



Ohio Chapter Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026

Opening and Lunch Sponsor Recognition

- The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Lunch for the meeting was sponsored by RapidSOS.

APCO Secretary and Treasurer's Report

- The February meeting minutes were previously posted in the chapter newsletter and on the PS Connect website.
- The minutes were approved by motion of Patrick Brandt, seconded by Erica Walsh, motion passed with all in favor.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Checking Account Balance: \$23,368.62, with activity related to the upcoming conference.
 - Money Market Account Balance: \$84,368.87, with no activity other than interest.
 - Gold Star/Conference Account Balance: \$15,323.65, with activity starting for the conference.
- The treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Patrick Brandt, seconded by Erica Walsh and passed with all in favor.

Joint APCO/NENA Chapter Updates

- The APCO and NENA executive boards held a joint retreat to formalize their relationship and joint ventures.
- Bylaw and constitution updates are expected to improve management of joint committees like the conference, Gold Star, and a future 911 management committee.
- Nominations for the next election cycle will open in February, with elections in May. A second vice president candidate will likely be sought.

Joint Conference Committee Update

- Attendee and hotel registration are now open, with a strict hotel registration deadline of August 17, 2026.
- The committee is preparing to send out packets to commercial partners.
- The call for papers is open for anyone with a topic to present, with a submission deadline of July 15, 2026.
- Scholarships are available, including several registration-only scholarships and one "super award" covering both registration and hotel fees. The application deadline is July 15th.



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Gold Star Committee Update:

- Gold Star registration is live on the Ohio NENA website for the event on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at noon at The Ohioan.
- The nomination deadline is June 1, 2026. Nominations can be for individuals or groups.
- A new award category, GIS Professional of the Year, has been added.
- The committee encouraged nominations for all categories, especially for often-overlooked commercial partners, IT teams, and PSAP coordinators. The process is easy, requiring only 15 to 200 words.

State and Federal Legislative Updates: Johnna Gonzalez Sells

- **State Advocacy:** A state advocacy page on the Ohio APCO website provides a draft resolution for counties to support recognizing 911 dispatchers as first responders. Fewer than ten of the 88 counties have submitted resolutions so far.
- **Federal Reclassification:** To support federal efforts, it is crucial for agencies to conduct a job description audit and update descriptions to reflect actual duties (e.g., real-time crime centers, drone response, crisis negotiation) beyond clerical tasks.
- **First Responder Network Authority:** The First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act was unanimously advanced by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- **Federal Webinar:** A “Fireside Chat” webinar on federal government topics with Nicole McGinness was held on May 13th.

911 Program Office: Patrick Brandt

- **FCC Report Survey:** A reminder was issued to complete the FCC report survey by May 15, 2026. As of the meeting, only 97 out of over 200 PSAPs in Ohio had completed it.
- **Next Gen 911 Status:** 19 and two-thirds counties are live on Next Gen 911. Adams County is expected to go live on May 14, 2026.
- **GIS Updates:** GIS training is being hosted with Seneca and Summit Counties to support readiness. OGRIP is assisting 10 counties with Emergency Service Boundaries (ESBs), and Comtech/DataMark is assisting 14 others.
- **JCAR Rules (OAC 5507):** The rules went through two hearings with no objections and are expected to be effective in June 2026. A rule defining “PSAP” will be refiled for review in July 2026 to align with the Ohio Revised Code.
- **QA Rule:** A new Quality Assurance rule will require QA on 2% of calls that receive pre-arrival instructions.



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Funding, Contracts, and Compliance

- **Funding:** Over \$29 million has been distributed year-to-date from GAF funds, a \$12.3 million increase over the same period in 2025. The lowest amount a county received was over \$43,800.
- **Contracts:** NGA 911 and Carbine have been approved for the state cooperative purchasing contract. Other vendors are in the approval process.
- **Compliance:** From January to May 2026, compliance plans were sent to 43 counties; 38 have responded and 33 are complete. All statewide financial reports for March 2026 have been received.

MARCS and PUCO Updates

- **MARCS:** Lorain County is expected to be online by mid-June. Phase two of the MARCS portal is complete, allowing users to view bills online.
- **PUCO:** Marianne Townsend, a key contact at the PUCO for 911 issues, retired on May 13, 2026. Her replacement has not been announced.

Training Announcements and Updates

- **APCO International:** Training courses in Daytona in June include General Communications Technician, Line and Antenna Sweep, and Radio Frequency Interference Mitigation.
- **TERT:** A training for the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce team led by Steph Cohn is scheduled for June.

Chapter and Member Updates

- **Commercial Partners:** The Ohio APCO and NENA websites are being updated to recognize commercial sponsors like Allerium, Critical Response Group, and RapidSOS. The state conference will feature an intimate setting for partner engagement, including private presentation rooms and an exclusive leadership event.
- **Compassionate Care:** Two cards were sent out last quarter, and support totes are staged and ready.
- **Incident in Wayne County:** On May 12, 2026, the Wayne County Sheriff and a sergeant were stabbed. Both were treated and released the same day. The incident prompted a large, multi-county response.