Iowa Chapter of APCO 2019 Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 16th, 2019 12:30 - 1:30 PM
Holiday Inn Hotel 4800 Merle Hay Road Des Moines IA 50322


The 2019 Fall business meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM by Angie Dobyns, Pottawattamie County Communications. Jason Hoffman, Carroll Communications Center made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Doug McCasland, Warren County seconded the motion and the agenda was approved without opposition. Next Jason Hoffman, Carroll Communications Center made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from the 2019 Spring business meeting dated April 2nd, 2019. Bobbie Wells, Sac County 911 seconded the motion and the previous meeting minutes were also approved without opposition.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer’s report. Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM and Iowa APCO Treasurer presented this report. For the period of April – September 2019 the beginning operating fund balance was $40,086.02. The beginning Perkins scholarship balance was $12,466.83. There is also still $500.14 left in a Region 15 700 MHz account. The total of those beginning balances was $53,052.99. The total income during that period was $54,992.78 and the expenses were $49,239.16. The final balance(s) for the Operating fund was $45,911.74, the Perkins scholarship was $12,532.02 and the $500.14 remained the same in the 700 MHz account. This total ending balance was $58,943.90. President Angie Dobyns also reported that Mike Becker, SECC will become the new Treasurer and that Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM would be moving to the At-Large position. Jennifer Riesberg-Timmer, Black Hawk Consolidated Communications made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Her motion was seconded by Mike Kasper, Linn County SO. The financial report was approved unanimously.

The Executive Council report was next on the agenda. Eric Dau, Clinton County Communications was absent but President Dobyns did have a report he had emailed her. See his report below:

I would like to thank the Chapter for allowing me to represent our state on the APCO Executive Council. This year’s meeting was very interesting. The major topic of discussion was joint chapters of APCO and NENA. In Iowa even though we do many things together, we are not a joint chapter because we have independent boards and have independent financial accounts. There was a proposal to ban the addition of any further, joint chapters and to grandfather any existing joint chapters to allow those chapters to continue to be joint chapters. This would not bar chapters from hosting joint conferences or training sessions like we do here in our state. Since this issue didn’t directly impact us, I went in with an open mind however, I did have some questions and concerns as to why this had become an issue and wanted to be assured that this was not the first step in prohibiting chapters from working together to have joint conferences which would impact our state. Ultimately the issue was referred to a working group that will be established by the Executive Committee of National APCO for further consideration and a later vote by the Executive Council.

Another issue that was discussed at length was a proposed policy amendment that would allow the Executive Council to consider cancellation of a charter of a chapter for failing to demonstrate that it supports the mission, purpose or policies of the Association. This is a very slippery slope and, in my opinion, relates to the issue of APCO wanting its members to only be members of APCO and not NENA. There is some
protection in place since the cancellation would have to be approved by the Executive Council, but this is very concerning to me. I ultimately voted no on this issue however, the amendment did pass.

At the end of the meeting, the Colorado Representative read a letter from her Chapter into the record voicing the Chapter's concerns that APCO is building barriers between NENA, other stakeholders, and its own chapters. This resulted in the Executive Council being called back into session two days later, for the Executive Committee to read a response into the record. During that meeting, I along with several other Representatives voiced agreement and support with the comments, made by the Colorado Chapter.

In informally with some of the people on the Executive Committee and with some of the other Executive Council Representatives the stance of National APCO is that this is a business and they have taken these positions regarding the interaction with NENA for no other reason than to protect APCO's business interests.

Jason Kern from IL who was one of the North Central Regional Board of Director’s Members was elected as the Second Vice-President of APCO. As a result of this we have had to hold an election within our region to replace him. Michael O’Conner from IL has been selected as his replacement.

Activities & Membership – Mark Murphy, Dubuque County Communications reported that we currently have 363 members.

Historical – Amanda Roush, Story County 911 is taking pictures at conferences and helping to document activities. Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM mentioned having some older historical things that Eric Nevins gave her. It was discussed that the Iowa APCO Charter is at ILEA and we might have it present in the Spring to look at.

Training – Mike Becker, SECC and Angela Dobyns, Pottawattamie County are on the committee. They have a list of potential speakers and there may be a post conference course in conjunction with the Spring Conference.

Telecommunicator of the Year – Teresa Todd, Washington County was absent. Everyone was urged to submit stories and nominations for Telecommunicator of the Year, Team Telecommunicator of the Year, and Milestone awards. You need to be an APCO member for a Milestone award but not for the Single or Team Telecommunicator of the Year awards. We will get the new forms out as soon as possible.

Telecommunicator Training Board – Mike Becker, SECC has expressed an interest.

Iowa E911 Council – Cara Sorrells, Washington County Communications reported that the shared services program is ongoing, and they have 7 PSAPs on board so far. This can be for Zetron CPE equipment, Zetron mapping, the Eventide recorder, Zetron CAD and either Power Phone or Priority Dispatch EMD. You can sign up for different components. The Peer Assessment was also finalized Friday and there were a lot of positives in the program. We may see some changes coming as a result of the Assessment. HF516 added the Sheriff or Police Chief to the 911 Boards so changes may also be necessary to the board membership forms and governing documents.

Blake DeRouchey applied for and was awarded a 2.5 million dollar National 911 grant and that money will be used for the virtual consolidation project. The statewide ALI contract was also signed. The timeline for the network merger is outreach begins the week of October 21st, data collection starts October 24th, training will be in November 2019 – April 2020, account set ups start December 2019 and log in credentials February or March 2020. They hope to complete the project May – July 2020.

The GIS grants are ongoing and the public education funds were touched upon. Coming soon is text to 911 transfers and text location for VIPERs. The 911 expenditure collection forms will be due January 1st,
2020. Blake is now also the legislative liaison as John Benson has been moved to the head of the department. Allison Bright will begin November 18th, 2019 as the new Program Planner.

The 911 Council meetings have been temporarily moved to the Des Moines Parks and Rec building. You still have the option to attend via phone and they are posted each month on YouTube as well for your viewing.

Legislative – Jason Hoffman, Carroll Communications Center explained the importance of having a fluid dynamic legislative session and how we need to respond quickly. Advocacy Strategies will be having a discussion and update after the committee reports.

Corporate Advisory – Stacey Gross, Geo-Comm was absent.

Frequency Coordination – Jason Study, Pottawattamie County was absent.

Constitution & By-Laws – Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM advised they haven’t been updated since 2006.

Joanne Perkins Scholarship – Mark Murphy, Dubuque County Communications reported he only received two scholarship forms and they were awarded to Michael Wake and Elizabeth Lilly of Fremont County. Marsha Southwick, O’Brien County responded that she had also applied online. President Angie Dobyns accessed the new WIX website and did find that Southwick had applied online and so did Amber Jennings of Montgomery County. The new website is not without hiccups and it was discussed that they really needed to upgrade to a business account package. The cost is $360 per year. Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications made a motion to upgrade. Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. A third scholarship winner would be drawn from a hat. Three scholarships are available each conference and next Spring the Jan Visser scholarship will also be awarded again. All current APCO members are eligible to apply for a scholarship that pays for their conference registration and one night’s lodging.

Steering Committee – Charlie McClintock, Cedar Rapids Police Department was absent.

Next under new business was the discussion and update from Advocacy Strategies. There was a good discussion between Doug McCasland, Warren County and Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications updating Threase on LEA going away, the ISICS consolettes and legacy VHF systems.

Next on the agenda was the update on the joint APCO/NENA website. It is done and still needs some tweaking. The goal for the Spring Conference is for vendors to be able to pay online.

The update and discussion on the Spring 2020 conference was next on the agenda. The dates are April 6th, 2020 for NENA and April 7th, 2020 for APCO. It will be held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona again. They are discussing the potential need for forming a joint conference planning committee.

There is a plan to do a protective class presentation to the IPERS Benefits Advisory Committee in January. Brandon Miller-Guss, Medic EMS and NENA President and APCO President Angie Dobyns are speaking with our lobbyist about it and working on informative audio/visual aids. They will send out more information when it is available.
The final agenda item was concerning the 911 Goes to the Capitol day scheduled for February 5th, 2020 from 2:00 – 4:30 PM. We will be working on emails to send to your local legislators before the date to let them know we are coming and to tell them a story. We want to demonstrate why we should be considered for the protected class status.

Before the meeting was adjourned Mark Murphy, Dubuque County Communications and Cara Sorrells, Washington County Communications drew a name for the third scholarship winner. Both missing names were placed in a drawing and Amber Jennings, Montgomery County was drawn and would be notified.

Doug McCasland, Warren County made a motion to adjourn the meeting; which was seconded by Marilyn Stayner, Worth County. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara L. Sorrells, Iowa APCO Secretary
Washington County Communications