



Florida APCO General Meeting

St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel

Tuesday May 2, 2022 10:15 a.m.

Thursday May 5, 2022 3:45 p.m.

Roll Call: Vonda, Kathy, James, Brandie, Jenifer, Michael and Jacqi were present. Jenny and Ivorie were absent for the first Business Meeting. Jenny was present for the meeting on May 5th and Ivorie was able to attend virtually.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2022, meeting. Ricky made a motion to accept the minutes, Kathy seconded the motion, and all agreed. The minutes for the April meeting are approved.

Board Reports:

- Treasury Report: *Brandie Ball* reported on the chapter account balances. The Chapter Account has a balance of \$113,197.98. The Conference Account has a balance of \$25,401.16 and the Credit Card has a balance of \$1,150.24. She reported that there are still charges being distributed for the conference but thinks that we should balance favorably.
- Secretary Report: *Jacqi Yeager*. Current membership is 3,249. The Chapter has/is sponsoring three members for the RPL program scholarship. Brandie Ball has completed her course. Trae Maeder is in the last course of his program and Rachelle Paulina is in the first session of her program.

Committee Reports:

- Training: *James Oehmke* gave report for *Judith*. On-Star advised their trainings are offered on-line and recommended using their website to access training for members. The attendance at these committee meetings has been low (between 3 and 6 per meeting). The committee managed the Call for Papers for the St. Pete conference and were able to fill out a strong agenda for the attendees.
- TERT: *Ivorie Barnes* attended virtually. Natalie Duran was present and reported that TERT trainings have been offered throughout the state with the one conducted as the Pre-Conference class in St. Petersburg. There is only one area that still needs to get trained, the South East region of Florida. There were two deployments this year; a 7-day deployment to Alabama and a 14-day deployment to LA. Florida TERT is receiving a Portal from Texas to help manage deployments and volunteer rosters.
- Public Affairs/Social Media/Newsletter: *Michael Speigle*. The website had 13,593 social views and 12,960 site visits. The Chapter has 353 Instagram Followers (reduction of 36). Facebook had 3,090 likes (increase of 24) and 3,273 followers (increase of 51) We revised our website this year.
- Conference Planning: Jennifer Finigan. The conference numbers were 96 Full Attendees and we sold out the Vendor Hall. There was a total of 204 in attendance. The event appears to be a great success. With minimal issues reported. Jennifer thanked everyone for their hard work in making this event the success it was.
- Membership Committee. Trae Maeder reported on the newly formed Membership committee. He has ten members on the committee who serve as the "Welcome Wagon" for new members. They provide information on the Florida Chapter as well as APCO International and PS Connect. They send Welcome Letters to all new members. They use a Regional Ambassador (modeled from the TERT Regions) and this has been working well. Their goal is to increase member engagement.

Executive Council: *Ricky Rowell* reported that the next executive council meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022. He will have more to report following that meeting. He plans on bringing an item to that meeting on behalf of the Chapter. Specifically, what can International do to assist the profession with our current staffing shortages and turnover rates.

Vendor Representative: *Jenny Mason* reported that the Vendors provided positive feedback about the conference

General Discussion:

- **Update on Legislative Actions by Richard Pinsky**

Richard Pinsky provided the history of our road to certification and our current issues. The first focus was to include PSTs in the Special Risk classification. This would have allowed PSTs to retire with 25 years of service. These initiatives were not successful and in recent years have shifted to having PSTs recognized as First Responders. His message was clear that we need to get organized to ensure state-wide representation at any given moment. You really don't know who the head of a committee will be so we need people on point in all areas of the state. He recommended using the five regions of (Panhandle, North East, Central, South East and South West). Richard provides the talking points and information needed for members to educate their local representatives about our profession. He stressed our single largest issue is retention.

- **Proposed updates to the Chapter By Laws**

Vonda advised about the proposed By Laws changes, recommended by a member. She read them aloud and advised they would be posted and potentially voted on at the upcoming International Conference in August of 2022. Nancy Dzoba recommended that we proceed with this in a way that more of the membership can participate. This topic was tabled to allow for more options than finalizing this at International in California.

Nancy Dzoba raised a concern that the membership will not be well represented because the conference is so far away (California) and suggested an electronic voting process. Vonda advised we will shelf this topic so research can be done on how best to make the updates and ensure the majority of the membership can be involved in the process.

Vonda advised that we will do a virtual chapter meeting at International so that all members can be involved and vote for any Bylaws changes at the International meeting in Anaheim.

- **Introductions of candidates for Florida board member positions Vonda asked for any nominations from the floor there were none. She then allowed each candidate to address the membership. Voting closes at 1700 hours on Weds 5/4/2022.**

- Jennifer Finigan running for President-Elect
- James Oehmke running for Secretary
- Ivorie Barnes represented by Kathy Lariano running for Board Member at Large
- Art Kirby running for Board Member at Large
- Trae Maeder running for Board Member at Large
- Michael Speigle running for Board Member at Large

- **Introduction of Stephen Martini, candidate for APCO International 2nd VP**

- Stephen Martini addressed the membership about his background and philosophy.

James made a motion to endorse Stephen Martini as Second Vice President of APCO International Ricky seconded the motion and all agreed. The motion passed, and the Chapter will officially endorse Stephen Martini.

Report from Nominating Committee and Election Results. James reported as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. He introduced the other committee members, Jacqi Yeager and Debbie Gailbreath. He confirmed that all nominees were vetted to be Full members in good standing with the required agency approval paperwork on file. The committee received a total of 158 votes of which 81 were disqualified due to voting ineligibility. The most common issue was members in the on-line category attempting to cast a vote. Only Full members are eligible to vote in elections. Debbie Gailbreath thanked Jacqi for her work regarding the election and recommended that future electronic votes incorporate a means to verify membership prior to casting a vote. The By-Laws involving voting should be reviewed and updated as need to accommodate an electronic process.

Once the ineligible votes were discounted the following board was confirmed for 2022-2023:

President: Kathy Lariano
President Elect: Jenifer Finigan
Treasurer: Brandie Ball
Secretary: James Oehmke
Board Member at Large: Ivorie Barnes
Board Member at Large: Arthur Kirby
Board Member at Large: Trae Maeder

Following the discussion of the voting process Ricky made a motion to destroy the ballots and voting records. Vonda seconded the motion and all were in agreement. The outgoing Secretary will destroy all the ballots and associated documents.

The meeting started at 1015 on May 2, 2022. At 1104 Ricky made a motion to suspend the meeting Michael seconded and all agreed. This meeting was reconvened and called back to order at 1545 hours on May 5, 2022. The second meeting ended at 1604 hours after a motion from Michael and a second by Kathy. All agreed, and the meeting ended.