



Professional Pilots Association (PPA)

Official Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. A motion to waive the reading of prior meeting minutes was made and approved unanimously.

Leadership Updates

Treasurer: Douglas Auld was formally welcomed and appointed Treasurer for 2026. The association expressed appreciation for his willingness to step into the role and support the organization moving forward.

The association extends sincere gratitude to Bob Brown for his many years of dedicated service as Treasurer. His diligence, leadership, and long-term commitment had a lasting impact on the organization.

Secretary: The association thanks Christine Mortine for her time and dedication as Secretary. Her organization and thoughtful contributions were greatly valued.

The Secretary position for 2026 remains open. Shawn Bauer will provide interim administrative support as needed.

Continuing Leadership: Mike Ponsani and Brad Willette will continue serving in their current leadership roles for 2026.

Business Development Support

While not an official leadership role, Shawn Bauer will support continued growth of the association by coordinating future speakers, assisting guest presenters, providing backup support to the Treasurer, and assisting leadership with ongoing projects and initiatives.

Additional Recognition

Special thanks to Roy Cottrill, Curt Hiser, Judy Stream, and Rich Wadel for their continued years of support to the association.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

The association will maintain a minimum account balance of \$2,000 to avoid banking fees. Catering requires a minimum of 15 food orders. A \$20 catering tip was approved, including reimbursement.

Next Meeting – February 4, 2026

The Columbus Police Helicopter Unit currently operates MD Helicopters MD 530F aircraft, part of the MD 500-series platform. These light, single-engine turbine helicopters are utilized for patrol, aerial surveillance, and airborne operational support. The department transitioned earlier MD 500E aircraft to the MD 530F configuration through a factory conversion program and has operated a fleet of up to six aircraft in recent years.

Additionally, the Columbus Division of Police has approved the acquisition of two Bell 505 Jet Ranger X helicopters as part of an effort to modernize and enhance the unit's aviation capabilities. The Bell 505 is a technologically advanced light utility helicopter equipped with modern avionics and designed to support contemporary public-safety missions.

Location: Columbus Police Heliport, 1455 Mews Ct, Columbus, Ohio.

Action Items

Shawn Bauer will coordinate catering options and create an event flyer to provide to John Clem by January 14, 2026, for distribution and reservation outreach.

2026 Event Schedule

February 4 – Columbus Police Helicopter Unit (CPD Helicopter Base)

March 4 – Dan Kiser, Lane Aviation

April 1 – Thomas Betti, Historian – The Jet Age, Lane Aviation (Thank you to Richard Buerger)

May 6 – OPEN (Potential speakers: Department of Transportation @ OSU; 180th Fighter Wing – Lane Aviation)

June–August – Summer Break