



CALLSIGN

Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

November 2024

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President's Message By OHIO APCO President Cheryl Pratt

As we enter the fourth quarter, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank each of you for your dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence in public safety communications. This year has brought unique challenges, and Ohio APCO members have consistently shown their unwavering commitment to serving our communities.

I also would like to recognize the Ohio TERT team for all of their hard work during their deployment in North Carolina following Hurricane Helene. Your work and time there really made a difference. I am proud of each and every one of you!

As we wrap up 2024, let's continue to support each other and strive for professional growth. Together, we have accomplished so much, from advancing training standards to advocating for the resources and technology that help us save lives. I encourage everyone to stay engaged, take advantage of our upcoming events, and continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for all that you do!

Cheryl

November Chapter Events

Ohio APCO/Ohio NENA Combined Membership Meeting

Wednesday November 20th, 2024

Ohio DAS 4200 Surface Rd. Columbus, Ohio

Training: Ohio TERT 9:00

Meeting 10:00

Lunch: City BBQ 11:30

Confirm Attendance at www.ohioapco.org Then Click "Announcements"

APCO – INTERNATIONAL

President

Stephen P. Martini, RPL, CPE
Director
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Board of Director- North Central Region

Michael R. O'Connor
Executive Director
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La Grange, IL
moconnor@itacc.org

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@akronoh.gov

2nd Vice President

Erica Walsh
elwalsh@columbus.gov

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Banks
mpbanks@gmail.com

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

mpbanks@gmail.com

Lydia Frey

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Satoru Persons

Persons.4@dps.ohio-state.edu

Awards & Scholarship

Adrienne Sheffer
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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

Rose Chambers
Roseanna.chambers@gmail.com

Ohio APCO "Callsign" Editor

Dan Lutz
dlutz@westchesteroh.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
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Sept 11th, 2024

Welcome Remarks – Brian MacMurdo & Cheryl Pratt

Ohio APCO Chapter President Cheryl Pratt and Ohio NENA chapter president welcomed attendees to the chapter meeting. Today's meeting was held at the Kalahari Resort in conjunction with the Ohio APCO/NENA conference.

All attendees stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chapter Officer Swearing In

Mike Banks provided an updated on the nominating committee, we will need nominees for the position of second vice-president at the February chapter meeting. The nominating committee has recommended the current slate of officers for the current term set to expire in May 2025.

Lydia Frey made the motion to accept the nominations, seconded by Adrienne Sheffer. The motion was passed by all in favor.

Monte Diegel read the oath of office to our Chapter President, Cheryl Pratt, Second Vice-President Cody Post, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Banks.

Secretary / Treasurers Report

Mike Banks advised that the May chapter meeting minutes have been posted online and distributed to the membership via the CallSign Chapter meeting newsletter. Patrick Brandt made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Mark Culbertson. Motion passed with all in favor vote.

Mike Banks presented the Chapter Treasurer's Report, current balances are Ohio APCO Checking: \$5,204.89; Ohio Money Market: \$79,297.20; Conference and Gold Star Checking: \$59,588.74. Patrick Brandt made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Lydia Frey. Motion passed with all in favor vote.

Conference Committee – Rose Chambers, Erica Walsh

Erica Walsh will be serving as the next conference committee chairperson and is shadowing Rose Chambers for this conference. Anyone interested in serving on the committee please reach out, even if you can only give a little time it can help with the success of the conference.

Looking for new ideas for the upcoming conference as well. The committee will hold a training event in conjunction with next year's Gold Star awards as it's an "off year" for the conference. The next conference is in 2026, and planning will start soon!

Gold Star – Scott Brown

The Gold Star Luncheon was held yesterday, September 10, there were 86 nominations and 275 attendees. Planning is starting for the 2025 Gold Star Luncheon. Keep an eye out for the nomination announcement and further information on the next Gold Star event.



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

Thank you to the Sept. lunch sponsor:

Mission Critical Partners

The Nov. meeting is sponsored by:

INdigital

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

Mark.culbertson@adsrecorders.com

Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt

The ESInet is built, all 10 POPs are up and functional, Oarnet has completed their job. Still working on circuit parts of it connecting POPs back to Oarnet but the actual infrastructure between datacenters and POPs are good. ComTech is working on the NG911 core. The 911 Program Office is still seeking GIS data, this data is critical in NG 911, they need GIS layers and information back from the counties. DDTI can help assist converting LBRS data to the required NG 911 version.

The State Auditor's office continues to work on a report that will recommend whether the \$0.40 device surcharge needs to go up, down or remain the same to continue providing funding for NG 911. The report is due out on February 1st, which is a weekend, so it will likely be out in the end of January. So far, distribution to the local governments has increased by \$5.9 million from January to September.

The 9-1-1 Program Office is expanding with a second support and compliance person. Sharon conducted over 150 reviews last year and that is expected to increase to over 200 by October 2025.

The office is looking for suggestions for the annual two-hour continuing training, input on what this training should be appreciated.

APCO AFC - Devan Phillis

Bob Bill introduced Devan Phillis as the upcoming AFC chair for Ohio. Any assistance needed with the FCC for licenses or accounts, they are happy to help. Make sure your licenses are up to date with proper contact information for the license holder, if the email address is no longer valid, you will not receive a renewal notice from the FCC when the license is due to expire.

Executive Council & Legislative – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells summarized the APCO national meeting, and priorities of the Executive Council and Board of directors. APCO government relations is addressing reclassification in unity with NENA at the national level, advocating for NG 911

funding and working to increase recognition and support for public safety communications. She has been very fortunate to attend 9-1-1 Goes to Washington the last several years and would love to see more representation from Ohio at this event. Every connection that we can make with our legislators will help us moving forward in supporting legislation that supports public safety communications.

The 9-1-1 Saves and Enhancing First Responders Acts are companion bills in the house and senate that are ongoing with bipartisan support. Johnna encouraged attendees to speak to both their senators and representatives to encourage them to support both bills.

APCO has advocated for the FCC's increase in network outage reporting. The FCC has mandated increased notifications from service providers/carriers to preemptively make ECC's aware of issues regarding 9-1-1 service availability. APCO has opposed any efforts to change reporting requirements.

APCO continues to take action to protect public safety spectrum, they are urging FCC to take necessary steps to protect 6Ghz band from harmful interference. Public safety agencies extensively use the 6 GHz band for supporting land mobile radio communications systems. The FCC conducted a rulemaking proceeding to allow large numbers of unlicensed devices such as Wi-Fi routers to share the spectrum in this band. APCO has advocated that such sharing should only occur if appropriate measures are in place to effectively prevent, identify and eliminate interference to public safety's systems.

Additional training is being put out by APCO; a "Fundamentals of NG 911" course will be held in Dublin in October. And they are now introducing a Career Instructor Program and membership to credential educators that provide public safety communications classes as part of their high school, technical or college courses.

Looking forward to the next APCO national conference in Baltimore July 27th-30th, 2025.

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There will be four Ohio members honored for graduating the RPL program at this conference. Visit <https://apco2025.org> for more information.

Constitution and Bylaws – Erica Walsh

Erica Walsh presented quorum resolution 2024-01: Constitution amended statements to read:

"4.1 The President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President shall be elected for a term of two (2) years".

Bylaws amended statement to read.

"1.7 Bi-Annually in the final meeting of the calendar year appoint no less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Past Presidents to serve as the Nominating Committee".

In accordance with the procedures established in Article V Section 1 of the Constitution of the Ohio Chapter of APCO, this resolution will be presented to the quorum at the September 11, 2024, chapter meeting for discussion and vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote or more is needed for passage.

Lydia Frey made the motion to accept quorum resolution 2024-01. Seconded by Mory Fuhrmann, the resolution passed with an all-in favor vote.

Nominating Committee – Johnna Gonzalez-Sells

Nominations for the second vice-president position are to be taken in November for presentation to the chapter membership at the February 2025 meeting. An election will be held in May. All nominees must be a voting member of the association in good standing. Anyone interested is encouraged to apply.

Commercial Advisory – Mark Culbertson & Steve Zitney

President Pratt acknowledged the hard work of our commercial advisory members in getting vendors to support our chapter and our conference. All attendees were encouraged to visit with vendors in our vendor hall after the meeting.

Mark Culbertson thanked Comtech for their last-minute sponsorship of the "Ohio Night" outing at the Orlando conference in August.

Training Committee - Lydia Frey

Adrienne and Lydia are discussing training to be held at the next chapter meeting in November. Updates will be provided once that is locked in. Around the

state there will be Ohio Alerts Training on October 17 at the Highway Patrol Academy, a two-day Tactical Dispatch Class in Streetsboro October 16 and 17th. At the conference this week there will be a Next Generation 9-1-1 Roundtable discussion featuring Pam Milhoan from Union County, Brian Rutledge from Columbiana County and the State 9-1-1 Administrator Patrick Brandt, with an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the NG 911 pilot projects

Compassionate Care – Cheryl Pratt

The compassionate care committee's purpose is to support dispatchers affected by traumatic events with initiatives like compassionate care baskets and totes of hope. Bringing items such as treats, coloring books, puzzles, etc. in a gesture of support to the staff of centers affected by traumatic events. More volunteers are needed to help carry out this project on a regional basis.

TERT update – Nick DiCicco

Mory Fuhrmann and Cody Post were recognized for his contribution to the TERT committee as they step down from the co-chair position. They will remain part of the committee to help further the mission of Ohio TERT. Nick DiCicco assumed the role of chairperson of the committee. Attendees were encouraged to attend the TERT professional development session at 3pm to learn more.

Good of the order

Mike Banks thanked everyone for attending, encouraged anyone that wasn't a member to consider joining the association. This is a for us, by us, group and every advancement in 9-1-1 and public safety communications that has occurred in Ohio and nationwide started in a meeting room just like this. We are a member driven association that comes up with ideas and best practices to change the industry, making it better for ourselves our partners in public safety and those that rely on our services. He hopes everyone will come back for the next chapter meeting and consider participating in the many opportunities to serve our chapter and fellow public safety professionals.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Erica Walsh, seconded by Elizabeth McQuade. Meeting adjourned at 0930.



The Ohio Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce recently completed a month-long deployment to Buncombe County, North Carolina, where they had been deployed since Hurricane Helene impacted the area with winds and catastrophic rainfall. The team was initially placed on alert status when Helene was forecast to make a major landfall at Florida's Big Bend region. But the inland hurricane impact in the Blue Ridge Mountain region of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee prompted an urgent EMAC request from the North Carolina EMA which brought TERT OH-1. The team, along with (2) personnel and equipment from MARCS, arrived on 2 October.

The MARCS personnel went to work assisting their NC counterparts with repair to the state-wide VIPER radio system while the telecommunicators (along with TERT personnel from other states) went to work augmenting and relieving personnel at the Buncombe County PSCC. The EMAC assignment was modified to request a second TERT contingent from Ohio. TERT OH-2 arrived on 15 October and relieved OH-1, who returned on the 16th. The entire team returned on the 30th.

Conditions for OH-1 and the MARCS personnel were difficult. Water, electricity, and telecommunications were all compromised. At their arrival and for several days following, active search and rescue operations were occurring. The team eventually moved to quarters at a FEMA-established camp at a vocational school campus.

Call volume was quite high at the PSCC, the backup facility, and on Chagrin Valley's HAVOC, which was programmed for use as a 311-call center. In addition, a new member of the team came home with OH-2: Noah Ash. He was surrendered to a team member at a grocery store, and is now back at Chagrin Valley, in training as an emotional support animal and general love bug. The team's news releases are at ohiotert.org and Noah Ashe is on IG at [@noahashnji](https://www.instagram.com/noahashnji).

We are actively recruiting additional members to join the team! Meetings are generally held quarterly. We are especially looking for telecommunicators in the northwest, southwest, central, and southeast parts of the state. Applications and information are on the website as well!



Nominations for the 2024 Gold Star Awards will open on December 16, 2024, and remain open until April 30, 2025. The nomination form will be posted on the Ohio APCO/NENA website and Facebook page.

The 2024 Gold Star Luncheon is planned for September 2025. The exact date and location are still being finalized, and further details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Scott Brown
scott.brown@hamiltoncountyohio.gov