2023. I have served as Treasurer of Lodge 35 since it began and continue to hold this position. I have served as the 3rd District Trustee of the State FOPA since March 2021. And also started serving the 6th District in July 2023 until this present time. On the state board I serve on the audit, scholarship, and the fundraising committees.

I am very dedicated and active in our FOPA Lodge and our FOP Lodge #17. Our lodges strive to support one another in all events and fundraisers. I feel like our strong bond makes us strong assets to our organizations. I have attended Police Week in Washington, DC 6 times and have participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run for more than 10 years, and I am honored to represent our State FOPA.

I retired from my 42 year nursing career in May 2025 and I feel I will be able to devote my services to this position.

I would appreciate your support at the 2026 State Conference in July for the position of Vice President.

Thank you!  
Mary Meade

## Secretary-Treasurer Candidate

Dear Members of the State FOPA,

I wish to announce my intent to run for the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the State Fraternal Order of Police Associates. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Accounting and bring over 20 years of experience in the banking industry, along with more than 20 years' experience with tax preparation. Throughout my career, I have served in multiple Treasurer roles across various organizations, gaining extensive experience in financial management and reporting. I have proudly been a member of our lodge for 18 years. During that time, I have served as a Trustee, Treasurer, and, for the past 12 years, as President. These roles have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of our organization and the responsibilities required to effectively serve our membership. It would be both an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity to upholding the mission, values, and integrity of the FOPA. The role of Secretary/Treasurer is critical to maintaining accurate records, ensuring clear communication, and providing responsible financial oversight. I am fully prepared to dedicate the time and attention necessary to carry out these responsibilities with diligence and accuracy.

Through my involvement with the FOPA, I have developed a deep appreciation for the work we do in support of our law enforcement community and their families. I understand the importance of accountability, detailed record-keeping, timely reporting, and fiscal responsibility. If elected, I will work diligently to maintain organized documentation, provide clear financial reports, and ensure compliance with all bylaws and reporting requirements. I will collaborate with each lodge to support accurate membership records and provide tools to help strengthen and grow membership.

My goal is to contribute to a collaborative and forward-thinking leadership team that prioritizes transparency, efficiency, and service to our members. I welcome the opportunity to bring my organizational skills, reliability, and dedication to this position.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote for Secretary/Treasurer of the State FOPA.

Fraternally,

Joyce Benson  
Newark FOPA # 10  
255 S 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Newark, OH 43055

## Secretary-Treasurer Candidate

I ask for your support as I endeavor to be elected the next FOPA State Secretary-Treasurer.

I've been an FOPA member since 2011. I became the President of Erie County Lodge #35 in 2012 and served in that position until 2019. I joined the FOPA State Board in 2013 as the Trustee for District 3. I served almost 5 years as the State Vice President and have been honored to serve as your State President for the past four years.

I have been able to build strong relationships with many lodges throughout the state, assisting them with membership issues, helping them to revise their bylaws, and advising them on fundraising and leadership issues. I have worked with the FOP to open the first two new FOPA lodges in over a decade, and I am continuing to streamline the process for opening a new FOPA lodge.

I wrote amendments to our State Bylaws, implementing changes that have saved the State Lodge thousands of dollars each year. I have served as the fundraising and the scholarship chairperson. I created 'A Lodge Update' our FOPA State newsletter and I will be publishing our 30<sup>th</sup> issue in August.

I advocate for the mental well being of first responders and I have taken the CIRS training course and the additional suicide prevention course. The CIRS (Critical Incident Response Service) program is funded by the FOP Ohio Foundation. CIRS teams throughout the state offer assistance to first responders after critical incidents.

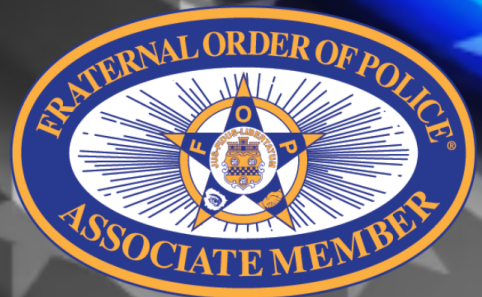
Outside of the FOPA, I have 25+ years in various management positions. Setting budgets and managing the financial concerns of businesses overseeing multiple locations and training staff in customer service and loss prevention.

I ask that you vote for me to be your next FOPA State Secretary Treasurer so that I may continue to serve and shape this great organization.

**FOPA State  
Secretary-Treasurer**

**VOTE FOR**

**Theresa  
Drennen**



Greetings,

My name is Jennifer Smith, and I've been a proud member of the Fraternal Order of Police Associates Lodge #10 for four years, though I've supported our safety forces my whole adult life. My husband and I have been together for almost 18 years, and I'm the proud mom of three grown sons and grammie to three beautiful grandbabies. I share my home with three lively Pembroke Welsh Corgis and one cat!

I currently serve as our secretary and have also taken on the treasurer's duties since July of last year. I play an important role in supporting our FOP lodge with various events, as well as our own. I've been lucky to meet many members and build great communication with everyone. When a member from either lodge comes to me with a task, they know I'll get it done, as I've dedicated countless hours to helping our lodge become what it is today.

I may not have a college degree, but I bring a strong work ethic and take great pride in everything I do. My determination to see tasks through is unmatched, and my attention to detail helps make that possible. Since my last paid job in 2020, I've been caring for family and volunteering my time. I run my own neighborhood watch group and help manage nine others in Newark and Licking County. I'm also a member of the Licking County Sheriff's Office Academy Alumni Association and the Newark Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

This year, I've decided to run for the 4th District Trustee position with the Fraternal Order of Police Associates of Ohio Inc. Many of you already know me from attending every state meeting since 2024, and for those who don't, you'll hopefully get to know me soon!

I'm asking for your vote in July to help take your lodge to the next level! Our law enforcement officers—locally, statewide, and across the nation—need our support now more than ever.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Smith

# DESIGNER PURSE RAFFLE

Only \$10.00 per “chance”

Contact [daytonfopassociate@gmail.com](mailto:daytonfopassociate@gmail.com) for tickets, text 937-623-2652, or contact any F.O.P.A member.

110 tickets. Raffle will be held when all tickets are sold.

FIRST TICKET DRAWN WILL WIN PURSE # 1. THE 15<sup>TH</sup> TICKET DRAWN WILL WIN PURSE # 2. THE 110<sup>TH</sup> TICKET DRAWN WILL WIN THE LAST PURSE. TICKETS DRAWN THAT ARE NOT WINNERS, WILL BE DISCARDED. (more info below)

TICKETS DRAWN IN THIS ORDER WILL WIN PURSES :1st, 15th, 28th, 42nd, 56th, 70th, 84th, 98th & 110th.

THE 8th, 21st, 35th, 49th, 63rd, 77th, 91st & 104<sup>th</sup> TICKET DRAWN WILL WIN \$10 GIFT CARDS





**MAY 16TH, 2026**

Tickets | \$50

Cocktail Hour | 5:00-6:00<sup>pm</sup>

Wreath Ceremony | 6:00-6:30<sup>pm</sup>

Dinner | 6:30<sup>pm</sup>



*Honoring Our Fallen Officers*

A reserved table, which includes 8 tickets, can be purchased for \$375.



*Blue Night Out*

255 SOUTH 6TH STREET NEWARK, OHIO 43055

For tickets or more information contact Jennifer Smith  
smith.jenniferlynn@outlook.com 740-644-7046

# S FOP of Ohio PAGHETTI and Bourbon Bar Dinner

*To Benefit the FOP of Ohio Foundation*

SATURDAY  
July  
18

Join us under the tent at the  
State FOP Conference in  
Independence from  
5PM - 7 PM



*Tickets are \$30.00  
per person.*

*Tickets will not be  
sold after June 30 2026*

MORE INFO: 614-224-5700 EXT. 1150 [RHAWLEY@FOPOHIO.ORG](mailto:RHAWLEY@FOPOHIO.ORG)