



A MESSAGE FROM
Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters
WWW.OAPFF.ORG (614) 488-9920

2026 Fall Newsletter

OAPFF Member,

The past several months have been busy for the OAPFF and the labor movement representing professional fire fighters and paramedics across Ohio and throughout the IAFF. From the OAPFF 55th Biennial Conference in Toledo to the IAFF Convention, our members and affiliate leaders have come together to conduct our union business, address the issues facing our profession, and set the priorities that will guide us forward.

Our conferences and conventions help set the direction of our union. What we do when we return home determines our strength. The OAPFF continues to fight for the issues that directly affect our members, their families, and their futures.

With more than 14,000 affiliated members across Ohio, we have a responsibility to protect what generations before us fought to build while continuing to invest back into this profession for the those who will follow us.

The challenges facing Ohio's professional fire fighters are not getting smaller. Communities continue to demand more, while expectations to do more with less put strain on our fire fighters and the communities we serve.

Our responsibility is not simply to react when something goes wrong. It is to be prepared before the fight reaches our doorstep. We build relationships, educate decision-makers, support our affiliates, and ensure the voices of Ohio's bravest are heard wherever decisions about our profession are made.

We will not agree on everything. We do not have to. But when it comes to protecting our profession, our rights, our families, and the future of the fire service, we must understand the power that comes from standing together.

Fraternally,

Jon Harvey, OAPFF President

Every dollar of per capita dues entrusted to the OAPFF represents our members' investment in our union's strength and stability. With that investment comes a responsibility we take seriously and work every day on behalf of the professional fire fighters and paramedics we represent.

Financial responsibility is more than balancing a budget. It means maintaining strong reserves, controlling unnecessary expenses, investing where our members receive meaningful value, and ensuring the OAPFF has the resources necessary to respond when an affiliate or member needs us most.

Our members' per capita dues provide the foundation for this organization's work. They support the infrastructure needed to represent more than 300 affiliated locals across Ohio and provide the resources we need when an affiliate or member needs us most.

Current per capita for OAPFF

- OAPFF per capita will increase to \$12.15 per active member and \$6.08 per active-retired member.

IAFF per capita beginning October 1, 2026

- IAFF per capita will increase to \$20.10 per active member and \$10.05 per active-retired member.

Our members' dues are not simply the cost of belonging to the OAPFF. They are an investment in something much larger than any individual Local or state association.

Any questions concerning per capita can be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer's Office.

In Solidarity,

Rich Goforth, OAPFF Secretary-Treasurer

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Politics within the OAPFF is built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to our profession. Our involvement in the political process is not about one party, one ideology, or one side. It is about ensuring the priorities of Ohio's professional fire fighters are heard by those making decisions that directly affect our members, our families, and our future.

The legislative victories we have achieved did not happen by chance. Generations of union fire fighters fought for them, organized for them, and secured them through collective action. They understood that progress comes when we stand together and refuse to let others determine our profession's future without our voice at the table.

That requires us to remain engaged. We cannot afford to wait until the dignified protections and rights we have fought for are threatened before we act.

The OAPFF will continue to show up, regardless of political party, and work with those who demonstrate through their actions and record that they support professional fire fighters and the issues important to our members.

View the [OAPFF Endorsement Philosophy](#)

View the [OAPFF Endorsed Candidates](#)

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

The IAFF has issued a Safety Advisory regarding the use of glutathione as a post-exposure "detox" treatment for fire fighters. Currently, glutathione is not FDA-approved for post-exposure fire fighter detoxification. No published scientific studies demonstrate that it reduces PFAS levels or oxidative stress associated with occupational exposures.

As research into occupational cancer, PFAS, and fire fighter exposures continues to evolve, the OAPFF encourages our members to stay informed and rely on credible, evidence-based guidance when making decisions about their health.

View Article: [IAFF Safety Advisory- Glutathione](#)

The IAFF has issued a health and wellness advisory on what fire fighter should know about the use of GLP-1 and similar weight loss drugs.

Use of these medications continues to increase because of the potential benefits they may provide. Members should also understand the potential risks, side effects, and individual health considerations associated with their use. Anyone considering these medications is encouraged to have an informed discussion with their primary care provider to determine whether they are appropriate for their individual health needs.

View Article: [IAFF Health and Wellness- GLP 1](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **District Meetings: October 20-22, 2026**
 - District 1- October 22 @ 1700, Hosted by Lima, Local 334
 - District 2- October 21 @ 1200, Hosted by Sheffield Lake, Local 2355
 - District 3- October 21 @ 1700, Hosted by Akron, Local 330
 - District 4- October 22 @ 1200, Hosted by Cincinnati, Local 48
 - District 5- October 20 @ 1100, Hosted by Jefferson Twp, Local 3029
 - District 6- TBD
- **IAFF Peer Support Training Course: October 27-28, 2026**
 - Hosted by Kent, Local 721
- **OAPFF on the Road (Leadership Training Academy): November 12, 2026**
 - Hosted by Akron, Local 330
- **Peer Support CE Day: December 17, 2026**
 - Hosted at the Ohio Fire Academy
- **OAPFF Health and Safety Conference: February 22-24, 2027**
 - Columbus, Ohio

View the OAPFF events page for all other events [HERE](#).

Our Affiliate Locals represent different departments and different communities, but we share the same profession, the same challenges, and the same responsibility. When our members are informed, engaged, and willing to stand together, our collective voice becomes impossible to ignore. Stay safe, take care of yourselves, look out for one another, and keep building on the strength that defines this profession.

In Solidarity,

Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters



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