



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

Welcome Remarks – Cody Post

Cody Post welcomed attendees to the February 2026 Ohio APCO meeting held in conjunction with Ohio NENA at the State of Ohio DPS headquarters.

Secretary / Treasurers Report

Mike Banks advised that meeting minutes were available to review online and had been sent out in the newsletter prior to the meeting. Patrick Brandt made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Erica Walsh. Motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Ohio APCO Checking Balance: \$21,774.06, Money Market: \$84,358.59 and Gold Star/Conference Checking: \$18,037.15. Patrick Brandt made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Johnna Sells.

Joint Conference Committee – Erica Walsh

Conference is being held September 13th – 16th at The Ohioan. Summer Camp theme, hotel rate is \$151+tax. Registration link will be available soon and the committee is exploring a conference app.

Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office - Patrick Brandt

- Rules reviewed by Hearing Committee; returning to statewide steering committee Feb 23 at 11:30; if passed, go to JACO.
- Technical/Ops subcommittee meeting to be scheduled (GIS and Next Gen topics).
- Funding/legislation: local distribution formula on hold pending legislative changes; draft language in progress involving Sen. Smith and Rep. Hall; House and Senate bills anticipated.

Updates to 911 Training and Education Standards

- **Minimum Training:** Basic training has increased from 40 to 80 hours. All PSAP staff must complete ICS 100 and 700; supervisors must also complete ICS 200 and 800. Training will also include legal concepts, NG911 call types, and active listening skills.
- **Continuing Education (CE):** Required CE hours increased from 8 to 12 annually (11 agency-provided, 1 state-provided). Annual cybersecurity training from CISA is now required.
- **EMD:** The timeframe for EMD training for unsupervised operation has been extended from 6 to 12 months post-hire.
- **Coordinator Training:** All county 911 coordinators must attend an annual in-service training.
- **Annual required training is online**
- **Compliance/reporting:**
 - **Revenue Expense Reports due; March 1 deadline**
 - **One compliance issue from 2025 addressed; now fully compliant**
 - **Plan to send compliance letters nine times a year starting January**



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

- Cloud and analytics (next 4–6 weeks):
 - Three cloud connections
 - Smart Analytics for Ohio Guardian; compliance support for healthcare information science; positive reception expected
- Carrier/connectivity:
 - Champaign Telecom fully connected with SIP ingress
 - Switch (T-Mobile aggregator) connected; RTT enabled for applicable counties
 - Verizon connected via national ingress; AT&T Mobility completion scheduled next week
- GIS:
 - Assistance offered for emergency service boundaries; outreach ongoing; missed deadlines noted; facilitation requests welcome
- Core service/security:
 - Upgrades in progress (coverage strips, ring-no-answer timer)
 - Background software upgrades for cybersecurity
 - Multi-factor authentication rollout within ~10 days for hosted solution laptops
- ODR/OSP RFP:
 - With EAS procurement; vendor outreach and legal processes underway
 - Anticipated multi-vendor award; open for quote off state contract upon posting; sequenced announcements expected

Executive Council – Johnna Gonzalez Sells

Executive Council Update:

APCO International Membership:

Grand total of 31,684 – this includes Associate Members, Full Members, Online Members, Group Members and Commercial Partners.

Executive Committee – North Central Region Update:

Fred Cummings from Illinois has resigned his position as one of the North Central Reps. Jessica Loos is still one of the reps. An election was held January 30th to fill the vacant seat. There were two interested parties – Cheryl Konarski from Missouri was elected by the other members of the North Central Region.

Scholarships and Training:

Fee Free February is currently going on...

For a limited time, receive \$20 off select course dates for some of APCO's most in-demand training offerings. Whether you're building foundational skills or advancing into leadership, these courses were specially identified to be cover all career levels for our membership.

Scholarship Application Process Opens for APCO Members APCO's Silent Key and Commercial Partner Scholarship Program opened for applications on January 15.

The deadline to apply for the Certified Public-Safety Executive (CPE) Program scholarship is February 15

Registered Public-Safety Leader (RPL) Program deadline is March 1.

All other applications for general scholarships for APCO Institute courses are due by April 1.



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

Government Relations:

On the legislative side, several bills to support public safety communications advanced in the House. On January 21, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced the Emergency Reporting Act (H.R. 5200) and the Kari's Law Report Act (H.R. 5201), bills that will help ensure access to 9-1-1 and improve situational awareness regarding network outages that can affect calls to 9-1-1. In addition, there has been momentum on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act (H.R. 6505), which advanced out of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee during a January 15 markup. APCO commends the Committee's leadership and urges swift consideration of the Emergency Reporting Act and Kari's Law Reporting Act by the full House, as well as prompt consideration of the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act by the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

In his Senate Commerce Committee testimony on January 28, APCO CEO & Executive Director Mel Maier urged the swift reauthorization of FirstNet under the continued oversight of the independent FirstNet Authority Board. Maier highlighted that public safety professionals, including many of APCO's members, depend upon FirstNet service and equipment to support their lifesaving missions. As Congress considers FirstNet reauthorization, APCO will continue to advocate to ensure congressional action supports and preserves FirstNet's unique ability to serve the public safety community.

Upcoming Events:

- Wellness & Workforce Summit – February 18-19, 2026, at the Renaissance Phoenix Glendale
- Impact Awards – April 22, 2026, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC
- Awardees to be announced this month.
- Confirmed sponsors include FirstNet Built by AT&T, OnStar and Wilkinson Barker Knauer.

National Conference is scheduled for August 2nd- August 5th in San Antonio, Texas.

Call for papers is closed- and they are in the process of being reviewed.

Find more information at <https://apco2026.org/>

Webinars:

APCO presented two free webinars for members in January.

On January 20, "Supporting Call Takers in the Moment: Practical Lessons from AI Use in 9-1-1" with 462 registrants.

An additional webinar, "Redefining Reliability in Public Safety Communications: What Comes Next After Poly," was presented on January 28 with 431 registrants. Each webinar was worth 1 CDE and webinar recordings were made available to attendees.

Upcoming Webinars:

Both of these are free and count for 1 CDE- Continuing Dispatch Education

- The Role of Over the Top (OTT) Applications and Services in NG9-1-1

February 25, 2026 at 1pm EST

- Empowering Local Alerting: Using IPAWS to Protect Your Community

March 4, 2026 at 1p EST

Awards and Scholarships – Lydia Frey

Union County has received a full group membership scholarship, working with Mike Banks to secure payment.



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

911 Operations and Management Committee

Looking to form a joint committee with Ohio NENA. President Post has names and addresses of interested parties, her and Ohio NENA President Frey will reach out to interested parties. Bylaws will be adjusted to accommodate the committee placement.

MARCS Update – Angie Canepa

Online portal is live, 2 hour turnaround time for activations, payments and invoices are now online. Review inactive/old radios and consider deactivating them to not accumulate fees or non-compliance with RA. They can always be reactivated alter. Overall, fewer than 30,000 radios do not have RA at this time.

Commercial Advisory Committee – Mark Culbertson, Steve Zitney

Mark recognized all of the commercial members present for today's meeting with special thanks to Critical Resource Group for sponsoring today's meeting. Next quarterly meeting May 13 (RapidSOS sponsor)
Sponsorship opportunities exist for the chapter conference in September; private "pitch rooms"; campus-style venue with nearby amenities; on-site restaurant more affordable than prior venue.
December 9 quarterly meeting sponsor needed; additional partners acknowledged; light-hearted conference remark exchanged; partners encouraged to contact Mark or Steven.

Critical Resource Group provided a presentation on their custom indoor mapping solutions.

Good of the Order

Patrick Brandt – Has received questions on the county final plans. The Program Review Committee is required to meet annually. If there is a change to the final plan it can be changed with a simple majority vote of the committee. it must be filed with the 9-1-1 Program Office within 90 days.

Cody Post -

Ohio APCO pursuing statewide recognition for dispatchers as first responders; prior senator meeting stalled; efforts continue via OhioAPCO.org state advocacy section. Draft resolutions available for county commissioners; two counties have adopted; aim to increase momentum, especially during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in April. First paragraph intentionally generic; counties should customize. Jurisdictions that pass resolutions should send signed PDFs/photos for website upload. The goal for 2027 is to present a binder of resolutions from all 88 counties to the legislature.

Adjournment:

Patrick Brandt made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kenneth Stewart, motion passed with all in favor, meeting adjourned at 1115hrs.