

MEMBER'S REPORT

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

**Ohio
Police
& Fire Pension
Fund**

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OP&F members should be on alert for identity theft



Mary Beth Foley, Esq.

Dear Members,

Unfortunately, fraud and scams are now a part of our lives. We must remain diligent to protect ourselves from criminals who are being more creative in order to gain access to protected information.

We again alert you to scams, fraud and abuse targeted at pensioners. The most successful appear to involve callers identifying themselves as from federal government agencies like the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, or the Medicare/Social Security Administration. They pose as government employees doing you a service or trying to resolve an issue with your account or insurance. Fraudsters then attempt to gather critical personally identifying information, including your Social Security number, bank account information and pension accounts.

You should never disclose this information if you have not initiated the phone call. These federal agencies will rarely call citizens to

request this type of information. If you are contacted by anyone claiming to be from a federal or state agency, always indicate you will call the agency directly to verify their identity. Do not take the number they give you, rather look up the general contact for the agency yourself.

I must remind you, OP&F cannot replace a benefit that is lost due to fraud. While we will assist in any way we can to help you recover lost funds, we are not able to use money reserved for benefits of other members to replace these funds.

Your privacy is a top priority for us. I ask you to do your part by being on the alert for this type of fraud.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Foley, Esq.
Executive Director

POLL SHOWS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR POLICE AND FIRE, HB 512

The Ohio Fraternal Order of Police and the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters commissioned a telephone poll of 500 likely Ohio voters to gauge community feeling about first responders and measure support for House Bill 512. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus four percent.

Ohio House Bill 512 would increase employer contribution rates to OP&F for the first time since 1986. The increase would improve OP&F's long-term funding outlook and protect pensions for future retirees.

As we suspected, citizens do in fact appreciate our members' sacrifices to keep our communities safe. Only five percent oppose the bill. Highlights include:

- 87 percent of Ohioans think that it's of maximum importance to support police and firefighters.
- 92 percent of Ohioans believe it's important for promises made to first responders about their pensions be kept.
- 63 percent of Ohioans say that it's time for employers to increase their contribution to first responder pensions for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Most importantly, 78 percent of Ohioans are more likely to vote for a state lawmaker who supports legislation like House Bill 512.

(see more information on the survey results Page 6)

TIME FOR RETIREES TO REVIEW HEALTH CARE PLAN CHOICES FOR 2023



It's time for retirees and eligible dependents who receive a health care stipend from OP&F to review their health care plans for 2023. This time of year is when to make sure your health care benefits are keeping up with your needs. OP&F is again

working with Alight and their partners, eHealth and YSA to help manage the stipend and reimbursement process.

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for eligible retirees will be funded Jan. 1. The stipend amount depends on your Medicare status and dependents who may be eligible to participate (see the stipend chart included in this newsletter).

If you are a new retiree or if you believe you qualify for the OP&F health care stipend, complete and submit the Health Care Stipend Eligibility Form available on the OP&F website. For eligibility information, please refer to the health care section of the OP&F website.

Medicare-eligible retirees

Open enrollment dates: Oct. 15 through Dec. 7

Now is your chance to review your Medicare coverage to make sure it meets your needs. It is a good idea to check at least once a year that your benefits cover your health care and medication changes.

For Medicare retirees, you remain eligible for the OP&F health care stipend only if you maintain coverage through Alight Retiree Health Exchange. Any plan changes must be made through Alight and not your carrier. Use this money to help reimburse plan premiums and other qualifying out-of-pocket health expenses, such as copays, coinsurance and deductibles.

When you log in to your account at retiree.alight.com/OP-F, you will see a plan overview that gives you coverage recommendations

based on your updated health details. Plus, you can see how other plans compare to your current coverage—so you can find the plan that best matches your needs automatically. For even greater protection, check out the dental and vision plan options, too.

Alight gives you access to the same proprietary online tools that licensed Benefits Advisors use. You can get estimated out-of-pocket costs when you explore plans online—making it easier for you to manage Medicare.

Want to keep your current coverage?

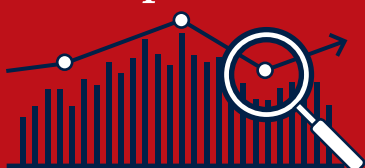
- If you would like to keep your existing coverage, there's nothing you need to do. As long as the plan is available in 2023, your plan will automatically renew. Be sure to check the plan details as benefits and costs may change.
- If you keep your existing coverage, your HRA auto premium reimbursements will continue as is. Should your premium amount change for 2023, please contact Your Spending Account (YSA) to update the amount you receive.

Want to shop for other coverage?

To learn about your plan options, shop online through the Alight website set up for OP&F members or contact Alight for assistance. If you change your plan for 2023:

- You may be required to answer health-related questions;
- You may need to make a premium payment to your new health care plan carrier before the January effective date; and
- You may have to wait for insurance company confirmation before HRA reimbursements begin.
- Medicare-eligible members and dependents must choose a plan through Alight to receive the OP&F stipend.
- Our priority is helping you manage your Medicare like a pro so you can confidently decide on a plan for you and your family. The Annual Enrollment Period ends Dec. 7.
- If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment to talk with a Benefits Advisor, call 844-290-3674 (TTY 711), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST.

PORTFOLIO -update-



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

**As of Sept. 28:
\$ 16.4 billion**

**End of August value:
\$17.5 billion**

**End of July value:
\$18.0 billion**

** values may be internally estimated*

Pre-Medicare retirees

Open enrollment dates: Nov. 1 through Dec. 15

For retirees not yet eligible for Medicare, you can choose an individual or family plan through eHealth or the open marketplace, as long as the plan is accredited by the Affordable Care Act. You can use your HRA to help reimburse health, prescription drug, dental and vision plan premiums, and other eligible health-related expenses such as copays, coinsurance and deductibles.

- With the open HRA for pre-Medicare retirees it is not required that you maintain health plan enrollment through Alight. However, if you have a change in your plan premium, you will need to submit a claim form to update the recurring reimbursement. If you cancel coverage through Alight you will need to certify new coverage through OP&F.
- If you change your plan for 2023, you will need to make a premium payment to your new health care plan carrier before the January effective date. Also, with a new plan you will need to submit a new HRA reimbursement form and proof of payment to Your Spending Account (YSA) to initiate reimbursement.

Log in to retiree.alight.com/OP-F to update or activate your

personal Alight account. To enroll, select the Individual & Family link on the home page.

Want to keep the plan you have?

If you would like to keep your existing coverage, there is nothing you need to do. As long as the plan is available in 2023, your policies will automatically renew. Be sure to check the plan details as benefits and costs may change. If you are considering different coverage, you have until Dec. 15 to change plans.

Keep in mind, if your health needs have changed, your coverage may need to change as well. New 2023 plans will be available Nov. 1. When you renew or change plans through Alight and eHealth, licensed agents can help you decide on coverage and help get you enrolled.

Alight provides advisory services, online decision-making tools, educational information and enrollment assistance.

The Open Enrollment Period ends Dec. 15, so if you have questions please call 844-290-3674 (TTY 711), Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR A MEDIGAP? A LITTLE RESEARCH COULD SAVE YOU MONEY

When OP&F's health care partner, Alight, presented its 2022 Individual Market Purchasing Power Analysis to the Board of Trustees, they suggested encouraging Medicare retirees to take a closer look at the plans they choose.

An examination of the coverage included in the plans, the cost, and the health status of the retiree may influence decisions and result in some savings. According to Alight's presentation, members could save, on average, about \$2,226 annually if they selected a more financially advantageous plan, which are local Medicare Advantage plans. Also, more than 99 percent of 2022 Medicare beneficiaries have access to at least one Medicare Advantage plan across all plan types, with approximately 95 percent having access to at least one Medicare Advantage PPO.

According to 2021 statistics, only 32 percent of Medicare-eligible OP&F retirees who have a Health Reimbursement Arrangement through Alight are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. The remaining 68 percent are in a medigap plan, or Medicare supplement plan.

"While Medicare supplement plans offer excellent coverage, they are generally more expensive than Medicare Advantage plans," said Jennifer Harville, OP&F's Director of Member Services. "If you are a Medicare-eligible retiree and are in relatively good health, it may be a good idea to explore Medicare Advantage plans to help save some money."

During the presentation to the Board, Alight representatives said their research shows that some OP&F retirees may be over-insured by using Medicare supplement plans.

Retirees can research both Medicare Advantage and Medicare supplement plans through Alight's website for OP&F retirees at: <https://retiree.alight.com/OP-F>.

YOUR 2022 IRS FORM 1099-R INFORMATION

OP&F will be issuing the 2022 version of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Form 1099-R in January to members and beneficiaries who received a benefit payment related to service, disability, annuity, survivor, death, an active member withdrawal or the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

OP&F's website allows members to download the Form 1099-R for tax reporting purposes and avoid waiting to receive the form in the mail. To save OP&F the cost of mailing the form (and to be environmentally friendly), members can opt out of receiving the form through the mail. This method is easy, convenient, and secure.

To opt-out of the mailing,

- Members must log into their account from the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website
- Choose Document Preferences.
- Choose to opt-out of the mailing.
- Members must have an email address to use the opt-out feature.

Members can access the Form 1099-R by logging into their OP&F Member Self-Serve account. The Form 1099-R can be viewed and printed from the Member Documents link.

Only OP&F members who have a Member Self-Serve account can retrieve and print tax forms online. To register, go to 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.

OP&F recommends logging into the Member Self-Serve system on or after Jan. 31 to confirm you have all the Form 1099-Rs issued. If you have any questions, contact OP&F's Customer Service at 1-888-864-8363.

A few reminders about Form 1099-R:

- Receiving more than one Form 1099-R is not uncommon. Member's and beneficiaries may receive more than one Form 1099-R if they receive more than one benefit payment or they turned age 59½ during 2022.
- Health care stipends are not reported on Form 1099-R.
- Non-taxable income is reportable income. Benefit payments may or may not be taxable but they are still reportable to the IRS on Form 1099-R.
- OP&F cannot offer tax advice or financial planning services; therefore, please seek professional tax advice before making any decisions. Please contact the IRS directly for information on filing requirements at 1-800-829-1040.
- Also available on OP&F's website is the Federal Tax Reporting Information for OP&F benefit recipients and the Private Letter Ruling for on-duty disability retirees.

NEED A DROP DISTRIBUTION IN 2022? BE AWARE OF THESE DEADLINES

For members who are retired and participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), OP&F has specific deadlines on when to submit a distribution request in order to receive the funds in the 2022 calendar year.

For DROP distribution requests of \$300,000 or more, OP&F will need to be in receipt of your DROP Distribution Request Form by Nov. 16 in order to ensure the DROP distribution is issued by Dec. 16.

DROP distribution requests for less than \$300,000 must be received by Dec. 9, 2021 in order to issue the distribution by Dec. 16.

All 2022 distributions will need to be processed and issued on or before Friday, Dec. 16. OP&F will not be issuing any distributions from Dec. 17 through Dec. 31. DROP Distribution Request Forms received after the cutoff dates may not be issued until after Jan. 1, 2023.





Update Tax Withholdings

To change the taxes being withheld from OP&F's benefit payments, the IRS Form W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments and the Withholding Certificate for Ohio State Income Tax are both available on OP&F's website. These forms are also available by calling OP&F's Customer Service Department at 1-888-864-8363. If a member or beneficiary moves out of state, OP&F does not automatically stop the Ohio State withholding. Members and beneficiaries must submit a request in writing to stop Ohio tax withholding from their OP&F benefits.



Update Contact Information with OP&F

Members should be aware that OP&F's mail will not be forwarded if the address on file is not correct. Additionally, OP&F cannot fax a Form 1099-R to a member, beneficiary or to a third party without notarized authorization. Notify OP&F if any contact information needs updated to ensure the timely receipt of Form 1099-R.

OP&F offers several convenient ways to update an address:



- Online:
 - Go to www.op-f.org and click on Log In, then on "Members Log In." If not registered, click the "register" link and follow the steps to set up your on-line account. Once an electronic profile is set up, the member demographics can be updated.



- Mail:
 - Send the updated information in writing or on a completed OP&F Change of Address form to OP&F at 140 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
 - OP&F's Change of Address form can be found online at www.op-f.org under Retired Members, then Member Forms.



- Call OP&F Customer Service at 888-864-8363.



Address up-to-date?

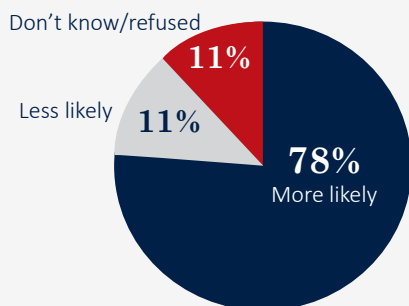
If the 1099-R will be mailed to a winter residence, please be sure to file a Change of Address form with the U.S. Post Office 10 postal days before delivery should begin.

The U.S. Post Office's Change of Address form:

- Can be filled out online at www.usps.com or by calling 1-800-275-8777.
- Is only good for six months even if the discontinue date is not filled in.
- OP&F recommends submitting the U.S. Post Office's Change of Address form at both U.S. Post Offices where permanent residence is and also the temporary residence.

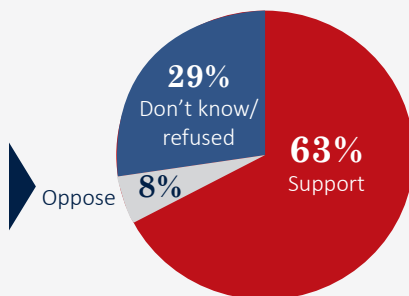
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE F.O.P., OAPFF SURVEY:

The Ohio Fraternal Order of Police and the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters commissioned a telephone poll of 500 likely Ohio voters to gauge community feeling about first responders and measure support for House Bill 512. The charts below indicate the results:



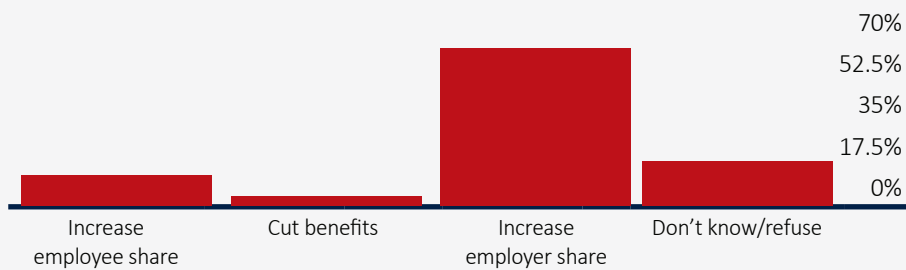
Do you support HB 512?

Ohio House Bill 512 is a good government solution that that would responsibly increase the employer contribution to police and firefighter pensions over a five-year period, giving city leaders time to budget for it. Do you support or oppose House Bill 512?



How to change funding...

Of the three fundamental ways to change funding for Police and Fire pensions – increasing the amount paid by first responders, cutting benefits (both of which have been done in the last 10 years), or increasing the employer share (which hasn't changed in nearly 40 years) – do you think police and firefighters should make another increase, there should be more cuts, or employers should increase their share?



LOW-INCOME STIPEND INCREASE PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR 2023

OP&F continues to sponsor assistance for low-income retirees and their families to receive additional support to pay for health care expenses. The 2023 Low-Income Stipend Increase Application form is now available at op-f.org for those who qualify.

Complete and return the form to OP&F to apply for an increase in the health care stipend amount provided to OP&F retirees who meet the requirements. To be eligible for the increase, the member's total household income must be equal to or less than the guidelines listed in the table to the right.

In 2023, OP&F may grant a 30 percent increase to the stipend provided to participants. If you are eligible for the OP&F health care stipend and have a household income less than or equal to the amounts listed in the chart to the right, you may be eligible for the

stipend increase. Each year, you must submit a new application to apply for the stipend increase.

For 2023, you must have had a total household income on your most recently filed Federal Income Tax return equal to or less than 250 percent of the poverty level established annually by the Department of Health and Human Services.

ELIGIBILITY TABLE

| Size of family unit: | Household income less than or equal to: |
|--|---|
| 1 | \$33,975 |
| 2 | \$45,775 |
| 3 | \$57,575 |
| 4 | \$69,375 |
| For each additional person, add \$11,800 | |

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.

For iPhone/iPad users:

1. If you haven't already done so, establish an Apple Store account.
2. From your Apple device, tap the App Store button and locate the Reimburse Me app.
3. Select and install the app. (You may be prompted to log on to your Apple Store account in the process.) iOS version 9 is the minimum operating system required. If needed, you can update your operating system through the Apple Store.
4. Once successfully installed, the Reimburse Me app will appear on your device.

For Android devices:

1. If you haven't already done so, establish a Google Play account.
2. From your Android device, tap the Play Store button and locate the Reimburse Me app. (The app is available at no cost to you.)
3. Select the app and then install it by tapping the Install button.

Tap Accept & Download to accept the permissions for the app. The app will begin downloading immediately.

4. Once successfully installed, the Reimburse Me app will appear on your device.

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.

NCPERS AGAIN OFFERING SPECIAL POLICY FOR ACTIVE OP&F MEMBERS

As a member of the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, you are automatically a member of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), which serves approximately 21 million public employees and retirees.

If you are an active OP&F member, you can apply for Group Decreasing Term Life Insurance coverage. This Public Employee Financial Protection Plan is designed specifically with OP&F members in mind.

How does the plan work?

- The benefit starts out higher when your family's needs are greater.
- The benefit decreases with age and as you build up your pension.
- The premium never increases, regardless of age.

- The benefit is paid to your beneficiary if something happens to you.
- Provides financial protection for your loved ones through all stages of life.
- There is no medical underwriting—coverage is guaranteed.
- Accidental, spouse and child death benefits are automatically included – also with no medical questions asked.
- 24/7 accident coverage on or off the job.
- Benefit as much as \$325,000, depending on your age.
- Built-in Student Loan Protection benefit.
- Coverage can continue into retirement.
- Flat rate of \$17/month.

You may enroll now through Nov. 30. To enroll, visit www.ncpersfamilyprotection.com.

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
Monday-Fridays 8 am-4:30 pm EST

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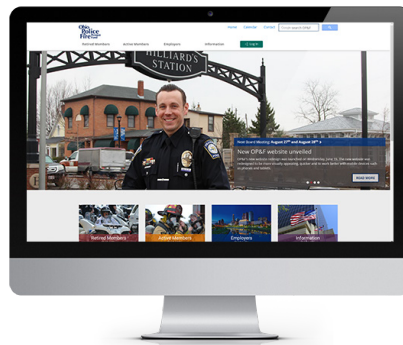
PRUDENCE • INTEGRITY • EMPATHY

Securing the future for Ohio's Police and Firefighters

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 25-26Board of Trustees meetings
Nov. 11OP&F closed in observance of Veteran's Day
Nov. 24-25OP&F closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Dec. 6-7Board of Trustees meetings
Dec. 23-26OP&F closed in observance of Christmas
Jan. 2OP&F closed in observance of New Years

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)