



CALLSIGN

Ohio Appreciates Professional Communications Operations

September 2025

Cody Post, President

cpost@akronohio.gov

Erica Walsh, 1st Vice President

elwalsh@columbus.gov

Nick DiCicco, 2nd Vice President

Nick.dicco@cvdipatch.com

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 President Cody Post

Dear Ohio APCO Members,

It is an honor to serve as your President and to continue building on the incredible legacy of this chapter. Each of you—whether you are a telecommunicator, technologist, supervisor, or industry partner—represents the strength and resilience of our public safety communications community.

This year has already been marked by important progress. Together, we are navigating rapid changes in technology, workforce expectations, and the future of Next Generation 9-1-1. Ohio APCO continues to advocate at the state and national level for sustainable funding, stronger standards, and solutions that put our telecommunicators at the center of every conversation.

One of our most important efforts underway is the **PSAP Operations Rule review** through the PSAP Operations Subcommittee. This review gives us the opportunity to shape policies that directly affect how Ohio's PSAPs operate, ensuring they are both practical and supportive of frontline professionals. Your input and engagement in this process remain critical as we work to modernize and strengthen these standards.

I'm also proud to share that Ohio APCO is contributing to a **joint initiative between APCO, NENA, and EMDRIA**. This groundbreaking project is focused on building **cultural competencies for EMDR clinicians**, helping them better understand the unique culture and challenges of telecommunicators. By fostering this understanding, we can improve wellness outcomes and ensure that those seeking assistance through EMDR therapy receive support tailored to the realities of our profession.

Continued Pg. 5

September Chapter Events Ohio APCO/Ohio NENA Combined Membership Meeting

Wednesday Sept. 10th, 2025

Gold Star Awards Luncheon

Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center

Meeting 10:00

Link to join meeting:

Meeting ID: 859 8840 5675 Passcode: 699584

<https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/85988405675?pwd=7heJTjl8e85h0kasnq5zEQq4uPWvUe.1>

APCO – INTERNATIONAL

President

Capt. Jack Varnado, RPL
911 Director
Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Communications Division
Livingston, LA
jvarnado@LPSO.org

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

Cody Post
cpost@akronohio.gov

Immediate Past President

Cheryl Pratt
clpratt@dps.ohio.gov

Past President

Johnna Gonzalez-Sells
Johnnasells@franklincountyohio.gov

1st Vice President

Erica Walsh
elwalsh@columbus.gov

2nd Vice President

Nick DiCicco
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



May 8th, 2025

Welcome Remarks-

Brian MacMurdo/ Cheryl Pratt

Meeting began at 1000 hrs. Chapter President Cheryl Pratt welcomed attendees to the meeting. As this was her last meeting as the Ohio Chapter of President the quorum presented President Pratt with an honorary plaque and thanked her for her service to Ohio APCO.

Nominating Committee – Johnna Gonzalez Sells

Johnna Gonzalez Sells stated the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the 2025-2027 Ohio APCO Executive Committee:

- President – Cody Post
- 1st Vice-President – Erica Walsh
- 2nd Vice-President – Nick DiCicco

No nominations were made from the floor. Lydia Frey made the motion to accept the new slate of officers, seconded by Adrienne Scheffer. Motion passed with all in favor.

Ms. Gonzalez Sells administered the oath of office to the newly elected chapter officers.

President Post addressed the association highlighting the goals of his term in office.

The following members have been appointed to the executive committee as members at-large:

Thomas Donahue

Adrienne Sheffer

Secretary / Treasurers Report

Michael Banks presented the minutes from the February Chapter meeting. They are available online and in the Chapter Newsletter. Patrick Brandt made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Erica Walsh. The motion passed with all in favor.

Michael Banks summarized the Treasurer’s Report with the account balances:

- APCO Checking: \$15,711.82
- Money Market: \$84,326.70
- Gold Star/Conference: \$14,284.13

Lydia Frey made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Lisa Davet, motion passed with all in favor.

Gold Star – Brian MacMurdo

Nomination deadline has been extended to May 16th. Luncheon will be held at Villa Milano on September 10th, the quarterly chapter meeting will be held in conjunction with the luncheon. Still looking for nominations for Industry Partner of the Year.

Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt

100% of the financial reports are in! FCC survey - disseminate to PSAPs, need info in by the end of the month, the sooner you can get that in the better, needs to get out by July and has to go through the governor's office first.

The program office is looking for training ideas from around the state, trying to keep state provided training fresh.

July 1 is Next Generation 9-1-1 core services go-live, 90 day cycle restarted after a failure in February.

14,800 911 calls have been processed through the system as of this morning (since 1/1) 911 surcharge has increased from 40 to 60 cents that passed house and senate.

10 counties are currently live on the NG911 system, with Hardin County preparing to go live soon. Emergency Call Works & Central Square Rollouts for these vendors are paused due to software bugs. Both vendors are working on a patch, which is expected within approximately 60 day. Hosted Solutions Connections are being prepared for NGA and Carbyne. Adams County is moving to NGA, while Guernsey and Fairfield counties are using Carbyne. Other Vendor Integrations ComTech is

actively working with Motorola on their Vesta solution, as well as with Frontier and AT&T on their respective hosted Vesta solutions. GIS is a high-priority component of NG911. The state office is available to conduct site visits to counties to meet with GIS staff and PSAP managers to ensure everyone is trained.

Ginger Hatfield: Support & Compliance

2024 is complete, were working with one county but that was complete after yesterday. As of October of this year, secondary PSAPs will now be required to be compliant as well.

APCO AFC – Devan Phillis

Frequency Advisory Committee: vehicular repeater licenses on 700Mhz; if your agency has 4.9Ghz license, get with vendor and make sure licenses are accurate by 6/9/25. Transition will occur with FCC on 6/9 where that needs to be accurate.

Executive Council & Legislative – Johnna Gonzalez Sells

· Membership & Government Relations

o National membership has reached a high of 36,186 members.

o APCO filed a petition with the FCC to change technical rules for the 4.9 GHz band to support advanced technologies like 5G.

o APCO supports the "Making National Parks Safer Act," which aims to upgrade emergency communications centers in the National Park System to NG911.

· Legislation & Training

o The reclassification effort is supported by the "Enhanced Safety for Respondents Act" (Senate 725) and its House companion bill, the "911 Saves Act."

o An updated second edition of the Cybersecurity and Fundamentals course was released in February.

· Events & Conferences

o The Telecommunications Response Task Force team members who responded to the 2024 hurricanes were honored at the 9-1-1 Impact Awards.

o The APCO National Conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, from July 27-30.

o Members from Ohio will be presenting at the conference.

Awards and Scholarships – Lydia Frey

· A new scholarship program has been launched for both individual and agency memberships.

· The goal is to provide more resources and training opportunities, and applications are now being accepted for the upcoming year.

· Ohio NENA and APCO will offer scholarships for 2026 memberships.

o NENA Ohio NENA will contribute up to \$500 for group memberships. The application will be available on the Ohio NENA website.

o APCO Scholarships are for individual or agency memberships. The application is already available on the website.

· The nomination deadline for both is November 1st, with winners announced on November 19th.

· A NENA membership scholarship is open for applications online, with a submission deadline of November 1st. The winner will be announced on November 19th.

MARCS – Devan Phillis

· The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for May 27th.

· The team is actively building new sites across the state, both independently and through partnerships.

· The system currently supports roughly 162,000 radios.

o In April, 1, 705 radio IDs were processed as part of an effort to speed up processing.

Training Committee – Adrienne Sheffer

Ohio EMA has published a list of upcoming trainings for the rest of the year and into the next, including ICS courses. Many trainings still have seats available.

Compassionate Care – Tom Donahue

- The committee is preparing to support individuals in Hamilton County and Wayne County.
- They are actively seeking volunteers from across the state to improve coordination, as most current volunteers are located in one area.
- The committee provides support for coworkers experiencing medical issues or family emergencies, which also helps grow membership by showing members they are valued.

TERT update – Nick DiCicco

- The program received national recognition for the 9-1-1 Impact Award.
- A Type 1 team has been established, with a goal to create a second team within the next 12 months.
- The team will be presenting at the Motorola Summit, APCO, and NEMA about their recent deployment and the successful public-private partnership with Motorola.
- As a result of a presentation in D.C., the program has secured a voting seat on the NEMA executive board, representing all TERT teams across the country.

Commercial Advisory – Mark Culbertson

- Sponsorship opportunities will be available for Gold Star, a 2-3 hour event expected to have around 250 attendees and 11 award categories.

· Several commercial partners were recognized for their consistent support, including Motorola, RapidSOS, Frontier, MCM Consulting, GovHost, ComTech, and INDigital.

Good of the Order

Dr. Bob Cobb ENP Program Manager - application deadline for July window is May 30th.

Adjournment:

Patrick Brandt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lydia Frey. Meeting adjourned at 1119 hrs.

(President’s Message Continued from Pg. 1)

A special recognition is due to **Ohio APCO Vice President Erica Walsh**, who serves as Co-Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee. Erica has been a driving leader in the EMDR initiative, and her commitment to the wellness of telecommunicators across Ohio and beyond continues to inspire our entire community.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain clear:

- **Support our telecommunicators.** Promote wellness, retention, and recognition initiatives that value the people behind the headset.
- **Advance technology.** Ensure Ohio is ready for NG9-1-1 and the tools that will shape tomorrow’s PSAPs.
- **Strengthen our voice.** Continue advocacy with policymakers and stakeholders to secure the future of 9-1-1 in our state.
- **Foster community.** Build connections across agencies, regions, and disciplines so that Ohio APCO remains a trusted home for every member.

I invite you to get involved—attend a meeting, volunteer for a committee, or simply reach out with ideas. Your voice matters, and together, we will continue to move our profession forward. Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for the work you do every day to keep our communities safe.

With gratitude and respect,
Cody R. Post, ENP, RPL, EMT-P
President, Ohio APCO