

Ohio Police



August 2026

www.fopohio.org

Issue #23

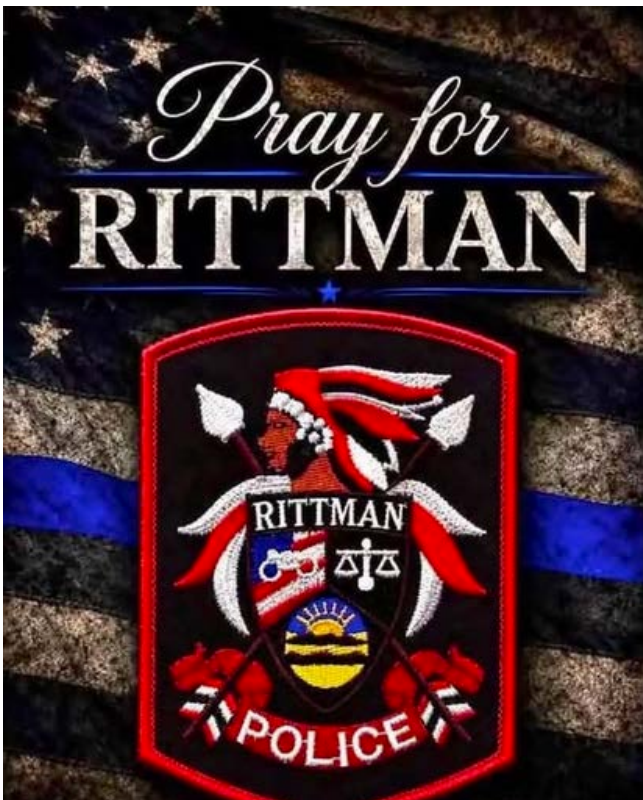


Sergeant Scott Ries was shot and killed responding to a call on July 5, 2026.

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.

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.



FOP of Ohio 90th Annual Conference



Congratulations to the 2026 - 2028 Board of Trustees of the FOP of Ohio:

President - Jay McDonald, Lodge 24; Vice President - T.J. Assion, Lodge 141

Secretary - Travis Parker, Lodge 9; Treasurer - Greg Toyneas, Lodge 69

2nd Vice President - Bill Saringer, Lodge 25; Sgt. At Arms - Shari Robertson,
Lodge 32; Immediate Past President - Gary Wolske - Lodge 67;

Trustees: Brian Armstead; David Kurzinsky; Tracey Susana; Pamela Wells-

Exline, Jeff Spires; Mike Watkins; Damian Glaser; Steve Fioritto; Jon Halusek;
Aaron Bramel; and Kevin Davis.



Ohio Speaker of the House Matt Huffman addressed our delegates about our work together on the PTSI legislation and on protecting the option of the death penalty for the worst offenders in Ohio

Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson spoke to our members about growing up with his police officer father and working together to keep Ohio safe for everyone.

AG Wilson also spoke about the need to strengthen some of Ohio's laws to protect Ohioans from criminals



Rep. Haraz Ghanbari told the delegation about how the PTSI legislation passed the legislature despite some last minute hiccups and how we worked together to make it happen.

Thank you Rep. Ghanbari!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2026

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO ANNOUNCES ENDORSEMENTS IN STATEWIDE RACES

COLUMBUS, OH — The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio (FOP) today announced its endorsements in statewide races in the 2026 Ohio general election, including the special election for United States Senate, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and two seats on the Supreme Court of Ohio.

FOP members received recommendations from the screening committee, which interviews candidates, and then voted on the endorsements during its annual conference.

The endorsements are:

United States Senate: **Jon Husted**

Governor and Lieutenant Governor: **Vivek Ramaswamy & Rob McColley**

Attorney General: **Keith Faber**

Auditor of State: **Frank LaRose**

Secretary of State: **Robert Sprague**

Treasurer of State: **Jay Edwards**

Supreme Court of Ohio: **Dan Hawkins**

Supreme Court of Ohio: **Colleen O'Donnell**

FOP President Jay McDonald said the endorsement process allows each candidate to discuss their qualifications and positions on issues important to Ohio law enforcement.

"Our members take these decisions seriously because the officials elected statewide have a direct impact on public safety, the justice system, and the working conditions of law enforcement officers," McDonald said. "We're not asking for anything revolutionary – we want candidates with a proven commitment to supporting law enforcement and standing with us on issues that help our members keep their communities safe."

McDonald pointed out that issues important to members include pension rights, PTSD coverage, ensuring police officers have the equipment and training they need, and candidates standing on the front lines fighting back in the war on police.

"We put the politicians who should be ashamed of themselves in our Protect Ohio Police Hall of Shame," McDonald said. "We expect our endorsed candidates to be our partners keeping Ohio safe."

Candidates were interviewed about their experience and views on issues affecting law enforcement and public safety. Supreme Court candidates were not asked to make promises about matters that could come before the court. Still, the discussions provided insight into their judicial philosophy and approach to the law. Candidates for the other statewide offices were asked about policies and legislation affecting Ohio's law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

McDonald continued, "We are proud to announce our support for these candidates and look forward to sharing these endorsements with our 23,000 members and voters throughout Ohio."

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The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio is Ohio's largest law enforcement union. They represent over 23,000 sworn officers and advocate for law enforcement on a variety of issues.



At the 90th Annual Conference of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Mike Watkins of Lima Lodge 21 was presented the Steve Young Award for his over 50 years of dedication to the members of the Fraternal Order of Police. Mike has served the FOP well, both in Lima and throughout Ohio. Congratulations Mike!



Brian Steel was awarded the 2026 Member of the Year Award for his commitment to the men and women of the Dewey R. Stokes, Capital City Lodge #9, where he serves as President. Brian is a dedicated leader and is truly deserving of this prestigious award.



The Queen City Lodge #69 in Cincinnati was named the 2026 Lodge of the Year because of the unwavering service to their entire membership. President Ken Kober leads a fantastic Board and the whole organization is second to none in the entire Fraternal Order of Police. Congratulations Lodge 69.

The FOP of Ohio would like to thank National Fraternal Order of Police President Patrick Yoes, 2nd Vice President John Hoyt and Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge of Michigan President Mike Sauger for joining us for our conference and reporting to our members.

We appreciate you attending the 90th Annual Conference of the FOP of Ohio and spending time with our membership





President McDonald also presented 50-year pins to 19 members who have given so much to the Fraternal Order of Police. These members are role models that the rest of us strive to emulate.

All eighteen in the photo and the one who did not want his photo taken are all giants in this organization and extremely worthy of recognition. Bill Vogel of Lodge 69 was the leader, with 69 years of service to the members. Congratulations to all.



Lima Lodge 21 Immediate Past President Darrell Ball received the Virgil McDaniel Award for his support of the FOPA and his leadership in helping to grow that organization.

Congratulations Darrell!



The 90th Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio conference kicked off with a training on how Ohio's Marcy's Law constitutional provisions apply to law enforcement officers by attorneys Nicole Wannamacher and Lathan Lipperman from Lodge 9! Seminar #2 at the conference was a legal update from Bob Meader from objectivelyreasonable.com. Thank you to both sets of instructors

Important Update about Thin Blue Line Benefits Association

June 18, 2026, the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio learned of a court filing containing serious allegations that Thin Blue Line Benefits diverted, moved, or outright spent funds that had been designated by the State of Ohio - and ordered by the court - to pay claims by Ohio participants. There will be a hearing on August 24 to see if TBL is to be held in contempt of court.

These allegations are alarming, unacceptable, and demand immediate action.

Participants in the Thin Blue Line program are required to submit claims paperwork before an August deadline. From signing up and paying their premiums to dealing with the fallout of the initial fraud, these members have followed the rules. And they had every reason to expect that the money set aside for their claims would be available to pay what was owed.

Our most urgent priority is simple: recover every dollar possible and ensure that valid claims are paid to participants to the fullest extent possible.

We have already been in contact with the Governor's Office, the Attorney General, the Ohio Department of Insurance, and federal regulators and law enforcement. We have received commitments that every available remedy will be pursued. I spoke directly with Attorney General Andy Wilson, who told me, "I will be a full partner in helping get this money back."

I know that every FOP member, whether a Thin Blue Line beneficiary or not, will demand that the company be held responsible for consistent and blatantly bad behavior. And you should know that we will continue pressing this issue at every level until answers are provided, accountability is delivered, and every possible dollar is recovered for our members.

**Jay McDonald
FOP of Ohio President**

Thin Blue Line Update

The Ohio Department of Insurance has released the Proof of Claim Form and Instructions for those who wish to file a claim for unpaid balances related to Thin Blue Line Insurance. This form is different from the complaint you may have filed already. This is the next step in the process. If you believe you are entitled to reimbursement or payment from Thin Blue Line, please review all attachments. **The deadline for filing the Proof of Claim Form and related documentation is August 31, 2026.**

ODI also suggests you provide the “Liquidation Order” to any creditors who are threatening to place you into collections.

You can find the forms and orders needed and additional information at the following link to the Ohio Department of Insurance:

<https://insurance.ohio.gov/consumers/resources/01-thin-blue-line-benefits-association-llc-claims-legal-action-update>



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Stronger Communities



MORE INFO COMING SOON

FOPGLAC.COM

**Be on the lookout for
the training agenda for
this great conference**



2026 FOP Women's Conference



Wednesday, October 28, 2026
Capital City FOP Lodge #9
6800 Schrock Hill Court, Columbus, OH

Featuring

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Carrie Matthews

Law Enforcement Officer



"The Other Side of Suicide"

A powerful and deeply personal presentation on loss, resilience, first responder mental health, and the strength it takes to ask for help. Carrie shares her journey through unimaginable loss and her mission to continue the conversation surrounding suicide prevention and remind others that they are not alone.



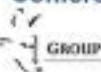
For more information and to RSVP by October 19, 2026
scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/fopohiowomensconference>

Conference Sponsors:



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The FOP of Ohio achieved the first step of accomplishing a major goal for the organization, the introduction of HB 975. HB 975, introduced by Rep. Phil Plummer and Rep. Cindy Abrams, will allow law enforcement officers to go to Common Pleas Court for due process if they are placed on a so-called Brady list by a prosecutor.

The FOP has seen officers placed on this list after being acquitted in court and also for making political statements. Due process is a must and we will work to pass this bill in the fall!

FOP of Ohio Legislative Report

Mike Weinman - Director of
Governmental Affairs



The legislature is not working during the summer break, so there is not a lot to report on that front that is not already covered elsewhere in this newsletter but I wanted to point out to you that there will be a statewide constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

This measure would amend the state constitution to require voters to present photo identification (ID) to vote in person, as well as requiring absentee voters to provide a photo ID, or a signature plus one other unique identifier authorized by law. It would also allow for the legislature to establish an alternative identity-verification process for voters with a sincere religious objection to being photographed.

Currently, Ohio law requires voters to present photo ID while voting, with accepted forms of ID including a valid Ohio driver's license or ID card, U.S. passport, and U.S. military ID. Ohio law also requires absentee voters to provide a copy of their photo ID, an Ohio driver's license or ID number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number. Ohio law also allows for voters with a religious objection to complete an affidavit.

FOP of Ohio adds 3 more members to the #ProtectOhioPolice Hall of Shame

The FOP added 3 more members to the Hall of Shame. Whitehall politicians Mayor Michael Bivens and Council members Amy Harcar and Lori Elmore join Iris Roley from Cincinnati and Eric Garrett from Akron in the Protect Ohio Police Hall of Shame. All three have shown a consistent commitment to anti-police rhetoric and action, lack of transparency, and questionable spending decisions that don't serve Whitehall residents.

Protect Ohio Police, an initiative by the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, exists to hold public officials accountable when they undermine the rule of law in Ohio

Protect Ohio Police Presents:

THE HALL OF SHAME



FOP of Ohio

The FOP, America's Largest
Law Enforcement Organization



WWW.FOPOHIO.ORG

Why FOP?

- **Legislative advocacy**
(Columbus + D.C.)
- **Legal Defense**
- **Honoring our fallen**
- **Peer support for critical incidents**
- **Free Line of Duty Death Benefits and Accidental Death Policy**
- **Discounted service providers and exclusive member benefits**
- **JOIN OVER 382,000 BROTHERS AND SISTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER**

WHAT IS THE FOP?

★ **THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN OHIO**

The Ohio Fraternal Order of Police is the largest and oldest organization representing law enforcement professionals across the nation.



We exist to **PROTECT, SUPPORT, REPRESENT** those who protect and serve our communities.

POLICE

WE ARE COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION AND SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE ON AND OFF THE JOB.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Fighting for law and policies that support law enforcement and public safety.



LEGAL DEFENSE PROTECTION

Advocate on your legal representation when you need it most.



MEMBER BENEFITS

Exclusive programs and savings that support you and your family.



OFFICER WELLNESS

Resources for physical, mental, and emotional wellness at every stage.



SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Standing with the families of fallen officers and those in need.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training, education, and endless opportunities for career growth.

FROM BIG CITIES TO SMALL TOWNS, FROM EVERY COUNTY IN BETWEEN –
THE FOP IS HERE FOR EVERY OFFICER.

★ **ONE MISSION. ONE VOICE. STRONGER TOGETHER.** ★



FOP Associates Report

We just wrapped up our Annual State Conference, and what a tremendous success it was! Our fundraising efforts were very successful. We will be donating \$900 back to the FOP Foundation, thank you for your continued support!!

Congratulations to all the FOP, FOPA, and Auxiliary award recipients. Your dedication and service are truly appreciated, and these honors are well deserved.

As we begin the new year with our newly elected board, we are excited to continue supporting the FOP and strengthening our FOPA lodges across the state. The FOPA is made up of compassionate individuals who are always willing to step in when needed and are deeply committed to supporting law enforcement and our FOP families. We are proud to be some of your biggest cheerleaders!

If your lodge has a FOPA, we encourage you to support its efforts and work together to continue making a difference. If you have questions about the FOPA or would like to learn more about how we can support your lodge, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

We appreciate each one of you and thank you for all that you do!

Fraternally,

Tammy White, Ohio FOPA State President

WhiteStateFOPAPres@gmail.com



The FOPA 2026 State Board



Do you know
someone who
“BACKS THE
BLUE”? The FOPA
is the organization
for them!

The FOPA Ohio is a civilian affiliate of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. Our members are friends and families of law enforcement Officers, responsible and respected business persons, professional men and women, and citizens from all walks of life—people willing to devote a portion of their time and efforts toward assisting the various law enforcement agencies of our communities, states and nation.

The FOPA Ohio is an organization formed for the purpose of increasing our understanding of the rights, duties and problems of law enforcement officers; of fostering respect for them; and of bettering conditions under which they serve society. We accomplish this through public relations, as well as legislative and educational efforts. It is our aim and objective to support law enforcement throughout Ohio in every way possible. We believe that Law is the safeguard to freedom, and it is our duty to defend it.

We all need to help the FOPA help us, by recruiting a member or two to join the FOPA. If you need information on the FOPA, please email alodgeupdate@gmail.com

If you were unable to attend our 90th Annual Conference, you missed out on a lot. The link below will take you to the conference documents, including the conference book and the resolutions.

[https://www.fopohio.org/index.cfm?
zone=/unionactive/private_view_page.cfm&pag
e=FOPOhio2020232087TH20Conference](https://www.fopohio.org/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/private_view_page.cfm&page=FOPOhio2020232087TH20Conference)



RETIREMENT DOESN'T MEAN STEPPING AWAY FROM THE BROTHERHOOD.

**JOIN THE NATION'S LARGEST POLICE
ORGANIZATION.**



The FOP works in the Statehouse and Congress on pensions and Social Security to benefit all of our retired members.

We are proud to offer our concealed carry legal protection through the FOP Legal Defense Fund for only \$84 a year! You can learn more at <https://foplegal.com/>.

If you know a retired law enforcement who is interested in joining the nation's Largest Police Organization contact Rob Hawley at rhawley@fopohio.org.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE



800-341-6038
foplegal.com

Concealed Carry Coverage for Retired Law Enforcement

Stay protected in retirement.

As a retired law enforcement officer, you've earned the right to carry - and the peace of mind that comes with knowing you are protected.

The FOP Legal Defense Plan's Concealed Carry Coverage provides unlimited legal defense for civil and criminal claims associated with the legal carrying and use of a concealed weapon by a retired law enforcement officer authorized to carry concealed.

For just \$75/year, you receive:

- Unlimited legal defense (with plan attorney)
- Coverage for criminal and civil charges if you are legally carrying concealed as a retired Law Enforcement Officer, according to LEOSA or state laws



Member benefits, **OPTIMIZED**

Optavise engages, educates, and provides benefit guidance for your members.



\$10,000 Accidental Death Benefit

- ▷ Pays a cash benefit if a member dies accidentally or suffers a severe injury, such as loss of motion, sight or limb.
- ▷ Offers coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- ▷ No financial obligation
- ▷ No medical exams, forms, or waiting period
- ▷ First 12 months complimentary at no-cost



Discount Mortgage Programs

- ▷ **Mortgage program** offers no lender fees, 1% rate buy down for 2-years, and loan forgiveness up to \$525k for on-the-job deaths in certain industries.



Member Engagement and Education

- ▷ In-person and virtual engagement available
- ▷ On-site visits at roll calls one time per year
- ▷ Drawings and prizes for members who review the new benefits



Voluntary Benefits

Offer voluntary benefits specifically beneficial to law enforcement.

- ▷ **Accidental Injury protection:** Important protection from the costs of unexpected covered injuries
- ▷ **Critical Illness protection:** A simple solution that helps cover the costs of covered critical illness, including cancer, heart, stroke.
- ▷ **Hospital coverage:** valuable protection against the costs of hospital stays
- ▷ **Life insurance:** permanent, portable and term options
- ▷ Many policies include a premium-return option, which means members get their money back after a specified period of time.*
- ▷ Coverage available for members, spouses, children, & grandchildren.
- ▷ Rates never increase due to age



Membership Services

Let us help empower your organization with impactful initiatives, such as:

- ▷ Sponsoring local, state and national conventions
- ▷ Recognizing your officers at annual awards ceremonies or galas
- ▷ Being involved in outings or charities that are important to your group

*The premium-return benefit is subject to state and product availability. The benefit has an additional charge and may pay minus claims or regardless of claims based on the policy selected. The policy must remain in force until the end of the premium-return period for the benefit to be paid.

LIMITED-BENEFIT POLICIES. These policies have limitations and exclusions. For costs and complete details of coverage, contact the agent. Most policies underwritten by Washington National Insurance Company, home office: Carmel, IN. AD&D insurance provided by third-party affiliate.

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Member benefits
well-advised.

Do you have FOP/FOPA Plates?



In cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the FOP offers a special FOP member-only license plate and a FOPA member-only license plate.

These plates can be ordered at any local BMV Office, but first, you must receive an approved application from the Ohio State Lodge. You will receive your approved application(s) in the mail, which you can complete based on the style of plates desired and take to any local BMV.

In order to approve your application, please fill out this web form at this address :

<https://www.fopohio.org/LicensePlates>



**NFOP Members can join the NFOP Amazon Business account and take advantage of Business Prime (Free Same Day, Next Day, 2-Day shipping on Prime eligible items), wide product selection (100s of millions of products), and competitive prices (Business-only prices). The NFOP Amazon Business Account can be used by members for individual personal purchasing, and also may be used by lodge staff for lodge specific purchasing. Only NFOP members can join. Click the link to submit this form to validate membership and receive an invite:
<https://fop.net/member-benefits/join-nfop-amazon-business-account/>**





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A benefit that opens doors
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This complimentary, one-time benefit cancels the balance of your mortgage, up to \$525,000, should you fall in the line of duty.

It covers any work-related activities involving external force and violence, as well as heart attack or stroke that may occur during strenuous training or activity.



Eligibility

- Federal, state, county, or municipal agency first responder or transit worker
 - Including full-time, part-time, and volunteer law enforcement, fire & rescue, and EMS
- Must be under 70 years old at loan inception
- First-lien mortgages serviced by CrossCountry Mortgage
- Eligible conventional or government loans*
- Primary residences, second homes & investment properties
- Purchase & refinance transactions

*Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae, USDA and VA

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Hero Accident Plan

NATIONAL FOP APPROVED



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200k Line of Duty Death Benefit

No payroll requirement -- direct pay available



- ✓ \$3000 initial hospital benefit
- ✓ \$750 daily hospital benefit (doubles for ICU)
- ✓ Dependents eligible for coverage
- ✓ Members may self-enroll or agent assisted
- ✓ Dedicated service team for claims and coverage assistance
- ✓ Premiums waived if disabled
- ✓ Portable - coverage continues even if you change jobs
- ✓ 24-hour coverage on or off-duty or working special details



- ✓ \$100 health screening benefit for each covered person
- ✓ 25% benefit increase for organized sports injuries
- ✓ \$70 per day chiropractic benefit
- ✓ Ambulance Benefit: Ground \$600 I Air \$3000
- ✓ \$2000 gunshot wound benefit
- ✓ \$150 Doctors office or Urgent Care visit
- ✓ \$400 Emergency Room benefit

Additional Protection for Those Who Serve

- ✓ GI lump sum critical illness & cancer benefits for members & spouses
- ✓ Short-term disability with no offsets or reductions for other coverage. Pays for partial disability even on light duty. Pregnancy treated like any other illness
- ✓ Guaranteed issue hospital plan with no pre-existing exclusions
- ✓ Guaranteed issue life insurance for members, spouses and children

For Retirees, Spouses & Surviving Spouses

- ✓ Full Medicare coverage -- Advantage, Supplements & drug coverage
- ✓ Help retired LEOs to navigate Medicare
- ✓ Help surviving spouses understand Medicare

For rates and how to make this available to your members, please contact:

 GMaytubby@EBSWorksite.com

 KellyM@EBSWorksite.com



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FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY

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Center for Criminal Justice, Law, & Ethics



Dear Members,

One of the strengths of our criminal justice programs is the experience our instructors bring to the classroom. Dr. Jeff Magers, one of our adjunct instructors, is a retired Captain with the Jefferson County (KY) Police Department, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, and previously served as Mayor of Bancroft, Kentucky.

In addition to his law enforcement and military background, Dr. Magers has worked extensively in police policy, training, and leadership development, including work with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Dr. Magers has taught courses in American Policing, Community Initiatives in Criminal Justice, Protection of Children in the Justice System, and Special Topics.

Our programs are designed to be **practical and applicable to the profession**. Rather than focusing heavily on research and statistics, courses are taught by professionals working in the field who focus on advancing real-world knowledge, leadership, and skills. Our programs are welcoming to all law enforcement and designed to build on the experience officers already bring to the profession.



As part of our partnership with the **Ohio FOP**, members receive a **20% TUITION DISCOUNT**.



Additional program information is available here:

<https://franciscan.edu/program/online-ms-criminal-justice/>



Questions: criminaljustice@franciscan.edu



Or speak directly: 740-284-5367



We also look forward to meeting many of you at the **Ohio FOP Conference & Expo** in July.

MEET OUR INSTRUCTOR



Dr. Jeff Magers

- ★ Retired Captain, Jefferson County (KY) Police Department
- ★ Retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
- ★ Former Mayor, Bancroft, Kentucky



Our mission is to educate and form ethical leaders who will **uphold truth, serve others, and promote justice** in their communities and careers.

God Bless your day,

Adrien Lee

Administrative Assistant, Program Recruiting,
Partnership Development Coordinator
Criminal Justice Program & The Center for
Criminal Justice, Law & Ethics
Franciscan University of Steubenville
1235 University Blvd STJO #134
Steubenville, OH 43952
alee@franciscan.edu | 740-284-5367

UPHOLD TRUTH & JUSTICE

Ohio Police Important Dates

October 22-23, Great Lakes Area Coalition Training Gun Lake, MI

October 28 Women's Conference Columbus

November 5-8 National Board Meeting Chicago

January 22-23, 2027 FOP of Ohio Winter Board Columbus

February 21-26, 2027 Pathway to Excellence Las Vegas

March 18-20 Spring National Board Meeting Denver

July 10-13 91st FOP of Ohio Conference Sharonville

August 9-12, 2027 National Conference Salt Lake City

