



# CALLSIGN

## Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

September 2022

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

Hello and Happy Autumn! We are so happy to have you back and person, and grateful we can offer you the virtual option as well. For those of you who were able to take advantage of the Training I hope you enjoyed the class and topic. Our goal moving forward is to be able to offer you all more opportunities for free or reduced cost training. As always if there any training requests or needs please let a member of our Training and Scholarship Committee know.

APCO Ohio is striving to meet the needs and provide the information needed for our telecommunicators and communications professionals. We are staying on top of state and federal legislation to make sure we are up to date on important issues that effect our membership. Everything from federal reclassification and training standards, to nationwide NG911 build outs are always being monitored by the Executive Board. As part of the goal to further develop our chapter I will be attending the Illinois (IPTSA) APCO NENA Conference this October on behalf of Ohio APCO at the invite of their President. I look forwards to representing the Buckeye State and also bringing back some new and exciting ideas.

I hope you all enjoy seeing each other once again and if possible, I would love to see you all at the Social Event after the Board Meeting. I cannot stress how important it is to meet peers who know what you are going through! Plus it will give us all a chance to have some fun together (which is a great thing for everyone's Mental and Emotional Health).

-President Johnna Sells

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

Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
4200 Surface Rd., Columbus. OH. 43228  
8:00-12:00 Training-Hazmat Awareness for Communications Personnel  
(Pre-Registration Required For Training)  
12:00 Lunch-Provided  
1:00 APCO/NENA Joint Meeting

Go to [ohioapco.org](http://ohioapco.org) for further information

**APCO – INTERNATIONAL**

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**Constitution and By Laws Committee**  
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**Secretary/Treasurer Report  
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Welcome Remarks –  
Chapter President Johnna Sells**

Meeting was called to order by President Sells at 4:08pm. President Sells and Ohio NENA President Shaner discussed their “9-1-1 Goes to Washington” event. President Sells would like to send someone from the chapter at least every other year so that the concerns of Ohio APCO and Ohio NENA are brought to attention and that our organizations become more familiar to the offices of these legislators.

Chris Carver commented that many APCO and NENA chapters do their own state version of the Goes to Washington event. Our chapter should consider doing the same to meet with state legislators in Columbus. President Sells has reached out to and has communicated with Ohio Troopers Association, the BSSA, OFCA, OACP, and OTA to get their support when we get to the office of the Governor to work on our local priorities, such as recognition of public safety telecommunicators as first responders.

**Installation of Chapter Officers**

Lydia Frey, on behalf of the nominating committee made the motion to accept the current slate of officers. Seconded by Nick DiCicco. Motion passed with all in favor vote. The oath of office was conducted by Lydia Frey for Chapter President, Johnna Sells, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Cheryl Pratt, Secretary/Treasurer Mike Banks. Cody Post could not attend this meeting and will need to be sworn in at a later date.

**Chapter Secretary & Treasurer Reports –  
Mike Banks**

February meeting minute: Mike Banks stated that the minutes from the last meeting had been published in the chapter newsletter and on the chap-




**THANKS!**

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

The lunch sponsor for the September meeting will be:

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

For sponsorship opportunities at future meetings, please contact Norberto Colon.  
[Norberto.colon@motorolasolutions.com](mailto:Norberto.colon@motorolasolutions.com)

ter website. Lydia Frey made the motion, seconded by Erica Walsh, motion passed with all in favor.

April Treasurer’s Report: APCO Checking Balance: \$16,588.70; APCO Money Market: \$77,208.42; Gold Star/Conference: \$71,237.54.

Brad Brubaker made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Erica Walsh. Motion passed with all in favor.

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## **Joint Conference Committee Report – Rose Chambers**

Registrations for the April 2022 conference are almost at 200, we haven't hit that number for many years, great numbers for post-Covid. The 5k was last night, disappointing turnout with 12 participants, we're considering not holding a 5k next conference unless it was done virtually. Welcome Reception will be held tonight, registration opens at 0700 tomorrow, the vendor show will kick off at 0930 with exclusive dispatcher hours, a 1pm K9 demo, and manager only hours in the afternoon. The conference will wrap up with the gold star luncheon at noon on Wednesday.

Rose received a quote for 2024 conference, Kalahari stated the room rates \$139/night - room rental goes up \$25, food prices will go up, will use 2023 banquet menu which will be good for 2024, plus water park passes to all participants during the stay. The dates are 4/14 - 4/17 in the same space we used for this year's conference. Carolyn at George Fern advises there aren't many venues available with the space that Kalahari offers for our vendor show.

President Sells thanked Rose Chambers for her hard work for this year's conference. She commented that everything looked so great as they entered the venue and in the conference areas. Rose said it wouldn't be possible without the hard work of the committee and thanked everyone for their help.

## **Gold Star Committee Report – Rose Chambers**

The 2020/2021 nominees will be recognized on Wednesday. The '22 nominations announcement will go out in October/November. Approximately 250 people will be attending this year's luncheon. Sara Weston will be the keynote speaker for this year's luncheon.

## **Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office Update – Sharon McMurray**

The next ESInet steering committee will be 4/18/22 @ 1100hrs online. Info is available on the

9-1-1 Program website at [ESInet Steering Committee Meeting | Department of Administrative Services \(ohio.gov\)](https://www.esinet.org/steering-committee-meeting)

## **Ohio MARCS – Dick Miller**

MARCS continues to grow, there are over 140,000 radios on the system, which means there is a whole lot of interoperability across Ohio. Working with counties to develop additional infrastructure. More towers are going up in Bowling Green, Preble County, Lucas County, Richland County, Wayne County, and are replacing towers in Butler and Caryl. MARCS gets better one group at a time and there a lot of great partnerships with local governments that will continue to improve MARCS service to Ohio's first responders.

## **APCO Executive Council & Committee Reports**

### **Frequency Advisory – Bob Bill**

Who maintains your FCC licenses? Make sure your licenses have accurate license contact info as the FCC will reach out when your licenses near their expiration date. Bob gets a lot of calls from public safety license holders that lose their licenses because they have expired due to bad contact info.

FCC has recently made some frequencies available for public safety usage if anyone is looking for some spectrum. FCC has helped a lot to combat Robocalls by going after companies that make such calls with huge fines and cease and desist letters.

### **Legislative – Andy Knapp**

HB 445 update; a core group of 9-1-1 coordinators have worked diligently to establish what the cost for NG-911 implementation and ongoing operations would cost to come up with a device fee. The core group came up with \$0.64 a device number. John Leutz from the CCAO recommended at least \$0.70 per device. This recommendation went to the ESInet Steering Committee for this surcharge, one that will be levied on every type of device that can connect to 9-1-1.

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

Planning on handling training in conjunction with the September meeting, and are considering plans for an in-service day sometime in the future. If anyone has topics that they would like to see presented please reach out to Lydia Frey or any of the Executive Committee members. She is looking forward to getting more trainings going as Covid restrictions have started to abate, and we're returning to normal.

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

Developing the Totes of Hope program for distribution to centers that have encountered a significant and/or traumatic event. Four totes have been purchased with \$50 of supplies to start filling. 100 cards were also ordered to send to centers that have had losses. Working on connecting centers and telecommunicators with peer resources and workshops to help those that are dealing with traumatic and cumulative stress.

### **Good of the Order**

President Sells stated that the APCO National conference is in Anaheim, California, August 6-11, and registration is open now. The networking opportunities at the conferences are invaluable and she encouraged all members to try to attend this and other conferences in our area.

Rose Chambers stated that if your agency can't afford to send you to a conference, volunteering is a way to get free or discounted registration to the national conferences. Also, you can get free registration if you submit a white paper and teach a session at the topic.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn from Rose Chambers, seconded by Bob Bill. Meeting adjourned at 5:06pm.



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) .