Hello Ohio A-Lodge! I hope that everyone had a great summer. As your President I was able to attend and participate in several events, meetings, and conferences. Since the last newsletter I attended the National FOP Conference. During the conference I was able to gain a greater knowledge of the National and the Ohio FOP. I attended workshops, meetings, and assisted President McDonald with his campaign as he ran for and was re-elected as National Vice-President. Attorney General Jeff Sessions was the Keynote speaker at the conference. During his address to the floor he stated that President Trump would issue an executive order which would resend restrictions from the Obama administration that limited police agencies' ability to get equipment including life-saving gear. It was signed later that day. AG Sessions stressed in his speech that military surplus transfers are crucial for the execution of police work and officer safety. During the Orlando night club incident, equipment like helmets and gear which can be obtained through the program stopped a bullet and saved the life of an officer during the shooting. He also said that this is the equipment the officers needed as they pursued and ultimately killed the terrorists in another incident in San Bernardino, CA. Our nation’s police is on the front line in our defense to terrorism and with this program they will now have access to some of the tools they need to fight back. During the conference I was able to attend 3 workshops. One of them was about the new database. The FOP has done a great job putting everything together. It will be easy to use with some training. Once we have it up and running for the FOPA we will hold a workshop for the Secretaries who will be using it.

After we got back from the conference the FOP Board met and approved the by-laws that we voted on at this year’s conference. We are waiting for the last page of the By-Laws to make its way to everyone to sign. As soon as it gets back to us we will provide a copy of the updated by-laws to your lodge’s secretary. I encourage every lodge to look at these by-laws and compare them to your lodge’s By-Laws. If there are any conflicts please take the time to update your by-laws so they are in line with the State’s By-Laws. When I was elected on the board of my local lodge several years ago, I found that our By-Laws were so out of date that our dues were only $10 per member. We were charging members $40 per member. The very next meeting we started the process to change it. Read your By-Law to see how to change them. Once they are approved by your lodge and your FOP, give them to your Trustee and they will bring them to the State Board of Trustees which will give them the final approval.

There were a lot of changes made in the Constitution and By-Laws (CB&L). I want to thank John Chesar, John Galinac, and John Nicholson for their proposed changes. They did a great job working on this and I appreciate their teamwork on this project. Without listing everything, I want everyone to know some of the changes. The most sweeping change was the correcting of spelling and punctuation. The next would be the change in the member per capita tax. It was voted that we raise the per capita tax from $19 to $20 per member. This will be effective for the 2018 membership year. The next has to do with membership. The old CB&L stated “Any person legally residing in the United States of America and, who has reached his/her 18th birthday, of sound character and good repute, who is engaged in a lawful business, occupation or profession, may be eligible for membership in a qualifying Ohio Lodge.” It now states “Any person who is a citizen of the United States of America and, who has reached his/her 18th birthday, of sound character and good repute, who is engaged in a lawful business, occupation or profession, may be eligible for membership in a qualifying Ohio Lodge.” This the lodge who required the first change asked that it be reversed.

Continued on Page 2
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 or their immediate family could earn a degree!

If any lodges need flyers to help spread the word, you can request them from fopaohiovp@gmail.com

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After discussion and looking at several local lodge By-Laws it was decided to honor that request. The other things are clarification of the Executive Board of the State FOPA. It states the Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer and Immediate Past President and that it is empowered to conduct the business of this lodge between Conferences. There was confusion in the language on what the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board is. The Board of Trustees includes the Executive Board plus all State Trustees. There was changes in the Immediate Past President & the Trustee positions. The final change I would like to mention is how much a lodge can charge for membership. The old By-Law stated that the minimum initiation fee shall be 5.00 and the annual membership shall be no more than $10.00. We did not change the initiation fee as $5.00 being a minimum a local lodge and up that number as needed. For the annual membership dues we set a cap at $75. We asked several larger lodges with benefits and their dues were $50. We also considered the $20 per capita tax. We decided that $75 was a large enough number that left lodges room for increases for several years.

Over the next several month as we lead up to conference we plan on holding a couple state wide fundraisers, promoting our scholarship program to FOP members, and to set membership goals for each district. We all have the same mission. If we all work together we can do amazing things. Finally please be sure to mark your calendars for our winter board meeting that will be held on January 27th at the NW Marriott in Columbus in Dublin. It is same hotel that has hosted us the last two years.

See you in January!

Andrew McKenna, President
The Special Olympics is an organization that is close to the hearts of many FOP members. Special Olympics Ohio and law enforcement from all over the state have partnered for more than 30 years to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement. The original Ohio Torch Run had only a few dozen officers running just two routes to Columbus. This past year more than 2,000 law enforcement representatives in Ohio ran the torch bearing the Flame of Hope on 6 main routes and satellite, community legs throughout the state! The Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest grass roots fundraiser for the Special Olympics Ohio. The support Ohio law enforcement has for the Special Olympics doesn’t end with the Torch Run, there are the Plane Pulls, Dunkin Donuts ‘Cop on a Rooftop’, Red Robin’s ‘Tip a Cop’, and the upcoming Polar Plunges.

Many FOP members participate in the Polar Plunges at eight locations throughout the state. These events would be an excellent way for FOPA lodges to support their FOP lodges while helping another great cause as well! Now, if you’re thinking, ‘There’s no way I’m jumping into ice cold water in the middle of winter!’ trust me you are not alone. Plunging isn’t mandatory and they even have a special ‘Too Chicken to Plunge’ shirt for those of us that prefer to stay warm and dry, but the events are definitely something to be seen! At press time the exact schedule wasn’t available, but there will be plunges at Mosquito Lake, Sandusky, Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Grand Lake St. Mary’s, Caesar Creek, and Indian Lake.

Check with your FOP lodge and see if they are involved, you could join forces or put together a team of your own! It’s a great time for a wonderful cause and if you get a chance to interact with some of the Special Olympic athletes you’ll understand why this cause is held dear to so many in law enforcement.

For more information and dates for a plunge near you, please visit their website www.sooh.org

If you would like more information on how your lodge can support Special Olympics Ohio you may also contact Kate Burdett, 614-239-7050, kburdett@sooh.org

In addition to their website, you may also want to check them out on social media:
Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run on Facebook: facebook.com/OHLETR/
Special Olympics Ohio on Facebook: facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsOhio/
Special Olympics Ohio on Twitter: twitter.com/SOOhio
Special Olympics Ohio on Instagram: specialolympicsoh
Social Media

Social media has become the way many of us keep in touch these days and the FOPA is no different. Numerous lodges have their own Facebook page. Having a Facebook page for your lodge can be a useful tool. It’s an excellent way to promote events and fundraisers. It is also a good way for members to keep up with what is going on in their own lodge and the State lodge.

To ‘like’ our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OHIOFOPA & the State FOP page: www.facebook.com/fopohio

Meet the Board: Gene Rheaume

The State Trustee for District 8 is Gene Rheaume! He has been Trustee for about a year and a half, but has been a fixture at our board meetings and at the yearly State Conference for many years. He’s participated in many vital roles such as manning the credentials table, helping out with hospitality, and lending a hand wherever it’s needed. Gene is a 45-year member of South Euclid Lodge #50 which he joined in 1972 and took his oath while he was home on leave from Germany in 1973. He serves as a trustee at his own lodge where he is also Past President and has served 39 years as their secretary.

Gene has two degrees in electronics, and in addition to his other schooling, went through Euclid’s Police Academy. He retired from the US Army after eight years of active service and has recently gone back to work for All Ohio Motorsports in Bedford, building and servicing motorcycles and all types of ATV’s and watercrafts. This type of work is also a hobby, he customized a motorcycle and a custom car that he built and shows.

Gene’s family keeps him pretty busy too! He has three children; two boys who are also members of the South Euclid lodge and a daughter who has blessed him with three wonderful grandchildren.

Currently Gene is working on ideas to boost membership in District 8, lending a hand on the state fundraising committee, and of course keeping up with all of his duties at his own lodge and doing his best to keep it all running smoothly.

#MOVEOVER

It's simple.

It's also the law.

#MoveOver for police on the shoulder.

#MOVEOVER it is the Law!

Ohio’s Move Over Law requires motorists to cautiously shift over one lane or slow down, if changing lanes is not possible, when passing any vehicle with flashing lights on the side of a road. Its purpose is to protect everyone who works on our roads and everyone who travels on them.

Refer to Ohio Revised Code 4511.213.

For more information:
http://statepatrol.ohio.gov/moveover.stm
www.dot.state.oh.us/moveover
At the September 2017 meeting, City of Fairfield Lodge 97, gave $1000 to the City of Cincinnati FOP 69. The donation was accepted in behalf of FOP 69 by FOP President Dan Hils. FOP 69’s goal was to raise $50,000 in aid for police officer first responder volunteers after hurricane Harvey hit Texas.

President Hils commented that the fund was established for police officer volunteers and their families following hurricane Harvey’s impact. The fund covered volunteer needs for boots, socks and clothing. These items were an absolute necessity for volunteers working in such harsh conditions.

Additionally, police officer volunteer families were offered housing by host Cincinnati FOP families for those that needed temporary relocation after hurricane Harvey’s destruction.

President Hils stated that FOP 69 would do whatever was possible to help the police officer first responder volunteers and their families.

Submitted by:
Carole Arend, Secretary/Treasurer
City of Fairfield, Lodge 97

Members of Lodge 35 in Sandusky collect items at their monthly lodge meetings to donate to various local organizations. This month members collected food items to donate to their local soup kitchen. Lodge 35 Vice President Diana Krawetzki collected all of the donated items and delivered a trunk load of food to the very grateful cooks at Victory Kitchen. Later that same day, members of Lodge 35 teamed up with officers from FOP Lodge 17 to pass out Halloween candy to thousands of local Trick or Treaters at Cedar Point.

Does you lodge participate in or donate to community events? Do your members step up and lend a hand alongside your FOP lodge? We want to know how your FOPA lodge is ‘Giving Back’!

Please email submissions to fopaohiovp@gmail.com
Spaghetti Dinner! Gun Raffle!

Wayne County FOPA Lodge 53 and Gunfighters (Law Enforcement) Motorcycle Club cordially invite you to their First Annual Benefit Spaghetti Dinner and Gun Raffle!

Tickets are $10 each and include pasta, salad, dinner rolls and a drink.
Food provided by Spaghetti Warehouse.

Dinner will start at 5pm Saturday November 18th at the Wayne County FOP Lodge located at 10035 Akron Rd. Rittman, Ohio 44270

Proceeds will benefit the Wayne County FOPA Lodge 53 and the Wayne County Shop with a Hero program.

Gun raffle tickets will be sold for $20. Prizes available are: Anderson AM15, Glock 42, Taurus PT111 and a XM42 Flamethrower!

Door prizes and raffle baskets will also be available!

Anyone with questions in reference to the event or would like to purchase dinner or raffle tickets contact: Bill Carlton at 330-347-6031 or bc52455@aol.com

PIRATES!!
Dead Man's Chest

Davey Jones the pirate king has died and his last will proclaims who the next king will be! Pirates are gathering, sails are swelling, and a thirst for blood is in the air! Climb aboard this hilarious adventure and all secrets will be revealed when we find out what’s inside the ‘Dead Man’s Chest’

FOPA #14 Presents a Humorous Murder Mystery
Saturday November 11th    Doors open 5:30
FOP 15 & FOPA 14 Lodge Hall (SWCRC)   716 W 130th St Brunswick Ohio

Tickets $35  ALL Tickets are Presale
Includes catered dinner, desserts, and beverages

For tickets or more information contact:
Please support the FOP of Ohio Foundation and purchase a 52 Week Gun Raffle ticket. The money raised benefits the Critical Incident Response Service (CIRS) program.

Contact Rob Hawley at 614-224-5700 or Fundraisers & Events

Would you like to see your lodge’s event or fundraiser featured here? Deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 15th. Please email submissions to fopaohiovp@gmail.com

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

The FOPA State Lodge has tumblers for sale. The cost is $20 each. Please contact your district trustee or VP Drennen fopaohiovp@gmail.com for more information. Tumblers may be shipped. A calculated shipping charge would apply.