

SECOND HEARING HELD ON WEP/GPO REPEAL // P. 12

FOP



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We are making significant progress toward our goal of repealing the unfair provisions of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) within the Social Security system. Following the successful second hearing held in April, preceded by the initial hearing in November 2023, during which I had the privilege to testify as the only law enforcement group, momentum is building. It is anticipated that the House speaker will soon schedule House action on this critical issue, although the exact timing remains uncertain.

Below is the testimony I presented at the Social Security Subcommittee Hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset before the Subcommittee on Social Security, Committee on Ways and Means.

Chairman Ferguson, Representative Neal and distinguished members of the House Subcommittee on Social Security, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of the more than 373,000 members of the National Fraternal Order of Police. The FOP is the oldest and largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States. The repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) is a top legislative priority, and I am grateful, Mr. Chairman, that the Social Security Subcommittee is holding this hearing on the WEP and GPO, which negatively impacts workers like my members, who earned a Social Security benefit but are denied the full amount of that benefit just because they are or were public servants.

Approximately 1.9 million retired-worker beneficiaries, or 4% of the eligible population, are impacted by the

WEP. According to a 2020 study, it is estimated that 60% of law enforcement officers in our country are impacted by the WEP. The GPO impacts about 1% of all beneficiaries — about 735,000 people. According to the Social Security Administration, of those directly affected by the GPO, 52% were spouses and 48% were widow(er)s. About 70% of all GPO-affected beneficiaries had their benefits fully offset — which is a very high percentage.

Last November, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the WEP/GPO, the first in 15 years. The hearing was entitled “Social Security’s Disservice to Public Servants: How the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset Mistreat Government Workers.” I am thankful that I was able to testify at that hearing. During the hearing, we also heard testimony from affected individuals who spoke about decades of lost income and difficulty paying bills. In addition, there were over 800 public comments submitted for the record detailing much of the same. The manifest unfairness of the WEP/GPO provisions are well documented.

Now, after years of inaction, we have seen two hearings in a matter of months. The Social Security Fairness Act, introduced in the House as H.R. 82, currently has 318 co-sponsors, making it one of the most co-sponsored bills in this Congress. In fact, this bill — which is a top legislative priority for the FOP — has routinely gotten support from a majority of House members going back for years no matter which party was in control. But there has been no action or consideration of the bill since that time — apart from the Committee’s markup last year to prevent the legislation from moving off

the Consensus Calendar under the rules of the House.

So, while I welcome the opportunity to submit written testimony to write about how the WEP/GPO hurts our nation’s retired law enforcement officers, I would also like to express the deep frustration of my members. Simply put, law enforcement officers who served in an agency outside the Social Security system may lose up to 60% of the Social Security benefit to which they are entitled by virtue of secondary or post-retirement employment which requires them to pay into the Social Security system. This 60% is a lot of money, especially when you consider that the officer and his or her family were likely counting on that benefit when they planned for retirement.

The FOP contends that this provision has a disparate impact on law enforcement officers. An old study from 2010 suggested that of the impacted retired-worker beneficiaries, 75% were law enforcement or other public safety workers. Law enforcement officers retire earlier than other public employees because of the physical demands of the job. Law enforcement officers may be eligible to retire between the ages of 45 and 60, and many agencies enforce mandatory retirement at a certain age. After 20 or 25 years on the job, many law enforcement officers who retire begin second careers and work in jobs that do pay into the Social Security system. Even more officers are likely to “moonlight,” that is, hold second or even third jobs throughout their law enforcement career in order to augment their income.

This creates an unjust situation that too many of our members find themselves in — they are entitled to a state or local retirement benefit because they worked

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If this scheme was being run by a pension board or private money management group instead of the Social Security Administration, they would not call it an elimination of a windfall or an offset — it would be considered embezzlement. One entity enriching itself by denying a benefit earned by a group of individuals is criminal, and that is exactly what is happening here.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 12 >

20 or more years keeping their streets and neighborhoods safe, but also worked at a job or jobs in which they paid into Social Security, entitling them to that benefit as well. However, because of the WEP, if their second career resulted in less than 30 years of substantial earnings, upon reaching the age they are eligible to collect Social Security, they will discover that they lose 60% of the benefit for which they were taxed!

Actuarially speaking, I doubt many officers will live long enough to “break even” — that is, collect the money they paid into the system, let alone receive any “windfall.”

These men and women earned their state or local retirement benefit as public employees, and they paid Social Security taxes while employed in the private sector. How is this a windfall? I do not believe Congress intended to reduce the benefits of hardworking Americans who chose to serve their states and communities as public employees and then went on to earn a Social Security benefit from covered employment. After all, when

Social Security was established in 1935, it intentionally excluded state and local employees. And though most public employees are now in the Social Security system, all states have “pockets” of state and local employees who are not covered by Social Security. In many states, significant percentages of state and local employees are outside the Social Security system. It is these public employees that need Congress to pass H.R. 82/S. 597, the Social Security Fairness Act.

When the WEP was enacted in 1983, it was part of a large reform package designed to shore up the financing of the Social Security system. Its ostensible purpose was to remove a “windfall” for persons who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security (like public employees) and also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. However, we can now clearly see that the WEP was a benefit cut designed to squeeze a few more dollars out of a system facing fiscal crisis. The fallout of this effort has had a profoundly negative impact on low-paid public employees outside the Social Security system, like law enforcement officers. To the FOP, which

represents these rank-and-file officers, this is a matter of fairness.

The WEP substantially reduces a benefit that employees had included and counted on when planning their retirement. The arbitrary formula in current law, when applied, does not eliminate “windfalls” because of its regressive nature — the reduction is only applied to the first bracket of the benefit formula and causes a relatively larger reduction in benefits to low-paid workers. It also over-penalizes lower-paid workers with short careers or, like many retired law enforcement officers, those whose careers are split inside and outside the Social Security system.

Bluntly put, this provision has not eliminated a windfall for individuals who did not earn it, but it has resulted in a windfall for the federal government at the expense of public employees. Many of the members here today know that the profession of law enforcement is facing an existential crisis in recruiting the next generation of law enforcement officers. We are struggling to recruit and train new officers, and when these prospective candidates learn that any Social Security benefit they may earn will be reduced

after a career in law enforcement, that makes the career a lot less attractive. I know this is the case in law enforcement, but it probably has a much broader effect on any public servant impacted by these provisions. We should be encouraging people to seek careers in public service, but the WEP and GPO discourage people from public service.

While the GPO impacts fewer people, its effect can sometimes be more profound. In 1977, federal legislation was enacted that required a dollar-for-dollar reduction of Social Security spousal benefits to public employees and retired public employees who received earned benefits from a federal, state or local retirement system. Following a major campaign to repeal the provisions in 1983, Congress, which was looking for ways to reduce the fiscal pressure on the Social Security system, adopted instead the current Government Pension Offset, which limits the spousal benefits reduction to two-thirds of a public employee's retirement system benefits. This remedial step falls far short of addressing the inequity of Social Security benefits between public and private employees.

This "offset" provision should have been repealed in 1983, and might have been, were it not for the fiscal condition of the Social Security system at that time. I want to emphasize this point — Congress had the opportunity to get rid of the GPO in 1983 and chose not to because

of the fiscal strains on the Social Security system — 40 years ago. For 40 years, Congress has leaned on the GPO crutch or used it as an excuse to continue to treat public employees differently from other Americans.

Congress should not make this mistake again. I have heard the speculation that a WEP/GPO repeal would shorten the life of the Social Security Trust Fund by about one year. Congress must find another way to maintain solvency — it should no longer depend on Americans who chose public service and then are denied the benefits they earned and paid for. It's wrong, unfair and frankly dishonest.

If this scheme was being run by a pension board or private money management group instead of the Social Security Administration, they would not call it an elimination of a windfall or an offset — it would be considered embezzlement. One entity enriching itself by denying a benefit earned by a group of individuals is criminal, and that is exactly what is happening here.

Having missed the opportunity to repeal this unfair provision, the current GPO formula reduces the spouse's or widow(er)'s benefit from Social Security by two-thirds of the monthly amount received by the government pension. For example, the spouse of a retired law enforcement officer who, at the time of his or her death, was collecting a government pension of \$1,200 would be ineligible to collect the surviving spousal benefit of

\$600 from Social Security. Two-thirds of \$1,200 is \$800, which is greater than the spousal benefit of \$600 and thus, under this law, the spouse is unable to collect it. If the spouse's benefit were \$900, only \$100 could be collected, because \$800 would be "offset" by the officer's government pension. This eliminates the spousal benefit for 70% of beneficiaries even though the covered spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years, thereby earning the right to this benefit and the right to bequeath the benefits to their surviving spouse. I have attached a video compilation of just a few of our members who are facing financial hardship because of the WEP and GPO. I will let those members speak for themselves.

Ultimately, this is about fairness to the men and women who have sworn to serve and protect our communities. It is not unreasonable to expect that the men and women who spent their careers putting their lives on the line for their fellow citizens be treated fairly after they retire. But because of the WEP and the GPO, they are treated differently and are subject to arbitrary formulas that reduce benefits for which they have been taxed and to which they are entitled. Both provisions should be repealed, and I urge the Committee to favorably report H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and the other members of this distinguished Committee for the chance to submit this written testimony. **FOP**

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We need your support of the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC), which, like our grassroots activism, is an essential part of our National Legislative Program. The NFOP PAC allows us to support candidates who support our members and our profession. As the oldest and largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, it is crucial we keep our PAC strong, so we can help the candidates who not only support our members but the entire law enforcement community. It is up to us to ensure that they get elected!

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A Busy Month of Meetings, Trainings and More



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Jimmy Holderfield at (904) 813-0067, or jholderfield@fop.net.

Brothers and sisters, I hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy. April was a busy month, with the Southern States Coalition meeting in Atlantic Beach, Florida, another training program at Axon headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Western States Coalition meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, and administrative duties at my office in Nashville. I am happy to report that I did some spring cleaning around my house during a few days off.

A big FOP thank-you goes out to Florida State Lodge President Steve Zona for his leadership to the Southern States during the past year. Congratulations to Alabama State Lodge President Everett Johnson, who was elected to lead the Southern States for the next year. The highlight of this year's meeting was the training by National FOP attorney, Brother Lance LoRusso (Atlanta). He covered an array of topics ranging from representing officers at critical incidents to social media to legislative programs. Everyone left with more knowledge.

The National FOP has partnered with Axon, and they have been extremely gracious in providing training opportunities to our members on Tasers, body cameras, drones and robotics technologies. CEO Rick Smith and his team demonstrated the newest products Axon is marketing and gave us a peek at some of the new equipment being considered for production. A special emphasis was placed on the emerging usage of artificial intelligence (AI) in law enforcement. A demonstration was presented on facial recognition, tag readers and suspect description re-creation. The highlight was the AI report-writing demonstration, during which a report was generated from the audio portion of an officer's body camera. The accuracy of the report was absolutely amazing.

Kudos to Western States Chairman Jason Smith on a great meeting, training and hospitality. The coalition was well attended, with 40 representatives present from the 19 member states. Missouri National Trustee Kevin Ahlbrand and his team did an outstanding job hosting everyone. Much information was shared by the various states on their respective legislative programs. Brother Jason Smith (Oklahoma) was re-elected chairman, Brother Chad Peterschick (Washington) was re-elected vice chair and Brother Tony

by spring. Unfortunately, that will not be the case. Be assured that I and my staff have made this our top priority, and look for updates in my future messages.

President Yoes has made a call to action for our members to support and fund our National FOP Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC). Our fund is dismal in comparison to other employee organizations. Many of our state and local lodges have stronger PAC funds than that of the NFOP. Collectively, we can and must change this.

I have heard arguments over the years from members who detest giving money to political candidates and campaigns. I hear you, but the reality is that candidates need money to run effective campaigns and get their message out to the voters. In a perfect world, no campaign contributions could be accepted, but we don't live in a perfect world. So the question is, "What do you get for a campaign contribution?" Simply put, an audience. So why is an audience important? To educate the office holder on legislation important to our members and hopefully influence their position.

I have watched Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) recently on Fox News giving his opinions on the southern border, the economy and social unrest. At the end of each segment, the senator does a quick sound bite explaining that the Democrats are sinking millions of dollars into his challenger's campaign. He goes on to say that if he is to maintain his position as a U.S. senator, he needs the viewers' help now by going to tedcruz.org and donating. A quick look at Senator Cruz's campaign finance reports shows that he has raised over \$50 million since 2019. As of April 1, he has \$9.4 million on hand, and his challenger has \$10.5 million to spend.

Many of our state and local lodges have stronger PAC funds than that of the NFOP. Collectively, we can and must change this.

Harrison (South Dakota) was re-elected secretary/treasurer. Next year's meeting will be hosted by the Iowa State Lodge, with dates and location to be announced.

As I have reported to you in the past, we are working on a new membership management system. The current system, VUE, will be retired as soon as the new system, Association Anywhere, is ready for launch. The development of the new program is extremely tedious work, but it is necessary to ensure that all our current needs are met and afford us the ability to expand the core program in the future. It was our aspirational goal to have a roll-out

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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 16 >

That's a lot of money being spent on a \$174,000-a-year job.

My point here is that it takes lots of money to run for office and most, if not all, first-term office holders have something in common: they want another term. Obviously, most office seekers want the cherished FOP endorsement, and they certainly welcome volunteers to help with canvassing and yard signs, but they welcome money the most. Currently, we have six top legislative priorities. We cannot expect our exceptional legislative staff

to get our priorities across the goal line without our monetary help in the form of building our NFOP PAC.

National Treasurer James Smallwood and National Second Vice President John Hoyt are championing this cause. Brother Smallwood has arranged for an easy way for every member to make their voluntary PAC contribution by simply going to nfop-pac.firstresponderprocessing.com. On a side note, Brother Smallwood issued a challenge to the National Board of Trustees at our recent meeting and matched everyone's one-time contribution. Thanks, Treasurer Smallwood, for your additional contribution. If every member donated just

\$1, we would have over 10 times what we currently have in our PAC. Please help.

Brothers and sisters, please remember those who have made the supreme sacrifice on May 15, National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Even if you are unable to attend the in-person service at the U.S. Capitol, take a moment at 12 noon EST to reflect on the memories of our beloved sisters and brothers. Also, remember their families in your prayers and, if you are able, give them a visit or call. God bless them all.

As always, my staff and I stand ready to assist you any way we can. Be safe, and I look forward to seeing or talking to you soon. **FOP**

FOP ATTENDS TRAINING AT AXON HEADQUARTERS

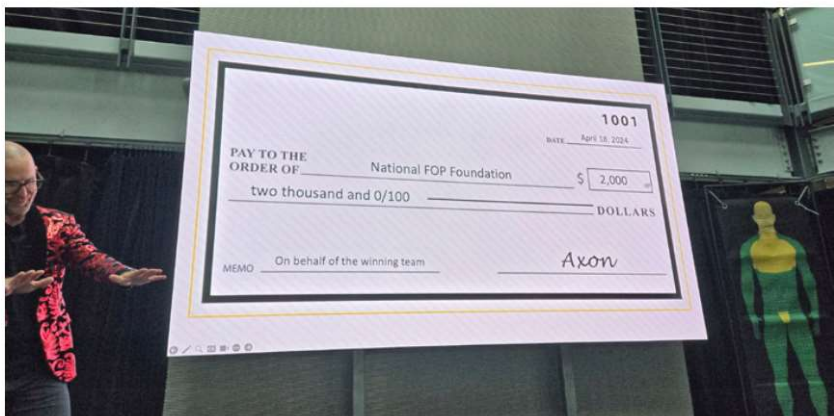
President Yoes once again arranged a training opportunity for members hosted by Axon. The training was held on April 17 and 18 at Axon international headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona. Attendees were given demonstrations on existing and emerging "less than lethal" weapons and equipment designed specifically for law enforcement use. A special presentation on artificial intelligence and its usage in report writing was given. This tool allows for officers' reports to be generated from body camera audio, thus allowing officers to check back into service quicker. **FOP**



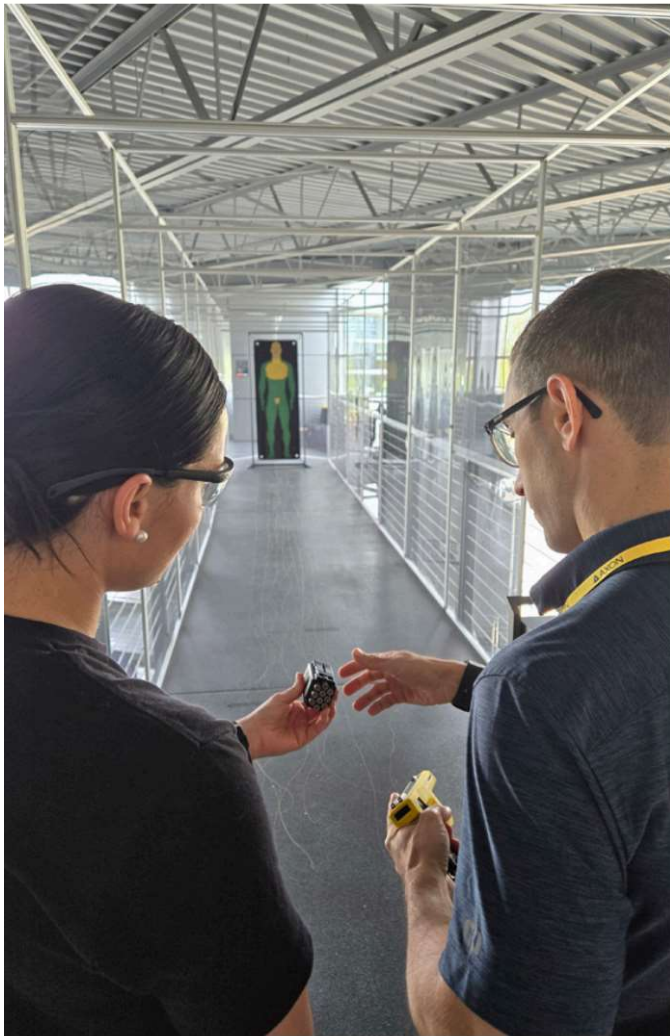
Attendees listening to presentations



Axon CEO Rick Smith giving an overview of the training



Axon's \$2,000 gift to the NFOP Foundation



National Vice President Joe Gamaldi receiving instruction on the new Taser 10



National President Pat Yoes addressing the summit



California leaders listening to a presentation

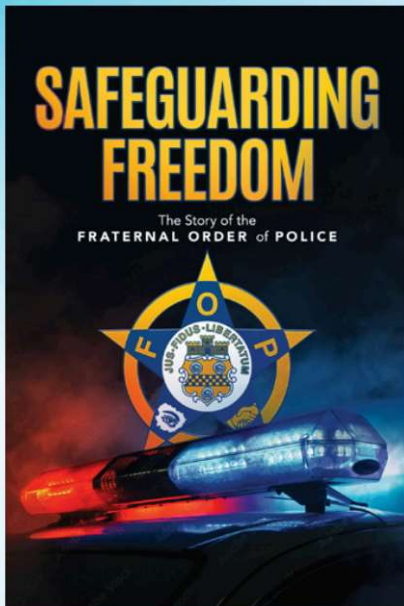


National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield with Axon Strategic Partnership Senior Manager Jess Farr

LABOR SERVICES EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Robyn Lane

Robyn Lane has been an invaluable member of the National FOP's Labor Services Division since October 2016 when she started part time. Her dedication and exceptional performance in the data entry role led to her transition to full-time status in March 2023, where she took on the responsibilities of clerical assistant. Throughout her tenure, Robyn has consistently demonstrated creativity, intelligence and resourcefulness; qualities that have undoubtedly contributed to the success of the team and the organization. Her adaptability and willingness to take on new challenges make her an asset to any project or task she undertakes. **FOP**



SAFEGUARDING FREEDOM: *The Story of the Fraternal Order of Police*

The National Fraternal Order of Police History Committee and the National Board of Trustees are excited to present you with a new book, *Safeguarding Freedom: The Story of the Fraternal Order of Police*. This literary work is the result of reviewing historical documents, combing through thousands of photographs and conducting interviews to give the reader a comprehensive history of how the Fraternal Order of Police has impacted policing in America. Author Max DiLallo, co-author with James Patterson on numerous books, along with the direction of National History Committee Chair David Stevens, has worked tirelessly over the past year to reveal the journey of the FOP.

This fantastic book is available from the National Office for \$25 plus shipping, and the proceeds benefit our National FOP Foundation. Donations of \$30 or more to the Foundation will receive a free book.



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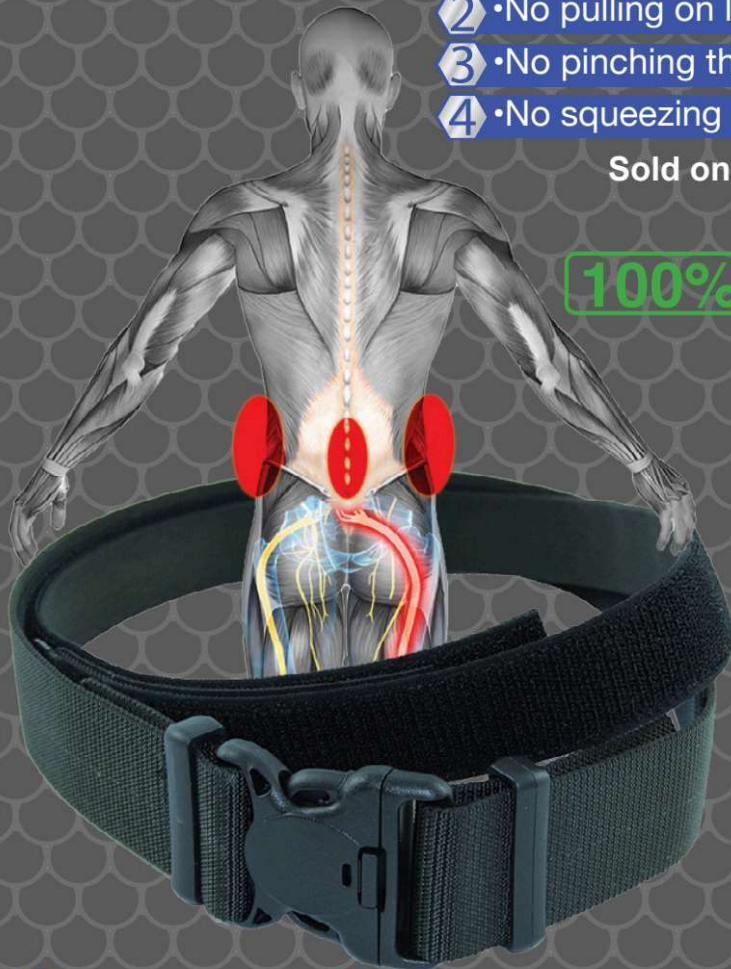
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FOP CALENDAR

National Peace Officers' Memorial Service

May 15, 2024
Washington, DC
Info: policeweek.org

National FOP Fall Presidents Meeting

September 5, 2024
Charlotte, NC
Information still to come

National FOP Fall Board Meeting

September 6–7, 2024
Charlotte, NC
Information still to come

Collective Bargaining Seminar

October 22–24, 2024
Las Vegas, NV
Info: tinyurl.com/h9ajw58c

Labor Summit

February 11–12, 2025
Las Vegas, NV
Information still to come

Legal Counselors Seminar

February 13–14, 2025
Las Vegas, NV
Information still to come

FOP Wellness Professionals Forum

February 16, 2025
Nashville, TN
Information still to come

Officer Wellness Summit

February 17–18, 2025
Nashville, TN
Information still to come

Leadership Matters

February 19–22, 2025
Nashville, TN
Information still to come

2024 Collective Bargaining Seminar

Horseshoe, Las Vegas, October 22–24

This seminar offers tools for those who are new to collective bargaining and is also a great refresher for experienced negotiators. The seminar includes hands-on training that combines roleplaying activities with classroom instruction. Supported by experienced National FOP negotiators, you will be engaged in using actual bargaining techniques and strategies in a classroom environment.

Who should attend: All law enforcement bargaining teams and those who desire to be on a law enforcement bargaining team. All individuals who need to learn the

Event Details

2024 Collective Bargaining Seminar

Horseshoe, Las Vegas
October 22–24

For more info:
tinyurl.com/h9ajw58c

bargaining process in an environment that promotes and teaches good bargaining strategies and tactics.

2025 Labor Summit and Legal Seminar

Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas, February 11–12 and February 13–14

The Labor Summit will be held February 11–12, 2025, and will cover an array of topics affecting labor leaders and the officers they represent.

The Legal Seminar will be held February 13–14, 2025, and will address a wide variety of legal issues and updates relevant to the law enforcement profession. Attendees will be able to earn up to 12 CLE credits. **FOP**



Event Details

2025 Labor Summit and Legal Seminar

Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas
February 11–12 and
February 13–14

For more info: labor@fop.net

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CALIFORNIA

2024 LASD Retiree Roundup Held in Laughlin, Nevada

California Lodge #1 President Roger Mayberry, Secretary Bill Westermann and members of Lodge #1, along with National Sergeant at Arms Steve James, went on the road to offer CCW coverage to retired law enforcement in April. Each year, around 800 to 1,000 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department retirees attend the Retiree Roundup. What a great event and way to reach out to retired law enforcement and let them know that they are not forgotten and that the National FOP still has their backs.

Thanks to Kim and Burt Brink for helping to make this happen. **FOP**



NEW JERSEY

Member Highlight: Paul Bradley

Patrolman Paul Bradley is a member of FOP Federal Lodge #168 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The son of late L.A. County Sheriff's Sergeant Harry R. Bradley, Paul credits his father for the command presence he projects on patrol.

Paul also serves as an EMT, and his experience has proven invaluable — he has delivered three babies during his 18 years on patrol. He is also a 26-year naval reservist.

Patrolman Bradley is shown here at the third annual FOP Pig Roast enjoying conversation with one of the families whose baby he delivered. **FOP**



FLORIDA Southern States Coalition Meeting

The FOP Southern States Coalition met in Atlantic Beach, Florida, from April 15 to 18 at the Ocean One Spa and Resort. The event was hosted by the Florida State Lodge and Jacksonville Lodge #5-30. Ten of the 12 member states had representatives in attendance. National FOP attorney Lance LoRusso presented during the day of training. Florida State Lodge President Steve Zona presided over the meeting. Alabama State Lodge President Everette Johnson was elected chairman for the 2024–25 session. **FOP**



Coalition attendees



National President Yoes addressing attendees



Tennessee State Lodge delegation listening to presentations



National FOP attorney Lance LoRusso delivering a presentation on legal issues

MISSOURI

Western States Spring Meeting

Missouri National Trustee Kevin Ahlbrand, the Missouri State Lodge and St. Louis Lodge #68 hosted the Western States Spring FOP meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 19 to 21. Secretary Tony Harrison (South Dakota) reported that of the 19 member states, 16 were in attendance, with 39 representatives present. The various states reported on their respective legislative efforts and shared ideas to assist each other. Missouri State Lodge President Jay Schroeder made arrangements for everyone to enjoy Major League Baseball at Busch Stadium. A great time was had by all. **FOP**



President Yoes updating attendees on National legislative issues



Game night at the ballpark. Go Cardinals!



National Sergeant at Arms Steve James giving an overview of the National Legal Defense Plan



National Trustees Chairman Rob Pride discussing the National insurance plans

SALUTING *the* FALLEN

POLICE WEEK 2024



Law enforcement officers, survivors and supporters from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C., on May 12–18 for National Police Week ceremonies memorializing the bravery, service and sacrifice of the men and women who gave their lives in the line of duty in

2023 and throughout our nation's history, and to pay respects to the loved ones and families they left behind. Here, we pay tribute to the fallen heroes who will be honored during the Candlelight Vigil, National FOP's 43rd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service and other events. **FOP**

ALABAMA

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Kimberly D. Roberts Sickafoose
Carlos E.J. Taylor

ARKANSAS

Jeff D. Hust*
James M. Lett
Vincent A. Parks*

CALIFORNIA

Darnell Calhoun
Gonzalo Carrasco Duenas
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Michael P. Kunovich
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Donald M. Neiswinger Jr.*
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IOWA

Kevin M. Cram

KANSAS

Jonah Oswald
Brian G. Rousseau*

KENTUCKY

Caleb K. Conley

LOUISIANA

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Scotty W. Canezaro
Charles F. Dotson*
Barry P. Giglio
Michael S. Godawa*
Shawn K. Kelly
Carl D. Kimball
Marylin A. Mayo
Robert W. McKinney*
Kyle M. Melancon*
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David J. Poirrier

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David E. Cook*
Almondo Greer-Travis*
Daniel A. Kammerzell*
Isam M. Qasem*

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Joshua A. Owen

MISSISSIPPI

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Horren R. Tyler

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Mason E. Griffith
James M. Muhlbauer
Jason S. Pulliam*
Kelly B. Rolando

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Christopher J. Marcello*

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Alberto E. Felix
Clifford V. Fontaine*
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William J. Gawron Sr.
Robert J. Shisler
Richard E. Tesauro*
Richard Weber

NEW MEXICO

Anthony D. Ferguson
James M. Sides
Sammy J. Trujillo*



NEW YORK

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- Anthony B. Ashe*
- Chanda D. Barnes*
- Michael E. Barnes*
- William P. Brautigam Jr.*
- Mark N. Bressack*
- Lawrence J. Bromm*
- Robert M. Burney
- Eric Calleja*
- Pedro A. Candia*
- Thomas P. Compitello*
- Donald E. Cossean Jr.*
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- Stephen A. Darby*
- William J. DeBlock*
- Francisco DeCastro Jr.*
- Michael A. DeVecchis*
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- George Flores*
- Pedro A. Foruria Sr.*
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- Anthony J. Garvey*
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- Ivan Gonzalez*
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- Emil Harnischfeger*
- Ronald E. Higgins*

- Patrick J. Hogan*
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- Nicholas Holovinsky*
- John Horan*
- Michael J. Kearns*
- William J. Keating*
- William M. Kelly*
- Edward T. Kiluk*
- Robert J. Kirwan
- Lawrence W. Lakeman*
- David J. Lee*
- Thomas M. Lilly*
- Scott G. Lovendahl*
- James A. Masticovo*
- John F. McArdle
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- Gregorio Morales*
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- Martin M. Podolski*
- Michael G. Prettitore
- Andrew L. Quinlan*
- Marcos M. Quinones*
- Frank D. Randall Jr.*

Continued on page 30 >



SALUTING THE FALLEN

Continued from page 29 >

Thomas F. Roche Jr.*
 Christopher P. Rock
 Michael Romano*
 Richard L. Ruiz
 John C. Ryan*
 Janelle Sanders*
 Karl J. Sederholt
 Jordan Silver*
 Zachary Slavin*
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VIRGINIA

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WEST VIRGINIA

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WISCONSIN

Emily A. Breidenbach
 Peter E.C. Jerving
 Kaitlin R. Leising
 Hunter T. Scheel

FEDERAL

Patrick C. Bauer
 Robert C. Castioni Jr.
 John J. Hess
 Jacqueline M. Montanaro
 Freddy Ortiz
 Trinity L. Reinhart
 Scott D. Ritchey*

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Delberth I. Phipps Jr.

*The officer's death occurred in a previous year but was determined to be a line-of-duty death.



FOP WELLNESS SERVICES

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

SHERRI MARTIN / DIRECTOR OF WELLNESS

While we have the opportunity to speak to many of our members across the country about the services provided by the Division of Wellness Services, we realize that many of our readers may not have had the opportunity to attend a National Conference or one of our training sessions where we share information about what we offer in the area of officer wellness. This month, we take a few minutes to share with you what the FOP provides. Each of the services and programs we provide are interconnected to form a complete system.

Power in Peers

Power in Peers is a complete curriculum in law enforcement peer support, developed by the FOP in cooperation with the COPS Office arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. As the National Officer Wellness Committee realized the utility in developing regional peer support teams that could deploy with our DART team, we quickly realized that we needed a standardized training program that could educate peer officers all over the country to the same level. Power in Peers is such a training program. With input from experts in the field, we developed a modernized model of peer support that trains officers to support peers not only in the aftermath of a critical incident, but in coping with everyday stressors as well. Based in positive psychology, this course presents a growth-based model

that encourages officers to utilize their personal strengths in working through difficult and stressful times. Power in Peers is a five-day course that will soon be offered all over the country for those seeking to become trained to support their peers. Open to active and retired officers, the course can also be attended by mental health professionals, chaplains and civilian police employees.

Blue Family Focus

The newest program being developed by the FOP is Blue Family Focus. This is intended to be a companion to Power in Peers. The profession has recognized that families play a critical role in the wellness of our officers, and so they, too, should be a part of our efforts to support officer wellness. Although development has just begun, Blue Family Focus will be a curriculum for law enforcement family members, bringing to them many of the concepts presented in the Power in Peers course. This course will allow family members to support their officers and peer law enforcement families with the same language and concepts. We look forward to the progress of this program!

Call on Peers Network

We recognize that even where trained peer support is available, officers may still be reluctant to utilize the service for fear that their confidentiality may not be preserved or that they will be judged by co-workers. As we train and certify officers around the country in

the Power in Peers model, we have begun to create a nationwide network of trained peers. With this network, we plan to develop a pathway for officers in need of support to reach out to a supporting peer mentor in another town or another state, removing that fear of being the subject of gossip or judgment by an officer nearby.

Approved Provider Bulletin

Since 2018, the Officer Wellness Committee has recognized the need for the vetting of wellness services for law enforcement. Law enforcement is a specialized profession with a specialized culture. This calls for providers who understand the profession and the culture, and who have an aptitude for and experience working with our brothers and sisters. Thus, the FOP has instituted a practice of vetting individual therapists, residential treatment programs, wellness training programs, hotlines and other wellness products for their suitability for working with members of law enforcement and their families. Cataloged in the Approved Provider Bulletin, these resources are at the fingertips of any member of law enforcement, compiled in a searchable

Continued on page 34 >



BLUE VIEW

TUNE IN TO THE FOP PODCAST

Listen in every week to hear from law enforcement experts, elected officials and other notable leaders to gain insight into the issues and current events surrounding the law enforcement community.

Available now on FOP.net, FOP's YouTube channel, Apple, Google, Spotify and Amazon Music.

WELLNESS

Continued from page 33 >

nationwide directory. This network of providers is expanding daily, with more and more providers joining our efforts to provide effective services to you. For more information, visit fop.net/officer-wellness/approved-provider-bulletin-apb.

Officer Wellness Summit and Wellness Professionals Forum

Each February, the National Officer Wellness Committee hosts the Officer Wellness Summit and Wellness Professionals Forum. These events provide three days of wellness-centric training for officers, support staff, families, and mental health providers and professionals. Offering more than 20 different seminars per year, opportunities to learn new wellness practices and links to professionals supporting officer wellness, these events also provide a critical opportunity for leaders to share lessons learned and best practices for the development of wellness programs in their own lodges or agencies. Save the date now for the 2025 events, to be held February 16–18 in Nashville!

Biennial Critical Issues in Policing Survey Series

All of the programs described above have been borne out of feedback from you, our members! Beginning with the 2018 FOP/NBC

Survey of Police Officer Mental and Behavioral Health, the FOP has adopted a practice of checking in with our officers on a continuous basis. We want to make sure that we are meeting your needs, and we seek your feedback every two years with the Biennial Critical Issues in Policing Survey series. We have also found that information gathered in these national surveys supports our efforts in other ways, as we call on the findings to fight for greater services for our members. Reports of survey findings can be found on our website and in various publications.

Wellness Publications

We have developed a number of publications that can be utilized by individual members, lodges, agencies and families to share what we have learned and to spread our knowledge of all things officer wellness. Each month, we share articles on different wellness topics, but there are other publications on our website as well. Our *Wellness Provider Vetting Guide* provides direction for finding competent professional services. Our Wellness Tips and Strategies menu provides quick references to wellness practices that can be adopted. And there's more! Just take a few minutes to check out the Officer Wellness tab at fop.net/officer-wellness.

As always, the Division of Wellness Services welcomes all members to reach out to us with any questions about our services and any feedback about how we can best support you and your families. Be well! **FOP**

There Is ALWAYS Another Option

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[FOP.net/officer-wellness/crisis-hotlines](https://fop.net/officer-wellness/crisis-hotlines)

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WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE IS HAVING A STROKE

Almost **800,000** people in the United States have a stroke each year. It is the leading cause of disability and the fifth-leading cause of death in the country. When it comes to getting help, every minute matters, call **9-1-1** if you think someone is having a stroke. The key is knowing the risk factors and warning signs.

Recognize the Warning Signs of a Stroke

The symptoms for a true stroke are similar in both men and women. Call 9-1-1 immediately if any of these signs of stroke appear:

- Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or lack of coordination
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or difficulty understanding speech

Act F.A.S.T

If you think someone may be having a stroke, every minute counts. Remember to act F.A.S.T:

- **F — Face:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- **A — Arms:** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S — Speech:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase or answer a simple question such as “What is your address?” Is their speech slurred or strange?
- **T — Time:** If you see any of these signs, call 9-1-1 right away. Note the time when symptoms first appeared.

What Not to Do When Someone May Be Having a Stroke

- Do **not** let them talk you out of calling **9-1-1**.
- Do **not** drive them to the emergency room; it is better to wait for the ambulance.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Do **not** let them fall asleep while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.
- Do **not** give them medicine, food or drink.

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Editor's Note: The FOP is dedicated to helping all of its members and their families thrive and improve their standard of living. That's why the FOP has teamed up with Aetna to offer four Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO plan options that provide members with comprehensive medical, prescription, hearing and vision benefits. As part of this partnership, Aetna will be sharing helpful information about its plans, wellness-related news and more in each issue of the *FOP Journal*.



SOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Stroke Signs and Symptoms. Available at cdc.gov/stroke/signs_symptoms.htm.
SteadyHealth.com. (2021). Mini Stroke — Signs and Symptoms in Women. Available at steadyhealth.com/articles/mini-stroke-signs-and-symptoms-in-women.
Penn Medicine. (2022). If Someone Is Having a Stroke: Three Things to Do and Three Things Not to Do. Available at penncare.org/updates/blogs/neuroscience-blog/2022/march/what-to-do-if-someone-is-having-a-stroke.



The FOP Store

Spring for Something New



www.thefopstore.com



Upper Iowa University

Since its inception in 1857, Upper Iowa University's (UIU) unwavering commitment to accessible higher education and lifelong learning ensures that current and future UIU students are provided with the skills they need to be successful in the classroom, career and life. A private, nonprofit university, UIU provides undergraduate and graduate degree programs to students online and at 12 U.S. education locations, including its main campus in Fayette, Iowa.

UIU works with numerous law enforcement entities to promote the educational advancement of their officers through its face-to-face, online and self-paced course options. All of our courses are taught by highly qualified faculty members residing across the country. These faculty members are selected both for their academic qualifications and for their real-world experience in their field. This provides UIU students the skills they need to be successful in the classroom, career and life.

Students have more than 30 majors to choose from, and all utilize a unique, flexible course schedule. A few of the undergraduate programs include business administration, criminal justice, emergency and disaster management, management, and public administration with an emphasis in general, emergency management, law enforcement or policy and politics. Among the newest offerings is a business administration degree with an emphasis in supply chain management and a supply chain certificate.

At UIU, you can earn your master's degree in business administration, counseling, education, health care administration or public administration. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree provides students with the practical knowledge and skills necessary to excel at leading and managing government and nonprofit organizations. UIU MPA students can choose from the following areas of emphasis: criminal justice, emergency



management and homeland security, general study, government administration, health care management, nonprofit organizational management and public management.

Each UIU academic year consists of five eight-week sessions and one accelerated six-week summer session, so UIU students typically take one or two classes at a time. UIU accepts up to 90 transfer credits at the undergraduate level and up to 12 graduate credits from other schools to help our students save time and money on their education. Credits may also be earned from police academy credits, military training, experiential learning portfolios or through various college examinations.

UIU has competitive tuition rates matched with a variety of endowed and institutional scholarships, grants and financial assistance programs. FOP members qualify for a savings of up to \$125 per course through the university's Corporate Advantage Program (CAP).

A participating institution in the Principles of Excellence and Yellow Ribbon programs, UIU has also been named a top Military-Friendly School or University by VIQ TORY, Military Advanced Education and G.I. Jobs on multiple occasions. For over a decade, UIU has successfully utilized tuition assistance in an effort to provide the

nation's service members an affordable higher education. UIU announced the creation of the Military Family Grant to further assist the entire military family achieve their academic and career goals. The grant is available for all eligible spouses and dependents of active-duty, reserve and National Guard service members. The university also accepts tuition assistance, veteran's educational benefits, scholarships and Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts.

UIU has continually created learning opportunities close to home. In 1973, UIU established an external degree program (self-paced) for individuals with jobs, families or military service, who were unable to attend college full time. In 1981, UIU began opening education centers within the U.S. and abroad. In 1999, UIU initiated its online offerings, and in 2011, UIU became one of Zoom's initial partners, further expanding UIU's ability to provide quality educational opportunities. UIU's mission continues to follow this mission upon which it was founded.

UIU is a proud member of the consortium with the Fraternal Order of Police, and is honored to serve those who serve our country.

For additional information about Upper Iowa University, visit uiu.edu/FOP, email info@uiu.edu or call (800) 553-4150. **FOP**

The National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU) has successfully paved the way for hundreds of FOP members to pursue higher or continued education. For more information on the NFOPU Consortium, go to fopconnect.com/education-connect/about-the-consortium.



Charles Town, WV



Olivet, MI



Arlington, VA



Fayette, IA



Ashland, OH



Rosemont, PA



Adelphi, MD



Minneapolis, MN



Orange Beach, AL



Tiffin, OH



San Diego, CA



Romeoville, IL



Cincinnati, OH



Williamsburg, KY

Updates on the FOP's Priority Legislation and Other Activity on the Hill



Same Bill, Different Outcomes in House and Senate

The FOP started its fight against H.R. 4639/S. 2576, the Fourth Amendment Is Not for Sale Act (FANSA), shortly after the bills were introduced. The legislation would destroy the basic ability of law enforcement to conduct investigations into violent crimes such as murder, kidnapping, terrorism and other serious threats. The bill does this by prohibiting law enforcement from accessing commercially available information about customers or subscribers from third-party providers — data which is widely available for non-public-safety purposes.

Access to this data is critical because it allows law enforcement to identify and pursue leads — to “connect the dots” as they investigate serious crimes. These leads are used to gather evidence and establish probable cause for an arrest and prosecution. By prohibiting access to this commercially available data, Congress would be tying the hands of law enforcement and greatly increasing the time it takes to conduct successful investigations into serious crimes.

In December and then again in February, the FOP thwarted efforts in the House to attach this highly problematic bill to other legislative vehicles. However, last month, the bill was brought to the House floor as a standalone measure.

Staff in the D.C. legislative office fully engaged with our allies on the Hill to undermine support for the legislation. We prevailed on the bipartisan House Law Enforcement Caucus and its co-chairmen, Representatives John H. Rutherford (F-Fla.) and William J. Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.), who issued a letter urging that the bill be voted down. The administration also issued a policy statement in opposition to the bill.

In a show of solidarity, the FOP and

Just the Facts:

» The Social Security Subcommittee held a second hearing on the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, bringing the Social Security Fairness Act one step closer to a House vote. The FOP is building on this momentum, continuing its push to get more House and Senate members to sign on as bill co-sponsors. Additionally, the FOP is garnering support for the Protect and Serve Act in the House while working with allies in the Senate to introduce a companion bill, as well as focusing on getting the LEOSA Reform Act, COPS Reauthorization Act and other priority bills moving through the legislative process.

the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) issued a joint letter opposing the legislation and urging the House to reject it.

Despite this full-throated engagement, the House considered and passed the legislation on a 219–199 vote. You can see how your representative voted at tinyurl.com/rw9z84tt — be sure to hold them accountable for their vote!

Following the House floor vote, the Senate took up H.R. 7888, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. Nine amendments were to be considered, including Amendment No. 1829, which was identical to the House-passed version of H.R. 4639, and which was offered by Senator Rand H. Paul (R-Ky.). Under the agreement, the Paul amendment needed 60 votes to pass. The debate began late on a Friday evening, but the FOP once more engaged in a full-court-press effort to defeat the legislation. The amendment was resoundingly rejected on a 31–61 vote. Senator Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), co-chair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, inexplicably voted in favor of the amendment, as did the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.). You can see how your senators voted at tinyurl.com/mpszr64k — make sure to hold them accountable for their vote!

Legislative Update: H.R. 82/S. 597, the Social Security Fairness Act — Social Security Subcommittee Holds a Second Hearing!

Earlier last month, the Social Security Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing (tinyurl.com/4ef6tkxe) on the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. National President Patrick Yoes submitted written testimony (tinyurl.com/ymk73erf) for the subcommittee's consideration.

In addition, the FOP has written to the following members of the House, asking them to co-sponsor H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act:

- Darrell E. Issa (R-Calif.)
- Douglas L. Lamborn (R-Colo.)
- Russell M. Fulcher (R-Idaho)
- Ronald G. Estes (R-Kan.)
- Michelle L. H. Fischbach (R-Minn.)
- Cliff S. Bentz (R-Ore.)
- John P. Joyce (R-Pa.)
- G.J. “Mike” Kelly (R-Pa.)
- Lloyd K. Smucker (R-Pa.)

The FOP also sent letters to the following senators asking them to co-sponsor the Senate companion bill, S. 597:

- Ted E. Cruz (R-Texas)
- Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)

- M. Michael Rounds (R-S.D.)
- Daniel S. Sullivan (R-Ark.)
- John R. Thune (R-S.D.)
- Roger E. Wicker (R-Miss.)
- Ronald L. Wyden (D-Ore.)

We are urging all FOP members to contact these representatives and senators and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 82/S. 597 or to thank them for doing so! It is critical we retain this momentum, go to tinyurl.com/5fbp4k5h to see if your senators are co-sponsors and tinyurl.com/28ru24ee for members of the House. These offices must hear from their constituents on this issue if we're to successfully get these provisions repealed!

Legislative Update: H.R. 743, the Protect and Serve Act, Has Over 109 Co-Sponsors — Action Possible This Month!

At this writing, H.R. 743, the Protect and Serve Act, has a total of 110 co-sponsors (tinyurl.com/2rzwc8v), including 11 members of the House Committee on the Judiciary. This is a result of a concerted “retail” lobbying effort of individual committee members on both sides of the aisle. We have been in regular contact with majority and minority staff

about a potential markup in May, and we are cautiously optimistic that the Judiciary Committee chairman, James J. Jordan (R-Ohio), will hold a markup on the bill.

At this writing, 121 officers have been shot in the line of duty, 15 of whom were killed. There have been 26 ambush-style attacks, which injured 34 law enforcement officers and killed six. All of this after a year in which we had a record high 378 officers shot in the line of duty in 2023. These figures would be even worse but for advances in anti-ballistic technology and trauma science. We urge all of our members to contact their representative and ask them to support H.R. 743 (or thank them for doing so).

It is a **priority** that our members from the districts represented by these members of the Judiciary Committee be contacted and urged to support the bill:

- Cliff S. Bentz (R-Ore.)
- Andrew S. Biggs (R-Ariz.)
- Benjamin L. Cline (R-Va.)
- J. Luis Correa (D-Calif.)
- Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.)
- Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.)
- Glenn F. Ivey (D-Md.)
- Thomas M. McClintock (R-Calif.)
- F. Barry Moore (R-Ala.)

- C.E. “Chip” Roy (R-Texas)
- Mary Gay Scanlon (D-Pa.)
- Eric M. Swalwell (D-Calif.)

We will need the votes of these members in committee and on the floor, so please reach out!

We continue to work with our allies in the Senate to introduce the companion bill this month as well!

Legislative Update: H.R. 354, the LEOSA Reform Act — Action Possible This Month!

We are cautiously optimistic that the House Judiciary Committee will be marking up this bill this month. The legislation would make minor but important changes to the existing Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) statute (18 USC 926B and 926C) to improve the safety of our nation’s qualified active and retired law enforcement.

This legislation would amend existing law to ensure that officers can carry in the same venues as civilian concealed carry permit holders. The bill also extends the exemption to magazine capacity and would allow active and retired law enforcement

Continued on page 42 >

MIAMI NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

Save the Date!

AUGUST 2ND - 8TH 2025

Convention will be held at the Miami Beach Convention Center

Hotel & Entertainment Package Information will be coming Soon!

Scan the QR code to stay up to date on all Conference Information

Top Priorities in Brief

H.R. 82/S. 597, the Social Security Fairness Act

House: 318 co-sponsors (110 R, 208 D)

Senate: 52 co-sponsors (40 D, 9 R, 3 I)

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/jcxc6pay

H.R. 1322/S. 1658, the Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act

House: 82 co-sponsors (20 R, 62 D)

Senate: 3 co-sponsors (2 R, 1 D)

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/37afz34h

H.R. 3539, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act

House: 59 co-sponsors (11 R, 48 D)

Senate: Not yet introduced

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/5h6mtmvt

H.R. 354/S. 1462, the LEOSA Reform Act

House: 41 co-sponsors (41 R)

Senate: 5 co-sponsors (5 R)

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/3w4br4sj

H.R. 743, the Protect and Serve Act

House: 110 co-sponsors (95 R, 15 D)

Senate: Not yet introduced

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/3uzdafpk

H.R. 3170/S. 1514, the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act

House: 129 co-sponsors (41 R, 88 D)

Senate: 22 co-sponsors (5 R, 16 D, 1 I)

Urge Congress to pass it:
tinyurl.com/48vxkdp4

To see a full list of legislation supported by the FOP, please visit tinyurl.com/jcy5k5rv. Members should continue to monitor the FOP's social media platforms and our website for the latest legislative news! To send a message to your members of Congress asking them to support FOP priority legislation, visit the FOP Action Center at votervoice.net/FOP/home.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Continued from page 41 >

officers to access services in U.S. post offices, Social Security Administration offices, Veterans Affairs offices and other federal facilities without disarming or securing their firearms elsewhere. It would also allow states to decide to extend the period between training certifications for qualified retired law enforcement officers from 12 months to 36 months.

To be clear, this legislation would not increase the number of officers who carry firearms under the current LEOSA statute. It does, however, remove conflict and confusion from current state and federal laws while closing existing loopholes to prevent any officer from inadvertently putting themselves in arbitrary legal jeopardy.

We will continue to work with committee and House leadership to get this bill moving!

Legislative Update: S. 1306, the COPS Reauthorization Act, Still Pending

Last month, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary scheduled a markup to consider S. 1306, the COPS Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and all the programs it administers through 2029. The FOP strongly supports the legislation and is actively engaged with members of the committee to ensure the bill is favorably reported. The key to moving this important legislation is to ensure it comes through the committee "clean" — that is, without any amendments, especially nongermane amendments. We are working with Senators Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) and Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), the chairman and ranking member, respectively, as well as with Senator Amy J. Klobuchar (D-Minn.), the author of the bill, to this end but have so far not been able to finalize an agreement.

Community-oriented policing has been the keystone of our nation's policing strategy for more than 30 years, and the COPS Office was established and has grown primarily to support that mission. Its work is vital to state and local law enforcement agencies and, by extension, to the safety of our communities. The COPS Office administers a program that assists local and state law enforcement agencies to

fund the hiring of new officers — which is critically important as our profession faces a recruitment and retention crisis.

The hiring program is just one of the many valuable programs and resources provided to local and state law enforcement, which also includes the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act, the National Blue Alert Network, expanded access to active shooter training, free training for state and local agencies through the Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), as well as activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act, which was signed into law at the end of the 117th Congress. The communities we protect and the agencies that serve them benefit directly from the work of the COPS Office, and we are doing everything we can to get the COPS Reauthorization Act to the floor and, ultimately, to the House and president's desk.

Other Legislative Activity and New Bills

At the end of last month, the House considered and passed four separate measures (H.R. 8034, H.R. 8035, H.R. 8036 and H.R. 8038) providing security funding for Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan, as well as imposing sanctions on Russia and Iran. The House met in a rare Saturday session and approved the bills, which were then merged into the Senate-passed vehicle, H.R. 815, the National Security Act, 2024.

The Senate cut short a planned recess to return to Washington to consider and ultimately pass the funding package on a 79–18 vote. The president signed the measure into law.

The package also includes provisions that would force the Chinese-held company ByteDance to sell the popular app TikTok to an American company or be banned from operating within the U.S.

The legislation also includes a provision strongly supported by the FOP, S. 1271, the Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence (FEND) Off Fentanyl Act. This provision will establish a fully comprehensive, national strategy to reduce overdoses, disrupt trafficking operations, attack traffickers and cartels with sanctions, and prioritize anti-money-laundering efforts related to the illicit opioids trade.

Last month, the House Committee of the Judiciary considered and favorably reported two bills supported by the FOP — H.R. 3269, the Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act, and H.R. 7581, the Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act — by voice vote. The Committee on Ways and Means will consider H.R. 3269, while H.R. 7581 will go to the floor for further consideration.

Since the last issue of the *Journal*, the FOP has supported the following legislation:

- **H.R. 7730**, the Targeting Online Sales of Fentanyl Act, which would direct the GAO to investigate the methods used to enable such online sales and assess the procedures and efforts of federal law enforcement and online providers in combating online sales of fentanyl.

Are You Reading the Weekly Update to Get the Latest News?

If you aren't receiving the *Weekly Update* from Capitol Hill in your inbox every week, go to tinyurl.com/pw73z96p to sign up. It helps to keep you and your members up to date with the latest news from Washington, D.C.

Please be a regular visitor to all of our social media platforms, as these frequent posts are the best way to keep up with the National FOP's daily activity. Follow the National FOP on:

- Facebook (@GLFOP)
- X (@GLFOP)
- Instagram (@FOPnational)

Do your part! Please **share, comment and like** our content.

Check Out the FOP's YouTube Channel and the Blue View Podcast!

The FOP's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/GLFOP](https://www.youtube.com/GLFOP)) hosts every episode of the FOP's podcast, entitled the *Blue View*, as well as news clips, interviews and our FOP Facts videos.

National President Patrick Yoes hosts the *Blue View*, which has featured guests from Capitol Hill and within the FOP, as well as law enforcement experts and leaders from around the country, to gain better insight into the issues and current events in the law enforcement community. The most recent episode features Patrick Montuore and Harry Phillips, the executive director of the Police Unity Tour, a four-day fundraising bicycle ride from Florham Park, New Jersey, to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The *Blue View* podcast can also be found on **Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music** and **YouTube**.

Election 2024 Will Be Here Before You Know It!

The next election is less than six months away! The National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC) needs more of our members to contribute to ensure that our PAC has the resources to support candidates who will fight for our officers and the issues that are important to them. So far this year, while the PAC received a boost

of donations from Day on the Hill, we remain vastly underresourced and unable to support candidates in any significant way.

We are asking all FOP members to find a way to contribute to the National FOP PAC. Our profession depends on having well-informed lawmakers who listen and understand the challenges facing law enforcement today.

We are urging members (and lodges) to sign up for recurring, monthly contributions using their credit card. This is the most effective and reliable way to contribute and to strengthen our PAC.

These contributions need not be for hundreds or thousands of dollars (though these are also very much appreciated) — but every dollar helps! If every FOP member gave just \$1, we could raise \$373,000! If 10% of our members gave just \$5 this year, we would raise \$183,500. We can and need to do better raising funds for our PAC!

To donate online, please go to nfop-pac.firstresponderprocessing.com. If you would like to donate via check, please make it out to the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee and mail it to 328 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C., 20002. For inquiries about our effortless payroll deduction program or to sign up for our recurring monthly credit card donations, please contact the Steve Young Law Enforcement Legislative Advocacy Center at (202) 547-8189 or David Taboh at dtaboh@fop.net.

Thank you to all of you who have supported and continue to support our PAC with regular contributions! **FOP**

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The FOP constantly endeavors to hear about the experiences of our members, so that we can understand how best to serve you.

The FOP was selected to partner with the Department of Justice to build standardized training in law enforcement peer support. Share your thoughts with us on how this training can best help our profession at surveymonkey.com/r/PowerInPeers.

Thomas v. City of Harrisburg: The “So Obvious” Standard



In context of qualified immunity, courts may depend on general principles to find that facts in a case demonstrate a violation that is “so obvious” that the officer knows their conduct violates the law. Courts examine whether “every objectively reasonable government official facing the circumstances would know that the officers’ conduct violated federal or state law when they acted” (*Mack v. Yost*, 63 F.4th 211, 232 [3d Cir. 2023]). In these cases, general standards can “clearly establish” the answer, even in the absence of analogous case law. In other words, officers can still be on notice that their conduct violates established law even in novel factual circumstances.

The “so obvious” standard was recently used by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in *Thomas v. City of Harrisburg*. In this case, Harrisburg Police Officer Daril Foose and Adult Probation Officer Dan Kinsinger conducted a traffic stop on Terrelle Thomas after observing him enter into a vehicle from a bar. At this time, Officer Foose noted that Thomas had a large amount of an unknown substance inside his mouth. She observed that Thomas’s lips were pasty white and that his face was covered in a white, powdery substance. She believed that Thomas had ingested something and was concealing it. As such, Officer Kinsinger detained Thomas, during which time Thomas spit out a white liquid. The officers concluded that Thomas had ingested a large amount of cocaine. Thomas denied this. However, Officer Foose then observed cocaine rocks fall out of Thomas’s shirt. Subsequently, during Thomas’s detention, Officers Foose and Kinsinger informed the other officers that became involved that they believed Thomas had ingested cocaine. The other officers came to the same conclusion and even advised Thomas that ingesting cocaine could have an “ill effect” on Thomas’s health and he could possibly die from ingesting drugs. A police report was filed, and Officer Foose signed an

Just the Facts:

» In *Thomas v. City of Harrisburg*, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals applied the “so obvious” standard, which holds that a constitutional violation is so apparent that one would not need a prior case to establish it with clarity. The court determined that police officers were not entitled to qualified immunity in this case because they were found to be aware of and deliberately indifferent to an arrestee’s critical need for medical attention after ingesting a dangerous amount of narcotics.

affidavit of probable cause indicating Thomas’s cocaine ingestion.

The officers transported Thomas to a booking center and placed him in a cell without any medical care. Surveillance video shows that less than two hours after Thomas’s arrest, he fell backward onto the floor, hit his head and suffered cardiac arrest. Only thereafter was Thomas transported to the hospital, where he died three days later from “cocaine and fentanyl toxicity.”

Sherelle Thomas, administrator of the estate of Terrelle Thomas, brought this lawsuit against numerous parties asserting various state and federal claims, including a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment for failure to render medical care. The district court determined that the officers were not entitled to qualified immunity on this claim. This decision was made because the right to receive medical care was clearly established at the time of the officers’ actions, and the complaint adequately stated that the officers had infringed upon this right. Subsequently, the officers appealed the decision on qualified immunity to the Third Circuit.

At the pleading stage, officers are entitled to qualified immunity unless (1) the “facts, taken in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, demonstrate a constitutional violation” and (2) the alleged right was clearly established at the time of the violation (*Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 735 [2011]). The Third Circuit first analyzed

whether Thomas’s estate sufficiently pled a violation of the right to medical care. This requires an allegation of a “serious medical need” and “acts or omissions by individuals that indicate a deliberate indifference to that need” (*Natale v. Camden Cnty. Corr. Facility*, 318 F.3d 575, 582 [3d Cir. 2003]). The court found that the complaint contained numerous facts that established objective evidence of a serious medical need. Specifically, there were various discussions on Thomas’s cocaine ingestion, statements from the police report and affidavit of probable cause, and the observation of white liquid coming from his mouth, his pasty white lips, his face covered in white powder and cocaine rocks falling from his shirt.

The court further found that the complaint alleged facts to support that the officers were deliberately indifferent to Thomas’s medical need. The court cited that at least two officers acknowledged that cocaine ingestion could lead to an ill effect on health or to death. The complaint further alleged that the officers delayed medical care by deciding to book Thomas instead of transporting him to a hospital — which was in direct violation of the department policy that individuals who have consumed narcotics should be taken to the hospital if the narcotic consumed could jeopardize their health. Thus, the court concluded that there was sufficient allegations to find that Thomas’s estate plausibly alleged a violation of the right to medical care.

Next, the court analyzed the second prong of qualify immunity: whether the constitutional right violated was clearly established at the time. The Third Circuit acknowledged that it has not recognized the right to medical care after the ingestion of drugs. However, the court noted that there does not need to be a case directly on point for a right to be clearly established. Instead, the law requires only that the right is sufficiently clear that a reasonable official would understand that what they are doing violates that right. This standard is met when a violation is “so obvious” it becomes evident that a clearly established right is implicated — even in the absence of a similar precedent.

Here, the court found that this case presents extreme circumstances to which a general constitutional rule may apply with obvious clarity. Specifically, the court ruled that when an officer is aware of the oral ingestion of narcotics by an arrestee under circumstances suggesting the amount consumed was sufficiently large that it posed a substantial risk to health or a risk of death, that officer must take reasonable steps to render medical care. That care in this case would have been taking Thomas to a hospital. But the officers failed to do so. Therefore, the court upheld the district court’s denial of qualified immunity for the officers.

In addition, the Third Circuit also considered the denial of qualified immunity for the officers’ failure to intervene. For this claim, the court held that the complaint failed to plausibly allege a violation of such right. They noted that although the court has

recognized a right to have a government actor intervene when the constitutional violation involves excessive force or sexual assault of a person in custody, there is no precedent of a right of intervention in the medical context. As such, the Third Circuit reversed the district court and granted the officers qualified immunity on this claim.

Judge Peter J. Phipps wrote a dissenting opinion. He disagrees with the majority’s decision to invoke the “so obvious” standard or extraordinary circumstances exception in this case. Initially, he asserts that the exception is available only in “exceedingly rare cases” and the United States Supreme Court has interpreted and applied this exemption in a manner distinct from that of the majority. He cites to *Hope v. Pelzer*, 536 U.S. 730, 122 S.Ct. 2508, 153 L.Ed.2d 666 (2002), where the Supreme Court held that that tying a shirtless prisoner to a hitching post in the Alabama sun for seven hours without bathroom breaks and with only one or two offers of water was an **obvious** violation of the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Judge Phipps also cites to *Taylor v. Riojas*, 592 U.S. 7, 141 S. Ct. 52, 208 L.Ed.2d 164 (2020), where the Supreme Court held that “any reasonable officer should have realized” that it was unconstitutional to confine an inmate for six days in two cells — one, which “was covered, nearly floor to ceiling in a massive amount of feces,” and another, which was “frigidly cold” and required the inmate to sleep naked on a sewage-covered floor. Judge Phipps concludes that the officers in this case did not act with such obvious cruelty.

Moreover, Judge Phipps believes that the majority’s reliance on the department’s policy to conclude that the alleged violations demonstrated obvious cruelty is misplaced. If anything, the policy indicates that the officers were on notice that they should have taken Thomas to a hospital. But, he writes, a “policy does not set a constitutional standard of conduct for the Harrisburg Police Department, much less for every law enforcement agency operating within this Circuit’s geographical bounds.” Indeed, the policy of **one** police department does not define the constitutional standard of conduct for an entire circuit. Therefore, Judge Phipps concludes that because it was not clearly established at the time that law enforcement officers must transport a detained suspect appearing to have previously ingested drugs to a hospital, the officers should receive qualified immunity. **FOP**

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Check out FOP.net

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- + Wellness resources
- + And much more!





Leadership Matters Is Coming of Age



Leadership Matters is coming of age. Originally started as a forum to train new local FOP secretaries and treasurers, it has now grown to be a monumental event. With many moving parts and many more moving people (our cherished staff), this event gets bigger and better every year. I have attended the event as a local lodge leader, a state board member, an Executive Board member and now as staff. Each experience was different for me, as I was at a different stage in my life.

This year's event was again held in February in Nashville near our National Office and close to the airport. Over 400 attendees participated in two and half days of training ranging from hands-on database training to duties of a lodge executive board to succession planning and mentoring to health care trusts to ... well, you get the picture.

We hold Leadership Matters in the same week as our very well-attended Wellness Summit. The Professional Wellness Forum for practitioners started on Sunday, February 18, followed by the Summit on February 19 and 20. Wednesday, February 21, was a day to reset everything in order to kick off Leadership Matters on Thursday, February 22, concluding at noon on Saturday, February 24. As you can see, we provide a full week of training if participants wish to or can dedicate their time. I hope you had the opportunity to attend one or both events.

As I said, each time I have attended Leadership Matters, it has been at a different stage of my life. This year, I attended as the director of Education and Outreach, so I looked at the event with a different eye and a different mindset than I have in the past. I sort of pulled back the curtain, so to speak, to see some of the magic that makes this event so great. I was also armed with thoughts of



change — some of my own and some recommended by others. Then there were the critical complaints that I had heard in the past as well. There was a lot to take

As Leadership Matters has evolved over the years, one thing is clear: its impact on new and aspiring leaders is becoming more and more important.

in from an organizational standpoint. All along the way, the National staff and Education Committee members, along with Education Committee Chairman

Ron Bartmier, guided me in the direction I needed to be.

What is awesome about this event is the cost. Keeping the event by the Nashville Airport keeps our housing costs down, which allows us to keep registration fees lower as we avoid high overhead costs. It also allows attendees to walk to our National Office and see where their dues money goes. Could the hotel be better, bigger and more centrally located? Yes to all these things, as we have considered a move downtown. The downside of such a move is the doubling of housing costs and increased overhead. I fear that such a move would prevent our smaller lodges from being able to attend. These are the same lodges that receive the most benefit from the course instructions we offer. It's a tough balancing act, yet we are on the cusp of change. As I have said, Leadership Matters is coming of age. Perhaps a new venue or a new location would better fit our needs? All food for thought for our decision-makers to consider.

As Leadership Matters has evolved over the years, one thing is clear: its impact on new and aspiring leaders is becoming more and more important. We

see it in the evaluations we receive from attendees. Today's attendees are much more focused on learning the ins and outs of the FOP, how to run a meeting and what's required under state and federal law. Many are brand new to the FOP and require rudimentary training. Many want to know how to negotiate a contract, how to effect change in their law enforcement organization and how to learn from one another best practices in this crazy environment we work in.

Our new attendees understand that they may need to attend Leadership Matters more than once to fully grasp all that is being offered. They have also suggested that we offer more duplicate breakout sessions so that they can attend more classes to fit their interests. It has also been suggested that we avoid scheduling popular sessions during similar time slots. Some have suggested that we need to modernize several of our sessions. Our retirees have suggested some specific subjects focused on their interests in leadership. And we have heard that there simply is not enough time allocated to some subjects that are very important to attendees.

It is clear to me that we have a new breed of attendee to Leadership Matters — younger, less experienced and more focused on learning. That was clear when first-time attendees were asked to raise their hand in our general session. We still have our regulars who will often complain about the repetitiveness of Leadership Matters. They have a different need that we have yet to meet. As we have concentrated on reaching the new leaders in our organization, we have overlooked the need to provide intermediate and advanced training to our more experienced FOP veterans.

Perhaps we need to better describe our course structure. Should we guide a registrant to the classes that best fit their needs based on what stage they are at in their career? I know I learned different things at differing stages in my career. Perhaps we need to leverage our other training sessions throughout the year. Maybe Leadership Matters gives you a taste for more advanced trainings that we have to offer. Is there a place at the National Conference to cover subjects we don't have time for at Leadership Matters?

We have already set the date for next year's Leadership Matters. It is February 19 through the 22, and save the date notices will soon be coming out. We are already revamping what was offered in 2024, so expect some thoughtful changes. And believe it or not, we are also planning for 2026 as well, so stay tuned.

If you have any suggestions for Leadership Matters 2025, please contact me. Your National staff and Education Committee are deeply appreciative of your input.

Until we meet again, God bless you and God bless the FOP! **FOP**

FOP DIVISION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

If you have further questions, contact Director Keith Turney at kturney@fop.org, or (815) 482-5620. For more information on CRI-TAC, visit cops.usdoj.gov/cri-tac.

WELLNESS PROVIDERS

Chateau Recovery Midway, UT

chateaufrecovery.com/programs/first-responders

FHE Health: Shatterproof Program Deerfield Beach, FL

fhrehab.com/services/first-responders

First Responder Wellness by Simple Recovery Costa Mesa, CA

firstresponder-wellness.com

Harbor of Grace First Responder Program Havre de Grace, MD

harborofgracerecovery.com/first-responders

Transformations Treatment Center: Help for Our Heroes Program Delray Beach, FL

helpforourheroes.com

Warrior's Heart Bandera, TX

warriorshheart.com

Find more vetted and approved wellness providers and programs at fop.net/officer-wellness/providers.



Maryland Tough, Baltimore Strong: Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse

“C-13 Dispatch, the whole bridge just fell down! Start, start, whoever, everybody! The whole bridge just collapsed!”

Those shocking words were excitedly transmitted by one of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) police officers on the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland, just moments after the cargo ship Dali, which had lost power as it was leaving the Port of Baltimore, struck one of the concrete piers of the bridge at 1:29 a.m. on March 26. The impact of the nearly 1,000-foot-long ship caused the bridge center’s 1,200-foot towering metal structure to collapse onto the ship and into the Patapsco River.

By the time most of us around the country woke up to the horrific news that the bridge had collapsed, first responders from agencies around the state had already arrived at the crash site in an effort to locate survivors, including one member of a bridge work crew who had already been plucked from the 47-degree water by the MDTA Police. An inspector with the work crew was able to make it to safety by running to a portion of the bridge that did not collapse. It would later be determined that six others from that same work crew had also fallen into the river and remained missing. As of today, only two victims have been recovered from the water.

But this catastrophe could have been much worse had it not been for the efforts of those officers on the bridge. And at least one of those officers could have been among those who died in the accident.

Corporal Jeremy Herbert, the duty officer of the MDTA Police, was notified of the Dali’s mayday and quickly contacted nearby officers who were working routine overtime assignments. Sergeant Paul Pastorek, who was assigned to the Key Bridge construction zone, held traffic from the north end, and Officer Gary Kirts, who had been assigned



The cargo ship Dali amid the wreckage of the Francis Scott Key Bridge



The small craft loading area at Fort Armistead Park’s staging area

to a different construction detail south of the bridge near the Curtis Creek Drawbridge, responded and held traffic from the south end.

Corporal Herbert asked about the crew working on the bridge and suggested they be notified to get them off the bridge. Sergeant Pastorek offered to drive onto the bridge to warn the crew but waited for

another officer to relieve him from holding the 25 to 30 vehicles he had stopped from driving onto the bridge. Before that could happen, the bridge collapsed. The wait for a backup officer most assuredly saved Sergeant Pastorek’s life.

Officer Kirts’ and Sergeant Pastorek’s actions prevented more than 50 vehicles



Prince George's County FOP Lodge #89 volunteers with PGPD's dive team

from driving to a certain death. **“They didn’t hesitate. They didn’t think about it. They just did it. Their quick actions, without a doubt, saved lives,”** FOP Lodge #34 President Jim Kruszynski said in a media interview.

Quick thinking by another MDTA officer undoubtedly saved the life of one of those who fell into the river. Officer William Kinsey, who was working another construction detail near Ravens Stadium on Interstate 395, heard the incident unfold over the radio and rushed to the Police Marine Unit Dock at the Port of Baltimore. He boarded Marine Unit 2, and along with Officer Timothy Baublitz, rushed to the crash scene where they were able to safely rescue one of the members of the pothole crew. This response was self-initiated and ultimately saved a life.

The Francis Scott Key Bridge opened in 1977 and is a part of



Continued on page 50 > FOP Lodge #89 and some of its divers

FOP HISTORY

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Interstate 695, the beltway surrounding Baltimore, and carries about 31,000 vehicles per day. It is one of the longest continuous truss bridges in the world and spanned the Patapsco River leading into the Port of Baltimore, one of the largest ports in the country. The port supports more than 15,000 direct jobs and generates almost \$400 million annually in state and local taxes.

Just over an hour after the bridge collapse, Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police President Clyde Boatwright and his executive board were notified. President Boatwright contacted MDTA Lodge #34 President and Maryland State Lodge Guard Jim Kruszynski to collaborate on an FOP response. Kruszynski had been in contact with his members on the scene and had learned that all officers had been accounted for and their members had stopped all vehicular traffic prior to the collapse. Video of the collapse began



Baltimore City's Underwater Recovery Team truck with the collapsed bridge in the background



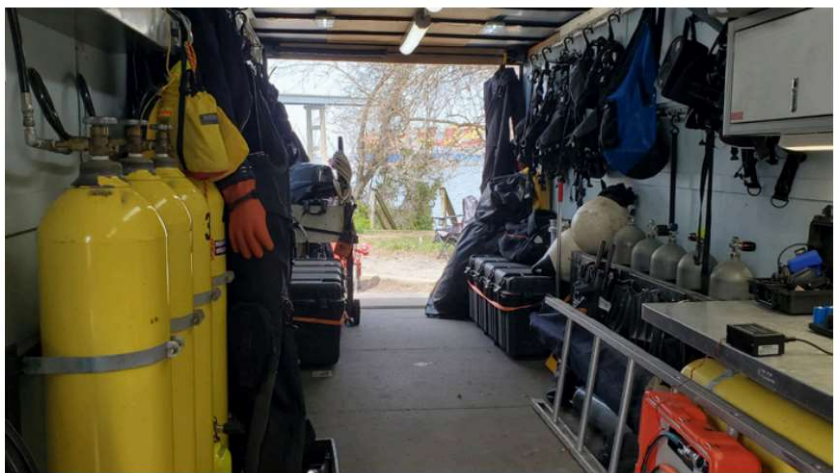
A Prince George's County Police dive boat

“They didn’t hesitate. They didn’t think about it. They just did it. Their quick actions, without a doubt, saved lives.”

circulating on social media, and it was initially believed by some to have been generated by artificial intelligence. Of course, that was soon dispelled by multiple news sources.

In the meantime, a regional response by first responders from law enforcement agencies, fire departments and governmental agencies made their way to the area to assist. Air support was provided by the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police and Maryland State Police.

Police dive teams from the Baltimore Police, Baltimore County Police, Maryland Natural Resources Police,



Interior of PGPD Underwater Recovery trailer with the collapsed bridge in the background

Maryland State Police and Prince George's County Police staged at Fort Armistead Park, just south of the bridge in an area that provided boat access, waiting to deploy to search for survivors or recover the bodies of those who did not survive. Teams from the Anne Arundel County Police and Baltimore City Sheriff's Office joined the MDTA

Police in site security and traffic control, and the role of the United States Coast Guard was instrumental in the response.

Much of the initial rescue operation's actions were conducted by use of air support, drones and sonar in an attempt to locate anyone not yet rescued.



FOP Legal Defense Plan for Retired Officers

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FOP HISTORY

Continued from page 50 >

President Boatwright monitored rescue operations to determine what additional resources the FOP could provide to support the first responders. Given the nature of the incident, Maryland FOP Chaplain Tony DiCara, who is also a captain with the Baltimore County Police, responded to the site and was available for spiritual support for members who were on scene. Chaplain DiCara remained in the Emergency Operations Center for two days until the rescue operation became a recovery and salvage operation.

The Maryland State Lodge wasn't the only FOP lodge that responded. National President Patrick Yoes reached out to commend our members for their response and determine if any national resources were needed, and National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield offered the use of the National Lodge's Disaster Area Response Team (DART). Although national resources were not needed because of the overwhelming response by businesses such as Mission BBQ, Chick-fil-A and many small businesses, President Boatwright was extremely grateful for the offer.

Maryland Second Vice President and Prince George's County Police Lodge #89 President Angelo Consoli and Lodge #89 First Vice President and Maryland National Trustee Sherrice Carpenter mobilized members of Lodge #89, who were led by Second Vice President Paul Mazzei Jr. in transporting refreshments to Fort Armistead Park for first responders participating in the rescue operations. I was fortunate to be part of that response. We learned that although some dive teams were on site within two hours of the collapse, due to the hazardous nature of the collapse, they were not allowed to deploy into the water until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers declared the site safe.

Later that night, President Boatwright convened an emergency executive board meeting that included presidents of Maryland FOP lodges whose agencies responded to the disaster, where discussions were held regarding the need for additional resources, deployment of Baltimore City Lodge #3's mobile food truck and the transition from a rescue mission to a recovery operation. They also discussed the potential long-term impacts on FOP members.



Part of the staging area with the collapsed bridge in the background

Early the next morning, divers from several of the responding agencies deployed into the twisted wreckage of the massive trusses and frigid and cloudy waters surrounding the Dali. With visibility only about a foot, dive teams from Baltimore City Police, Baltimore County Police, Maryland State Police and Prince George's County Police were able to locate and successfully retrieve the bodies of two of the workers, who were found in a red pickup truck near the middle span of the collapsed bridge in approximately 25 feet of water. By the end of the day, the treacherous conditions resulted in a suspension of the search for bodies until the site could be made safe, estimated to take as long as several months.

While the devastation is known to have taken six lives, countless others were saved

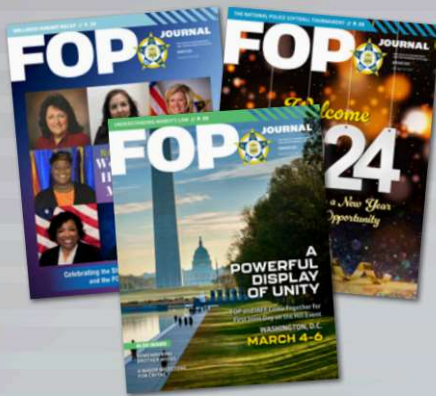
due to the quick actions of the MDTA Police. And the quick response from first responders, along with state and local Fraternal Order of Police lodges, played an important role in the overall response to a local disaster sure to have global consequences.

Maryland Governor Wes Moore noted in several news conferences that while Maryland has suffered a tragic loss, the state will recover. In the first news conference after the bridge collapse, he declared, **"We are Maryland tough and Baltimore strong!"** And as we all know, **we are FOP strong!**

The National FOP History Committee members are David L. Stevens (chair, Fla.), James Flores (N.M.), Dewey Stokes (Ohio), Ben Roberts (Texas), Bruce Evarrt (Md.) and Adolph South (Ala.). FOP



Bob Hall Beverage Company of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, donated cases of water.



BENEFITS OF FOP MEMBERSHIP

The National Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with over 373,000 members in more than 2,200 lodges. We are committed to improving the working conditions of officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement and employee representation. Here's a quick overview of the wide variety of services and benefits that the FOP offers to its members.

Legislative Office

The office on Capitol Hill lobbies on issues important to rank-and-file law enforcement officers. The National Legislative Program is the most active and comprehensive of any law enforcement organization in Washington.

Legal Defense Plan

This self-funded plan is available to eligible FOP groups and individual members to cover law enforcement exposures, including administrative, civil and criminal legal coverage; H.R. 218 coverage; and the Moonlighting Liability Insurance Program.

Labor Services Division

Comprehensive resources and services designed to ensure that no officer goes to the bargaining table alone. Labor Services stands ready to provide the people and resources you need for contract information, experienced legal experts, training seminars, personalized labor research and more.

National Peace Officers' Memorial Service

This solemn event is held every year during National Police Week to honor those who have given their lives in the line of duty. Open to the public, it brings together the expanded law enforcement family and national leaders, pays tribute to the fallen and offers words of comfort to their surviving family members.

FOP Journal

Published digitally 12 times a year, the *FOP Journal* is the official publication of the National FOP. Each issue contains reports from the Executive Board, updates on law enforcement legal and labor issues and so much more!

Disaster Relief

As part of the NFOP Foundation, the Fraternal Order of Police Disaster Relief Fund (a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization) relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations and is always prepared to assist our members in distress.

Charity Partnerships

- **Easter Seals:** Helping children and adults with disabilities live better lives is at the heart of Easter Seals' mission, and the FOP, as a long-standing Easter Seals National Corporate Partner, has helped raise more than \$15 million. Donate online at www.easterseals.com and be sure to indicate your FOP affiliation when donating!
- **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics:** The FOP is committed to helping people with intellectual disabilities learn to become self-reliant and contributing members of our communities.

Service Providers

The National FOP list of Service Providers currently includes Liberty Mutual insurance, Avis and Enterprise car rentals and a variety of licensed products from HALO, the official FOP merchandiser.

Education Services

The Education Services Committee develops and implements professional law enforcement training programs and events to equip members with the skills needed to enhance their careers, and has established a training schedule covering a wide spectrum of leadership, labor and legal issues. The National FOP also provides scholarships to eligible applicants.

National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU)

Recognizing that four-year and graduate degrees are increasingly important for law enforcement career advancement, the FOP collaborates with a select consortium of universities willing to offer members the education they need with a flexible schedule and reasonable cost.



For more information on all of these programs, visit www.fop.net.

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SIGHTS: GHOST RING
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STOCK: BLACK SYNTHETIC



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CAPACITY: 10+1
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BARREL LENGTH: 3.75"



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HK

VP9
CALIBER: 9MM
CAPACITY: 17+1
SIGHTS: NIGHT SIGHTS
BARREL LENGTH: 4.09"



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**590
SECURITY
SHOTGUN**
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CAPACITY: 8+1
SIGHTS: GHOST RING
BARREL LENGTH: 20"
STOCK: SYNTHETIC

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READY

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