



CALLSIGN

Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

February 2025

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President's Message By OHIO APCO President Cheryl Pratt

As we move through the first quarter of 2025, I want to express my gratitude for your dedication to public safety communications. Your hard work ensures the safety of our communities and I am honored to serve as your president.

This year, Ohio APCO remains committed to professional growth, legislative advocacy and supporting our telecommunications professionals. We will continue working on Next Generation 9-1-1 advancements, training opportunities, and initiatives to strengthen our profession. Collaboration is key, and I encourage each of you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and participate in upcoming meetings and events.

In looking forward to the Gold Star Banquet, scheduled in September, the Gold Star committee will be accepting nominations for the 2024 Gold Star Awards. Let's recognize our telecommunicators for the outstanding work they are doing!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 first quarter APCO/NENA meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 19, 2025. This meeting will be held at 4200 Surface Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43228. Lunch will be provided from City Barbeque will be sponsored by Central Square and Rapid SOS.

Cheryl

February Chapter Events

Ohio APCO/Ohio NENA Combined Membership Meeting

Wednesday February 19th, 2025

Ohio DAS 4200 Surface Rd. Columbus, Ohio

Training: 9:00 Overview of NG911 Transition

Meeting: 10:00

Lunch/Networking: City BBQ 11:30 (Provided)

Link to join online:

<https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/83275895602?pwd=FfqETsePpL4Utylobm2eQCaclH5sl.1>

APCO – INTERNATIONAL

President

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Executive Council Representative

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Ohio APCO Executive Committee

President

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Immediate Past President

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
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Past President

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Appointed Executive Committee Positions

Lydia Frey
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Adrienne Sheffer

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Ohio APCO - Standing Committees/Chairs

Constitution and By Laws Committee

2nd V.P. Erica Walsh
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Training

Lydia Frey, Chair
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Nominating

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Frequency Advisory

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911 & Communications Center Mgt. Committee

Andrew Knapp, Co-Chair
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Nick DiCicco, Co-Chair

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TERT

Nick DiCicco, Co-Chair
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Johnna Gonzalez-Sells, Co-Chair

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Additional Designations

Joint Conference Committee

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Ohio APCO "Callsign" Editor

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Ohio ESINet PSAP Subcommittee Representative

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November 20th, 2024

Welcome Remarks – Brian MacMurdo & Cheryl Pratt

Brian MacMurdo and Cheryl Pratt welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Chapter Officer Swearing In

Cody Post could not attend the previous chapter meeting. Monte Diegel administered the oath of office to Cody Post, swearing him in as the 1st Vice-President of the Ohio APCO Chapter.

Secretary / Treasurers Report

Mike Banks presented the meeting minutes from the September chapter meeting. Cody Post made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Nick DiCicco. The motion passed with an all in favor vote.

Mike Banks presented the Chapter Treasurer’s report; APCO Checking balance: \$24,047.10, APCO Money Market: \$64,306.46, Gold Star Conference: \$13,534.13. Lydia Frey made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Erica Walsh, motion passed with all in favor.

Gold Star – Scott Brown

2024 Gold Star nominations will be open on 12/16, the luncheon will be in September, dates/location TBD.

If you are interested in helping with committee let Scott Brown or Brian MacMurdo know.

Conference Committee – Rose Chambers, Erica Walsh

Erica Walsh discussed plans for the next conference, including venue considerations and a call for volunteers to assist with planning.



**Thanks!
To our sponsors past, present
and future.**

Thank you to the November lunch sponsor:

INdigital

The February meeting is sponsored by:

RapidSOS/CentralSquare

For sponsorship opportunities at future meetings, please contact Mark Culbertson.

Mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com

Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt

Sharon MacMurray is retiring at the end of the year. Now training Lori Baldrige and Ginger Hatfield to replace her.

NG 911 - there is a delay dealing with carrier issues. Hosted solution is up and running. Conducting acceptance testing in Monroe County.

Reminder that reports are due by March 1st. Program review Committee needs to meet once a year as well.

Any amendment to the plan needs to be approved by 2/3 majority of the program review committee. Training will be out in February. Let Patrick know if you have any ideas for training

Sharon - support and compliance, as of end of Oct. 84 counties requested, 81 submitted, reviewed 87, 76 counties have responses. 3 agencies are working on submitting training documentation.

APCO AFC - Devan Phillis

RPC meeting for 700/800 held last week. Devan was nominated/elected as 700Mhz RPC chairperson. Mike Szabo is the vice-chair. The local frequency advisor serves at the 800Mhz chair.

Executive Council & Legislative – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

APCO International now represents over 41K members throughout not only the US but throughout the world. We have member chapters in Saudi Arabia, Canada and Europe.

Call for Speakers is open – if you have ever been interested in being a presenter at National Conference here is your chance! Application period is open through December 11th – This Year's National Conference will be in Baltimore July 27th through 30th

Information at <https://apco2025.org/>

As a result of attendee survey data and recommendations from the PDEC (Professional Development Events Committee) we are thrilled to announce the addition of two new tracks and a revamp of one of our current tracks. These new offerings will deliver valuable education in key areas where it's most needed.

New:

- **Training Essentials** These sessions are designed to provide a comprehensive toolkit of training techniques and ideas. Explore innovative training strategies, integrate new technologies, and discover cost-effective approaches to training on a budget. Whether you're focused on training dispatchers, call receivers, or preparing the next generation of professionals, these sessions offer detailed, actionable insights to refine training methods and ensure staff are well-prepared and engaged in any scenario.
- **Mastering Media & Public Engagement** This track focuses on key areas such as social media management, public education, and media communication. It will cover how to create and manage social media accounts, educate the public about 911 services, and develop effective media relations skills as a Public Information Officer.

- **Traditional Tracks:** Communications Center Management, Cybersecurity for Public Safety Professionals, Emergency Preparedness Response and Situational Awareness, Frontline Telecommunicator, Leadership Development, NG911 and Emerging Technology, Radio and Wireless Communications Technologies, Wellness in the Emergency Communications Center, and our Federal partners will now have their own updated track as well.

Wellness Summit March 2-3, 2025 – Hyatt Portland, OR. be held in conjunction with the Western Regional March 4-6. Registration is now open.

9-1-1 Staffing Summit October 22-24, 2024 – Fort Worth, TX.

This Summit welcomed 221 attendees, including public safety professionals and local leaders, to address key challenges in ECC staffing. Following the event, an attendee survey and CEU retrieval instructions were distributed. The feedback gathered will be reviewed by staff to inform future programming and initiatives aimed at advancing recruitment, retention, and operational strategies.

Scholarship Funds Received from the Motorola Foundation for APCO Members Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions, generously provided the APCO Institute with a \$50,000 scholarship grant. Grant funds are administered through APCO's Silent Key and Commercial Partner Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships to emergency communications professionals for APCO Institute training. The next scholarship application period begins in January.

Application period for Professional Development Certifications opens January 15th. For those of you considering going for your CPE or RPL its almost time to apply. General scholarships open at the same time. More information is at: <https://www.apcointl.org/membership/scholarships/>

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Nominating Committee – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

Chapter members interested in running for office should reach out to Johnna by the next chapter meeting to express their interest. The nominating committee will talk with anyone interested and verify credentials. The bylaws state a slate of officer candidates will be presented to the membership at the first meeting of next year with voting to occur at the 2nd meeting.

Training Committee - Lydia Frey

Seeking ideas for next year. Lydia is stepping down from conference training committee, Adrienne Sheffer and Elizabeth McQuade will be taking over the role.

TERT update – Nick DiCicco

Nick provided details on the deployment to Buncombe County, NC, prior to the chapter meeting. INT-D and INC-M classes are planned for the next year, stay tuned for more information.

Good of the order

Nick Erskine from the City of Cincinnati stated they will be holding training with Tracy Eldridge on 2/18/25 and Tony Harrison on 2/19/25.

Chris Carver reminded attendees that the ICCRA World Congress will be meeting in Columbus December 12/2 – 12/5/2024.

Adjournment:

Lydia Frey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Brandt, meeting adjourned at 11:14am.



We're excited to announce that nominations for the Gold Star Awards are now open! This is your chance to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions.

The nomination deadline is April 30th, so be sure to submit your entries soon. We're finalizing the details for the awards luncheon and will share more information with you soon.

We look forward to celebrating the nominees and winners with you at the luncheon in September! Thank you for helping us recognize and honor those who go above and beyond.

Submit your nominations here:
<https://airtable.com/appHdtzIGLWaH-VdWX/shrJ6H8KWZgp6ILf9>

Scott Brown
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