



CALLSIGN

Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

May 2025

Cheryl Pratt, President
clpratt@dps.ohio.gov
Cody Post, 1st Vice President
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Erica Walsh, 2nd Vice President
elwalsh@columbus.gov
Mike Banks, RPL Secretary/Treasurer (330) 331-5203
mbanks@summitoh.net

Callsign Editor: Dan Lutz (513) 476-6199 dlutz@westchesteroh.org

President's Message By OHIO APCO 1st Vice President Cody Post

Hello Ohio APCO,

This week at our May 8th chapter meeting we are going to elect a new slate of chapter officers and our soon to be former president Cheryl Pratt will take on the role of Past President. I would be remiss if I didn't take this issue of the "Callsign" to thank her.

Cheryl has served the chapter for 6 years on the executive committee. From the outside I used to think that leading this organization would be something of a simple and rewarding opportunity to give back to our colleagues across the state who had a similar job as I did. What Cheryl and I have learned along with the many that have come before us is not the case. Serving Ohio APCO is rewarding but it is anything from simple. There is so much that you don't know and so much more you must learn that sometimes it just makes your head spin for a moment. I am thankful that to have her as my past president when I have those moments there is someone to ask.

During her time Cheryl had challenges in her professional and personal life that would make any one of us pull back, and recoil into a comfortable place. Cheryl didn't do that, she stayed with us and forged on in her role, setting an example for all of us of how to lead through difficulties in and out of the job.

Her husband and her staff at OSP are owed an additional thanks for putting up with the additional travel and responsibilities that come with this role. Thank you for supporting her and helping her through it all.

Thank you Cheryl,

Cody R. Post, ENP, RPL

May Chapter Events Ohio APCO/Ohio NENA Combined Membership Meeting

Thursday May 8th, 2025

Ohio Emergency Management Agency
2855 W. Dublin Grandville Road Columbus, OH 43235

Meeting 10:00 – Lunch to Follow

Link to join meeting:

franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/...

APCO – INTERNATIONAL

President

Stephen P. Martini, RPL, CPE
Director
Metro Nashville Department of Emergency Communications
Nashville, TN.
stephen.martini@nashville.gov

Board of Directors- North Central Region

Jessica Loos
Lincoln Emergency Comm. Center
jloos@lincoln.ne.gov

B. Fred Cummings, RPL
Delaware Co. Emergency Comm. Center
fcummings@co.delaware.in.us

Executive Council Representative

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
Regional Communications Coordinator
Franklin County EMA & HS
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Ohio APCO Executive Committee

President

Cheryl Pratt
clpratt@dps.ohio.gov

Immediate Past President

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Past President

Lydia Frey
lfrey@co.marion.oh.us

1st Vice President

Cody Post
cpost@akronohio.gov

2nd Vice President

Erica Walsh
elwalsh@columbus.gov

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Banks
mbanks@summitoh.net

Chapter Executive Council Delegate

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
johnnasells@franklincountyohio.gov

Chapter Commercial Advisors

Mark Culbertson
mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com

Steve Zitney
szitney@wsi-tech.com

Appointed Executive Committee Positions

Lydia Frey
lfrey@marion.oh.us

Adrienne Sheffer
ajsheffer@dps.ohio.gov

Ohio APCO - Standing Committees/Chairs

Constitution and By Laws Committee

2nd V.P. Erica Walsh
elwalsh@columbus.gov

Training

Lydia Frey, Chair
lfrey@co.marion.oh.us

Nominating

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells, Chair
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Mike Banks
mbanks@summitoh.net

Lydia Frey
lfrey@co.marion.oh.us

Satoru Persons
Persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu

Awards & Scholarship

Adrienne Sheffer
ajsheffer@dps.ohio.gov

Legislative

Chapter Legislative Liaison
Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Frequency Advisory

Bob Bill, Chair
Bob.bill@das.ohio.gov

911 & Communications Center Mgt. Committee

Andrew Knapp, Co-Chair
andrew.knapp@hamilton-co.org

Nick DiCicco, Co-Chair
Nick.dicicco@cvgdispatch.com

TERT

Nick DiCicco, Co-Chair
Nick.dicicco@cvgdispatch.com

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells, Co-Chair
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Additional Designations

Joint Conference Committee – Erica Walsh
elwalsh@columbus.gov

911 Steering Committee – Adrienne Sheffer
ajsheffer@dps.ohio.gov

PSAP Operations Subcommittee – Matt Franke
mfranke@butlersheriff.org

Ohio ESINet PSAP Subcommittee Representative
Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

Ohio ESINet Technical Subcommittee Representative
Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

SIEC Representative - Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
JohnnaSells@franklincountyohio.gov

February 19th, 2025

Welcome Remarks – Brian MacMurdo & Cheryl Pratt

Brian MacMurdo and Cheryl Pratt 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 is 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.



Thanks!
To our sponsors past, present and future.

Thank you to the February lunch sponsor:

RapidSOS/CentralSquare

The May meeting is sponsored by:

DATAMARK Technology

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

Mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com

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: **(Continued next pg.)**

Wellness Summit March 2-3, 2025 – Hyatt Portland, OR.

Impact Awards (formerly Leadership in Policy Awards) April 8, 2025 – National Press Club, Washington, DC.

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

Hope 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.

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.

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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.



We're pleased to share that the nomination **deadline for the 2024 Gold Star Awards** has been **extended to May 16th**. Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to recognize an employee, team, or coworker. Your support helps shine a light on the great work happening in Ohio!

Join us at the luncheon to help us honor all nominees and winners.

The Gold Star Awards Luncheon will take place on September 10th at 12:00 PM at Villa Milano in Columbus. Tickets will be available soon via the Ohio APCO/NENA website and Facebook page. We look forward to honoring all of our nominees and award recipients at this special event!

Submit your nominations here:

<https://airtable.com/appHdtzIGLWah-VdWX/shrJ6H8KWZgp6lLf9>

Scott Brown

scott.brown@hamiltoncountyohio.gov