



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025

Welcome Remarks – Brian MacMurdo & Cheryl Pratt

Ohio APCO President Cheryl Pratt and Ohio NENA President Brian MacMurdo welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Secretary / Treasurers Report

Michael Banks advised that the meeting minutes have been posted online, in PSConnect and published in the Chapter Newsletter, Cody Post made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Patrick Brandt. Motion passed with all in favor vote.

Michael Banks presented the treasurer's report, APCO Checking balance: \$16,056.40, Gold Star/Conference Checking: \$14,284.13, APCO Money Market: \$84,216.42. Patrick Brandt made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cody Post. Motion passed with all in favor vote.

Gold Star – Brian MacMurdo

Nominations are open until April 30th. The luncheon will be in September, the date and location are TBD but will be in Columbus area. Nomination links can be found on the chapter website and Facebook pages.

Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt

State mandated training is now available online, and can be found at: <https://das.ohio.gov/technology-and-strategy/911-home-program-office/support-compliance-card>

Staffing changes, Sharon McMurray has retired, Ginger Hatfield and Lori Baldrige have replaced her and will divide the large number of PSAPs that require compliance monitoring. Ken Stewart will be managing the NextGen 911 transition and GIS training. Kayla Sanders has left the office as well, moving to Minnesota. At times, office calls may be directed to the MARCS NOC.

APCO AFC – Bob Bill

Actively addressing issues with bidirectional amplifiers (BDAs). Use the marcs-bda@das.ohio.gov address to contact the office regarding BDA matters. Emphasized the importance of updating FCC licenses to avoid communication disruptions.

Executive Council & Legislative – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

APCO National:

Sign up for National Committees will open February 1st and runs to April 1st. If you are selected for a committee the term is July 1- June 30th. There are 23 different committees – so something for everyone. Also, a heads-up application period for scholarships is also open as of January 15th:

- For Registered Public Safety Leader (RPL)- Until March 1st
- For General Scholarships until April 1st

Second Annual Wellness retreat is coming up: Wellness Summit March 2-3, 2025 – Hyatt Portland, OR
Impact Awards (formerly Leadership in Policy Awards) April 8, 2025 – National Press Club, Washington, DC



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National Conference will be in Baltimore Maryland this year, July 27th through 30th. Registration will open in April- so reminder now to get your requests and POs in so you can take advantage of the early bird rate. Call for Speakers closed on December 18 and APCO received a record breaking 579 submissions (100 more than last year and ever).

Emergency Communications Center Award nominations are now open , for more information you can go to : [APCO International](#) > [Membership](#) > [Awards & Recognition](#) > Emergency Communications Center Awards. She would love to see some more award winners on the stage from Ohio!

Trainings:

1. General Communications Technician Level 1 (GCT-1) Dates: April 28–30, 2025 o Continuing Dispatch Education Credits (CDEs): 24 o Summary: This customizable three-day course focuses on core disciplines outlined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security COMT program and APCO/ANSI technician standards. It is suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to senior technicians and engineers, offering hands-on experience across key aspects of radio communications systems for public safety and commercial use.
2. Line and Antenna Sweep (LAS) o Dates: May 1–2, 2025 o CDEs: 16 o Summary: This two-day course covers RF signal evaluation from transmitter output to receiver propagation. Starting with fundamental antenna and transmission line theory, participants will gain practical skills to identify and resolve field issues. Designed for all experience levels, this course extends beyond traditional line sweeping to provide a comprehensive understanding of antenna performance.

MARCS Update – Angie Canepa / Larry McCoy

Hopes to have the BDA policy posted by the end of the day. Deadline for radio authentication is June 30th. Currently, 80,000 out of 160,000 radios are authenticated. 19 additional counties will have MARCS in school radios by the end of the year. Five replacement towers are planned, Trumbull County almost done, Portage County on schedule. Fulton, Scioto, Lawrence County in progress. ABM voted to join the system. Lorain County has voted to join MARCS in 2023, with six towers planned to build. A new portal is being developed to streamline device registration and billing processes. Circuits being used for NG911 could also be used for radio connectivity at the MARCS radio consoles.

Larry McCoy believes there could be radios that haven't been deactivated. Make sure any radios that have been replaced are being deactivated so you're not paying for unused devices.

Nominating Committee – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

Nick DiCicco was the only nominee to step forward. Mr. DiCicco introduced himself, he's the director of Chagrin Valley Dispatch, he has over 30 years of experience in public safety. He is a retired law enforcement officer and works as a firefighter/paramedic. He also serves as the TERT Team Leader and is looking forward to serving the chapter.

The proposed slate of officers is 2nd Vice-President, Nick DiCicco; 1st Vice-President, Erica Walsh; President, Cody Post.

Lydia Frey made a motion to accept the slate of officers, seconded by Patrick Brandt. Motion passed with all in favor.



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Compassionate Care – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

Three cards have been sent out for recent significant events including a mass casualty incident in Licking/New Albany and a child involved incident. Cards are available to send out to let centers know that we're thinking of them and offering support after a significant incident and Totes of Hope for centers that manage a particularly tragic event. Anyone interested in volunteering for the committee, please reach out!

Commercial Advisory – Mark Culbertson

Mr. Culbertson thanked all the vendors for attending. Including Angela from RapidSOS and Kimberly from Central Square who are sponsoring today's meeting. Angela Paulini then conducted a presentation on the RapidSOS UNITE platform.

Training Committee - Lydia Frey

Lydia thanked Doug and Patrick for the NextGen 911 presentation. Marion County has a two-day CTO class in May. Next meeting will be May 8th at the Ohio EMA.

TERT update – Nick DiCicco

INT-D training was held last month. Ohio now is a Type 1 TERT TEAM, the goal is to have two Type 1 TERT teams. Mr. DiCicco is looking forward to speaking at EMAC about TERT in Washington DC next month. Waiting to hear back from APCO and NENA regarding speaking at their professional development sessions at the annual conferences.

Good of the order

Mike Banks – the chapter executive board and Ohio NENA Executive Board will have a retreat in March at the Maumee Bay State Park, the goal being to conduct strategic planning for the coming year as far as chapter meetings, committee leadership, and participation goes.

Cheryl Pratt - Reminder that National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week is April 13 – 19th.

Adjournment:

Lydia Frey made the motion to adjourn seconded by Adrienne Sheffer, motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1130hrs.