



## Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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**Mark Sanders, President -- Mark Horton, Secretary/Treasurer**

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Brothers and Sisters.

To properly remember and pay respects to our fallen brothers from the FDNY that were lost on September 11, 2001, the OAPFF has purposefully refrained from political activities on the anniversary. We recognize that September 11 is a special day for our profession, a hallowed day.

This year we are, sadly, unable to observe that same tradition. As some of you may have seen in the [Columbus Dispatch](#) and [Dayton Daily News](#) yesterday, Rep. Lynn Wachtmann, a longtime critic of our pension, has attacked once again and we expect his vitriol and divisive language to rear itself again at Thursday, September 12th's Ohio Retirement Study Council meeting.

Rep. Wachtmann has attacked our pension before and, we expect, will again. Despite his cosponsoring and voting for the changes of SB340 that went into effect in July, Rep Wachtmann has taken to spreading misinformation about the solvency of our pension fund. His timing is unfortunate. SB340 has a system of evaluations in place to determine the efficacy of the changes. Why Rep. Wachtmann has decided that is not good enough is beyond comprehension.

The OAPFF is working with the OP&F Pension fund to address the inaccuracies of the media reports. We will also have our representatives at the ORSC meeting on Thursday. OAPFF Staff and Officers have prepared the following statement to address the issue. We will stand together in defending our pension and we will not tolerate unfounded attacks such as this. We wanted you, our members, to have the most updated information. The fact is simple. Our pension is strong. Changes have been made to bolster its strength and longevity in the future.

Again, it is with regret that we must enter into the political foray on this day of remembrance. But the decision was not ours. Spend time with your family and your fire fighting family today. Honor those who were lost 12 years ago on that fateful morning in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. Know that the OAPFF stands ready to defend our profession on every level and at any time.

Stay Safe, Stay Involved, Stay United

Mark Sanders, President  
Mark Horton, Secretary Treasurer  
OAPFF Officers and Staff

## **OAPFF STATEMENT IN REGARD TO ATTACKS ON OP&F PENSION FUND**

It is with great disappointment that Ohio fire fighters read about the critique of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund by State Representative Lynn Wachtmann, Chairman of the Ohio Retirement Study Council. Unfortunately for Representative Wachtmann, the facts do not support his conclusion.

Last year, after many months of public hearings, the Ohio Legislature passed SB340. The House vote, including Representative Wachtmann, was unanimous; the Senate unanimously concurred with the House. Representative Wachtmann knows this all too well - he was a cosponsor. This bill increased the employee contribution, raised the retirement age, and cut cost of living adjustments for retirees and made difficult changes moving the fund toward sustainability.

Despite testimony to the contrary the sky is not falling on the OP&F.

The effective date for most provisions of that bill was July 1, 2013. Now, with the landmark reforms just over two months into their existence, Representative Wachtmann is calling for more. SB340 set time frames for reviewing the success of these reforms. To introduce any changes now, prior to giving the existing, already agreed to and accepted plan an opportunity to work is premature and misguided.

Changes to create pension sustainability have been made. It is imperative that the legislature let the plan set forth in SB340 take full effect and stop tinkering with the retirement security of Ohio's first responders.