



# CALLSIGN

## Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

May 2024

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### President's Message By OHIO APCO President Cheryl Pratt

Happy spring, Ohio APCO! I hope everyone has been able to spend some time outside enjoying the weather. I also hope you were all recognized in April during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week for all of the outstanding work you do on a daily basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the APCO committee chairpersons and committee team members. Without all of your hard work Ohio APCO would not be the shining star that it is.

The next Joint Ohio APCO/NENA meeting is Thursday May 9th at 10AM. The meeting location is the TQL Stadium, 1501 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, in the Pitch View Lodge Meeting Room. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Please join us for this quarterly meeting, lunch and fellowship.

Registration is open for the APCO 2024 National Conference being held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando Florida August 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time for continuing education classes, as well as networking with peers from all over the country.

Also, a little closer to home, the joint Ohio APCO/NENA conference is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held in Sandusky at the Kalahari Resort. Registration for this event is live on the Ohio APCO website.

Cheryl

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

Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
TQL Stadium  
Pitch View Lodge Meeting Room  
1501 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214  
10:00 Ohio APCO/NENA Joint Meeting  
Lunch to follow meeting

**APCO – INTERNATIONAL**

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**Appointed Executive Committee Positions**

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**Ohio APCO - Standing Committees/Chairs**

**Constitution and By Laws Committee**

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February 20, 2024

**Welcome Remarks – Steve Shaner & Cheryl Pratt**

Meeting began at 10:05 am with Stephen Shaner leading the Pledge of Allegiance with President Pratt and Ohio NENA President Shaner welcoming attendees.

**Secretary / Treasurers Report**

Mike Banks stated the November 2023 minutes have been disseminated to the chapter via the newsletter and posted online. Bob Bill made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Erica Walsh. Motion passed with all in favor.

The February 2024 treasurer's report was presented to the attendees and also available online. The current balance for APCO Checking: \$21,220.22; APCO Money Market: \$69,279.97; Gold Star/Conference Checking: \$4,839.07. Patrick Brandt made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Adrienne Scheffer, motion passed with all in favor.

**Conference Committee – Rose Chambers**

The conference will be September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at Kallahari, theme is "Cruising into 9-1-1", registration is \$150, and \$50 for guests. Day passes will be \$75.00. Gold Star luncheon is \$50/person, nominees do not need to pay. Groups of 5 are more will be given a discount of \$125/attendee. There will be a movie night with the 9-1-1 PTSD movie and a casino night. Rooms should be open April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Gold Star – Scott Brown**

2023 award nominations are open. They are going to start pushing out information on this via social media. The nomination deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup>. Nominees and winners will be recognized at the state conference on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Gold Star Award Luncheon. The categories were relabeled to match the award, the criteria



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

The May Lunch Sponsor will be:

**Unified Solutions, LLC**

Thank you to February Sponsor:

**Critical Response Group (CRG)**

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

[Mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com](mailto:Mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com)

are still the same, but trying to make the award categories clearer. Also introduced new categories of Industry Partner of the Year and County 9-1-1 Coordinator of the Year awards.

**Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt**

Legislative section .419 was repealed, where the telephone companies wanted to not charge a fee on bills less than \$5.00 HB 321 was introduced and in Homeland Security subcommittee with 15 proponents that testified February 7<sup>th</sup>. The \$0.40 is starting to come in, you should start seeing a difference in county revenue starting in March. The 9-1-1 Steering Committee met and decided to have the PSAP Operations Subcommittee to review the distribution formula in Ohio, they will meet and discuss the revenue disbursement on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

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2024 Continuing Education training is available on the 9-1-1 Program Office website. The office has received multiple inquiries regarding the April 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline for 9-1-1 plans. Please do the best you can due to the statutory deadline, but they understand the challenge brought on by the multiple changes and required meetings and approvals.

Financial reports, they tried to make as easy as possible. Utilize the PSAP forms if you have multiple PSAPs, you can use the single county form if the county itself is managing the money.

53 counties submitted PSAP election forms, they are still working on getting the 10 1<sup>st</sup> wave counties completed. The data center in Cleveland is near completion.

Support and compliance, Sharon MacMurray said 17 counties were requested for information, 13 submitted so far. 87 of 88 counties are complete for last year with one wrapping up.

#### **APCO AFC - Bob Bill**

Please make sure that you keep your FCC license contact information up to date. An agency that has bad contact info will not receive an email notification as their license expires. Consider using a generic email address that will pass from person to person as positions can change during the 10-year span of a license.

The FCC has formed a group to aggressively attack any type of Robocall or Robotext groups with actions targeting offending organizations and carriers, there has been a noticeable drop in these types of calls. And this type of reduction has a direct impact on 9-1-1 centers that receive these types of calls.

#### **Executive Council - Matt Franke**

APCO created the Student and Educator membership classification, remember that's as an option for future/prospective members. It is now committee sign-up time, there are really great opportunities in APCO International's Committees, deadline to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, April 1<sup>st</sup> is Flash

Day for the annual conference in Orlando where you can save \$100 off the registration price.

#### **Legislative – Matt Franke**

HB 101 changed the \$5/bill cut off for device surcharges. HB 321 requires the program office to maintain a special needs database for 9-1-1. HB 357 was introduced as a "safer texting" act, which surrounds encryption/privacy and isn't truly related to 9-1-1 in the verbiage of the legislation, unsure of an impact on 9-1-1 at this time, but bringing this up as a heads up to attendees in case questions arise regarding this bill.

Looking back at HB 33, this introduced language for the state auditor to review revenue/expenses and cost to operate 9-1-1. Regarding the financial reports that need to be filed with the 9-1-1 office, please carefully document expenses and make sure everything is accounted for. This will help provide the total cost to provide 9-1-1 service in Ohio vs. how much is provided from the 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund.

#### **Ohio MARCS – Angie Canepa**

MARCS Steering Committee met on February 6<sup>th</sup>, HB 33 doubled the size of the steering committee to 16 members. We have a representative from APCO and also four legislators on the committee. This helps provide an "inside scoop" from the industry and for the legislature as we have participants from the operations and the elected groups within the committee.

The State Fire Marshall's office provided a report on the grant that closed 11/3/23 and was award in December. The grant was used for anyone that asked for MARCS user fees to be covered. This was successful and will happen again in September. MARCS tower constructions will be going to OFCC as a project as opposed to a per tower approval process. This will save MARCS time and money in the tower construction process.

Radio Authentication, as of 2/5/24, more than 40k radios were authenticated of the 152,000 radios on the MARCS system. There are some large groups that will be done soon that will help close  
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the gap, but the July 2025 deadline is fast approaching, and the DAS has no intention of extending this deadline.

Working with Auglaize County on a new tower construction, Henry County is racing to the finish on connectivity, Lancaster finishing up a shelter, everything is ready except for connectivity in Hicksville. City of Wadsworth, working with First Energy to go on a tower there. In talks with Lucas County, Fulton County, Mahoning County, New Albany, City of Newark for sites. Currently building towers in Champaign, Portage County, Highland County, and Wayne County.

### **Training Committee - Lydia Frey**

Today at 12:30 a rep from Ohio EMA will be discussing the Ohio Eclipse preparation. There won't be any training in Cincinnati, call for papers will be sent out this week for the Ohio APCO/NENA conference.

### **Compassionate Care – Johnna Sells**

If you have any critical incidents, please reach out to the committee or reach out to an APCO officer or member. We want to make sure everyone is being taken care of and recognized for their efforts in difficult times/incidents.

### **TERT update – Mory Fuhmann**

The TERT Committee met last evening at Franklin County EMA, it was well attended. 25 personnel are on the team between the oversight and deployment groups. The next scheduled meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> for the general team.

### **Commercial Advisory – Mark Culbertson & Steve Zitney**

Mark Culbertson thanked and introduced Critical Response Group for sponsoring today's meeting and lunch. They have taken a solution developed for Special Forces overseas in unfamiliar territories/structures to enhance awareness and communication between the command center and field operations.

Looking forward to holding another "Ohio Night" at the APCO national conference. There were a lot

of great responses and participation in the previous event in Nashville. Looking at doing the same in Orlando and getting 2-3 sponsors to help support that night.

There are 17 commercial partners that are designated "Ohio" members. Mark is encouraging others corporate sponsors to consider signing up to be Ohio chapter members. Commercial partners are allowed to be registered with multiple chapters; Mark is a member of several.

### **Good of the order**

Mike Banks: The chapter board must acknowledge that a deadline was missed for this year's slate of chapter officers. The "good news" is that in this "off" year, the chapter has normally nominated the current slate of officers for the next calendar year. The following year the president's term would end, and we would nominate the existing officers to move up and a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

As we have not established a nominating committee this year, Mr. Banks has asked the board, and members present to consider setting up a nominating committee to meet prior to the May meeting to recommend a slate of officers at the May meeting and moving the vote to the November meeting.

It is an even numbered year, so the Secretary/Treasurer is up for re-election as well. The Nominating Committee needs to be comprised of no less than 3 and no more than 5 past presidents. Mr. Banks feels that it would also be appropriate to consider a by-laws change so that the "practice" of the chapter board and membership match our bylaws and officially recognize two-year terms for our chapter officer positions. President Pratt asked for a motion to accept Mr. Banks' proposal, Adrienne Sheffer made the motion, seconded by Lydia Frey. Johnna Sells asked if the chapter should consider a by-laws change, all appeared to favor this and work will begin on this task. Motion passed with all in favor.

### **Adjournment:**

Stephen Shaner made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Elizabeth McQuade. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 1140hrs.

**Hello 9-1-1 Telecommunications Professionals. This is for You! Take some time to CELEBRATE & HONOR YOUR PEERS BY BRINGING ATTENTION TO OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES You have until May 17th.**

**2023 Gold Star Awards Categories**

**Dispatcher of the Year (One Nominee per PSAP)**

**Team of the Year (One Team per PSAP)**

**Center Telecommunicator of the Year (One Nominee per PSAP)**

**Dispatch Center of the Year**

**Supervisor of the Year (One Nominee per PSAP)**

**Trainer of the Year (One Nominee per PSAP)**

**Information/Radio Frequency Technologist of the Year (One Nominee for each per PSAP)**

**Communications Center Technology Leadership Award**

**Communications Center Director or Manager of the Year**

**Industry Partner of the Year**

**County 9-1-1 Coordinator of the Year**



**[Click Here to Submit Your Nomination](#)**



**<https://www.ohionena.org/ohio-gold-star-award-program>**

**Here is the link to nominate:**

**<https://airtable.com/appyLF16KluJRKVNE/pagkFj6PP5vaJA3Pg/form>**