Iowa Chapter of APCO 2021 Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 12th, 2021, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Holiday Inn Downtown/Mercy
1050 6th Ave., Des Moines IA 50314


The 2021 Fall business meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by President Angie Dobyns, Pottawattamie County Communications. A motion was made by Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications to amend the agenda and move the Advocacy Strategies report before the Treasurer’s report. Chris Jasper, Muscom seconded the motion to amend the agenda. With none opposed, Eric Dau, Clinton County Communications made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Darin T. Riney, Westcom seconded the motion, and the amended agenda was approved without opposition. Next Chris Jasper, Muscom made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from the 2021 Spring virtual business meeting dated June 29th, 2021. Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications seconded the motion and the previous meeting minutes were also approved without opposition.

Next under new business was the discussion and update from Advocacy Strategies. Nick Laning presented the update (see attached). Nick can be reached at nick@advocacyiowa.com or 515.985.9054.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer’s report. Eric Nevins, Lifetime member (retired) presented his report. The general fund for the period of 01/01/21 – 10/07/21 had an ending balance of $34,144.67. The conference fund for the same period had an ending balance of $3,382.34 with a reimbursement for $9,080 for speaker fees. The Joanne Perkins scholarship fund has a balance of $12,689.04. There is still about $500 in an account for the 700MHz regional planning committee that will have to be addressed at some point. He is also researching software for non-profits, something with online access that can be viewed and edited. Chris Jasper, Muscom made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report presented by Nevins. Darin T. Riney, Westcom seconded the motion, and the report was accepted unanimously.

The Executive Council report was next on the agenda. Eric Dau, Clinton County Communications reported it was a short meeting. They discussed a comprehensive care committee and if it should be on a National or State level. It would most likely be on a State level with guidance from National. The Derecho is an example of where it is necessary. Part of the meeting involved venting about keeping officers and how Chapters need new people. They discussed how to show the benefits of participating and possible minimum term limits for the Executive Council. Persons who only are on for one year are not vested and do not understand everything that is happening. Joe McCarville, Cedar Rapids Joint Communications recognized that Dau has been doing this for 6-7 years now and thanked him for his service and participation.
Activities & Membership – Mark Murphy, Dubuque County Communications was absent.

Historical – Amanda Pyle, Story County 911 had no report.

Training – Angela Dobyns, Pottawattamie County asked that if anyone has any information on possible speakers or training, please forward it and she will add it to her spreadsheet.

Telecommunicator of the Year – Teresa Todd, Washington County was absent. Everyone is 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. There will need to be extra time for awards as we will have two years’ worth of awards to present at that time.

Telecommunicator Training Board – Chris Jasper, Muscom reported that Anna Voss has been hired at ILEA but there has been no meeting.

Iowa E911 Council – Cara Sorrells, Washington County Communications reported that the annual PSAP forms are due, and they have released the cost recovery study. The end of year pass through amount is $25,553.33 per PSAP. They are also offering language translation services under a state contract for those PSAPs who do not have anything in place. There are still seven counties who are still not fully migrated, and they continue to work through those issues. The training funds are also still available for agencies planning training, either in person or virtually. They are covering the costs of speakers for both the APCO and NENA days at the Fall Conference.

The shared services contact with Zetron is set to expire next summer. They are interested in continuing the shared services program, but it is too early to know about the procurement or vendor selection or any of that process at this point. The timeline to transition to ten-digit dialing was discussed. Lastly, they will be working with CISA on a CAD-to-CAD interoperability study.

Legislative – Jason Hoffman, Carroll Communications Center had no report.

Corporate Advisory – Stacey Gross, Geo-Comm discussed preparation for the upcoming Spring vendor conference. He advised the last in person conference had 32 vendors. Wisconsin held an in-person conference in April and Nebraska’s is next week. Things are getting back to normal. He would like to see 28 vendors in the Spring, and we will have gold and silver sponsorship opportunities.

Frequency Coordination – Jason Study, Pottawattamie County reported on the 6 GHz band. It has been historically reserved for licensed users “that support a variety of critical services provided by utilities, commercial and private entities, and public safety entities.” Some of these licensees transmit signals through a “fixed-microwave system” which supports emergency 911 dispatch and other public safety operations. The FCC is encouraging a larger and more effective use of the spectrum, which opens it up to unlicensed radio frequency transmitters. These devices include routers and the smart phones, laptops, and tablets they support. However, they must refrain from creating harmful interference. This has taken on new importance in recent years with a boom in unlicensed devices using Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology like home smart devices (Alexa). APCO and NENA fought this and lost. Study advised that 4.9 GHz is next and APCO is suing the FCC to have public safety take that over with no commercial boxes.
They are making some progress and there is a hearing pending with a judge to save some of the frequencies for public safety.

Constitution & By-Laws – Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM advised she had no report. The by-laws need to be updated and adhered to. She would like to get a committee together to discuss changes and bring them to the Spring Conference. We need to get them on the website.

Joanne Perkins Scholarship – Mark Murphy, Dubuque County Communications was absent. The scholarship winners will be announced after lunch and the business meeting.

The update and discussion on the Spring 2022 conference was next on the agenda. The dates are April 4th, 2022, for NENA and April 5th, 2022, for APCO. It will be held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona again. They have a great speaker lined up and the vendor show will be back in person.

Jason Hoffman, Carroll County Communications made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Darin T. Riney, Westcom. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara L. Sorrells, Iowa APCO Secretary
Washington County Communications