



## Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2019

### **Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with OSHP Dispatcher Jared Reagh leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lydia Frey welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Frey introduced the APCO Executive Committee: First Vice President Johnna Sells, Second Vice President Cheryl Pratt, Executive Council Representative Jay Somerville, Commercial Advisory Board Member Norberto Colon, Patrick Brandt, Adrienne Sheffer, Immediate Past President Satoru Persons, Past President Kelly Davidson, Secretary / Treasurer Mike Banks, and Matt Franke, North Central Regional Coordinator for the Board of Directors. The Immediate Past President of APCO International, Holly Wayt, was also in attendance.

### **Secretary/Treasurer Reports**

The minutes are posted on the website and copies are available at the front table. President Frey requested a motion to approve the minutes. Patrick Brandt called the motion, seconded by Kelly Davidson. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Conference Committee**

The National NENA conference will be in Columbus, Ohio in 2021, so the next Ohio joint conference will be in 2022. Anne, Steve, and Rose went to Orlando and volunteered at the national conference to help be better prepared for 2021. It was an amazing experience, we learned a lot, and we have a lot of work ahead of us. They will need all the volunteers they can get for the 2021 National NENA Conference, so please keep that in mind.

### **Gold Star Committee**

The nominations are open for the Gold Star Awards. They will be sending out a mass email to everyone near the end of month. They are going to a yearly awards ceremony instead of only having it in conjunction with the conference. They are trying to take it to the next level in recognizing telecommunicators. They are going to add some categories, such as director of the year and technical person of the year. The goal is to recognize not only telecommunicators, but the communications center as a whole and all the people it takes to make great centers happen.

The next Gold Star Awards Luncheon will be in Columbus in 2020. They have been trying to finalize the date and narrow down the location. Once determined, this information will be dispersed to everyone. Always keep an eye out for the people to be nominated. The process is all online, so it is pretty quick and easy to nominate someone.

### **911 Program Office**

Sharon discussed the Support and Compliance Program. Sixty counties have reported in and only five were out of compliance. We are working with them on timelines and strategy. Fourteen are in but still need to be reviewed. If you have submitted, but have not heard back, those are still in the review process. This leaves twenty-eight left for the rest of the year. Thank you for everyone's cooperation.

Rob Jackson discussed the RFP. They are making progress, four proposals submitted from Motorola, Comtech, INdigital, CenturyLink. All proposals are being reviewed. The review group consists of Dave Blackstone from OGRIP, Rick Schmahl from MARCS, OARnet Representative, Roger Hixson, and Jay Somerville. Federal Engineering, our 911 consultant, will also be providing a comprehensive report and recommendation. We will have our initial meeting at end of month. Each company will be given one hour to highlight and answer questions. Then each company will be scored and we will work with highest ranking vendor to negotiate a contingency contract based on legislation and funding.

Ohio received the 6<sup>th</sup> largest award in the country of \$4.3 million for the State Core Services project. Partnered with DAS and the State Fire Marshal's Office due to their expertise in grants and their ability to set up the funding mechanism. Towards the end of September, the sub-grant application will be sent out to all 911 county coordinators. The county 911 coordinators will then need to work with the PSAPs within their county to get the sub-grant applications submitted. All sub-grantees within a county must be reviewed and approved by the county 911 coordinator before it goes to the State 911 Program Office. A Grant Review Committee (three state level representatives (Jeff Hussey, the State Fire Marshal, Rick Schmahl from MARCS, and Dave Blackstone from OGRIP) and three local level representatives (Rob Harrington representing county EMA, fire, and EMS, Colonel Brian Cricket representing sheriff's offices, and Jay Somerville representing municipalities)) will then rank the received applications. If you are a county that did not respond to the FCC National 911 Office Survey, you will be at the end of the list due to all the reporting required.



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There will be a specific response time to return the sub-grant applications, probably 60 days. If you get an approval letter, you can then move forward with the project. This grant is all reimbursable. You have to fund 100% of your project locally, pay for it, and complete it, then you can be reimbursed 60%. You cannot be reimbursed for anything you have already done prior to approval. If you think you are going to put in for the grant, you can start getting bids so you have pricing, etc. for equipment, training, and consulting for the transition to NG911.

The 911 Symposium is on September 18<sup>th</sup>. On-Star will be at the symposium, discussing a new system they are putting out with an app which is not just for vehicles. Massachusetts Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) will be there discussing incidents with gas explosions affecting entire neighborhoods which occurred in Fall 2018. Thank you to APCO/NENA and MARCS for bringing this speaker to the symposium. We also have a speaker who spoke at the 2019 APCO/NENA conference about Amish and 911. This was a fascinating two-hour presentation. Anyone wishing to attend should register online (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ohio-9-1-1-symposium-2019registration-tickets-67027018617>).

September 27<sup>th</sup> – a day of training hosted by Hexagon at the Newark Doubletree Hotel. It will be technical and operational training, with RapidSOS as the keynote speaker. Registration limited to 75 people.

### **Ohio MARCS**

Rich Schmahl spoke about celebrating MARCS' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. If you have any historical documents relating to the beginning of MARCS, DAS communications department is putting together information.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> is the next SIEC meeting. If you would like to receive email notices about SIEC meetings, go to [SIEC.ohio.gov](http://SIEC.ohio.gov) to sign up on the contacts page. If information is sent out relating to interoperability, those are also sent out through the SIEC email group.

FirstNet is finally waking up in Ohio and being serious about providing gateways for our push-to-talks. Vendors are going around trying to sell solutions for push-to-talks into the LMR world. Be very leery of them and feel free to contact Rick if approached by one of these vendors. They are doing things that can busy out your tower site. Just because it is cheap and easy to do, that does not always mean it is the best for your system.

### **Ohio TERT**

Thanks to Cody and Maury, we have an MOU, approved by NJTI. Our next step is to get the subcommittees back together. The national folks are very pleased with the MOU. There are roughly 20 members on different subcommittees working on this project.

### **Frequency Advisory**

Bob Bill has been working with Wood County, Tuscarawas County, and Wayne County on vehicular repeater frequencies. Happy to report they progressed right through the process and should be pending with the FCC. They are well on way to getting vehicular repeater frequencies and equipment online.

At our next meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the regional planning meetings for 700/800 MHz for the State of Ohio frequency planning. If you need information or have concerns for frequency planning, be there.

Bob was able to attend the APCO National Conference in Baltimore. The FCC brought quite a few of their folks to the conference being close to two of their larger offices in Washington D.C. and Gettysburg. It was good hear them talk, to meet them, and to connect their names and faces.

Federal Interoperability Frequencies – An MOU has been signed between the Ohio SWIC (Rick Schmahl) and federal government. After that, we applied for a license, which we were granted. Now we are good-to-go to use the frequencies, they are UHF and VHF frequencies. You would need either multi-band or separate radios to communicate with the federal government. Bob can give you a copy of the license if you need to use these frequencies. We would need to do a one-page MOU between your entity and SWIC allowing you to use the frequency. Locals do not license themselves; they operate under the state license.

### **Executive Council and Legislative Updates**

Matt Franke – Rob Jackson already covered the legislative details in his section.



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Executive Council meeting at the National APCO Conference was very busy. There was a lot of action for both the board and the executive council. The board met three separate times and one meeting went until after midnight, which is unusual. Executive council came back for a second session on Sunday for the first time in memory. Primary issue was relating to dealing with chapters. Executive Council has purview over the chapters and has members from all 43 chapters. Jay Somerville is the Ohio representative. The biggest issue surrounded joint chapters with other chapters, primarily NENA. The board took action and made recommendations. The board voted to make a couple changes to language. They requested the president form a work group to address one issue and report back to executive council next year. One of the things which came up was the definition of a joint chapter. At least two states who thought they were joint chapters were not. The end result was the definition of a joint venture and a joint chapter.

**Joint Venture** – This is how we would describe Ohio. In a joint venture, the two do almost everything together, such as meetings, conferences, projects, etc. There are only a few items which are APCO specific, like radio and frequency items which APCO does differently and are outside of NENAs wheelhouse. There are no legal or financial issues with joint venture. As a result, there are no issues here in Ohio.

**Joint Chapter** – This is where it is one group, with one board and one checking account. This does cause legal and financial issues. APCO International is a business and has 85 employees. There are many things that come into play and this is where the chapter issue lies.

Matt was re-elected as regional representative for the north central region on the regional board of directors, for his final term of two years. Jason Kern was elected to second vice president of APCO International.

There were a few items brought to the quorum. Those items included questions about online members and limiting their participation in the chapters. Both the board and executive council recommended against this. They feel it should be left up to the local chapter. This measure was defeated by the quorum in the business meeting.

The 2020 APCO Conference is in Orlando, Florida.

Holly Wayt wanted to highlight the task force report. An Emergency Communications Center Crisis Response Task Force document has been created. The document is a 55 page all-encompassing document that is set up in the manner of a guide card. The idea is you are given a critical incident scenario and there are recommendations, thought provoking questions, and things to think about after a critical incident. There are forms at end of the document to help as well. This document can be obtained from the APCO website. In the future, it will be in Pro Chart Toolbox on the APCO website. It will be a living document, adding new situations, recommendations, etc. It is a great resource tool. If you cannot find it, get in touch with a committee member and they will send it to you.

**Legislative Update** – Jay Somerville is the APCO representative on PSAP Operations sub-committee and Matt Franke is the APCO representative on the technical sub-committee of the ESINet steering committee. There is not a whole lot going on right now on the forefront. There is legislation out there, but nothing is moving. We are contacted often with questions and ideas. Please continue to contact us with ideas and thoughts. We have made some progress with some of the legislators and some are participating on a regular basis on the ESINet steering committee calls. If one of them sees a window at the Statehouse, they may try to move through the 128 update. If any new ideas or input, there will be one more big push to get 128 through after the RFPs reviewed.

### **Constitution and Bylaws**

No new business

### **911 Operations and Management Committee**

This is a new committee. Patrick Brandt from Delaware County and Andrew Knapp from Hamilton County are the co-chairs. This committee met for the first time this morning. We went through a selection process to determine committee members. There were a lot of people who asked to be on the committee. We selected seven committee members, making it a total of nine members including the co-chairs. We tried to represent Ohio APCO well, using people from across the state.



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ODNR – Erica Walsh  
NRECC – Nancy Nicodemous  
Defiance County – Matt Havernack  
WARCOG – Cody Post  
Champaign County – Amy Collins  
Miami County – Jeff Bush  
Perry County – Jeff Wilson

We also have Matt Franke and Jay Somerville on the committee as ex-officio to have a proper way to get information up the chain. We worked on goals and objectives today and will have monthly teleconferences. We will meet in person on APCO meeting days. If anyone has any questions, please get in touch with Patrick, Andrew, or any of the committee members.

### **Awards and Scholarship**

No new business

### **Commercial Advisory**

For the vendors in the room, Norberto Colon stated they will have a quick meeting either before or after the next meeting in November. We will be reviewing things being done differently and discussing the meeting format (what you like and what you do not like). Everyone on the distribution list will get an email update from Norberto. If a vendor is not on the list, get with Norberto to be added. We have the most support from our vendor community in Ohio. Some of the things we need to work on include what vendors get for their money, who gets a table, when they pay, what happens if a vendor does not show up, etc. Things need to be more formal and organized. This will be discussed further at the November vendor meeting. Our CCAMs are the gold standard for what other states need to be doing, so thank you for all you do.

### **Training Committee**

Lydia is turning the training committee over to Adrienne Sheffer and Cheryl Pratt as the new co-chairs. We like to have training at all quarterly meetings. We do look at the surveys when people sign up and suggestions for training. Lydia thanked Amber for the training today. If you have ideas, please reach out to Adrienne and Cheryl and we will try to accommodate it for our future meetings. On-Star is already scheduled for the November training. Registration should be coming out in October. Training will be from 9:00 to 10:00 and then the business meeting at 10:00.

Patrick Brandt is hosting a free training on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> in coordination with Delaware County EMS and county law enforcement agencies. It is called the Warrior Within with Dave Nemith. Dave is an Army Veteran and a double amputee. The training will be held at the Berlin Township High School in the Olentangy School district. He will be doing Yoga and getting involved with assistance for crisis intervention. The training is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is only open to Public Safety and Veterans. Steve Click will have also have a portion in the afternoon. A link to register can be found on the Ohio APCO Website.

November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – First Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference at the convention center. This is a national convention which travels the country. This program is looking at wellness as a package, throughout your career and how you are taking care of yourself. We have a tendency focus on everyone except yourself, and this allows you to take some time for you.

Williams County has some upcoming training. Hazardous materials for dispatchers and Steve Click's training in the afternoon.

When you have information about upcoming training, let Lydia know. She will put training on social media, send to Rob Jackson and Rick Schmahl for distribution. We want to try to keep everyone updated on available training.

### **President's comments**

Staffing and retention was a common topic at the National APCO Conference. Brian MacMurdo and Johnna Sells were able to instruct classes at the conference and did a great job. It was a very good conference. They had an app to put on our phones to sign up for classes. The vendors were also great. APCO International has online recordings of the classes for purchase where you can see the instructor as well as the presentation. Lydia highly recommends watching Brian and Johnna's presentations.

Lydia and Cheryl were able to volunteer at the National APCO Conference and it was a great opportunity.



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### **Good of the Order**

There was no information for the good of the order.

Patrick Brandt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Davidson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.