

# MEMBER'S REPORT

The quarterly newsletter for active and retired OP&F members and their survivors

Ohio  
Police  
& Fire Pension  
Fund

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### New pension system expected to go-live this fall



Mary Beth Foley, Esq.

Dear OP&F members,

This fall we expect to launch a new system which will change the way members interact with OP&F. This new pension administration system replaces a previous system that has served us well for nearly 20 years.

Now, new efficiencies and technologies are available to assist not only OP&F staff, but our members and how they access benefits and information. Employers will also be affected and will receive training on how to submit contributions and payroll information to OP&F. Our staff continues to evaluate the new system's workflows, member portal, and employer reporting tools to make sure everything works as intended.

We are hopeful these changes will be seamless to members. Retirees can still rely on their benefits to be deposited in their accounts on time each month and Deferred Retirement Option Plan accruals will continue as they always have. Once additional testing is completed this spring, we will confirm a go-live date for the transition to the new pension system.

**The target is October 1, 2026, pending final testing.** In the meantime, please make sure OP&F has your current email address and mailing address so you receive upcoming instructions about the new member portal.

One of the features we expect with the new system is to allow members to apply for retirement completely online.

Also, members will be able to change their beneficiaries through the new system and update their contact information. Changes that members will notice include a new member portal that will replace the current Member Self-Serve area of the website. While the appearance will be different, all the current information will still be available to you, plus new features.

For our employers, we have been working with large and small employer working groups since last fall to gather input and participation. Members from our Administration and Finance Department participated in the annual Auditor of State Local Government Officials Conference in Columbus in March. As part of the conference, OP&F representatives presented information on the new pension system to employers in attendance. These changes are keeping us busy at OP&F headquarters and are an effort to provide the best service for you.

As always, stay safe and thank you for your service.

Best regards,

*Mary Beth Foley*

Mary Beth Foley, Esq.

Executive Director

## HEATON NAMED NEWEST OP&F TRUSTEE

Christopher Heaton, a lieutenant with the Beavercreek Township Fire Department, was elected as an Active Fire Representative to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees on Jan. 27. His first meetings as an OP&F trustee were March 24-25.

Heaton fills the seat vacated by the resignation of John Deal in December. Heaton will serve the remainder of Deal's term, which expires in June 2027. Heaton will be eligible to run for a new full term in the spring of 2027.

Heaton has been with Beavercreek Township Fire since 2017 and has been an Ohio firefighter since 2002. He has been president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2857 since 2017 and serves as a trustee with the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters. Heaton has a bachelor's degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University.



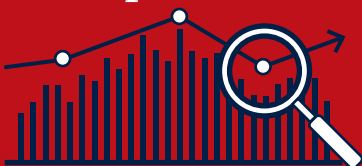
## OP&F ends year with impressive return numbers

At the end of 2025, the OP&F investment portfolio was valued at \$21.2 billion, a net return for the year of 17.92 percent.



The gross return for the year was 18.52 percent, which ranked in the top one percent in Wilshire's peer rankings. Other periods were also impressive. For the period ending Dec. 31, 2025, the three-year returns were 12.98 percent (top 34 percent in the peer rankings), for five years, 9.66 percent return (top three percent) and for 10 years, 9.75 percent return (top five percent).

### PORTFOLIO -update-



#### OP&F's Investment Portfolio Value

As of March 24 value:  
\$21.1 billion

End of Feb. value:  
\$22.2 billion

End of Jan. value:  
\$21.8 billion

*\* values may be internally estimated*



## Important Security Notice: Be Alert for Fraudulent Emails

The Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) is concerned about fraudulent emails circulating that claim to be from OP&F and reference retirement review interviews or benefit-related meetings. Please be cautious. These messages may not be legitimate and could be attempts to obtain personal or financial information.

### What to Know

- OP&F will never ask you to provide sensitive information—such as Social Security numbers, banking details, or account passwords—through unsolicited emails.
- Fraudulent emails may look official and may urge you to act quickly or click on links.
- Some messages may request that you schedule or attend a “retirement review interview” outside of normal OP&F communication channels.

### How to Protect Yourself

- Do not click links or open attachments in unexpected emails claiming to be from OP&F.
- Do not reply or provide personal information in response to these messages.
- If you are unsure whether a communication is legitimate, contact OP&F directly using the phone number or contact information listed on the official OP&F website—not the information provided in the email.

OP&F takes the security of member information seriously and encourages all members to remain vigilant. If you believe you have received a suspicious email claiming to be from OP&F, please report it and delete the message. Thank you for helping protect your retirement information.

## REMINDERS ABOUT HEALTH CARE STIPEND ELIGIBILITY

Below are some helpful reminders concerning the OP&F's retiree health care stipend:

- Retirees age 65 or over must be enrolled in Medicare and also must become enrolled and maintain enrollment through the Alight Retiree Health Exchange or else risk stipend termination.
- To become eligible for the OP&F health care stipend, a Qualifying Life Event, or QLE, must first occur. A common QLE is the involuntary loss of group health care coverage, which usually happens when a member or spouse retires or becomes unemployed and their employer's plan is no longer available.
- There is a 60-day window to apply for the OP&F health care stipend after a QLE occurs. The first step to applying is to complete OP&F's Health Care Stipend Eligibility Form, found on the OP&F website.
- If a member dies, the family must contact OP&F, their health care carrier and Alight to stop any auto premium reimbursements.
- Members should be aware that if any stipend money remains in the Health Reimbursement Arrangement at the end of the year, it will not roll over to the next year.

## BUDGETING YOUR HRA: UNDERSTAND THAT THE STIPEND MAY NOT LAST ALL YEAR

When OP&F and Alight fund a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for retirees, the total amount the member is eligible to receive is posted. While members eligible for the health care stipend program can use these funds to be reimbursed for approved expenses, they must also realize that the amount likely will not cover the cost of premiums for the entire calendar year.

OP&F urges members to track their expenses and be aware of what will be available to them later in the year. Alight,

and their partner YSA, can set up the auto-reimbursement program to only reimburse a portion of a plan's premium so that the stipend can last for the entire year. This type of payment plan could avoid the stipend from depleting and a member being faced with larger payments late in the year.

Also, members should be aware that if any stipend money remains in the Health Reimbursement Arrangement at the end of the year, it will not roll over to the next year.

## OP&F URGING BENEFIT RECIPIENTS TO OPT-OUT OF FORM 1099-R MAILING, RETRIEVE IT ONLINE

OP&F's website allows beneficiaries to download the Form 1099-R for tax reporting purposes and avoid receiving the form in the mail. This feature not only saves the cost of mailing the tax form but is more secure than mailing it and is convenient for our beneficiaries.

To opt out of the mailing, beneficiaries must log into their account in the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website and choose Document Preferences. From this page beneficiaries can choose to opt-out of the mailing.

Beneficiaries must have an email address to use the opt-out feature.

Beneficiaries can access the Form 1099-R by going to op-f.org and logging on to Member Self-Serve. The Form 1099-R can be viewed and printed from the Documents link.

To register for Member Self-Serve, go to op-f.org and click the log-in link at the top of the page. Under the member option, follow the instructions to register.

# 12 KEY HABITS FOR ACHIEVING FINANCIAL FREEDOM

*Set yourself on the path to saving with these habits*

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By Matt Danielsson, *Investopedia*

Financial freedom means having enough savings, investments, and cash on hand to afford the lifestyle you want for yourself and your family. It also means budgeting to grow a nest egg, allowing you to retire or pursue your dreams. These 12 habits can put you on the right path.

## 1. Establish Clear Financial Goals

Individuals have different financial goals. Outline your objectives and get specific about amounts and deadlines. Determine your short and long-term lifestyles, how much you need to reach your milestones, and at what age you will be. Count backward from your deadline and establish financial mileposts.

## 2. Create a Practical Budget

Create a monthly household budget to ensure bills are paid and savings are on track. Maintaining a budget is a routine that reinforces your goals and helps squash the temptation to splurge.

## 3. Reduce Credit Card Debt

Credit cards and other high-interest consumer loans are toxic to wealth-building. Make it a point to pay off the full balance each month. Student loans, mortgages, and similar loans typically have much lower interest rates, and paying these lower-interest loans on time will build good credit.

## 4. Automate Your Savings

Pay yourself first. Ideally, emergency and retirement money should come from your account the day you receive your paycheck. You can also choose an automatic deposit into an emergency fund, which can be tapped for unexpected expenses. Enroll in your workplace retirement plan and capture any employer matching benefit. Tax-advantaged retirement accounts have rules that make it difficult to get your hands on your cash should you suddenly need it, so that account should not be your emergency fund.

## 5. Begin Your Investment Journey

The magic of compound interest helps you grow your money exponentially. An online brokerage account makes it easy for individuals to learn how to invest, create a manageable portfolio, and make weekly or monthly contributions.

## 6. Monitor and Improve Your Credit Score

Your credit score helps determine the interest rate offered to you when buying a new car or refinancing a home. It also impacts the amount you pay for essentials like car or life insurance premiums. Maintain your payment schedules and check your credit score often to ensure your good habits are paying off.

*continues on page 6*

## **7. Master Negotiation Techniques**

Many Americans hesitate to negotiate for goods and services. However, small businesses, in particular, may be open to negotiation. Buying in bulk or positioning yourself as a repeat customer provides discounts at larger chain stores.

## **8. Continue to Educate Yourself Financially**

Review relevant changes in tax law to ensure that all adjustments and deductions are maximized each year. Keep up with financial news and developments in the stock market, and do not hesitate to adjust your investment portfolio accordingly.

## **9. Properly Maintain Your Assets**

According to J.P. Morgan, house prices were expected to increase by 3% in 2025. Maintaining real estate will help safeguard or even increase its value. Taking good care of other items like cars and lawnmowers helps them last longer and saves money in the long run.

## **10. Adopt a Modest Lifestyle**

Mastering a frugal lifestyle means developing a mindset focused on living a good life with less. Explore aspects of a minimalist lifestyle, learning to distinguish between things you need and want, and then making small adjustments that drive big gains for your financial health.

## **11. Seek Professional Financial Guidance**

A financial advisor will help you maintain your portfolio and manage liquid assets and investments. The Securities and Exchange Commission regulates investment advisors who manage over \$110 million in client assets, while state securities regulators have jurisdiction over those who manage less. You can obtain background information on investment professionals at FINRA BrokerCheck.

## **12. Prioritize Personal Wellbeing in Financial Planning**

Proper maintenance also applies to your physical health. A healthy lifestyle and regular visits to doctors and dentists help thwart long-term issues and save you money on medical expenses in the long run.





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*Securing the future for Ohio's Police and Firefighters*

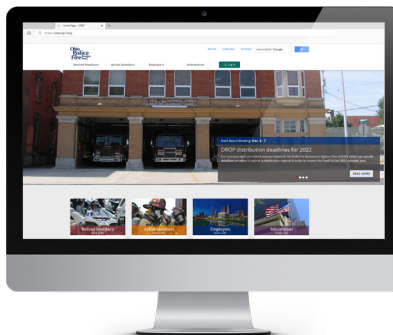
**IMPORTANT DATES**

April 28-29.....Board of Trustees meetings  
May 25 .....OP&F closed in observance of Memorial Day  
June 23-24 .....Board of Trustees meetings  
July 3 .....OP&F closed in observance of Independence Day

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**



If your email address is not on file, please add or update it securely on the Member Self-Serve area of the OP&F website. You may also complete a Change of Address form and email or send it to OP&F at 140 E. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

**SUSPECT DISABILITY FRAUD? CALL 844-FRAUD HOTLINE (844-372-8345)**