

POWERS NEW CHAIR OF ESINet TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE



The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office and the ESINet Steering Committee welcomes Donovan Powers as chair of its Technical Standards Sub-Committee. Donovan is OGRIP Manager and replaces Dave Blackstone who retired late last year.

No stranger to OGRIP, Donovan brings a wealth of GIS experience from his tenure at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and we look forward to working with him.

A big thanks to Dave for his more than 30 years of state service.

Donovan Powers, OGRIP Director, Ohio Department of Administrative Services Office of Information Technology

House Bill 445 Introduced

House Bill 445 was recently introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives to help Ohio transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). The bill is a result of countless hours of work by the ESINet Steering Committee, PSAP Operations and Technical Standards Sub-Committees, as well as a host of 9-1-1 professionals and emergency first responders from across the state. Stay tuned for legislative updates and follow the bill's progress at www.ohiohouse.gov.

NG9-1-1 Federal Grant is Winding Down

The performance period for Ohio's \$4.3 million federal NG9-1-1 grant is coming to an end following three rounds of requests for participation. Almost 40 Ohio counties participated in the grant with many counties offering multiple applications. The application requests represented hardware, software, consulting services and training costs related to the implementation of NG9-1-1.

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office and the Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office recently participated in a desk audit with federal grant administrators. Ohio's paperwork was in order and no follow-up was needed. The program now transitions into performance period close-out and grant monitoring as required by federal regulations

We are excited we had the opportunity to participate in this grant and ultimately help local 9-1-1 authorities utilize this crucial funding.

Ohio 9-1-1 Symposium Joins Gold Star Luncheon

The 9-1-1 Symposium organized by the 9-1-1 Program Office and the Ohio Chapters of NENA and APCO joined the chapters' Gold Star Luncheon event. Several individuals were recognized at the symposium for their commitment to 9-1-1. This year's Distinguished 9-1-1 Service Award winners included:

Miss Ohio 2019 & 2020 Caroline Grace Williams
Patrick Brandt, Delaware County 9-1-1 Coordinator
Chief Deputy Tom Morgan, Union County Sheriff's Office
Richard Schmahl, Ohio MARCS Director



Left to right: Matt Franke, Caroline Grace Williams, Miss Ohio 2019/2020, State CIO Katrina Flory and Rob Jackson, 9-1-1 Program Administrator.



Left to right: Matt Franke, Katrina Flory and Rob Jackson. Pictured in the PowerPoint presentation is Patrick Brandt, Delaware County Emergency Communications.



Left to right: Matt Franke, Tom Morgan, Chief Deputy, Union County Sheriff's Office, Katrina Flory and Rob Jackson.



Left to right: Matt Franke, Rich Schmahl, MARCS Program Director, Katrina Flory and Rob Jackson.

The Ohio Chapters of NENA and APCO hosted a luncheon the following day and recognized valuable contributions made on behalf of public safety communications personnel at the annual APCO/NENA Gold Star Luncheon.

We thank everyone who attended and congratulate all who received well-deserved recognition for their service.

Location Testing Around the State

Each year, the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office assists counties interested in testing their 9-1-1 systems, technology usage and operations. Interested counties schedule the testing that takes about a day. Testers utilize multiple services and different phone carriers, including an unregistered cell phone, without sharing location information prior to the test.

Multiple areas are identified to test coverage, and Text-to-9-1-1 is utilized if available to place active 9-1-1 calls. Test calls are made for first responders to physically locate the caller. Location testing was conducted in Wood, Huron, Hamilton, Marion and Mercer counties in 2021.

Participating counties find this exercise valuable, enlightening and time well spent as a mitigation and quality assurance exercise.



The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office and Hamilton County conducted one of the many successful location testing exercises in September.

Several border counties were notified of this exercise. We thank Clermont, Butler and Warren counties in Ohio, in addition to 9-1-1 administrators in Indiana and Kentucky for their assistance.

Standing on the bank of the Ohio River, pictured L to R:
Andrew Knapp, Hamilton County 9-1-1 Coordinator and Rob Jackson, Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office.

9-1-1 Coordinator Corner

Welcome New Coordinators

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office welcomes all new 9-1-1 coordinators from across the state. We welcome Dan Bachnicki of Lake County, Kurt Scholl of Lorain County, Daniel Young of Portage County, Ryan Starr of Noble County and Kyle Brunson of Van Wert County.

We look forward to working with all new coordinators and are grateful for their continued support and dedication to providing quality of 9-1-1 service to Ohio residents!

County 9-1-1 Spotlight

Tacy Bond – Huron County



Tacy Bond, Huron County 9-1-1 Coordinator

How long have you been involved specifically with 9-1-1?

I have worked out of the Huron County Emergency Management Agency since January 2018.

What is your favorite part of being involved in 9-1-1?

I love my job. After 18 years of dispatching, this was a natural progression for me. I still get to be involved with dispatch, and now I can actually implement changes to make the job more efficient and add new technology that I would've loved to utilize during my career.

Please provide a brief description of how 9-1-1 operates locally in your county.

We have four primary PSAPs that all use the same 9-1-1, CAD, and the same L3Harris 700/800 radio system across the entire county. We handle approximately fifteen thousand 9-1-1 calls per year and serve 65,000 residents.

We were very fortunate to have the support of the community, which passed our 911 & Emergency Services Levy in November 2019. That support, along with the State 911 Grants, allowed us to update nearly all of our public safety systems to provide better service to our community.

What might your staff or other county 9-1-1 coordinators be surprised to learn about you?

I love to spend time with my kids (Hunter/19 and Sophia/13), and I've been married for 20 years. In my free time, I love to go golfing. It's my favorite place to be and is a great stress reliever. I also coach the St. Paul girls' golf team.

Thank you Tacy for your service!

Updates to 9-8-8 / 9-1-1

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) is continuing efforts to implement and expand the 9-8-8 services for suicidal and mental health emergency calls. The Ohio 9-1-1 Program office coordinated and chaired a 9-8-8/9-1-1/2-1-1 interoperability sub-committee and assisted with best practices recommendations for OMHAS to complete the initial plan. We continue to assist and will soon have more information about these expanded resources at the state and local levels.

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