

# A Lodge UPDATE



Issue 5

Quarterly Newsletter from The FOPA of Ohio

May 2020

## FOPA Award Nominations

Each year the State Lodge of the FOPA honors exceptional service with three awards: The Member of the Year, the Lodge of the Year, and the Virgil McDaniel award.

- ◆ The Member of the Year Award is awarded by the State President of the FOPA and is given to recognize, statewide, an FOPA member who has demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to their own associate lodge and/or the State Lodge of Ohio.
- ◆ The Fraternal Order of Police Associates of Ohio Lodge of the Year Award is awarded by the State President of the FOPA and is given to recognize, statewide, an FOPA Lodge that has demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to their own parent lodge, to the State Lodge of Ohio, or to their community.
- ◆ The Virgil McDaniel Award is a statewide recognition of a FOP Member who has demonstrated exceptional valor and/or service to the citizens of State of Ohio by the Fraternal Order of Police Associates of Ohio. This award was named in Honor of Ohio FOP Past President and our current FOP Liaison Virgil McDaniel. Members of the FOP and FOPA can nominate their FOP Brothers & Sisters whom they know go above and beyond the call of duty.

While unprecedented circumstances due to COVID-19 have limited what our lodges and members have been able to accomplish these past months, we still want to honor those lodges and members that make our organization great!

If you know of a member, an associate lodge, or an FOP brother or sister that you feel deserves recognition for their hard work, dedication, or exemplary service please nominate them for one of these awards! The nomination forms can be downloaded from the FOPA section of [www.fopohio.org](http://www.fopohio.org) or you may request them from us at [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)

The deadline for nominations has been extended until **June 1st**.

## Light Ohio Blue



Light Ohio Blue is a statewide campaign to show support to the law enforcement personnel who protect our communities throughout our great state. This year's campaign will be **May 8th** to the **15th**. Each year their staff works with several Ohio business' to light the city skylines blue.

Please encourage your family, friends and colleagues to join Light Ohio Blue by lighting an exterior light(s) blue to show support for our currently serving law enforcement and to honor the fallen.

Ohio recently had a terrible loss with the line of duty death in March of Springdale Police Officer Kaia Grant. And currently our law enforcement personnel along with their public safety and medical colleagues are relentlessly working to maintain everyone's safety and health. So please let's make Ohio glow blue in tribute!

For more information check out [www.lightohioblue.org](http://www.lightohioblue.org) or their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/LightOhioBlue](https://www.facebook.com/LightOhioBlue)

## Lodge Spotlight

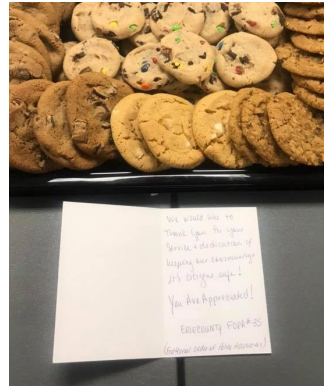
Would you like to see your lodge featured here? Let us know what your members are up to. Many lodges throughout Ohio are very active in their communities. If your lodge is one of them, tell us about it. We can all learn from one another. If you have content to submit for an upcoming issue, or have any questions please email us [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)

### Erie County Lodge 35

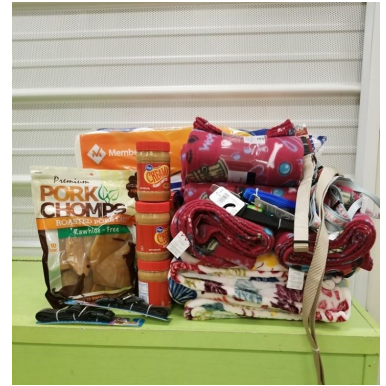
Erie County Lodge 35 discussed at their January meeting showing their gratitude to local law enforcement through various acts of kindness. Before the governor asked us all to shelter at home, they were able to deliver trays of cookies to Sandusky Police Department and to the Erie County Sheriffs Office. Every other month members bring items to donate to other area organizations. In February they collected items for the Erie County Dog Pound. Other organizations they collect for include: Stuff the Bus, Toys for Tots, and food donations for Victory Kitchen.



L to R: Det. Dennis Papineau, Lodge 35 Treasurer Mary Meade, President Tim Meade, and Dep. McGlothlin



Way to Go Lodge 35!



Items collected by Lodge 35 for the Erie County Dog Pound

### City of Fairfield Lodge 97

City of Fairfield Lodge 97 is growing their membership! They installed four new members at their January 2020 meeting.

From left to right: Anna Seals, Ron Matiunas, Brenna McCoy-Dane and Lynn Warren.

**Welcome aboard Members!**



### *In Memoriam Lew Hollinger*

Lodge President and FOPA member since 1998, Lew Hollinger, of the City of Fairfield Fraternal Order of Police Associates Lodge 97, passed away on January 14, 2020 at age 78. Lew was very involved with his community. He taught at Fairfield High School for 30 years; was a volunteer fireman and paramedic with Fairfield Fire Department when it was a volunteer fire department and volunteered with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. Hollinger also was an active Board Member of Crime Stoppers of Greater Cincinnati where he helped raise funds to pay for anonymous tips. Lew will be remembered as the person that preferred to work out of the spotlight yet remained very active in his community.





# Meet the Board

## State Secretary Amber Knerr

I joined the FOPA 12 years ago when my sister-in-law had gotten me interested in supporting our local lodge. I'm a member of Lodge 10 in Newark and am a Past President and past Secretary of our lodge. I became involved with the FOPA State Board about ten years ago, first as the District 4 Trustee and currently as the State Secretary. I also serve the State Board on the Scholarship and the Fundraising Committees. At my local lodge I'm working on getting our local golf outing fundraiser started back up.

I am a proud graduate of The Ohio State University and a diehard Buckeye fan. Definitely a sports fan and I love going to games. I've worked in bodily injury claims at State Farm for the past 10 years and at Texas Roadhouse for 17 years. I am also member of the Moose and the Elks. I really enjoy helping our community and giving back. I do a lot of work with at risk youth in the community and am part of different projects to give back to children. We have completed school supply drives and also holiday help through the organizations of which I am a part of.

I love to travel and see different parts of the world. My next big trip will be England, Ireland, and Scotland. I am also working on my golf game, and boy do I have a long way to go!



## State Vice President Theresa Drennen

Hello! I'm Theresa and I am currently serving as your FOPA State Vice President. I am a member of Erie County Lodge #35 in Sandusky. I became involved with our lodge when it formed in 2011, not long after local police officer Andrew Dunn was killed in the line of duty. Officer Dunn had been very active in FOP Lake Erie Lodge #17, and along with other lodge members, had advocated for forming our FOPA lodge. His tragic death brought our community together, and when our lodge formed it brought together an amazing, dedicated group of individuals. It was my honor to serve as their Lodge President for seven years.

I enjoy being on the State Board and getting to know and help members across the state. I'm working on several FOPA projects: our statewide fundraiser, looking at ways to increase membership with existing lodges, finding ways to encourage FOP lodges to form an A Lodge, and working with other board members to make sure all FOPA lodges are compliant with the IRS just to name a few. But one of my favorite FOPA tasks is putting this newsletter together!

Aside from the FOPA I am also involved with the CIRS (Critical Incident Response Service) team in Stark County. Basically, what we do is informal peer to peer counseling with first responders after a traumatic event. All CIRS team members go through a training program and volunteer their services. The program is funded by the FOP of Ohio Foundation. I am also attending the Stark County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy. If your local Sheriff of police department offers a program such as this, I encourage you to attend. Not only does it give you a better insight on what the men and women we support handle daily, it is also an excellent place to recruit new members! Our academy Commander is going to give me time to address our class about the FOPA and give them information about joining our organization.

I retired some years ago from the restaurant industry, so I have plenty of time to devote to the FOPA and my other activities. I do have a part time job but if I'm not at work I'm usually at home with my dogs, I'm a bit of a homebody. Most of my hobbies take place at home, cooking, baking, and trying to keep my flower beds under control, which is a battle I usually don't win!

I look forward to meeting more of you at our next FOP/FOPA Board Meetings!



## On the Board: President & Vice President

This is an election year for our FOPA State Board. In the past two newsletters we have given you a more in depth look at what is expected of those who hold positions on our board, we covered Trustees, State Secretary, and State Treasurer. All executive board and trustee positions are open for nominations, so if you've ever considered running for office, here's your chance! In this issue we will talk about the positions of Vice President and President.

The State President and State Vice President are elected at the State Conference. All positions on the State Board are a two year terms. Any FOPA member of a subordinate lodge who is a member of good standing for a period of at least one year, and who is serving as an accredited delegate may be nominated to run for State Vice President. To be nominated for State President, in addition to being an accredited delegate, he or she must have served as an officer of the State Lodge. For a complete list of the duties of the State President and State Vice President please review the state bylaws. Here are some of the basics:

### State President

- ◆ Shall preside over all executive board meetings and the State Conference
- ◆ Shall appoint all committees and shall be an ex-officio member of each
- ◆ Casts the deciding vote in a case of a tie, except in Election
- ◆ At each session of the Executive board, submit a written report of official business he/she has transacted since the last meeting
- ◆ Shall sign all vouchers drawn by the treasurer, for which appropriations shall be made by the State Lodge or Executive Board
- ◆ The State President and the Executive Board shall promote the growth of the State Lodge by lecturing about its aims, objectives and accomplishments
- ◆ The State President or State Vice President may convene any subordinate lodge in special session and inspect its books and records and compel compliance with all rules, regulations and orders of the State Lodge or Executive Board
- ◆ Shall attend all Executive Board of Trustees meetings of the FOP State Lodge of Ohio Inc.
- ◆ May temporarily suspend any subordinate lodge for violation of the lodge rules and regulations or for any slanderous remarks against the National, State, or Local FOP, FOPA or Auxiliary (subject to review)
- ◆ Shall appoint a committee to administer the scholarship funds
- ◆ Shall decide on all points of Law and Order subject to appeal to the State Conference
- ◆ Will be paid \$500 annually and will be paid mileage and will be provided accommodations at meetings of the board and state conference

### State Vice President

- ◆ The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the latter's absence, or his/her inability to serve.
- ◆ Shall perform such other duties as the President or Executive Board may assign to him/her
- ◆ Shall be paid \$200 annually and will be paid mileage and will be provided accommodations at meetings of the board and state conference
- ◆ Unofficially, the Vice President is responsible for transporting our flags and setting them up at each meeting

While it is not an official duty, the State President and Vice President are also encouraged to participate in various committees and fundraisers supported by the State Board.

Anyone with questions about the Vice President or State President position can contact us here [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com) or we encourage you to attend our conference and board meetings to see firsthand what the positions are all about.



## Free College



**FOP  
FREE  
COLLEGE  
BENEFIT**



In Partnership With  
**EASTERN GATEWAY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Part of the University System of Ohio

**FOP members and their families  
can complete an Associate Degree  
with \$ZERO out-of-pocket.**

**www.FOPFreeCollege.org  
or call 1-888-590-9009**

Already trained as a Peace Officer?  
Your training counts for 33 credits  
toward your degree!

This program is not just for FOP members. FOPA members can take advantage of this program as well and complete an associates degree at no out of pocket cost! This offer applies to FOPA members AND their immediate family.

The free college program is also a wonderful tool when recruiting new members. Let any potential members know about this great program! For the cost of their yearly dues, they could earn a degree.

If any lodges need flyers to help spread the word, you can request them from  
[ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)

## State Lodge Fundraiser

The State Lodge is holding a 50/50 raffle. Winners will be drawn at the State Conference banquet. This raffle is a little different than ones we have done in the past. We will be giving 50% of the profits to the FOP of Ohio Foundation. This foundation funds the Critical Incident Response Service (CIRS) and is very important to the FOP. We hear a great deal about PTSD and it's effects on law enforcement. The main goal of the CIRS program is to mitigate the effects that of critical incident stress has on first responders. If your lodge would like to help sell tickets, or if you would like to purchase tickets contact your district trustee or email us here [ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com](mailto:ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com)

# FOPA State Lodge 50/50 Raffle

**10 Winner Split the Pot!! Up to \$500 each!!  
Need not be present to win!**

**\$5 each or 5 for \$20**



**Proceeds to be split 50/50 between:  
FOPA of Ohio State Lodge  
and**

**FOP of Ohio Foundation (CIRS)**

*Critical Incident Response Service CIRS provides peer counseling to law enforcement and emergency service workers & their families who confront life-threatening circumstances in the line of duty*



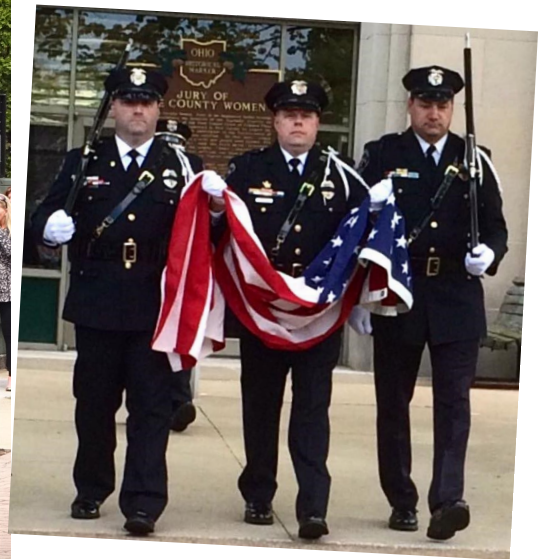
# National Police Week

National Police week is May 10th thru May 16th. Police week was established in 1962 by a joint resolution of congress to pay special recognition to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. While the ceremonies may be cancelled or postponed this year, we can still take this week to reflect and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.





## National Police Week



## Ohio Line of Duty Death



**Kaia LaFay Grant**  
End of Watch March 21, 2020

Police Officer Kaia Grant was killed when she was intentionally struck by a vehicle during a pursuit at 8:30 pm. The pursuit began in a neighboring jurisdiction when officers attempted to stop an armed, suicidal subject. The pursuit proceeded onto I-275 where Officer Grant and a police sergeant were preparing to deploy stop sticks near State Route 4. The driver intentionally swerved toward them, striking them both. Officer Grant was flown to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The sergeant suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

The subject was taken into custody.

Officer Grant had served with the Springdale Police Department for eight years. She is survived by her parents.

*Rest in Peace Officer Grant*