



# CALLSIGN

## Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

November 2022

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### President's Message By OHIO APCO President Johnna Gonzalez Sells

Welcome Autumn! Appropriate that it's the season of Thanksgiving because I feel like we have a lot to be grateful for. I am so proud to say that APCO Ohio has had two successful, highly praised TERT (Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce) Deployments now! These types of events not only showcase our outstanding Telecom personnel but they also draw attention to our industry. This momentum can help us move closer to the recognition that we all have been fighting for over the last few years.

As the seasons roll and we move into 2023, I want to mention how grateful I am for the support and ideas you all have given me over this past year. I feel so lucky that you all feel you can bring me your ideas, goals and ambitions and know we can move them forward as a team.

Enjoy your Holidays and time with your family and friends, and let's all be ready hit the ground running as we enter the New Year!

-President Johnna Sells

### November Chapter Events Ohio APCO/Ohio NENA Combined Membership Meeting

Wednesday November 16th, 2022  
4200 Surface Rd., Columbus. OH. 43228  
9:00-11:00 Training-Ohio LEADS  
(Pre-Registration Required For Training)  
11:15-12:15 APCO/NENA Joint Meeting  
12:30 Networking Time (Lunch Provided by City BBQ)  
Go to [ohioapco.org](http://ohioapco.org) for further information

## APCO – INTERNATIONAL

### President

Angela R Batey, RPL, CPE  
Director, Office of Professional Standards  
Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Forsyth, GA  
[abatey@gpsto.org](mailto:abatey@gpsto.org)

### Board of Directors- North Central Region

Jay Somerville Ohio Chapter Northwest Regional Comm. Dublin, OH. <a href="mailto:jsomerville@dublin.oh.us">jsomerville@dublin.oh.us</a>	Michael R. O'Connor Executive Director Lyons Township Area Comm. La Grange, IL. <a href="mailto:mocconnor@itacc.org">mocconnor@itacc.org</a>
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Past President  
Matt Franke  
Butler County Communications  
Hamilton, OH.  
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### Executive Council Representative

Matthew Franke  
[mfranke@butlersheriff.org](mailto:mfranke@butlersheriff.org)

## Ohio APCO Executive Committee

### President

Johnna Gonzalez Sells  
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### Immediate Past President

Lydia Frey  
[lfrey@co.marion.oh.us](mailto:lfrey@co.marion.oh.us)

### Past President

Satoru Persons  
[persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu](mailto:persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Cheryl Pratt  
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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Cody Post  
[cpost@redcenter.us](mailto:cpost@redcenter.us)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Banks  
[mpbanks@gmail.com](mailto:mpbanks@gmail.com)

### Chapter Executive Council Delegate

Matthew Franke  
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### Chapter Commercial Advisor

Norberto Colon  
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### Appointed Executive Committee Positions

Erica Walsh  
[ewalsh@columbusairports.com](mailto:ewalsh@columbusairports.com)

Thomas Page  
[Page.245@osu.edu](mailto:Page.245@osu.edu)

## Ohio APCO Standing Committees/Chairs

### Constitution and By Laws Committee

2nd V.P. Cody Post, Chair  
[cpost@redcenter.us](mailto:cpost@redcenter.us)

### Training

Lydia Frey, Chair  
[lfrey@co.marion.oh.us](mailto:lfrey@co.marion.oh.us)

### Nominating

Kelley Davidson, Chair  
[kdavidson@grovecityohio.gov](mailto:kdavidson@grovecityohio.gov)

Mike Banks  
[mpbanks@gmail.com](mailto:mpbanks@gmail.com)

Holly Wayt  
[Holly.wayt@westerville.org](mailto:Holly.wayt@westerville.org)

Satoru Persons  
[Persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu](mailto:Persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu)

### Awards & Scholarship

Adrienne Sheffer  
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### Legislative

Chapter Legislative Liaison, Jay Somerville  
[jsomerville@dublin.oh.us](mailto:jsomerville@dublin.oh.us)

### Frequency Advisory

Bob Bill, Chair  
[Bob.bill@das.ohio.gov](mailto:Bob.bill@das.ohio.gov)

### 911 & Communications Center Mgt. Committee

Patrick Brandt, Co-Chair  
[pbrandt@co.delaware.oh.us](mailto:pbrandt@co.delaware.oh.us)

Andrew Knapp, Co-Chair  
[andrew.knapp@hamilton-co.org](mailto:andrew.knapp@hamilton-co.org)

### TERT

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## Additional Designations

### Joint Conference Committee

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### SIEC Representative

Matt Franke  
[mfranke@butlersheriff.org](mailto:mfranke@butlersheriff.org)



**Secretary/Treasurer Report  
Sept 21st, 2022**

**Welcome Remarks –  
Chapter President Johnna Sells**

Chapter President Johnna Sells called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Cheryl Pratt led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Sells introduced the new meeting format where APCO and NENA joint items will start off followed by report outs by each association.

Next year’s meetings will be 2/15/2023, 5/17/2023, 9/20/2023, and 11/15/2023.

**Joint Conference Committee Report –  
Steve Shaner**

The Ohio APCO and NENA executive boards discussed the frequency of conferences, yearly or bi-yearly? Should locations change? Considering polling membership to gather preferences and opinions. President Sells asked for members to please share their thoughts with the conference committee members.

**Gold Star Committee Report –  
Steve Shaner**

Nominations will be open from November 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. More information will be coming out soon. Discussing holding a luncheon yearly instead of bi-yearly. Considering doing the “off-year” luncheon in conjunction with training. There are a lot of nominees/winners when the luncheon is held every two years and a lot of time can pass between the event and the award ceremony. We are also considering holding this event in the fall so as not to interfere with National Public Safety Telecommunicators week in April. Holding an event during this week takes staff and supervisors away from their teams during that special week.



**THANKS!**

**Both Ohio APCO and NENA Chapters want to express our gratitude to the following for sponsoring the September meeting:**

**Interaction Insight Corporation**  
(Formerly Stephen Campbell Associates)

The lunch sponsor for the November meeting will be:

**WSI Technologies**  
<https://wsi-tech.com/>

**The chapters wish to thank our sponsors for their support**

For sponsorship opportunities at future meetings, please contact Norberto Colon.

[Norberto.colon@motorolasolutions.com](mailto:Norberto.colon@motorolasolutions.com)

**Ohio MARCS & SIEC –  
Rick Schmall**

Mr. Schmall and Rob Jackson went to Washington D.C. to attend a National Governors Association interoperability conference. Discussing issues regarding sustainable funding, keeping subscriber fees affordable to agencies. How to manage more channels and bandwidth as the system continues to grow with close to 143k users.

CISA will be releasing an \$186 million grant for Cyber Security purposes, more information will be released on this soon. **(Continued Next Pg.)**

**Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office Update-  
Rob Jackson**

The next ESInet Steering Committee meeting will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am via Teams. For HB 445, Representatives Ghanbari and Smith are pushing to get this bill passed in the lame duck session after the general election. If it does not pass, when the new legislature starts after the first of the year, they anticipate the bill will be re-introduced at that time. The bill is still intact as written with no changes or amendments made so far.

9-8-8/9-1-1 Interoperability: The state has appointed a 988 administrator. There will be five 3-hour workshops held across the state with a presentation, a meet and greet between 9-1-1 and 988 officials, more discussion and a breakout with action items following the meeting. The goal is to go away with a game plan on how the interoperability between 988 and 9-1-1 will function going forward.

**APCO Executive Council & Committee Reports**

**Frequency Advisory –  
Bob Bill**

APCO International frequency group released a technical bulleting for operators of 6Ghz microwave systems. Many public safety communications systems use 6Ghz microwave to connect their sites together and to dispatch. APCO and others are very concerned that FCC actions to allow unlicensed Wi-Fi devices to operate in the 6Ghz band will cause interference to public safety communications systems. The point of the technical bulletin is to direct public safety communications administrators to get baseline readings for their system, so that as all these devices flood out into the marketplace and in the 6Ghz band, if the interference starts to occur that they'll have some baseline measurement of what their system was like before the devices start flooding the airwaves. Mr. Bill sent the bulletin to all his technical contacts, but it is also available on the APCO website on the AFC tab and you can reach out to him via email bob.bill@das.ohio.gov .Make sure you

check your FCC licenses for valid contact information and keep track of expiration dates.

It's easier and cheaper to fix these issues before a license expires, spectrum is lost, and FCC levies fines due to unlicensed operations. Many retire during the licensing period so notices to renew may not go to a valid email address.

**Chapter Secretary/Treasurer's Report –  
Erica Walsh**

APCO checking account: current balance \$1,056.66, APCO Money Market current balance: \$86,226.51, Gold Star/Conference current balance: \$20,911.32. Lydia Frey made the motion to approve the report, seconded by Bob Bill motion passed with all in favor.

APCO meeting minutes were posted online and shared with the membership via the newsletter. Sartoru Persons made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes, Patrick Brandt seconded, motion passed with all in favor.

**Executive Council/Legislative –  
Matt Franke**

Executive Council: Following up on 6Ghz, you need to know if you have it, that's your backhaul and interference on your backhaul isn't readily noticeable until people experience random problems. APCO Nexus is coming back, as Nexus: Next Gen 9-1-1 Reimagined, it will be in Arlington, VA in the first couple days of November. This is set up with live scenarios and demonstrations. APCO stance on NG 9-1-1 is it's more than delivering a call to the PSAP, it's delivering this information to the field users. APCO released their definitive guide to NG 9-1-1 at the APCO national conference, it contains detailed explanations and one-page fact-sheets directed at the different stakeholders about what NG 9-1-1 means to the different stakeholders and disciplines involved with 9-1-1. APCO monthly webinars continue providing valuable training to professionals in public safety communications. **(Continued Next Pg.)**

Legislative: The legislative committee has had numerous phone calls about HB 445, working to position themselves to make sure they're ready to go when the lame duck session comes to order. The Transportation and Public Safety committee adopted a substitute bill that included the additional funding before the legislature paused for campaign season. There is a short window to pass this bill, please pay attention for any calls to action that come out following the general election in order to help support the legislative committee efforts in getting this bill passed.

### **Constitution and Bylaws Committee- Cody Post**

The committee is looking at introducing an amendment to the bylaws to create a regional representative to serve as primary points of contact in their area for the Ohio APCO Executive Committee and to conduct outreach on behalf of the chapter and our profession. The goal is to follow Ohio's homeland security regions, with regions 2 & 5, 3 & 6, and 7 & 8 combined. The goal is to introduce an amendment at the next chapter meeting. Mr. Post is seeking feedback from the membership on roles and responsibilities of this position. President Sells stated anyone interested in these positions to let her know.

Mr. Post is also working on an amendment to change reimbursement process from a receipt based to a per diem process for meals reimbursement. The goal is to encourage future participation at national events for our future chapter officers who may not have agency funds to cover attending these events.

### **9-1-1 Operations and Management Committee – Patrick Brandt**

Mr. Brandt encouraged that agency managers reach out to their regional 988 coordinator to get a relationship established, if they haven't already. Nobody in his area have noticed a call spike related to 988 at this time.

Kelley Davidson stated the biggest issue she's noticed is the routing of calls. The calls only route

based off the phone area code and NPA, so calls will only route to a center that serves the area code/NPA.

### **Training Committee – Lydia Frey**

Training was held today for the first time since the pandemic, HAZMAT training was held today, and a survey was sent out to all attendees to gather info from today's attendees to get insight into their training needs. There will be trainings held with future chapter meetings and the goal is to offer more training across the state as well.

President Sells, Ohio EMA and Homeland Security offer free training. Any dispatchers working a major public or sporting event would benefit from ICS 300 or 400 training. Lodging can be paid for if attendees are more than 100 miles from Columbus.

### **Compassionate Care Committee – Tom Donahue**

Mr. Donahue continues to work on the "Totes of Hope" program for communications centers that have experienced a critical incident or crisis. Mr. Donahue that found an artist that has a brother in law-enforcement that donated her time to create a logo. Cards were also bought to be sent out to agencies when they suffer a loss to a staff member or one of their first responders. Please reach to Tom or a committee member if you learn of an incident in your area. Email [tdonahue@akronohio.gov](mailto:tdonahue@akronohio.gov) for any requests. They are looking at creating a web-form to aid in reporting. Totes were recently deployed to Wayne County Communications after they suffered a series of tragic losses in their public safety community.

### **Nominating Committee – Kelley Davidson**

The nominating committee are taking nominations for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. One nomination has been received already, Lauren Yankanin of NRECC. Nominations will occur at the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter meeting of 2023 with an election and installation of officers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter meeting.

**(Continued Next Pg.)**

Cody Post was not present at the previous chapter meeting when the current slate of officers was sworn in. Kelley Davidson read the oath of office to Mr. Post to serve as the Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President which he swore to uphold.

### **Good of the Order**

President Sells was invited to the Illinois State Chapter conference. The executive board voted to support funding her trip to this conference. She is looking forward to seeing their conference and taking back lessons on how to help improve our conference. Ohio NENA president Shaner will also be attending the Indiana NENA conference for the same reason.

The Ohio ALERTS conference is tomorrow, registration is closed but reach out to the coordinator if you have someone you'd like to send.

### **Adjournment**

Patrick Brandt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lydia Frey. The meeting adjourned at 2:17pm.

### **Next Meeting**

November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Ohio DAS



**2022 Ohio Gold Star Nominations are now open. You can nominate by following the link:**

<https://airtable.com/shrH5M3dLFn-claeWo?fbclid=IwAR0gvZ2wbZ-wxOS59NXnCCHUeRAP-cAwLK26b5qbs0qCrTgihTU7HiKd2VBk>

**The deadline to nominate is January 31, 2023**

Keep up to date on the Ohio Gold Star Program at <https://www.ohionena.org/ohio-gold-star-award-program> or contact Chairman Brian Macmurdo [brian.macmurdo@gmail.com](mailto:brian.macmurdo@gmail.com)