



AAPRW News

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

Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows Chapter 25

Issue 2, October-December 2026

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

Welcome to the issue 2 of the Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows News. This issue introduces changes suggested by our members after issue 1's publication. Keep the suggestions and any articles of interest coming by sending them to us at Publish@pfro25.org

Akron Crime Clinic Information

Did you know there is an organization called "The Akron Crime Clinic?" It was incorporated in 1941 and consists of Business and Public Safety officials (and retirees) to educate and further the cause of serving the public and making our work safer.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from October through May. They are held at the Venue Banquet Center on Tallmadge Circle, beginning at 6:00 pm. Menu items range from \$6 to \$20. Each month features a different speaker.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 8th and the featured speaker is APD Detective Rick Welser. He will be discussing the FLOCK cameras. In recent months, FLOCK cameras have sparked significant controversy. Many municipalities are removing them from their cities and personnel are being fired and/or charged criminally for misusing these systems.

Detective Welser is assigned to the Auto Theft Unit and uses this system on a daily basis. He will discuss how these cameras are utilized, the value they have in criminal investigations and how they are can be misused.

The ACC Officers are inviting various officials to educate and demonstrate how valuable they are and how APD has solved crimes with them.

Guests are welcome to attend. If you would like to join, dues are \$10 per year for retired members. There is a \$20 initiation fee.

Anyone interested in attending should reserve their seat by emailing Danny Zampelli at dannyzampelli78@gmail.com by Monday, October 5.

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- Obituaries and Health Updates
- APD Trivia Quiz
- Pfro25.org website updates
- How did we do?

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

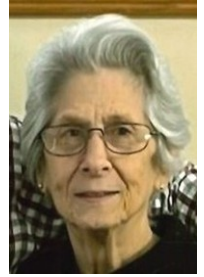
Tommy Hazen



Thomas R. "Tommy" Hazen, 73, passed away unexpectedly on August 6, 2026. Born in Akron, Ohio to Earl and Della (Craft) Hazen, he grew up in Green. Tommy retired as City of Akron Police Officer after 35 years of service.

He enjoyed traveling, music, laughter, planting flowers, loving his cats, watching football and spending time with his family.

Darlene Mathews



Darlene Mathews passed away peacefully on August 18, 2026. She was a lifelong Akron area resident. She retired from the Akron Police Department where she worked for 42 years in the Training Division.

She also worked for the Professional Bowler's Association for many years, keeping scores during tournaments. Darlene enjoyed the Akron Symphony, traveling with her sister, bowling, singing in the choir, watching TV, listening to music and spending time with her family.



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.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>
Akron FOP Monthly Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, October 7 @7pm
AAPRW Monthly Lunch Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, October 14 @Noon
Steak Fry	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Fri, October 16
Auxiliary kids Halloween party: Trick or treat at the campers and possibly a hay ride	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Sat, October 24, 1pm-3pm
Samantha's Luncheon	Samantha's, 418 E Maple, Hartville	Fri, October 30 @11:30
Kids' Christmas Party Cards due		November 1
Akron FOP Monthly Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, November 4 @7pm
AAPRW Monthly Lunch Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, November 11 @Noon
Samantha's Luncheon	Samantha's, 418 E Maple, Hartville	Fri, November 20 @11:30
Akron FOP Monthly Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, December 2 @7pm
AAPRW Monthly Lunch Meeting	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Wed, December 9 @Noon
Akron FOP Kids' Christmas Party	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Sat, December 12, 9am-Noon
Akron Lodge 7 Christmas Luncheon	FOP Lodge 7, 2610 Ley Drive, Akron	Fri, December 18, starts at Noon
Samantha's Luncheon		December is canceled

Just a reminder that there are food and drink specials during Buckeyes and the Browns.

Buckeyes specials are tenders and fries for \$7.50 and a hot dog for \$2.00. Beer specials include \$2.00 16 Oz domestic drafts and \$2.00 domestic bottles. Of course, we have our famous Buckeye shots for \$1 when they score a touchdown.

For the Browns, we have wings and fries for \$8.50 and hot dogs for \$2.00. Beer specials are the same as Buckeyes. Also, \$1 domestic 12 oz drafts or a Browns shot when the Browns score a touchdown! Come join us for some great football and food!

!! Click [HERE](https://pfro25.org) to see the pfro25.org calendar for additions or updates !!

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 or any that aren't receiving our emails so we can add them to the email distributions
- Let us know what we can do for you!

APD Trivia Times

During our careers we hear many stories, witness many changes, and use terms that were passed on to us by the “old timers” of the day. It’s nice to look back and remember them and if possible, find out their origin. Included in the retiree news letters will be some of these memories from our past. Thanks to John Lindsey for his contributions!

If you have any ideas for some trivia (with answers) from your career e-mail them to publish@pfro25.org

- 1) Who holds the record for the longest serving police civilian employee?
- 2) What was the largest police recruit class?
- 3) Who was the 1st policewoman hired by the Akron Police Department? (What Year?)
- 4) When did the Akron Police Department form the first K-9 unit?
- 5) When did Akron Police Department implement the “Probst” rating for officers?

Answers near the bottom of the page

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!

Trivia Times Answers

- 1) Darlene Mathews in 2011 with 42 years’ service, mostly in training.
- 2) 68 total recruits – 54 Akron recruits, 14 recruits from other agencies (Graduated 3/10/72). Close second, 63 recruits (Graduated 3/5/71).
- 3) Officer Mabel Kruse 1937.
- 4) July 24 1962 –They hit the street on June 15 1963. It was disbanded in 1970. It started up again in 1991 and was assigned to the Narcotics Detail.
- 5) April 1940.

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Chapter 25 of the Police & Fire Retirees Association of Ohio is a community of Akron Area Police Retirees and Widows who share a commitment to safeguarding our pensions, staying connected, and enjoying the benefits of membership.