

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Employer contribution changes not included in state budget bill



Mary Beth Foley, Esq.

Dear members,

We were so close. But, the legislature left town this summer without dealing with OP&F's inherent inequity between police and fire employer contribution rates.

Keeping up with Ohio's biennial budget debates can be daunting because of the wide range of subjects that can be included. At OP&F, we not only have been paying close attention, but our staff – along with members of Ohio's police and fire unions – have been working behind the scenes to secure long-term funding for our pension fund as a part of the budget bill.

I have talked about OP&F's funding issue in this newsletter several times since July 2021, specifically House Bill 512. Although that legislation did not pass, we saw an opportunity and support to have the same provisions included in this summer's budget bill. The language was included in several drafts of the legislation until very recently (the deadline for lawmakers to pass the budget bill was June 30). Unfortunately, the mayor's alliance again objected despite surpluses in many city budgets and a state surplus of almost \$1 billion. Therefore, the language we wanted did not make the final version that was signed by Governor DeWine.

The issue is our funding formula. Police employers pay 19.5 percent of a member's salary towards their pension, while fire employers pay 24 percent. For 30 years actuarial experts have pointed out these unequal rates and said they are unsustainable. The last time employer rates were changed was 1986, and no legislative action has been taken since.

A national study of public safety retirement systems shows the average employer contribution for non-Social Security retirement plans (like OP&F) is 26.4 percent. OP&F employers pay 21.69 percent when combined. Further proof that OP&F is not adequately funded. We knew that changing the employer contribution rates would be a long process. Just like the deliberations and committee meetings on House Bill 512, each step educated representatives and senators to the genuine need for change. We are now planning for our next steps and I will keep you informed on how you can help. We will continue to work to secure meaningful long-term funding security for your pension fund.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Foley".

Mary Beth Foley, Esq.  
Executive Director

## STEEL SWORN IN AS NEWEST OP&F TRUSTEE

Brian Steel from the Columbus Division of Police was the successful candidate for this spring's election for a seat on the OP&F Board of Trustees. Steel will represent active police officers for a four-year term that began June 5. Election results were announced on May 18.

Steel joined the Columbus Division of Police in 2005 and holds the rank of Sergeant. Before joining CPD, he served four years as a police officer in Morris County, NJ. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio Dominican University, and an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from County College of Morris, NJ.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Steele is the Executive Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge #9. He also serves as the Executive Director of the FOP 9 Foundation and is a Legislative Agent for the FOP of Ohio.



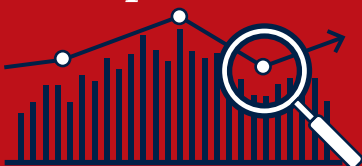
Left to right: Brian Steel- Newly elected trustee,  
Marco Miller- OP&F Board Chair, Mary Beth Foley- OP&F  
Executive Director

## Miller new chair of OP&F Board; Czack elected vice chair

Marco Miller (retired, Columbus fire) will serve as chair of the OP&F Board of Trustees after being nominated and elected at the May 24 meeting. Miller completed his first term on the Board in the spring and ran uncontested for a new four-year term that began June 5.

Also at the May 24 meeting, Tanya Czack (Parma Heights police) was elected to serve as vice-chair of the Board. Czack is currently in her first term as a trustee.

### PORTFOLIO -update-



OP&F's  
Investment  
Portfolio  
Value

As of June 30:  
\$17.3 billion

End of May value:  
\$17.1 billion

End of April value:  
\$17.4 billion

*\* values may be internally estimated*

# PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS, WEBINARS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST



OP&F will be providing information to members approaching retirement this year by hosting a series of seminars and webinars. OP&F invites active members who are within five years of retirement eligibility participate in one of the Pre-Retirement meetings in August.

This year OP&F will host three in-person seminars and two webinars where members can participate online.

The meetings are designed to assist members who are approaching retirement eligibility or considering enrolling in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). During the meeting, OP&F Member Education representatives will provide in-depth information about service retirement, DROP, annuity options, and survivor benefits. In addition to information on benefits

and the retirement process, OP&F's health care partner, Alight, will present information and answer questions.

Participants will not only view informational videos and presentations, but also have the ability to ask questions.

Invitations have been mailed to members within five years of retirement eligibility. Members can also register by calling OP&F Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. EST, or online at [op-f.org](http://op-f.org).

## Seminars:

## Webinars:

### CINCINNATI/DAYTON

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Courtyard Hamilton  
1 Riverfront Plaza  
Hamilton, OH 45011

### COLUMBUS

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m.  
Quest Conference Center  
9200 Worthington Road, Ste. 400  
Westerville, OH 43082

### CLEVELAND

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
6001 Rockside Rd.  
Independence, OH 44131

Monday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m.

## Alight to sponsor health care webinars in September

OP&F's health care partner, Alight Retiree Health Solutions, will host webinars in September and October to explain health care options for eligible OP&F members.

Dates and times are listed below. Members are asked to choose the date and time most convenient, then register and get instructions online at [MyExchangeConnection.com/OP-F](http://MyExchangeConnection.com/OP-F) or call Alight at 844-290-3674. Once you register for a webinar, you will be emailed a link, phone number and access code to attend.

Webinars are conducted by an Alight professional who will be happy to answer any questions you have during your selected session time. A recording of the webinar will be available and on the OP&F website at a later date for anyone not able to attend these online sessions.

In order to better explain the options available to retirees, separate meetings are scheduled for Medicare-eligible retirees and pre-Medicare retirees. Alight and OP&F personnel will be available to answer questions. When registering, please be aware of the specific meeting topic.

### Fall retiree health care webinars:

#### Sept. 25

- Medicare – 10 a.m. ET
- Pre-Medicare – 2 p.m. ET

#### Sept. 28

- Pre-Medicare – 10 a.m. ET
- Medicare – 2 p.m. ET

#### Oct. 4

- Medicare – 6 p.m. ET

#### Oct. 5

- Pre-Medicare – 6 p.m. ET

## ANNUAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

For active members who are not in DROP, the 2022 Member Statements are available on the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website. These statements show an active member's accumulated service time and progress toward retirement eligibility through Dec. 31, 2022.

The statement contains information about the member's account with OP&F, including accumulated service time. The statement provides an overview of the member's work history with OP&F-covered employers and the amount of member contributions paid.

Members can access their Member Statement by logging into their OP&F Member Self-Serve account. The statement can be viewed and printed from the Member Documents link. Only OP&F members who have a Member Self-Serve account can access the statement online. To register, go to [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) and click the link for Log In, in the upper right corner. Look for the Members link to register and follow the instructions on the screen.

## Partnership with Cristo Rey marks 10 year anniversary



OP&F's Board of Trustees took time during its June meeting to recognize the 10 year anniversary of supporting Cristo Rey High School's work study program for minority and underserved youth in Columbus. The Board's efforts to support city youth in the communities police and fire serve have resulted in 100 percent of OP&F's Cristo Rey students being accepted to college. In the past decade five of the students have been hired full time at OP&F. Pictured, (L-R) are Mary Beth Foley, OP&F Executive Director; Joe Patrick, Cristo Rey Columbus President; and Marco Miller, Chair of the OP&F Board of Trustees.





## OP&F works with employers to report electronically



This summer OP&F is initiating a campaign with employers to mandate paperless reporting and payments. Most OP&F employers already submit their reports and contributions electronically. Those employers who still submit reports manually will now be required to transition to paperless reporting.

OP&F has created a committee of staff members to lead the campaign. Over the last two years, OP&F has made significant strides internally to prepare the organization for a new pension system. As OP&F continues to move forward with this project, it is imperative that the cities, towns and townships that employ our active members are submitting their payroll reports and payments electronically.

OP&F's Finance Department staff members will support employers through this transition, including providing training and materials. Employers are encouraged to start preparing early to ensure a smooth transition.

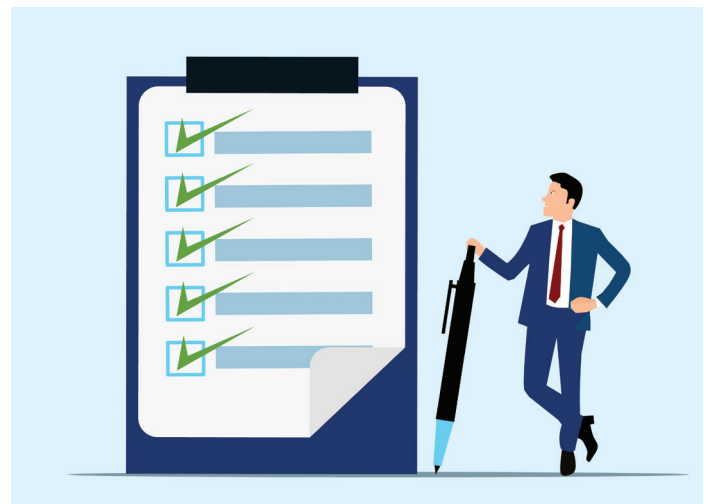
## Benefits and Wellness Check form helps ensure benefits continue to retired members

Earlier this year OP&F developed a form designed to help protect benefit recipients from fraud. The Confirmation of Benefits and Wellness Check form is meant to ensure retirees – especially older members – continue to receive their benefits as intended.

If a member receives this form they are required to complete and sign it in the presence of a notary. The completed form will certify that the person named in the document is currently living and should continue to receive their OP&F benefits.

So far, OP&F has learned of several member deaths that were unreported. While most funeral homes automatically notify Social Security of a person's death, there is no similar process in place for members of OP&F. We currently rely, in part, on a member's family to notify us and provide the proper documentation.

It is imperative that OP&F have correct mailing information for members, especially for important tax information that is sent to retirees annually. In particular, snowbirds who spend the winter months in a different location should ensure their address information is correct at all times. A change of address form is available at [op-f.org](http://op-f.org).



## AUDITOR OF STATE GIVES OP&F SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL AUDIT

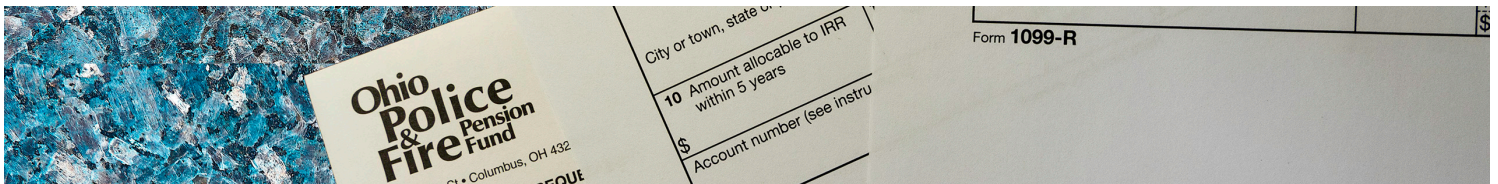
OP&F has received a clean financial audit from Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber. The audit was successfully completed in June for the year 2022. The audit opinion from RSM, an independent firm selected by the Ohio Auditor of State, concluded that OP&F finances are in order and reported in the appropriate fashion. The audit came with no recommendations for improvements.

### 2022 financial reports now available

Both the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the popular annual report for OP&F's 2022 fiscal year are online at [op-f.org/reports](http://op-f.org/reports). The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report offers a detailed look at OP&F's financial and investment statements as well as member demographics. The popular report is an overview of OP&F's financial statements and a review of pension fund activities from the past year. In addition to the 2022 reports, those for recent years are also available.



### OP&F urges benefit recipients to opt-out of Form 1099-R mailing, retrieve it online



OP&F's website allows beneficiaries to download the Form 1099-R for tax reporting purposes and avoid receiving the form in the mail. This feature not only saves the cost of mailing the tax form but is more secure than mailing it and is convenient for our beneficiaries.

To opt-out of the mailing, beneficiaries must log into their account in the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website and choose Document Preferences. From this page beneficiaries can choose to opt-out of the mailing. Beneficiaries must have an email address to use the opt-out feature.

Beneficiaries can access the Form 1099-R by going to [op-f.org](http://op-f.org) and logging on to Member Self-Serve. The Form 1099-R can be viewed and printed from the Documents link.

To register for Member Self-Serve, go to [op-f.org](http://op-f.org) and click the log-in link at the top of the page. Under the member option, follow the instructions to register.





140 East Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
www.op-f.org

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
COLUMBUS, OH  
PERMIT No. 675

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: 1-888-864-8363  
Fax: (614) 628-1777  
TTY: (614) 221-3846  
E-mail: questions@op-f.org  
Monday-Fridays 8 am-4:30 pm EST

**OP&F BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Marco J. Miller, Retired, Chair, Columbus Division of Fire  
Tanya Czack, Vice Chair, Parma Heights Police  
Stephen A. Corvi, Columbus Division of Fire  
John Deal, Cincinnati Fire  
Mark Drum, Retired, Delaware Police  
Brian Steel, Columbus Police  
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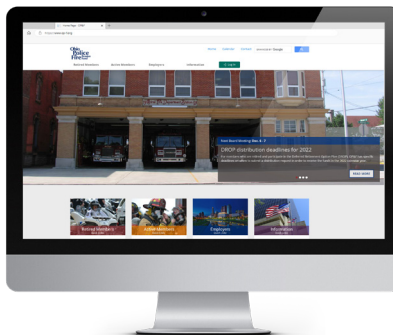
**PRUDENCE • INTEGRITY • EMPATHY**

*Securing the future for Ohio's Police and Firefighters*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Aug. 16-30 .....Pre-retirement seminars and webinars
- Aug. 29-30 .....Board of Trustees meetings
- Sept. 4.....OP&F closed in observance of Labor Day
- Sept. 25-Oct 5 ....Alight Health Care webinars
- Sept. 26-27 .....Board of Trustees meetings
- Oct. 31-Nov 1.....Board of Trustees meetings

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**



If your email address is not on file, please send it to us at questions@op-f.org, or contact an OP&F Customer Service Representative at 1-888-864-8363. Members can also update their information securely online from the secure Member Self-Serve web portal.

**SUSPECT DISABILITY FRAUD? CALL 844-FRAUD HOTLINE (844-372-8345)**