Meeting Dates & Events

Mon., June 2 Retiree's Meeting

Tue., June 3 FOPA Meeting

Thur., June 5 FOP Picnic

Mon., June 9
Executive Board Meeting

Tue., June 10
East Side L-18 Luncheon at APG

Wed., June 11
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Thur., June 19 Juneteenth Holiday; Hall Closed

> Mon., June 23 Regular FOP Meeting

Wed., June 25
West Side Luncheon at Triple Cats

Fri., July 4 Independence Day; Hall Closed

> Sun.-Tue., July 13-15 State Conference

"Two-Six" STAFF

Editor	Brent Eve
Retired Info	Mike Bolte
Photographers	Jim Brown
	Bill Holzmaı

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Two-Six News



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1900 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214 (513) 381-2550
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Follow us on Twitter: FOP Queen City Lodge #69 (@fop_#69)
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Editor . . . Brent Eve

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 6

CINCINNATI, OHIO

JUNE 2025

FOP President's Message

May is a month we will not soon forget. It began with an officer being forced to defend himself in a fatal shooting, only to have Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Larry Henderson senselessly murdered for simply wearing a police uniform. It's a sad reminder of how evil lurks and we must continue to fight that very evil.

As police week began, for the first time the Cincinnati Police Flag was flown at City Hall. I would like to thank Council member Mark Jeffreys for getting this done. The turnout at the parade this year was great. I appreciate everyone attending, especially with the number of threats we have received recently. The event went off smoothly. I want to thank the memorial committee for another job well done.

Sean Woods and I were in Columbus this month meeting with Ohio State Senators Blessing, Wilson, Ingram and Lang to discuss getting the Ohio Police and Fire pension reform passed. There's a proposed amendment in the Senate's budget that will require employers to increase the employer contribution for law enforcement from 19.5% to 24%. This would take place over 5 years. After that 5-year period, the pension would complete an actuarially determined employer contribution every 3 years where the contributions could increase or decrease .5% for that period. This would best position our pension system to not lose any benefits. The unfortunate reality is that if we do not get this passed, retirees are in danger of losing their COLA. We all know the concessions employees have made. It's time the employer does their part.

Finally, I want to provide an update on the Hard Rock Casino incident. We were notified the casino will be changing their policy in June that will now allow ACTIVE police officers to carry a firearm in the casino while off duty. This is in accordance with already established state law. If anyone has any issues beginning in June, please contact me.

Don't forget the family Picnic on Thursday June 5th. I hope to see everyone there!

Fraternally, Ken Kober

POLICE RETIREES NEWS

By Mike Bolte

Retirees for Cincinnati and Hamilton County Officers Meet the First Monday of the month and begins at 1900 hours and will be on June 2nd, 2025. Call Michelle at the FOP Hall, 513-381-2550, to join IF you are not a member.

Luncheons and Breakfasts

All LEO Retirees, Active Officers and Supporters are encouraged to come and have breakfast and/or lunch at these events.

West Side: The West Side luncheon at Triple Cats is the 2nd Wednesday **and** LAST Wednesday of each month. Both are in Harrison and start at noon. The West Side breakfast is EVERY Saturday at Price Hill Chili in the Garden Room and starts at 0800 hrs.

East Side: The East Side L-18 Luncheon is always at the Anderson Pub & Grill at Beechmont/Nagel. The luncheon will be on June 10th. The East Side Saturday breakfast is at the Country Inn located at 910 Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio and starts at 8 am.

2025 FOP LEOSA Qualifications

Please contact Carl Rauschenberger by email or by cell phone for information: carler272@yahoo.com or 513-325-8022. Certification course is at the Fairfield Sportsmans Assoc., 6501 River Rd. There is a \$5 guest fee, and a \$40 charge for the qualification with 1 or 2 guns. The dates for training are flexible.

Recent Retirements

Daryl Grant Jonathan Gordon Willie Coman Jason Mummert John Murray John Neal

Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and The Shield

The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society and the Shield are always accepting donations. If you are a member of the Cincinnati Police Federal Credit Union, you can fill out a form and make a monthly donation to one or both. It is easy and tax deductible.

From Cliff Bell:

The upcoming Buckethead's (6507 Harrison Avenue) beginning at Noon:

July 7, 2025 – Independence Day September 1, 2025 – Labor Day November 10, 2025 – Veteran's Day

The FOP Retirees Meeting is on June 2nd. The annual FOP Picnic is on June 5th. The Regular FOP Meeting is on June 23rd.

Please contact Austin Lee at:
austin.lee_21@yahoo.com
to have your police or police family
owned business added to the newsletter.

L-18 EASTSIDE LUNCHEON John Burke

The second Tuesday of the month tells me Eastside Luncheon is calling. We opened with announcing that Tom Sandman is leaving for Michigan to be with his children. A very good man of the Law, as if you are his partner, you are with the best. Most decorated Officer in this area, and such a super guy. We will miss you, Tommy.

Retired Deputy Charlie Wilson spoke of Larry Henderson, and what a delight to work with him, as all of us are saddened at his tragic passing. We just want justice to be served.

80 showed up, as John Burke had the quiz, with the usual laughs.









BUCKETHEADS LUNCHEON Jim Brown

Sixty-Four supporters of Law Enforcement were in attendance at Bucketheads for the Memorial Day 2025 LE Holiday Luncheon. Tom Scott, the Owner of Bucketheads and a longtime supporter of Law Enforcement, was presented the "Law Enforcement" Blue Flag in a show of respect and appreciation to him and his commitment and continued support for our Brothers and Sisters in Blue. Independence Day is on a Friday this year, so the LE Holiday Luncheon will be celebrated on Monday, July 7th. Bucketheads opens at 11:00 and attendees start arriving by 11:15. Hope to see you on July 11th.













9th DISTRICT TRUSTEE Jon Halusek

There are lots of things going on with the FOP. We just finished the Police Memorial and are now focused on the FOP Family Picnic. The picnic will be on June 5th at Strickers Grove. We will then be hosting the State Conference. If you did not know, President Kober and Sean Woods went back to Columbus to meet with several senators in reference pension reform. The Cities have not increased their contribution to the pension reform since 1986. We hope this can be put into the budget by the senate and passed.

In the House:

The House passed H.R. 1 the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," on a 215-214 vote. The bill makes permanent the 2017 tax cuts, slashes Federal funding by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, invests \$300 billion into border security, and raises the debt limit by over \$4 trillion. The bill is now moving to the Senate for further consideration.

In the Senate:

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing entitled "Defending Against Drones: Setting Safeguards for Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems Authorities." The focus was on drones as they pertain to the law enforcement field and smuggling contraband into detention facilities. Witnesses from the Florida Highway Patrol, Texas Rangers, and American Correctional Association were among those who testified.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported Gadyaces Serralta to serve as Director of the United States Marshals Service on a 12-10 vote.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported Terrance Cole to serve as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration on a 12-10 vote.

After the death of Deputy Henderson, the buzz in DC was to make killing a police officer a federal crime. H.R. 1551 and S.B. 167 already do this. The bill states: the "Protect and Serve Act," which would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target local, State or Federal law enforcement officers with violence. The FOP has been lobbying for this for years, but it only has 65 co-sponsors (R:52 D:13) in the house and 16 in the senate (R:16 D:0). I will be watching the movement on this bill.

The FOP of Ohio is selling raffle tickets to the Ohio State v Texas game on August 25th. Tickets are on sale on the FOP web site or if you give it time, I'm sure Greg and I will have them to sell. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

This year 27 Officers have been killed in the line of duty. Please watch each other and cover over. As I have said many times, one is too many.

FOPA OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Jackie Metz

On 02/26/2025 District 3 officers responded to 6180 Glenway Avenue in reference to an Aggravated Robbery at the Game Stop. The victim, who is an employee of Game Stop, advised that he was robbed at gunpoint by a male white and was zip tied by his hands and feet.

The victim advised that an unknown male entered the store brandishing a firearm and demanded that he close all the security gates on the front door and windows. The unknown male zip tied the victim's hands and feet prior to taking merchandise and currency. Police Officer Kyle Brown and Police Officer Sean Henderson observed a male matching the description in the rear of 6161 Glenway Avenue. As Officer Brown and Officer Henderson exited their marked patrol vehicle, the male fled on foot. Officer Brown and Officer Henderson observed bags containing merchandise on the ground and pursued the suspect but were unable to locate him.

Detective Bryan Delk responded to 6161 Glenway Ave. to collect and process the bags left behind by the suspect. A grey bookbag was recovered which contained \$3079.00 US Currency along with multiple items taken from the store. The items were processed and sent to the Cincinnati Police Department Criminalistics Unit for examination. Clothing was also recovered that matched the description of what the suspect was wearing and was sent to the Hamilton County Lab for DNA testing. Detective Andrew Yenco reviewed and collected the video surveillance from the store which captured the offense.

Detective James Adams advised that he was investigating a theft offense that occurred at Walmart that involved similar items, and the suspect matched the description of the suspect. Detective Adams provided a photograph from the Walmart video surveillance which was identified as the male the officers pursued. On 02/28/2025, Criminalist Amanda Fields advised that the items submitted for fingerprint examination provided a positive identification of Milique Bartholow.

On 03/02/2025 Cincinnati Police District 3 officers located Mr. Bartholow who admitted to the facts of the Aggravated Robbery and Kidnapping.

IN MEMORIAM Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

Police Specialist Kenneth Harry Bohnert

Kenny was born on October 26, 1934. On October 12, 1959, he joined the Cincinnati Police Division's 37th Recruit Class. He was promoted to Patrolman on February 3, 1960, issued Badge 18, and assigned to District 1.



On November 27, 1960, he was rotated to District 3. Three years later, he requested a transfer back to District 1. On January 1, 1965, he was transferred back to District 3. On November 2, 1972, he was promoted to Police Specialist, issued Badge PS107, and re-assigned to District 1. Specialist Bohnert retired on November 15, 1986.

He returned to the Division two weeks later as a Police Technician and was assigned to District 1. On May 28, 1989, he transferred to the Supply Unit. Police Technician Bohnert resigned on January 3, 2004 with 48 years of service to his country and two communities and 18 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

Officer Bohnert died on May 16, 2025 at the age of 90.

Police Officer Bruce Todd Koehn

Bruce joined the Cincinnati Police Division on March 12, 1967 in the 48th Recruit Class. He was promoted to Patrolman on June 4, 1967, and assigned to District. He transferred to District 1 on February 25, 1973. Officer



Koehn was assigned to the Regional Enforcement of Narcotics Unit (RENU) on August 14, 1977. Ten years later, on April 12, 1987, he transferred to District 4. He was assigned to the Drug Diversion Unit on October 21, 1990. Officer Koehn retired on April 15, 2000 with almost 33 years of service.

Officer Koehn died on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the age of 82.

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Gardner Memorial Mass - Charlie Horstman

I am having a memorial mass said for Clarence "Chuck" Gardner on August 13, 2025, at 8:30 AM at St. Thomas More Church, 800 Ohio Pike, Union Township, Clermont County.

The church is located on Ohio Pike, Ohio Route 125 (sometimes called Beechmont Ave), about a mile east of I-275.

Please remember to call Michelle Comarata at (513) 381-2550 if you have moved, have gotten married or divorced, have added a child/dependent, and also to check or update your death beneficiaries.

Make sure to call the FOP Hall at (513) 381-2550 to notify them of a death of a retired police officer.

2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS BANQUET

Jim Brown Facebook Page

On May 9th, I had the honor of taking pictures at the F.O.P Law Enforcement Awards Banquet. There was a different feel at the Banquet this year. Hamilton County Deputy Larry Henderson was in the hearts and on the minds of the attendees. In honor of and homage to Deputy Henderson, the Ceremony went forward, as he would have wanted. The job performance and/or the community service provided by each of the Award Winners was very impressive. Law Enforcement is more than just a job - It takes commitment, dedication, and passion to be a Law Enforcement Officer. Dedication, Commitment, Professionalism, and Sacrifice isn't enough for some people, and that is okay because the overwhelming majority of society appreciate, love, respect, and support Law Enforcement. Congratulations to all of the Officers that were honored at the LE Awards Banquet. Thank You for your Dedication, Commitment and Professionalism to the citizens of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. To Hamilton County Deputy Larry Henderson, Thank You for your Dedication, Commitment and Sacrifice. We've got it from here. God Bless You Brother.











COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL

Ryan Stubenrauch / Jamieson Gordon

Our crisis communications in the news this month comes from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

While responding to a call of a break-in, a police chase ensued since the suspect ran away from the scene. Once they got to him, he complied, but a K-9 with the officer bit the man's arm.

According to the police, the K-9 mistook a gesture the officer made for a direction to bite the suspect. Thankfully, the man only sustained minor injuries and the department said they were conducting an internal review. Here's the statement they released:

The WSPD remains committed to accountability, transparency, and the responsible use of our K9 units. Our police K9s are an extremely valuable tool and have been utilized to find missing persons, locate drugs, and apprehend offenders. While these K9s are valuable assets to our department and undergo intensive and rigorous training, we must also acknowledge when they make a mistake. In this instance, our K9 should not have bitten Mr. Jacobs. We regret this occurred and we are fortunate that Mr. Jacobs only had minor injuries.

Trust between our officers, our K9 partners, and the community is essential to effective policing and public safety. We are dedicated to ensuring these highly trained K9 teams operate with professionalism and precision. To maintain and strengthen that trust, we will be reviewing training and communication protocols to reinforce best practices among our officers and K9 handlers.

This is a great statement, nearly perfect! Let's talk about several things they did well.

First, they started with an aspirational statement about their commitment to accountability, transparency, etc. – this is something we can always do regardless of how much we can share.

They also anticipated the concerns the public may have regarding the safety of K-9 units. Perhaps some members of the community would start to think, are they even worth it if this can happen? To that, the WSPD explained how beneficial K-9 units are to find missing persons, locate drugs, and more.

But what was the best part of their statement? They were honest and acknowledged that a mistake happened. It's one thing to say you're committed to transparency, but it's far better to demonstrate that you're willing to take responsibility for things you did wrong. That takes humility, and your stakeholders will be more willing to hear you out and understand if you apologize (only if a mistake was actually made and it doesn't legally implicate you).

The last thing we want to point out is that they included how they're going to remedy this in the future – by reviewing

training and communication protocols! This is a textbook example of what good crisis communications for police can look like.

No changes over here. All that to say, WSPD's PIO deserves a raise!

2025 POLICE MEMORIAL PARADE

The 2025 Police Memorial kicked off National Law Enforcement Week on May 12. Following speeches and remembrances at the Fountain Square Ceremony, attendees marched to the Police Memorial on Ezzard Charles Drive. Law Enforcement Agencies from throughout Hamilton County participated in the parade and ceremony.



















District Court Allows Firefighter's Claims of Sexual Harassment, Hostile Work Environment, and Retaliation to Proceed to Trial

Steve Lazarus, Esq. • Lazarus Law, LLC • SteveLazarus@hllmlaw.com • (513) 607-4455

In March 2024, a local city firefighter filed a suit alleging sexual harassment, hostile work environment, and retaliation against the City employer ("City"), a male firefighter, and former lieutenant. The suit contains allegations stemming from conduct that occurred in 2018 before she was hired at the department and in 2021 after she had been hired. On March 19, 2025, the U.S. District Court partially denied the defendant's motions to dismiss, allowing some of the claims to proceed to trial.

The firefighter applied for a position at the City Fire Department ("department") in the fall of 2018. At the time, a now-retired lieutenant oversaw recruiting for the department and frequently communicated with the firefighter. At one point during the hiring process, he told the firefighter that the department would not be moving forward with her application, but that he was "vouching for her throughout the process." The firefighter "felt indebted" to the lieutenant and "that she owed her employment opportunity" to him based on his representations. In December 2018, the lieutenant invited the firefighter to his home where she alleges, he raped her. She further alleges that until at least September 2019, the lieutenant continued to communicate with her after the assault with "persistent invitations to recreate the events that led to the initial assault." In February 2019, she was accepted into the recruit class and began her employment with the department.

The firefighter further alleges that another male firefighter sexually assaulted and attempted to rape her in August 2022. The alleged conduct happened after an "assignment party" attended by the department employees, where the male firefighter asked her to drive him back to his car and later assaulted her. Following these events, the firefighter submitted reports to the City regarding the male firefighter and lieutenant's conduct as well as public records requests into their former discipline, investigation materials, and all other information related to them. However, despite her public records requests, several documents were missing, including documents concerning a previous report of sexual harassment against the lieutenant. Based on these events and the City's conduct thereafter, the firefighter alleged that the City mishandled her reports, improperly conducted accompanying investigations, and unlawfully retaliated against her.

On June 7, 2023, the firefighter filed a charge of discrimination with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission ("OCRC") and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). After receiving her Notice of Right to Sue from the OCRC and EEOC, she filed a now amended, thirteen count complaint against the City, the male firefighter, and lieutenant (collectively, "defendants"). Of those complaints, nine counts were directed against the City, and the others were directed towards the lieutenant and firefighter.

The defendants filed motions to dismiss on several of her claims, notably for the claim of hostile work environment. In the City's motion to dismiss for the count of hostile work environment, the City argued that the alleged rape in 2018 occurred before she was hired as an applicant, and therefore she could not claim a hostile work environment claim. On March 19, 2025, the U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio Western Division ("the Court") issued an opinion partially dismissing and partially granting the defendant's motions to dismiss.

In addressing the firefighter's claims, the Court held that the firefighter could bring a hostile work environment claim even if some of the alleged conduct occurred while she was an applicant, "True Title VII only applies to employers and a hostile work environment refers to conditions that an employee experienced during his or her employment... But here, she is complaining about her experience as an employee... True, she also points to the rape, and that occurred while she was an applicant, but that is, at least in part, to provide context for why working with [the Lieutenant] might constitute a hostile work environment."

Legal Lesson Learned: Employers should ensure all claims of hostile work environment and other allegations of misconduct are promptly addressed and appropriately investigated to avoid claims against them.



Thursday June 5, 2025 at

Strickers Grove

Gates open at 4:30 p.m.
Food served starting at 5:00 p.m.
Rides start at 6:00 p.m.
Costs \$2.00 5-12 \$5.00 13-Adult

NO PARTIES!

FOP 69 & FOPA MEMBERS ONLY Any questions call Michelle 513-381-2550

Members are responsible for the conduct of the people they bring to the picnic



ROLL CALL

Brent Eve

Fallen Officers Ride – Rick Krummen

Over 200 motorcycles participated this year. We raised money for the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Museum and The Shield.











National Police Week - CPD Facebook Page

Last week during National Police Week, the CPD Honor Guard traveled to the U.S. Capital for the annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. Law Enforcement agencies from across the nation participated in these services to honor and celebrate the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you to all officers, past and present, who dedicate their lives to serving their communities.





Associate Police Captains Award – FOP 69 Facebook Page

On May 20th, the Associate Police Captains honored some great cops and a fine young man for their efforts saving a life and apprehending a violent felon! Great work.

On May 3, 2025, officers responded to a call of a person stabbed on Vine St. near 7th St. Off-duty CPD Detective Takia Tyus was alerted by her godson, Steve Turner III, who was with her in the area. Detective Tyus called 911 and began to follow the suspect as she relayed a description and direction of travel to the Emergency Communications Center. Officer Rob Wilsman was nearby, witnessed the suspect running, and gave chase while providing updated information to other officers via the radio. Officer's Tom DeFranco and Kevin Broering located the suspect on Main St. near Central Parkway. Sergeant Dave Moore quickly arrived, and the officers took the suspect into custody. As this was going on, Officer Jimmy Pham, Mike Lowe, Ross McNicol, and Sam Bailey located the victim bleeding profusely and suffering from multiple stab wounds on and around his neck. They worked together to render aid and apply pressure to the wounds, saving the victim's life. The officers assisted the Cincinnati Fire Department in transporting the victim to the hospital, where he received multiple pints of blood and underwent surgery.





Cincinnati Police Flag Flown at City Hall – FOP 69 Facebook Page

On May 12th, for the first time, the Cincinnati Police flag will be flying at city hall for National police week. We also paid tribute to Deputy Henderson and the 135 other officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Hamilton County. While a somber event, we must never forget the sacrifices officers made for their communities.





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◆ COPFCU

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!

June marks 90 years of serving our members, and we're celebrating this milestone with a week full of appreciation and prizes! From June 16–21, enjoy exciting giveaways both online and in-branch, plus a few "pop-up" prizes along the way!

Enter Daily to Win Grand Prizes

- \$900 Cash
- 2 Bengals Tickets + Parking
- Apple Watch

Spin the Prize Wheel - June 17

Swing by your closest branch and spin our prize wheel for a chance to win fun surprises, gift cards, and more!

Thank you for being a valued member of COPFCU.

We're grateful for your membership and excited for what the future holds.

