



AAPRW News

*"A social group
of police & fire
retirees in
Northeast Ohio"*

Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows Chapter 25

Summer 2026

Welcome to the First Edition of Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows News. Our goal is to publish a quarterly newsletter to recap the various emails sent to our distribution list, reminders of upcoming events, and any articles of interest submitted to us at Publish@pfro25.org

Thin Blue Line *Claim Forms Due August 31st*

As I submit medical reimbursement requests to our Alight Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), I'm reminded of when I used Thin Blue Line (TBL) for gap insurance between retirement and Medicare eligibility age.

I was fortunate to get into Medicare prior to the scandal with TBL not paying benefits to participants. Know from previous emails from the FOP (local, state, and national) steps are being taken to recover funds that were designated to make things right with participants.

I'm reaching out to ensure you know that if you are owed money from TBL you MUST complete and submit a claim form by August 31st. The claim form and instructions can be found online [Here](#).

While searching for a link to the claim form, I found a couple of other links of Interest:

[Web page for Ohio's Department of Insurance: Thin Blue Line Legal Update](#)

[Notice of Bar Date and Claims Filing Deadline](#)

Also, I posted an informative email from Ohio FOP President McDonald on the [News and Events page at the PFRO25.org](#) web site, adding a link to the claim form after President McDonald's email.

If you aren't affected by this, I urge you to pass this information along to anyone you might know that is or could be affected.

Respectfully,

Rick

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- July Combined Meeting With Fire Retirees
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July Combined Meeting With Fire Retirees

The July meeting was the annual combined meeting with Fire retirees and was a success. The food was great and the beer was cold.

During our careers we cross paths with many other First Responders, especially Fire and EMS.

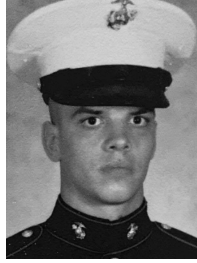
Watching the attendees, there were a lot of familiar faces, hand shaking and fist bumping along with the plastic beer glasses thudding because they didn't clink during a cheer as glass glasses would 🍺🍺

There was a lot of "Hey, I know you" and exchanges of names. Maybe it is our age or maybe it was because we didn't have the time during those shared incidents to do introductions.

Here's to next July!

Obituaries and Health Updates

Pat Conley



Patrick Timothy Conley, 70, of Ashland, Kentucky, formerly of Akron, Ohio, passed away Friday, July 24, 2026, at his home in Ashland, Kentucky surrounded by his loving family. Patrick was born July 20, 1956, in Akron, Ohio, a son of the late James and Anna Sue Palmer Conley. Patrick was a 1975 graduate of Firestone High School in Akron, Ohio, and was a United States Marine Veteran. He was a member of the Wendell L. Willkie American Legion Post 19 in Akron, Ohio, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 in Akron, Ohio. He worked for the Akron Sheriff Office and the City of Akron as a deputy and police officer for many years.

Vince Novak



It is with a heavy heart that the family of Vincent E. "Spike" Novak announces his passing on July 4, 2026 at Akron General Hospital. He was born on March 12, 1963 in Akron, OH.

Vincent was a 1981 graduate of Archbishop Hoban High School and an alumnus of Ohio State University class of 1985. He treasured his time in Columbus and remained an avid Buckeye football fan, as well as a Cleveland Indians fan, his entire life. Vincent used his BA in Communication working for several different companies before settling as a dispatcher for the City of Akron police department. He was retired from the police department due to his ill health.



John Bailey

John dedicated more than four decades to serving others. He began his career with the City of Akron Police Department as a patrolman before becoming a detective in Homicide and Armed Robbery and later in the Checks and Forgery Unit. After retiring in 1996 following 29 years of service, he continued his commitment to justice as a Direct Indictment Investigator with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, where he served 11 years. Never one to truly retire, John then joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office in the Juvenile Diversion Program. One of the honors he treasured most was being recognized as a positive role model by a young man whose life he had touched through his years of work. He retired in 2012 after five more years of helping young people find a better path. He then became a court-recognized questioned document expert after completing specialized training through the United States Secret Service.

Service was simply part of who John was. He was a Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Canal Fulton. He was a proud member of FOP Lodge 7 in Akron, the VFW in Canal Fulton, and the FOE in both Akron and North Canton. A devoted man of faith, John was a Deacon and faithful member of Lakeview Christian Church until his health issues prevented him from regularly attending.



Joe Wolfe

A proud veteran, Joe served his country with honor in the Navy for four years, a testament to his unwavering commitment to duty and patriotism. Upon returning to civilian life, he dedicated decades of service to the Akron Police Department, first as a police officer and then as a detective, retiring in 1988. Throughout his career, Joe was known for his integrity, sharp wit, and the genuine care he showed to his community.

As we remember Joe, let us celebrate a life well lived, a man well loved, and a soul now at peace. To know Joe, is to celebrate in his death as he has Graduated, his life now in the presence of Jesus Christ! He will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of those he touched.



Merle Dennis

Merle E. Dennis, age 85, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2026. He was born on November 13, 1940, in Beallsville to the late Mae (West) and Ray Dennis.

Merle honorably served the community for 28 years with the Akron Police Department and was a proud member of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #7. His dedication, integrity, and commitment to helping others left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

Merle will be remembered for his strength, loyalty, sense of humor, and deep love for his family. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched.

Pfro25.org Website Updates and Tips

If you haven't visited <https://pfro25.org> lately, it's come a long way with the input from several retirees, including our chapter president Jeff Leslie and long time distributor of information Anna Romito.

Here are some of the updates and tips for navigating and finding the information you're looking for:

- Moved the calendar to the top of the News and Information page, with other newsworthy notices below it.
- Created Information, Documents and FAQs menu item. Clicking on the Documents and FAQs menu will display a page with each of the items and a description, whereas clicking on the items when the pull-down is displayed will navigate you directly to that document or item.
- Creating the previous navigation method allows us to have multiple items fitting of the same category easy to find and not take up additional 'real estate' on the website header. So far the items there at the request of many are:
 - Join the Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows form. This downloadable PDF document can be completed and turned in at a meeting or mailed.
 - APDVEIA. The Akron Police Department Voluntary Employee Insurance Association offers supplemental life insurance for Akron retired officers. This page has information and contacts.
 - PFIA. The Police and Fire Insurance Associationserves police officers and firefighters throughout the United States. It is the only organization in the world that exclusively insures first responders.
 - ERT. The Emergency Resource Template was created by a member decades ago to compile information that will simplify life for your loved ones should you become incapacitated or worse. Included on the ERT page is a link specific to Akron offices and contacts. **If you are not an Akron retiree, we will gladly publish a similar list to your agency!**

Remember

- Monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of the month with lunch served at Noon
- Visit <https://pfro25.org/news-and-events/> to see upcoming events in the calendar and newsworthy notes
- Tell us of new retirees so we can add them to the email distributions
- Let us know what we can do for you!

How Did We Do?

Well, what do you think? Are there any topics to add in the future? We certainly hope we didn't leave out anything.

Our goal is to create a quarterly newsletter. This being the first in some time we'd like to ensure we're on the right track.

Send an email to publish@pfro25.org to give us your feedback for future issues. Just like our monthly lunch meetings where dessert contributions are always welcome, we welcome your contributions for future issues!