

A Lodge UPDATE



Issue 30

Quarterly Newsletter from The FOPA of Ohio

August 2026

From the President

Dear Members,

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at the 2026 State Conference. Your outstanding attendance and participation made the event a tremendous success. I hope you left with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm to bring back to your lodges. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, presented, and contributed to making the conference possible.

Our fundraising efforts exceeded expectations. The new **Stock the Bar Cooler** and the **Lottery Ticket Basket** were both tremendous successes, generating a combined profit of **\$1,539**. We also raised **\$900** through our 50/50 drawing for the FOP Foundation. Congratulations to Aaron Crawford, who generously donated his \$450 winnings back to the Foundation, allowing the full \$900 to support its mission.

I am deeply honored by the confidence you have placed in me as your State President. I look forward to serving our membership and working alongside our outstanding Board to strengthen our organization. I also extend my sincere appreciation to Past President Theresa Drennen for her mentorship and guidance, which have been invaluable.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas. You can contact me at WhiteStateFOPAPres@gmail.com. Together, we will continue building a stronger and more successful FOPA.

Sincerely,

Tammy White

FOPA State President



2026 Fraternal Order of Police Associates State Board

Election Results

Executive Board



State President

Tammy White
WhiteStateFOPAPres@gmail.com
419-230-6800
Lima Lodge #8



State Vice President

Mary Meade
VPMeadeStateFOPA@yahoo.com
419-357-1496
Erie County Lodge #35



Secretary Treasurer

Joyce Benson
FOPASecretaryTreasurer@gmail.com
614-832-6515
Newark Lodge #10



Immediate Past President

Theresa Drennen
alodgeupdate@gmail.com
419-357-2813
Erie County Lodge #35

District Trustees

Trustee Districts 1 & 2

Bill Carlton
bc52455@aol.com
Wayne County Lodge #53

Associate Trustee

Kevin Kochheiser
Wayne County Lodge #53

Trustee Districts 3 & 6

Laura Ball
LimaFopa8@gmail.com
Lima Lodge #8

Associate Trustee

Christine DeSalle
Erie County Lodge #35

Trustee Districts 4 & 11

Jennifer Smith
smith.jenniferlynn@outlook.com
Newark Lodge #10

Associate Trustee

Vacant

Trustee Districts 5 & 9

Vacant

Associate Trustee

Vacant

Trustee Districts 7 & 8

Gene Rheume
rheume65vw@gmail.com
South Euclid Lodge #50

Associate Trustee

Thad Jackson
Cleveland Lodge #23

2026 FOPA Award Winners

Lodge of the Year

Throughout the year, this FOPA Lodge has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting its parent FOP Lodge and the surrounding community. Their members have played an instrumental role in initiatives such as Breakfast with Santa and the Cops & Kids program, while also providing financial support to local food pantries to assist families in need.

During Police Week, the lodge expressed its appreciation for law enforcement officers by delivering sheet cakes to local police departments

as a gesture of gratitude for their dedication and sacrifice. In recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, they honored dispatchers with cookie trays, acknowledging the vital role dispatchers serve as the lifeline to officers in the field.

Every other month, the lodge's Hospitality Committee prepares a meal following its monthly meeting, fostering fellowship, camaraderie, and a strong partnership with its parent lodge.

Whether assisting with fundraising events or supporting officers in times of need, this lodge never hesitates to step forward and lend a helping hand wherever it is needed.

We are so happy to congratulate the 2026 FOPA Lodge of the Year, Western Cuyahoga Lodge #28.



Member of the Year

The recipient of this year's FOPA Member of the Year Award exemplifies dedication, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the success of the organization. Through countless hours of service behind the scenes, this individual has strengthened the foundation of their lodge by creating a more organized and efficient system for tracking membership records, member illnesses, and the passing of members, ensuring that no member or family goes without recognition, support, or remembrance during difficult times.

Their commitment extends far beyond administrative duties. They have expanded and enhanced the responsibilities of the Secretary's position, improving communication and organizational effectiveness throughout the lodge. In addition, they have organized countless fundraising efforts that have supported programs, initiatives, and community outreach activities. Whether planning events, coordinating volunteers, or working tirelessly behind the scenes, they consistently demonstrate exceptional dedication and leadership.

Their willingness to volunteer countless hours at events and functions reflects a true spirit of service and dedication to the Fraternal Order of Police Associates. The impact of their work is felt throughout the organization and by all those fortunate enough to work alongside them. It is through this exceptional commitment, leadership, and selfless service that the Fraternal Order of Police Associates proudly recognizes Jennifer Smith of Newark FOPA Lodge #10 as the recipient of the 2026 FOPA Member of the Year Award.



Virgil Mc Daniel Award

Commitment, service, and unwavering support of the Fraternal Order of Police Associates are the hallmarks of this individual's character. Throughout his tenure as Local Lodge FOP President, he demonstrated exceptional dedication by actively engaging in every facet of his local FOPA lodge. Working side by side with the FOPA board, he helped strengthen the lodge and foster a truly unified partnership between the FOP and FOPA.

His presence has been constant and dependable. Whether participating in parades, supporting National Night Out, or contributing to fundraising events, he has consistently shown a willingness to serve wherever needed. Even now, as Immediate Past President, his involvement has not diminished. He continues to give his time and energy to ensure the ongoing success of both the lodge and its community outreach efforts.

He is currently serving as a representative of the FOP on the State FOPA Membership Committee, where he contributes to ongoing efforts to grow membership by supporting the development and establishment of new lodges throughout the state.

Congratulations Darrell Ball of FOP Lodge #21 in Lima, this year's recipient of the Virgil McDaniel Award.



President's Award

The FOPA President's Award is an award given by the State President to recognize a member for their service and dedication to our organization. This year I would like to honor a long-time member. This individual is a proud veteran, an outspoken supporter of law enforcement and has been a member of the FOPA for over 50 years.

They have served for many years as their own lodge secretary and have served on the state board for over a decade. As a district trustee they keep in close touch with the lodges in their district and keep the executive board up to date with any issues. Over the past few years, I have called upon them for their counsel on various issues and greatly appreciate the time and devotion they show to the FOPA.

Congratulations to Gene Rheame, recipient of the 2026 President's Award! Thank you Gene for all you do!



Around the State



Beachwood Lodge #88

Beachwood lodge honored one of their longtime members Merle Gordon. Merle joined the FOPA in 1974. They celebrated his 52 years with the FOPA at Hecks Café in Beachwood and presented him with a cake and a commemorative plaque.

Submitted by: Robert Marimberga, President Lodge #88

Thanks to Merle for his dedication to this organization, congratulations on this well deserved honor!



End of Watch



Sgt. Scott Ries EOW 7/5/2026

Sergeant Scott Ries was shot and killed responding to a call near 90 Chippewa Trail in Rittman at approximately 9:30 p.m. After receiving a call reporting shots fired, officers from the Rittman Police Department, Hinckley Police Department, Medina County Sheriff's Office, and Wayne County Sheriff's Office arrived at the scene, where they were immediately fired upon. Sergeant Ries and four other deputies and officers were struck. Sergeant Ries succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Two deputies were transported to a local hospital in stable condition, two others were treated at the scene, and a Wayne County Sheriff's Office K-9 was shot during the incident; he was released two days later from a local animal hospital. Two other individuals were also killed during the incident. The suspect was found inside the home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Sergeant Ries had served with the Rittman Police Department for 10 years and had previously served with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office for 19 years and the Sugar Grove Police Department. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, mother, brother, niece, and nephew.

2026 State Conference



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 November 2026 issue is October 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.