

Issue 27

Quarterly Newsletter from The FOPA of Ohio

November 2025

### From the President

#### Greetings Members,

Many of you have asked about the database, I'm happy to say it will be back soon! For several years now we have piggybacked on the program used by the National FOP. We did so at no cost to us. This year the National FOP changed their system and unfortunately it wasn't compatible for us. We needed to look at cost effective options, and thanks to Denise Young we were able to negotiate a contract with the company that we'd been working with, Velarium. The contract is being finalized and we should have it back for you soon.

This year at our conference we will be holding elections. The board positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary—Treasurer will all be up for nominations, as will all district trustee positions. I've already spoke to several members who are interested in serving on the State Board. If you'd like more information on any of the positions and what is expected of board members please reach out to me, I'll be happy to discuss it!

Lastly, I want to give a warm welcome to our newest lodge, Mahoning County FOPA #101. Welcome new members! We look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming board meetings.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch!

Fraternally,

Theresa A. Drennen, State President

## From the FOP

Brothers and Sisters,

Former Queen City Lodge #69 President and long-time FOP of Ohio delegate Pete Ridder is asking for our help. His daughter, Sara Ridder was murdered by Michael Neely in 2002 and her killer is up for parole in November. Pete is asking that his FOP and FOPA family contact the Ohio Parole Board at this website: <a href="Parole Board Hearing Input">Parole Board Hearing Input</a> | Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and oppose the parole of Michael Neely, inmate number A57688. Please go to this website to learn more about this case and ask the Hamilton County Prosecutor to strongly oppose the release of inmate Neely as well: <a href="Michael Neely">Michael Neely</a>



Sara was a 24-year-old mother of three, tragically and violently murdered because she was trying to get out of an abusive relationship. Please join me in demanding the Ohio Parole Board keep this murderer behind bars.

Jay McDonald

FOP of Ohio, President

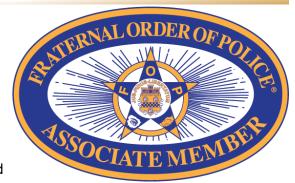
# State Secretary-Treasurer Report

Greetings from your Secretary/Treasurer, Elaine Domonkos.

I think summer is officially over as it is starting to get cooler and the leaves are finally changing and falling. I have my work cut out for me there!

#### PER CAPITA PAYMENTS - MEMBERSHIP CARDS

By now ALL 2025 per capita should have been submitted. The final payment date was October 1st. I know some lodges are starting to send in their per capita for 2026. Please make sure you let us know what is for 2025 and what is for 2026.



As stated in every newsletter, the per capita checks need to be made payable to FOPA of Ohio Inc. DO NOT make the checks payable to the FOP – we are not them. I continue to put this in as we still get checks payable to the FOP.

#### **Membership Cards:**

2026 Membership Cards MAY be delayed as we are getting the information back from Velarium. We will be getting the program back, but the start date has yet to be determined.

Stay tuned for the actual start/reinstated date. More to come on the database.

IF you have any cards that need corrected or cards for a new member, please keep the following in mind:

- 1. DO NOT contact Denise Young requesting new cards or corrections. All requests for new cards or corrections need to go through me! NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 2. New Member cards will be completed once the per capita for the new member has been received by the state. Again, no exceptions. An updated "New Member" form was passed out at conference for those lodges needing to add new members. If you are in need of them, please let me know and I can email you the PDF.
- 3. Contact me for any card corrections, need for additional disbursement forms or questions.
- 4. Please note that members who have been Reinstated are not to be considered a new member if they have had a few years between being a member. New members are members who have never been a member of the FOPA. We want to make sure we do not duplicate the cards that are printed every year.
- 5. When requesting duplicate, replacement, new member, or corrected cards, please note that these have to be hand typed by Denise, do if your member does not need them or if you correct them yourselves, please do so.

#### **Upcoming Dates – Board Meetings and Conference**

Winter Board Meeting – January 23-34, 2026 – Marriott Dublin, Ohio. Our Meeting will be held directly after the opening of the FOP meeting on Saturday, January 24th. If you plan on spending the night, please contact the Mariott, Dublin and mention you are with the FOP/FOPA.

Spring Board Meeting - April 24-25, 2026 – Newark, Ohio. The meeting will be held at the Newark Double Tree hotel. Again, please contact the hotel directly if you plan on getting a room.

State Conference – Independence, OH - July 18-21, 2026. The FOPA will again be housed at the Springhill Suites as we were several years ago. The rooms have been blocked so you can call now to secure your room. Again, please mention that you are with the FOPA. Our meetings will start on Sunday, July 19th

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## State Secretary-Treasurer Report

#### Continued from page 2

BANK BALANCE - July 1, 2025 thru September 30, 2025

General Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$127,277.13

Ending Balance \$95,820.69

Difference \$31,456.44

The differences between these amounts reflect the obligations that were made during the conference (Per Capita to the State FOP, Scholarship obligation of \$3 per member, board salaries and conference expenses)

Scholarship Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$20,499.72

Ending Balance \$23,515.72

Difference \$3,016.00

Payments include scholarship installments to the following: Dia Durrett, Isabella Violi, and Theo Troullos and Lauren Aamodt. This also include the deposit of \$3 per member as required by the Constitution and By-Laws.

As always, your State Board is here to help you in any way that they can. Please feel free to contact me via email (FOPAOhioStateSecretary@gmail.com) or phone 614-323-5557 if you have any questions and/or concerns.

As always, please contact me or any board member should you have any questions. We're here to help.

Sincerely,

Elaine Domonkos

**FOPA State Secretary** 

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 February 2026 issue is January 15th.

Please email submissions to ALodgeUpdate@gmail.com

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

# Line of Duty Death



### **Trooper Nicholas P. Cayton** End of Watch 10-16-2025

Trooper Nicholas Cayton was struck and killed by the driver of a Mack truck on the northbound lane of Route 11 in Canfield around noon.

Trooper Cayton responded to a disabled tractor-trailer and was in his patrol cruiser with lights activated when the truck hit him. His vehicle was pushed into the disabled tractor-trailer. Trooper Cayton was killed at the scene. The driver of the disabled tractor-trailer was transported to the hospital.

The driver of the Mack truck was not injured.

Trooper Cayton was an Ohio Army National Guard veteran and had served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for 13 years. In 2022, he was named Ohio Trooper of the Year. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, mother, and father.

### Around the State

### **Ottawa County #34**

Ottawa County Lodge #34 had a dedication ceremony on October 16th. This memorial is the culmination of several years of hard work by lodge president Roseanne Hickman and her fellow lodge members. FOP State President McDonald, VP Assion, Trustee Susana and OLC Chair Szilagyi all attended the unveiling of this wonderful tribute to the fallen heroes of Ottawa County.

Congratulations Lodge #34 and thank you for your dedication to Law Enforcement











## Around the State

### **Mahoning County Lodge #101**

Congratulations to the newly formed FOPA Lodge 101 in Mahoning County! Being officially sworn in is a major milestone. Kudos as well to FOP Lodge 141 President Lisa Beam for leading the ceremony and supporting the expansion of the FOPA community.

Wishing FOPA Lodge 101 a strong start and continued success in supporting law enforcement and strengthening community ties.

### Welcome to the FOPA Lodge #101!



### Lima Lodge #8

We are still busy recruiting new members. We swore in 5 new members at our September meeting.

Lima Lodge #8 is very involved in the community. One of the things we pride ourselves on is giving back. Every year we give donations to our county fair 4-H for youth projects. Below are two of the many we sponsored. Left is Samantha McDaniel and her goat. Right is Jenna Snyder and her rabbit . The girls brought their animals to our meeting and talked about what they will be doing with them at the fair. Everyone enjoyed their visit.

At our September 9th meeting we awarded our Member of The Year for 2024 to our President Laura Ball. She is very deserving of this award. Laura participates in every facet of our organization. She is very positive and willing to help with everything. We appreciate her greatly!!!!



L to R: President, Laura Ball, Jessika Jones, Lyn Sellati, Wanda Caster, Brad Leis and George Garber

#### Welcome new members!!

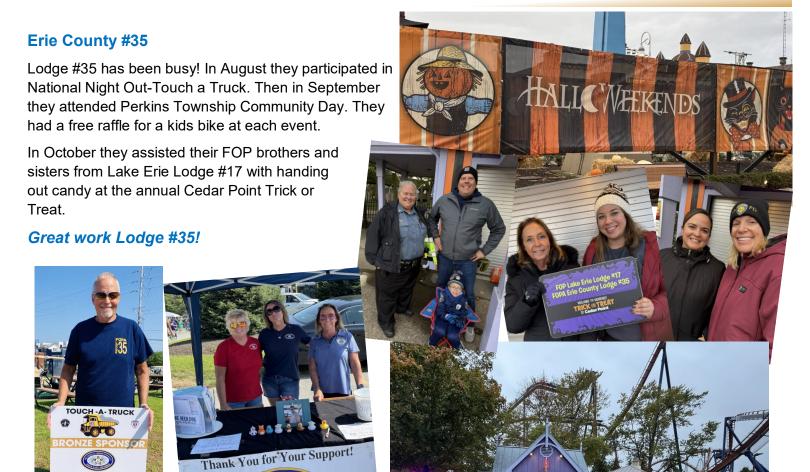






Congratulations Laura on the much deserved award!

## Around the State





## Mark Your Calendars

Winter Board Meeting: January 23rd -24th

Spring Board Meeting: April 24th - 25th

Annual State Conference: July 18th -21st