

Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association Meeting

March 1, 2025, at 10:00 am – First Quarter Business Meeting

37th Annual Snowbird Reunion

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Florida

Meeting called to order by President Bob Booker at 10:02 AM

Pledge of Allegiance by Vice President Dale LaRue

Roll call of board & district representatives by Secretary Lydia Frey, 10 officers were in attendance. (President Bob Booker, 1st Vice President Dale LaRue, 2nd Vice President Ginny Fogt, Secretary Lydia Frey, Treasurer Brenda Collins, Past President Richard Collins, Superintendent Charles Jones, District Representatives: Findlay, Pam Sullivan; Warren, Lou Gliozzi; Florida, Chris and Nestor Vincenty and Steve Brode. There were 22 Association Members in attendance.

Executive Board Reports:

Minutes from 2024 4th Quarter meeting

Motion to accept as written by Charlie Linek

Second by Dale LaRue

Discussion none

Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Collins - There is a total of \$114,657.73 in the treasury. Included in this total are four different accounts. The OW Merrell account is used to pay for the OW Merrell Meritorious Award and the Chiaramonte Account is used to pay the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award each year. The treasurer's report is included at the end of the minutes.

Motion to approve report as prepared by Dale LaRue

Second by Steve Brode

Discussion none

Motion carried

Committee Reports:

Membership and Credentials: Butch Collins

We have had 54 retirements this year with 33 of them joining the Retirees' Association. We currently have 1,170 dues paying members.

New Member Nominations – Butch Collins

Wayne Isaacs– Recommended by Dennis Bueno – He left in 1979 after being on the patrol for 7 ½ years. D8 & D9. When he left, he went to the Wendy's Corporation. Colonel Collins reached out to others regarding Wayne and they spoke very highly of him. (Approved through the membership)

Craig Reich – Honorary Association Member, Son of the late Lt. Colonel Earl Reich. He attended the meeting with Retired Lieutenant Gary Smith. Craig introduced himself and provided the members some background on himself and his family. Nomination approved through the membership.

Resolutions: None

Historical: None

State Troopers of Ohio: Colonel Butch Collins, retired

Last monthly meeting was February 10, 2025. Representatives Kevin Miller and Haraz Ghanbari both attended the meeting to update the board on what was going on with the budget. Budget testimonies have been given by Director Andrew Wilson, Colonel Charles Jones and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Swindell. All did an exceptional job. Link to the testimonies can be found on www.Troopertotrooper.com. Retired Colonel Collins thanked everyone at the meeting for supporting State Troopers of Ohio, Inc.

Retirement System Update: Carl Roark

Largest challenge is the COLA
Senator Romanchuk introduced Bill – to reduce the current requirement of 30 years of funded ratio to 20 years. This bill would put restraints on the retirement system. Carl has upcoming meetings on this.

During the luncheon program, Sergeant Nihiser, Chair of the Special Committee – COLA, said every member of the HPRS Board wants to provide COLA. The committee is looking at different options, such as what other pension systems are

doing. Sgt. Nihiser also discussed the Wellness Program (and Scans). The contract vendor that the HPRS had used for the scans has ended. The cost to continue the scans has raised significantly and is not fiscally possible. The Board is considering options. Actually, less than 5% of our retirees participated in the program. The Board is looking closely at this. Tony Bradshaw, Operations Manager was also present. All were available to answer questions from the retirees.

Active Ranks Update: Colonel Chuck Jones

Colonel Jones “Thanked” the support from the Retirees’ Association. Different events within the Division were supported by the association and they couldn’t do it without their partnership.

During the luncheon program, Colonel Jones thanked his wife, Royel, Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Linek and his wife Debra for being there today.

Colonel Jones talked about his testimony regarding the OSP (DPS) budget to the House Committee last week. Director Andrew Wilson highlighted significant impacts from OSP. The Division has been pushed and pulled in many directions in the past year. This was talked about a lot and what would happen if the budget isn’t approved. It takes money for what OSP does. They will continue to have conversations. Introduced in the budget was increases of \$10 on registration fees and \$3 on title fees. There has not been an increase since 2003 when we had the gas tax. The Division needs more revenue. Colonel Jones is very hopeful that the Division will find the much-needed dedicated funding source.

Colonel Jones talked about ACT 2025 (Advanced Calibration and Traffic Safety) and the many goals associated with this.

Recruitment – Cadet classes. 173rd – 48 troopers, graduated on June 14, 2024; 174th – 40 troopers, graduated November 8, 2024; 175th – graduates March 21, 2025 and 176th graduates June 20, 2025. The 177th starts April 22, with signing day on Monday, April 21, 2025.

Mental Health and Wellness – K9 therapy dog, Hope, and handler, Master Trooper Paul Appleman has been well received. With all that is going on, we are focused on taking care of people and offering support for everyone.

Flying Wheel – We are updating the format and we will have QR codes for videos. The changes have been well received.

State of the Patrol Address – March 28, 2025 at the Academy. All are welcome to attend. The address will be live-streamed on the Ohio Channel for all to watch.

Memorial – May 9, 2025 at the Academy. Due to a conflict with a concert at the stadium, we will be starting the ceremony at 10 AM. All are invited to attend.

Retirement Cookout – June 6, 2025 – We hope to see everyone there.

Classroom dedication for Fermina Sanchez. Over 55 years in Public Safety. No date set yet.

The OSP is in good hands. Troopers are doing the job every day and looking forward to the future.

Ailing Members:

There is a large group of ailing members and we will discuss them at the luncheon.

President Booker

It has been customary for the OSHPRRA to pay for the meals of the widows in attendance at the Annual Meeting. We would like to do the same for the Snowbird and Sunbird luncheons, if there is no objection by the membership present. None noted.

Yearly IRS filing is complete for the non-profit status. The business filing is current. Next filing date is 2027.

Memorial at the Academy – May 9, 2025. A reminder will be coming out regarding the gravesite cleanups for fallen troopers. This needs to be completed prior to 05/09/2025.

Next business meeting is June 6, 2025 prior to the Retirees' cookout.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Approved by Brenda Collins

Second by Dale LaRue

Discussion none

Motion carried

Luncheon Program

Chris and Nestor Vincenty were thanked for finding this location for the Snowbird Reunion in the past.

Swearing in of New Board Officers: Lydia Frey, Secretary, was administered the oath of office by retired Colonel and Past President Butch Collins.

Special Order & Announcements: Butch Collins - 1st Time Snowbird attendees were recognized (Lydia Frey, James "Duke" Mathews, Bob Potter and wife, Beth); Update on Oldest Retiree Ed Centofante – he is doing good but did not attend the Snowbird this year. New Members: Craig Reich and Wayne Isaacs approved. He spoke about the retiree website (www.oshpretiree.org). He added a link to the Benefit Fund website, along with eight quick links on the retiree website for everyone to use.

Ailing Members:

- Former Dispatcher Rhoda Knauff – Husband, S/Lieutenant Bob Knauff, gave an update on Rhoda. She was taken to the hospital yesterday from the Snowbird Reunion with lower abdomen pain. She had surgery earlier this morning and will need to stay in the hospital for a couple of days. The prognosis is good.
- MCEIS Brian Wilson, active member, passed away a couple days ago after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 45 years old.
- Retirees: Sergeant Tim Dawson (spine/heart), Trooper Craig Franklin (cancer), S/Lieutenant Ken Wellendorf (cancer) are all in need of prayers.
- Emmett Lawson, son of Sergeant Garrick Lawson at Bowling Green, was born prematurely (less than 1 pound) in December, 2024. He needed surgery on his intestines, but they needed to wait until he was big enough to handle the surgery. Once he had the surgery, he has started to grow and gain weight. He is currently 4 pounds. On April 6, 2025, a fundraiser is being held for Emmett in Northwood, Ohio. Information will be posted on www.troopertotrooper.com.
- Mary Arend (Glioblastoma Cancer), Wife of Retired Sergeant Dan Arend at Post 48; Christa Marshall, Wife of Retired Colonel Ken Marshall both appreciate prayers.
- If you know of anyone having difficulties, please let us know and we will add them to our prayer list.

New Business:

President Bob Booker announced the 2026 Snowbird, will be in this same location on March 6 – 7, 2026. The cost of the hotel rooms is going up \$2.00 to \$149.00 per night. We don't think there is a better price in this area. The hotel is easy to work with and they do not charge us for the hospitality room. We are allowed to purchase drinks and snacks for the hospitality room from the outside without any fees. They also provide us with ice and containers to hold the drinks. This is almost unheard of at any other event venue.

We are open for any ideas and volunteers to host in a different location for the 2027 Snowbird.

Luncheon concluded at 1328 hours

TREASURER'S REPORT

#3783	Checking Account (.05%)		\$ 897.80
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$ 13,870.48
	CD Total (4.70% to 4.75%)		\$ 76,624.64
	*Anniversary Checking Account (.05%)		\$ 619.31
	OSHPRA Regular Account Total	#3783 Total	\$ 92,017.23
#5643	OSHPRA Benevolent Account		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 5.00
	Blue Max Savings (2%)		\$ 3,484.58
	12 Month CD (4.75%)	5/5/2025	\$ 6,771.46
	OSHPRA Benevolent Account Total	#5643 Total	\$ 10,261.04
#6708	O. W. Merrell Award Account		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 1,551.25
	12 Month CD (4.75%)	5/13/2025	\$ 4,600.80
	O. W. Merrell Award Account Total	#6708 Total	\$ 6,153.05
#6822	Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account		
	Regular Savings (.05%)		\$ 1,091.58
	12 Month CD (4.75%)	5/13/2024	\$ 4,600.80
	12 Month CD (4.75%)	5/13/2024	\$ 1,153.34
	Chiaromonte Humanitarian Award Account Total	#6822 Total	\$ 6,845.72
	GRAND TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS		\$ 115,277.04
	*Anniversary Account is NOT part of regular monies	-\$ 619.31	\$ 114,657.73

Report prepared with all statements through 1/31/2025
and all other available information through 2/20/2025.