



Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio, Inc.  
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Benefiting over 20,000 Retirees

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## In Loving Memory of Past Officers



One of our Founding Members **Catherine "Katie" Phillips** passed on January 23, 2018. She was a retired Columbus Police Officer and Widow of Carl Sims Sr, Columbus PD and John Phillips, Columbus PD. Words cannot describe the amount of gratitude we have for Katie and appreciation for her passion, time and loyalty that Katie and her husband John put into our organization. She started the state office in Columbus, Ohio in 1983 with the help of Joseph Voss, Caney Johnson Jr, Grace Matthews Maratta (Snyder). Some of her many jobs were a Legislative Liaison, Trustee and numerous other titles. Katie you will be greatly missed!



**Dorothy Rechel** passed July 25, 2018. She was a widow of Howard Rechel, Cincinnati FD. Dorothy just recently retired from her position as our PFRO Secretary. She was the President of the Hamilton County P&F Chapter for many years. Her passion in life was dedicating her whole being to helping widows making the transition. We are going to miss her smiling face at our meetings!

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Bill Deighton

John Wainscott

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of another year, we have several things to report to our membership. First, and most important, is the health care transition that will take effect January 1, 2019. (page 5)

Secondly, Ric Oxender, our legislative agent, is retiring at the end of this year after having been our Legislative Agent for over 20 years. "Thank you" Ric for all of your dedicated hours of service to us. Enjoy your retirement! Our new Legislative Agents will be the Byers, Minton & Associates. Byers, Minton & Associates have already hit the pavement working on new legislation for our organization.

Once again, I want to say Thank You to our members for another successful year on our PFRO scholarship program. We were able to award a total of five scholarships this year. Thank you to the Ohio Retired Chiefs of Police Association, we were able to award an additional scholarship with the help of their \$500.00 donation. (See page 2 for scholarship winners) Remember, along with our scholarship awards, we also gave away \$1,000.00 for each month's winning ticket and \$100.00 to the seller of each winning ticket. At our last meeting on October 14, we will be drawing our final four winners of the year.

Our Playball was held on July 21, 2018. In fact, this year we had one of the largest number of attendances from our members and their families. As usual, the game came along with a short rainfall, which seems to happen every year! But we got lucky, and with the 9:00 pm late start the Clippers were able to play. They went on to win 5-3 against the RailRiders. Thank you for everyone's support and hope to see you next year.

We are finishing the year by donating to the following organizations:

- City of Reynoldsburg PD - K-9 donation
- The Boys & Girls Club of Clermont (Cincinnati Zoo Tickets)
- Salvation Army - Cincinnati, Ohio (Christmas toys)
- Ohio Guidestone (Cleveland Zoo Tickets)
- The Matt Haverkamp Foundation - K-9 donation
- Cheering for Charity Foundation (Tri-State area living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers)
- Mt. Carmel Hospice, Columbus, Ohio

### Membership News

We starting our 2019 dues year, if you would like to pay your **2019 dues**, we have included a slip in this newsletter. If you normally pay through one of our local chapters, please continue to do so. When you pay through your local chapter, you can send your state dues for \$25.00 as well as your local dues to them. Your local chapter will forward your payment of \$25.00 to the state office.

**Thank you to all members for your continued support. Remember there is "Strength in Numbers."**

### New Legislation Aims for Changes of OP&F Pension Fund Board; Plus Meet the PFRO Lobbying Team - Byers, Minton & Associates

Byers, Minton and Associates (BMA), a multi-client government affairs firm based in Columbus has recently come onboard with the Police & Fire Retirees of Ohio to assist with statehouse lobbying activities due to the planned retirement of long-time PFRO lobbyist, Ric Oxender. BMA is led by Principals Bill Byers and Andrews Minton who have more than 40 years of combined Ohio government relations experience. The firm's team also includes seasoned statehouse veterans Stephen Nielson, Greg Bennett and Michele Staton, along with Client Relations Manager Evelyn Kennedy. BMA will advocate for PFRO on all legislative and executive branch issues. Please join us in thanking Ric Oxender for his years of tireless advocacy for our members. For more information on BMA, you can visit the firm's website at [www.byersminton.com](http://www.byersminton.com)

**New Legislation** — BMA and Ric Oxender worked with State Senator Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) to recently introduce legislation that would require the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees to elect a retirant member as chairperson every third year. Introduced on July 19th, Senate Bill 317 aims to align the board with how other state pension boards are operated. Currently, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension fund prohibits retiree board members from being appointed as chair. When enacted, this legislation will help ensure a stronger voice for retirees in decisions of the pension fund.

*Gary L. Monto, President*