

# MEMBER'S REPORT

The quarterly newsletter for active and retired OP&F members and their survivors

Ohio  
Police  
& Fire Pension Fund

Volume 42 / Number 1 / WINTER 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Legislative update on SECURE Act, HB 512



Mary Beth Foley, Esq.

Dear members,

From our friends in Washington, a major retirement bill, which is commonly known as the SECURE Act 2.0, in the end-of-year omnibus appropriations bill, cleared Congress on Dec. 27, 2022, and signed into law by President Biden.

OP&F is pleased this legislation has moved forward. We have worked on many of the provisions in the SECURE Act 2.0 and also we were the originator and sponsor of the language which removed

the "direct payment" requirement from the public safety officers' tax exclusion for health care.

Several key provisions affect public safety employees:

- Makes the requirement for direct payment by a retirement system under the HELPS health care exclusion for retired first responders optional instead of mandatory;
- Exclude from income certain disability payments to retired first responders;
- Modify the exemption from the early withdrawal penalty for first responders from age 50 to "age 50 or 25 years of service under the plan, whichever is earlier;" and
- Extend the exemption from the early withdrawal penalty to include private sector firefighters and certain state and local corrections employees.

Additional provisions of interest to state and local governmental retirement plans include the following:

- Increase the age trigger for Required Minimum Distributions from defined benefit and defined contribution plans; in the case of an individual who attains age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022, and age 73 before Jan. 1, 2033, the age trigger is 73; in the case of an individual who attains age 74 after Dec. 31, 2032, the age trigger is 75;
- Increase the annual limits on catch-up contributions to \$10,000 for those age 60, 61, 62, and 63 for 457(b), 403(b), and 401(k) plans beginning in 2025;
- Permit employer matching contributions on account of student loan payments for 457(b), 403(b), and 401(k) plans;

- Provide flexibility for plan fiduciaries when seeking to recoup inadvertent retirement plan overpayments;
- Eliminate the first day-of-the-month rule for 457(b) plans to provide more flexibility for participants to make changes in elective deferral amounts; and
- Require the Roth method (contributions must be made with after-tax dollars) for catch-up contributions for those who earned more than \$145,000 from the employer sponsoring the retirement plan.

In other legislative news closer to home, Ohio House Bill 512 the legislation we introduced late in 2021 that would have made long overdue changes to the employer contribution rates, which have not been changed since 1986 did not pass.

The General Assembly met until 6 a.m. on Dec. 14, during their lame duck session. Regrettably, House Bill 512 did not pass in this session of the legislature. However, our work was not in vain, we plowed a lot of ground, provided early warning of our funding issues, educated members, members of the General Assembly and the public about the looming funding issues and lack of equalization between police and fire employer rates. We are hopeful our efforts have created opportunities in the new General Assembly, which began Jan. 1.

Our bill remains historic as the first to be introduced to equalize and raise the employer share on behalf of Ohio's municipal public safety officers since 1986.

Also, the most recent actuarial reports for OP&F shows that we remain in compliance with the state's funding requirements, despite lowering our assumed rate of investment return.

The actuarial report was prepared by our independent actuary, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting. Their analysis shows that the funding period for OP&F stands at 28.07 years as of Jan. 1, 2022, below the state's mandated 30-year requirement. The results are based on factors recommended by Cavanaugh Macdonald and adopted by the Board of Trustees at its Oct. 26, 2022 Board meeting.

As always, we will keep you informed about all important news from our Statehouse and in Washington and we continue to work on your behalf. Please have a happy, healthy and safe new year.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Foley, Esq.  
Executive Director

## THREE TRUSTEE POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION THIS SPRING



OP&F members will elect an active police representative, an active fire representative and a retired fire representative to the Board of Trustees during elections this spring. Currently, Robert Britt (Toledo Police), Stephen Corvi (Columbus Fire) and Marco Miller (Columbus Fire, retired) hold these positions. Each is eligible for re-election.

A notice of election will be mailed to police and fire departments and to retired fire members by Feb. 6. Election materials, including nominating petitions, certificates of eligibility and election rules will also be posted to the OP&F website on Feb. 6.

Eligible members who intend to run for a position on the Board of Trustees must submit all required forms and information to OP&F no later than 4 p.m. on April 3. Ballots will be mailed in early May and the election results announced by May 31. The new term for the trustees will begin June 5.

Members are encouraged to update address information with OP&F so that they receive election information and can cast their ballot.



**OP&F's  
Investment  
Portfolio  
Value**

**As of Dec. 26:  
\$16.9 billion**

**End of November value:  
\$17.2 billion**

**End of October value:  
\$16.70 billion**

*\* values may be internally estimated*

## NEW APP WILL HELP OP&F RETIREES MANAGE HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT

OP&F's retiree health care partners, Alight and YSA, have introduced a new mobile app that assists with managing a member's health reimbursement arrangement. The Your Spending Account Reimburse Me app can be downloaded to your Apple or Android device for free through your Apple App Store or Google Play. The Reimburse Me app makes it easier to access, view, and manage your HRA, get quicker reimbursements, and find answers.

Tap the app icon and log on by entering Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund as the company name, as well as the user ID and password you use to access your online Alight/YSA account. Once logged on to the app, you'll see the Accounts page.

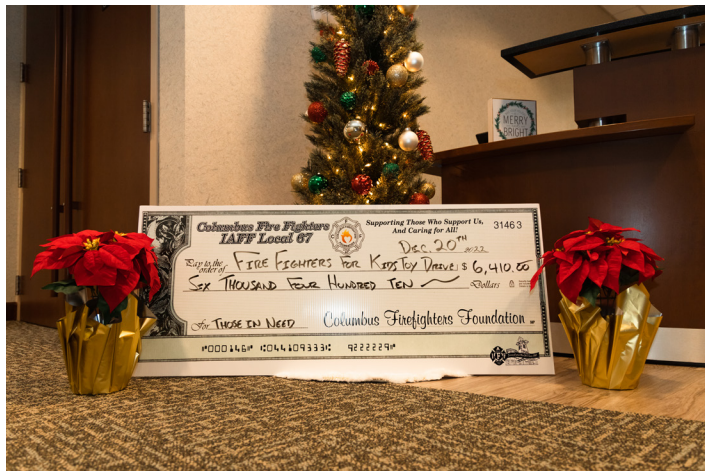
From here, you can:

- View time-sensitive alerts
- Check your account balance(s)
- Submit claims and/or supporting documentation
- Sign up for direct deposit or change your information
- Repay an overpayment by transferring funds from your bank
- View pending authorizations



OP&F Customer Service is not able to answer questions about this app. However, a user guide for the Reimburse Me app is on the health care page of the OP&F website.

## OP&F EMPLOYEES ARE POLICE AND FIRE CHARITY CHAMPIONS



OP&F employees raised an incredibly generous \$12,820 for police and fire charities in 2022. Pictured above, Executive Director Mary Beth Foley presents a check for \$6,410 on behalf of charitable efforts of OP&F employees to Steve Stein, President of Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters Local 67 for the Columbus Firefighters Foundation. An equal amount was also presented to The Shield, an organization seeking to serve the families of officers critically injured or killed in the line of duty within the Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont counties.





# IRS USING NEW VERSIONS OF W-4P, W-4R FOR 2023 TAX YEAR

On January 3, 2022, the IRS posted a revised Form W-4P, *Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments*, and new Form W-4R, *Withholding Certificate for Non-periodic Payments and Eligible Rollover Distributions*. The use of the revised forms was optional for the 2022 tax year, but will become mandatory for the 2023 tax year.

Current benefit recipients are not impacted by these tax changes. A benefit recipient who is already receiving benefits as of Dec. 31, 2022 will continue to receive the payment unchanged going forward unless a new W-4P is submitted. A new form is not required to be submitted.

The W-4P rules will apply to new benefit recipients or to anyone who wants to change their federal withholdings and submits a new W-4P to OP&F. In addition, the new form no longer allows payees to adjust the withholding amount using the number of allowances.

Prior to revision, payees used Form W-4P to tell payers the correct amount of federal income tax to withhold from taxable payments for periodic and non-periodic payments from pensions, profit-sharing, stock bonus, annuity, certain deferred compensation plans, individual retirement arrangements (IRAs) and commercial annuities, and eligible rollover distributions.

As revised, Form W-4P is used for taxable periodic pension and annuity payments, and new Form W-4R is used for taxable non-periodic payments and eligible rollover distributions. Basically, the old W-4P was split into two forms.

## W-4P Instructions (periodic pension and annuity payments)

- Steps 1 and 5 must be completed. Steps 2, 3 and 4 are optional.
- **Standard** – To have the standard (default) amount of federal taxes withheld from each benefit payment, complete Steps 1 and 5, and OP&F will use the IRS tax tables to determine the amount of federal tax to be withheld.
- **Standard PLUS Additional Amount**- If you want extra federal taxes withheld from each benefit payment in addition to the standard (default) amount, complete Step 4(c) and list a flat dollar amount of additional tax to be withheld.

Members may no longer list a total dollar amount to be withheld from each benefit payment. Instead, chose an option in Step 1(c) and list an additional amount in Step 4(c) to reach a total dollar amount to be withheld from each benefit payment.

- **No Federal Taxes Withheld**- If you do not want any federal taxes withheld from each benefit payment, write “No Withholding” in the blank space below Step 4(c).

## W-4R Instructions (non-periodic distributions)

- Steps 1 and 2 must be completed.
- For an eligible rollover distribution, the default withholding rate is 20%. You can chose a rate great than 20% by entering the rate on line 2. You may not chose a rate less than 20%.
- Eligible Rollover Distributions:
  - Lump Sum Death Benefits
  - Partial DROP Distributions
  - Refunds
- For non-periodic payments, the default withholding rate is 10%. You can chose to have a different rate by entering a rate between 0% and 100% on line 2.
- Non-periodic Payments
  - Required Minimum Distributions
- Withholding does not apply to:
  - Direct Rollover of eligible DROP distribution to another retirement plan or IRA



Please contact a tax professional for additional assistance completing these forms.



## DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS INTRODUCES MOBILE AND KIOSK PAYMENTS FOR STREET PARKING



The next time you visit OP&F, paying for parking might be different. The City of Columbus has recently removed the individual parking space meters and have moved to a mobile or kiosk payment system.

When you park on the street along the front or sides of OP&F headquarters you will find signs with information and directions on where to locate the nearest kiosk to pay for parking. The kiosks will have a street sign that states "Pay Here" to help locate the kiosk machine. There is a kiosk located on the corner of Fourth St. and E Town St.

Columbus now offers a mobile payment method by downloading the app ParkColumbus and you pay within the app or visit [parkcolumbus.parkmobile.io](http://parkcolumbus.parkmobile.io). You may also pay via text by texting "PARK" to 77223 and follow the given directions. If you do not want to pay via the kiosk or mobile methods you can call 877-727-5970 for assistance.

When you are parked in a space please remember to take note of the zone number located on the nearest parking sign, you will be asked for this number as well as your license plate number and time at the kiosk or online when you pay. The kiosks have instructions to properly pay for your parking. You may also park in one of the many paid parking lots including the Columbus Commons parking garage and the parking lot that is adjacent to the rear of OP&F building. For more details on parking at OP&F please visit the Contact Us link at [op-f.org](http://op-f.org).

## Board of Trustee meetings 2023

Jan. 24-25

Feb. 28- March 1

April 25-26

May 23-24

June 27-28

Aug. 29-30

Sept. 26-27

Oct. 24-25

Dec. 5-6

## Direct Deposit dates for benefit checks 2023

Check date	Deposit date
Jan. 1	Jan. 3
Feb. 1	Feb. 1
March 1	March 1
April 1	April 3
May 1	May 1
June 1	June 1
July 1	July 3
Aug. 1	Aug. 1
Sept. 1	Sept. 1
Oct. 1	Oct. 2
Nov. 1	Nov. 1
Dec. 1	Dec. 1

## TAX INFORMATION FOR MEMBER'S RECEIVING ON-DUTY DISABILITY BENEFITS

OP&F is required by the Internal Revenue Service to file a Form 1099-R for each person to whom a distribution of \$10 or more has been made for the tax year. OP&F reports all distributions to the IRS as reportable income, regardless of the taxable or non-taxable nature of the benefits. Please contact the IRS directly for information on filing requirements.

If the distribution is non-taxable, then Box 2a is completed with \$0.00. If a benefit recipient does not file an annual tax filing to reflect this non-taxable distribution they will probably receive

a notice from the IRS because the IRS was unable to match the income reported by OP&F to the benefit recipient's filing of reportable income. Members should contact OP&F if they receive such a notice. OP&F can then mail a letter to the benefit recipient that outlines the applicability of the private letter ruling to the benefit recipient's specific benefits so that they can forward this to the IRS. OP&F is not a third-party designated power of attorney with the IRS and therefore cannot provide information directly to the IRS on a member's behalf.

### Beneficiaries have choice 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 also friendlier to our environment, 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 (MSS) 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 choose to opt-out and then change their mind and again to receive the document in the mail by changing their preferences.

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

Only OP&F beneficiaries who are registered for the MSS Web can retrieve and print tax forms online. To register, go to [op-f.org](http://op-f.org) and click the link for MSS Web. Next, look for the register link and follow the instructions on the screen.

If you have any questions, please contact OP&F's Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363

## OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR RETIREMENT INTERVIEWS

In addition to the traditional in-person retirement interviews at our headquarters in downtown Columbus, OP&F also offers remote options.

While our member education area continues to host on-site interviews, virtual retirement meetings have become a popular option. An OP&F staff member can connect with a member and their spouse with their smart phone, tablet or computer.

OP&F has developed brief video instructions on how to access a video conference. These videos are available at the Plan for your Retirement page on the OP&F website. A link to these videos is also included in the email sent to members confirming the appointment.



# ELIGIBILITY FOR THE OP&F HEALTH CARE STIPEND: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE A QLE

To become eligible for the OP&F health care stipend, a Qualifying Life Event, or QLE, must first occur. A common QLE is the involuntary loss of group health care coverage, which usually happens when a member or spouse retires or becomes unemployed and their employer's plan is no longer available.

There is a 60-day window to apply for the OP&F health care stipend after a QLE occurs. The first step to applying is to complete OP&F's Health Care Stipend Eligibility Form, found on the OP&F website. The completed form can be emailed to [questions@op-f.org](mailto:questions@op-f.org), sent via U.S. mail, faxed to OP&F at 614-628-1777, or dropped off at OP&F offices in Columbus. This will start the process for OP&F to establish eligibility to receive the health care stipend.

OP&F will acknowledge receipt of the form and request additional documentation, such as proof of loss of coverage and proof of enrollment in an eligible plan. We will also send the member's information to our retiree health care partner, Alight, who will mail a welcome kit and other materials.

Additional information is on the health care section of the OP&F website, and Alight's OP&F-

specific websites. Links to these websites are also under the retiree section of the OP&F homepage.

## 2023 Health Care Stipends

	Medicare Status		Monthly Medical/Rx Stipend	Monthly Medicare Part B Reimbursement	Total OP&F Monthly Support for Health Care
	Retiree	Spouse			
<b>Retiree only:</b>	Medicare		\$143	\$107	\$250
	Non-Medicare		\$685	\$0	\$685
<b>Retiree + Spouse:</b>	Medicare	Medicare	\$239	\$107	\$346
	Medicare	Non-Medicare	\$525	\$107	\$632
	Non-Medicare	Medicare	\$788	\$0	\$788
	Non-Medicare	Non-Medicare	\$1,074	\$0	\$1,074
<b>Retiree + Dependent(s):</b>	Medicare		\$203	\$107	\$310
	Non-Medicare		\$865	\$0	\$865
<b>Retiree + Spouse + Dependent(s):</b>	Medicare	Either Medicare or Non-Medicare	\$525	\$107	\$632
	Non-Medicare	Either Medicare or Non-Medicare	\$1,074	\$0	\$1,074
<b>Surviving Spouse:</b>	Medicare		\$143	\$107	\$250
	Non-Medicare		\$685	\$0	\$685

### Reminder...

*If a member dies, the family must contact OP&F, their health care carrier and Alight Retiree Health Exchange to stop any auto premium reimbursements.*

## New OP&F form meant to ensure benefits continue to retired members

OP&F has developed a new form that will 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 will be required to complete and sign it in the presence of a notary (or a current OP&F HOST volunteer). The completed form will certify that the person named in the document is currently living and should continue to receive their OP&F benefits.

OP&F will send the form out in a series of mailings beginning in 2023.

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).





140 East Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Toll Free: 1-888-864-8363  
General Information: (614) 228-2975  
Fax: (614) 628-1777  
TTY: (614) 221-3846  
E-mail: [questions@op-f.org](mailto:questions@op-f.org)  
Monday-Fridays 8 am-4:30 pm EST

#### OP&F BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert E. Britt, Chair, Toledo Police  
Marco J. Miller, Retired, Vice Chair, Columbus Division of Fire  
Stephen A. Corvi, Columbus Division of Fire  
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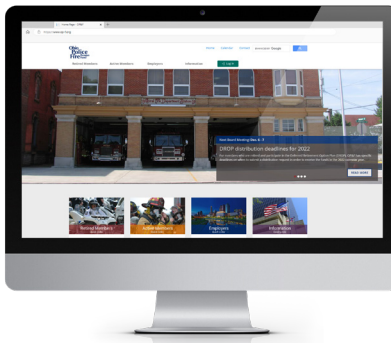
#### PRUDENCE • INTEGRITY • EMPATHY

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

### IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 24-25 .....Board of Trustees meetings  
Feb. 6 .....Board of Trustee election materials available  
Feb. 28- March 1. Board of Trustees meetings  
April 3 .....Trustee election petitions due  
April 25-26 .....Board of Trustees meetings

### DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?



Members can update their information securely online from the secure Member Self-Serve web portal.

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