

MEETING OF THE OAPFF EXECUTIVE BOARD

January 29, 2025
OP&F Building, Columbus Ohio

The following Board Members and Staff were present

President	Jon Harvey
Secretary-Treasurer	Rich Goforth
1 st District Vice President	George Davis
2 nd District Vice President	Dean Marks
3 rd District Vice President	Cory Wilson (excused)
4 th District Vice President	Jeff Moore
5 th District Vice President	Brian Gatley
Retiree Vice President	Tom Rave
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dan Mitsch (excused)
Trustee	John Jerina
Trustee	Joe Cira (excused)
Trustee	Chris Heaton
Director of Gov Affairs	Steve Stein
Director of Health & Safety	Dave Bernzweig
Director of Operations	Bill Mastronanni
Director of Comm	VACANT
Metro Rep	Joe Elliott

OTHERS

Jake Konys, Cleveland Local 93 President
Carl Jordan, Retired Active Committee Member

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Sec-Treas Goforth presented the current financial report to the board with a brief discussion of each individual account. It was proudly noted that the current reserve funding was sitting at 6 months funding, which is recommended by the IAFF.

Sec-Treas Goforth also reported on the recent 2022 audit done by Marcum. It was successful and a positive audit. The board was advised that the 2023 audit that was being conducted by Ciuni & Panichi was almost complete and would be released soon for the board to review. The 2024 Audit would begin later this spring and would be performed by Ciuni & Panichi out of Cleveland.

The roll out of the new FirePac program would be at the upcoming L.I.T.S training in Westerville.

The current 2025 budget was also discussed with a savings forecast from the previous year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harvey reported on the activities of the OAPFF since the last Board meeting. Pre board meeting included discussion on streaming of board meetings and the conclusion to create a draft to run by IAFF and legal counsel with the hope of streaming the next meeting.

President Harvey reported that the Board is working on revamping existing policies and creating new ones as well where needed. HE said he is hopeful that they are finished and able to be voted on at the next Executive Board meeting.

He said that the OAPFF is working with the State Fire Marshall on a reporting system and the idea to create changes to the existing system. The OAPFF is coordinating with the Marshal to contact Senator Bernie Moreno to work on the issue. Harvey said that the Fire Marshal is concerned about fire code issues and we will support his efforts to make the code best for our members and the public.

President Harvey gave a HB296 – Pension Bill Update. The new FOP Leadership will help motivate all interested parties to work on the bill in the upcoming session.

The Ohio AFLCIO has concerns about HR 1 and SB1 and they are strongly opposed. President Harvey said the OAPFF will sign on as opposing that bill

President Harvey reported on the passage of the WEP/GPO. He called it a great success and gave thanks to all involved including the OAPFF's Carl Jordan

Everything has been finalized with Colonial Life to transfer anyone using AFLAC who wants to transition their coverage.

DVP Emeritus Andy Drwal has announced that his is running for Lorain City Council, a position he help in years past.

Motion from DVP Marks, seconded by VP Rave for the OAPFF to support Andy Drwal for Lorain City Council

Motion passed unanimously.

President Harvey discussed the creation of a standard for electrical vehicle fires and updated the Board on its progress.

An update on the OAPFF communications program was next. President Harvey thanked Mark Hill for his years of service as Director of Communications. Moving forward, Cincinnati Local 48 Retired Member and former OAPFF Communications Director Doug Stern will chair a communications committee comprised of Brian Rose of Hamilton Local 20 and Dan Evans of Toledo Local 92.

Springfield Local 333 member Andy Rigsbee has stepped down from the Legislative Committee in order to run for Springfield City Council.

Motion from VP Gately, seconded by VP Moore for the OAPFF to endorse Andy Rigsbee for Springfield City Council
Motion passed unanimously.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustee Jerina reported that the Trustee's Review of the OAPFF books is complete and accurate. He also told the Board that following the audit from Markham, the Trustees will begin working on recommendations from the auditor including developing a method to better calculate mileage for OAPFF Concur users.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Counsel Henry Arnett updated the Board on the amicus role of the OAPFF on several cases. The first involved an employer's denial of arbitration. This case is set for a February court date. Another case was State of Ohio vs Bissel which involved the death of a Cleveland fire fighter killed by a drunk driver and a reduced sentence for the convicted driver.

President Harvey thanked Counsel Arnett for his help in better defining what employees are eligible for representation in regard to who has management/supervision duties and who does not.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Director Mastroianni gave a reminder of LITS at the end of February, currently at 100 registrations. In the past, this event had 170 or so participants, Mastroianni advised that a reminder will be out soon. The OAPFF has meet the room block required.

Mastroianni announced the following dates:

- New Officers Training is March 24 and 25 at Local 67's hall. Information will be forthcoming
- Leg Conf is set for May 20 and 21 in Columbus
- Fire Ops is Oct 14, staff is working on planning that event.

Mastroianni provided an update on the OAPFF Higher Education Learning Program.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

No Report

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Director Stein gave an update on the results of HB 296 and its failure to pass the last legislature. He reported that this bill will be reintroduced in the next legislature. He indicated that we are in a good position to get the changes we need in this General Assembly.

Stein reported that PTSD coverage is a priority issue for the OAPFF in the General Assembly.

He also reported on SB 8 which concerns union release time. The OAPFF is taking this seriously and working to make sure that it does not gain traction. This is the third time the bill has been introduced and the last times, it has not progressed out of committee.

Stein updated the Board on the renewed efforts to grow Ohio FirePAC.

Stein gave a thank you for the work of Ohio Members in passing the WEP/GPO. More than 50,000 contacts were from Ohio, a leader in the nation. He gave credit to the IAFF, and General President Kelly for their efforts.

OAPFF 457 PLAN REPORT

Executive Director Quinn reported that the plan has 3017 participants with over \$181 million under management. The average investment is \$60,089. Quinn update the Board on the work being done to better and more efficiently manage the 457 plan. Quinn also reported that the Plan will have a change in General Counsel. He said he looks forward to working with new counsel and helping him fill “the big shoes” left by previous counsel. The Plan also renegotiated recordkeeping fees from 12 basis points to 8 basis points which will help save money for all the members in the Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Committee Chair Stern thanked the Board for the opportunity to return and help out. Stern highlighted the new communications committee and explained how each members will have a specialty that they will work on under the guidance of the chair. He reported on OAPFF social media successes. Facebook was up 57% on views and 111% on interactions for the 28 days since the director transition took place.

The goal of the committee will be to continue to grow the engagement of the OAPFF and build regular communications including scheduled emails and a message calendar.

The committee will perform a comprehensive review of all OAPFF communications including mass emails, websites, social media, and branding.

Stern encouraged the Board and all those in attendance to share with him events and happenings in their area so that the OAPFF can amplify and share.

FIRST DISTRICT REPORT

Sylvania Township Local 2243

Retired Firefighter Jeff Young passed away from Occupational Cancer.

Toledo Local 92

Dealing with a DFR for failing to get an Arbitration properly/timely filed. They are also waiting on a Fact-Finding date for negotiations. The EMS board has also allowed a

private company to issue discipline for one of their firefighters. President Harvey and OAPFF Counsel are working to get that resolved/figured out

Shelby Local 2492

We settled the contract. They will be receiving over the next three years. \$1.50 + 3%, \$.75 + 3%, and \$.50 + 3%. It equates to around 25% over three years for a firefighter.

Tiffin Local 322

A firefighter is being investigated for harassment, but the department has left him on duty. Union President scheduled Labor Management to get it resolved.

Galion Local 435

Union President is out on Sick Leave for an Off Duty injury and is about to run out of time. Providing guidance on how to proceed if his Dr doesn't clear him back to work before he's out of SL and Vacation time.

Tiffin Local 322

A firefighter is being investigated for harassment, but the department has left him on duty. Union President scheduled Labor Management to get it resolved.

Defiance Local 918

They're having manning issues and have been going at the administration with a social media campaign. Communications committee suggested a few things to help them with their campaign.

Fremont Local 328

Had a young firefighter get charged with OVI. The city jumped the gun on trying to discipline him.

SECOND DISTRICT REPORT

VP Marks thanked the Governor for honoring Fallen Local 93 member Tetrick with naming a memorial highway recently
Potential NOFF Local affiliating with the OAPFF
Norwalk is going to fact finding
Many locals in the 2nd are getting EMS studies performed

THIRD DISTRICT REPORT

NO REPORT

FOURTH DISTRICT REPORT

VP Moore reported the he finished negotiations in four locals
He also is dealing with an arbitration that was successful but di not include back pay.
Sidney Local 912 president is facing discipline for a
1638 having medic students sign a contract on reimbursement if they leave
Organizing Tipp City – working on captains designation.
Stonelick Twp is being organized despite being less than 5000 residents.

FIFTH DISTRICT REPORT

Many organizing opportunities
Reduced a termination to a 30 day suspension
Working with Marysville on preparing for negotiations.

RETIREE REPORT

Adjourned at 322pm