



North Carolina APCO Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 | 09:00am

Call to Order

Chad Deese

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of 2025-2026 Corporate Partners (Motorola, AT&T, Carolina Recording Systems, Horizon Consoles and Priority Dispatch)

Introduction of Board Members

Chad Deese <i>President</i>	P	Melanie Jones <i>NC 911 Board Representative</i>	P	Jackie Ezell <i>Region C Ambassador</i>	P
Samantha Dutch <i>1st Vice President</i>	P	Jeryl Anderson <i>Executive Council</i>	P	Kyle Thaggard <i>Region D Ambassador</i>	P
Jacob Butcher <i>2nd Vice President</i>	P	Grayson Gusa <i>Chapter Historian / PIO</i>	P	Samantha Peaks <i>Region E Ambassador</i>	P
Shante Lipscomb <i>Immediate Past President</i>	P	Josh Benfield <i>Compassionate Care/CORE</i>	P	Max Dula <i>Region F Ambassador</i>	P
T'airra Whitis <i>Treasurer</i>	E	Ruth Barefoot <i>Region A Ambassador</i>	P	Ashlee Russell <i>Commercial Advisor Member</i>	P
Christine Moore <i>Secretary</i>	P	Morrissa Moyer <i>Region B Ambassador</i>	P		

Special Welcome & Recognition

We would now like to give special recognition. Please stand when your category is called:

Past North Carolina APCO Chapter Presidents

North Carolina APCO Chapter Life Members

APCO International Senior Members

APCO International Life Members

Registered Public-Safety Leaders (RPLs)

Certified Public-Safety Executives (CPEs)

Additional Corporate Partners



First Time Attendees

Approval of March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Cassie Sexton

Second: Morrissa Moyer

Chapter Reports

**Regional Ambassador Reports provided by NC NENA.*

Compassionate Care Committee/Totes of Love/Core Committee Report

Josh Benfield

- *Reminder to please email Josh with any requests for cards, or if a tote needs to be deployed.*

Executive Council Report/Training Report

Jeryl Anderson

- *Training Report*
 - *Upcoming Training Opportunities: if you wish to host a class or would like to see a certain topic offered in a classroom format or online platform, please contact Jeryl Anderson via email.*
 - *NC APCO is excited to invite you to be a part of our Regional Training Initiative, which was launched in 2025 with a simple, but powerful, mission: bring FREE, high-quality training directly to North Carolina Telecommunicators and, through our virtual offerings, to public safety professionals around the globe.*

If your agency is interested in hosting, or if you have any questions, please email Samantha Dutch at Samantha.dutch@ncapco.org.

We are now actively scheduling the next wave of training opportunities, and we want to hear from you.

This initiative only succeeds because of the incredible people in our industry who are willing to share their knowledge and open their doors. We hope you will join us in continuing to grow and strengthen North Carolina's public safety communications workforce.

- *Guilford Metro 9-1-1 will be the host site for the following courses:*
 - *APCO CTO Course – June 24-26, 2026 – registration information will be sent out soon.*



- *APCO Supervisor Course – August 19-21, 2026 – registration information will be sent out soon.*
- *NC APCO Chapter Telecommunicator ‘N Sanity Retreat – September 9, 2026 from 0900-1700 – registration information will be sent out soon.*

- *Save the date for the 2026 Telecommunicator Training Symposium, hosted at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, November 9-11, 2026. The call for papers will be out soon, as well as sponsorship opportunities for our commercial partners.*

- *Friendly Reminders*
 - *Effective July 1, 2022, ALL Telecommunicators are required to have 40hrs of Telecommunicator training. As a reminder, if you work for a municipal police department or your communications center is run by a Sheriff, your agency is required to have your communications staff go through the Telecommunicator Certification Course. All other agencies can choose to do the same course, or another 40hr Telecommunicator training course.*

 - *Today is May 6, 2026, you have seven (7) months and 25 days to finish your 2026 Telecommunicator In-Service Training. If you do the training in-hours, the training lesson plans, PowerPoints and handouts are now available through the NC Justice Academy website at no charge.*
 - *It is required for those TCs that work under the direction of a Sheriff, or municipal police department, to become Telecommunicator certified through the Sheriff’s Standards NC Telecommunicator Certification Course.*
 - *It is required for all staff hired on, or before, June 30th of the given year.*
 - *If you do not do the classes in-house, you can get it online from Richmond Community College, Alamance Community College (be sure to mention mandatory check-in assignment and not getting a certificate from both) or the NC Justice Academy.*
 - *Instructors remember you must successfully test out of a class to teach it. These tests can now be taken on-line through the NC Justice Academy’s training portal. Also, if you are an instructor, do not forget to go to the NC Justice Academy’s Acadis training portal and do your annual Instructor Update class, this is how you will keep your General Instructor Certification. Emails for this, with the link, came out January 1, 2026.*
 - *If you need to renew your General Instructor Certification, be sure to send in the required documents within the month that you expire. If you fail to complete this process your certification will lapse.*
 - *Instructors are responsible for maintaining their own certifications and documents and providing school directors with those certificates, if*



required, along with your assigned Acadis Instructor Number, which can be found on your dashboard in the NC Justice Academy’s Acadis training portal.

- *Sheriff Standards will only send instructor certificates to the instructors themselves. Reminder emails do get sent out to keep you on task*

- Executive Council Report

- *Government Relations – In March on Capitol Hill, the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously voted to advance the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7386) to the full House of Representatives. The legislation would extend the nationwide public safety broadband network beyond its 2027 sunset. APCO looks forward to continuing to work with congressional leadership as the bill moves through Congress.*
- *APCO continues to advocate for the correct classification and proper recognition of our country’s 9-1-1 professionals in OMB’s Standard Occupational Classification. Public safety telecommunicators are performing lifesaving work and deserve recognition as “Protective Service Occupations.” The 9-1-1 Saves Act (H.R. 637), introduced by Reps. Norma Torres (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), would address this issue. Momentum continues to build for the 9-1-1 Saves Act, with seven (7) new co-sponsors added since March 1, 2026.*

- *Events and Corporate Outreach*

- *APCO 2026*

- *As of 3/31/2026, there are 186 exhibitors and 25 sponsors.*
 - *Browse the APCO 2026 website for more information, including sessions, ECC tours, travel and more!*

- *Membership*

Member Type	4/1/2025	4/1/2026
Total Member Numbers	38,349	41,009
Group Member Agencies	1,668	1,668
Commercial Group	41	42

- *APCO Institute*

- *Supervisor Track Added to APCO Illuminations*

- *Registration opened this month for a new track to the APCO Illuminations CDE Program. The Supervisor Illuminations track features topics for managers and supervisors at ECCs, as well as those aspiring to these roles.*

- *Updates in Standards in March, two standards underwent public review and comment:*

- *APCO Candidate ANS 1.123.1-202X Minimum Technical Requirements for Remote Support to Emergency Communication Center (ECC) Operations was under public review and comment until April 13, 2026.*



- *APCO Candidate ANS 3.101.4-202X Core Competencies and Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety Communications Training Officer (CTO) standard was under public review and comment until April 20, 2026.*
- *Additionally, two draft standards have been submitted to ANSI for public review and comment:*
 - *Emergency Communications Common Disposition Codes for Data Exchange*
 - *Core Competencies and Minimum Training Standards for Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Supervisor*

Historian Report

Grayson Gusa

- *We have two members who are currently under consideration for Life Membership with APCO International. Both would be voted on at the annual conference in San Antonio.*
- *We are currently working on a redesign of the chapter website on a new platform and hope to have it ready to go and released within the next 4-5 weeks.*
- *Grayson Gusa made a motion to nominate Melanie Jones for Life Membership within NC APCO. Second came from Christine Moore. Quorum of membership was met, and this motion was unanimously approved.*

North Carolina 9-1-1 Board Report and Update

Melanie Jones

NENA Representative reported out.

Treasurer's Report

Chad Deese

Checking account \$11,590.63

Business Savings Account \$122,521.10

Old Business

Regional Training Initiative Update

Samantha Dutch

- *Over the course of the past year, NC APCO has held 10 training courses, reaching over 500 telecommunicators across North Carolina and beyond, and sent over 400 certificates for training.*
- *The second round of proposals has just opened up, and scheduling will begin in the coming weeks.*
- *Samantha Peaks will be taking over this initiative as Samantha Dutch transitions into her new role as NC APCO President.*

2026 NC APCO Chapter Elections Report

Shante Lipscomb



- *The North Carolina APCO Chapter Officer voting ended Saturday, April 18th at 12:05am. I am happy to say that we had a turnout of 151 voters, or 21% of our voting membership. Based on your votes:*
 - *Second Vice President will be Kyle Thaggard who ran unopposed with 100% of membership votes.*
 - *Treasurer will be Jackie Ezzell with 58% of membership votes.*
 - *Executive Council Representative will be Grayson Gusa with 63% of membership votes.*
 - *Region A Ambassador will be Ruth Barefoot who ran unopposed with 100% of membership votes.*
 - *Region C Ambassador will be Hope Downs with 65% of membership votes.*
 - *Region E Ambassador will remain Samantha Peaks who ran unopposed with 100% of membership votes.*

Legislative Update/9-1-1 Goes to Raleigh

Jacob Butcher

- *9-1-1 Goes to Raleigh*
 - *Congressional breakfast to kick-off the event on June 2nd at 0730.*
 - *Lodging the night before will be on your own/agency funded.*
 - *First meetings will begin at 0900. Over 100 law makers have been contacted as of today. We have confirmed 40 meetings, with more coming every day.*
 - *Messaging is to lay the foundation of “Who we are” – this includes what we have to offer in the form of education and information from the front lines.*
 - *SB831 – Introduced by Senator Grafstein 4/27/2026*
 - *“25-year Retirement for First Responders”*
 - *This includes emergency medical, fire and police dispatchers.*
 - *APCO/NENA leadership have a call scheduled today at 1300 hours to discuss this bill at length with Sen. Grafstein with a goal of bringing additional information to our organization membership with the intent to advocate for this legislation during 9-1-1 Goes to Raleigh.*
 - *Will conclude with a hotwash at Chavis Park in Raleigh prior to dismissing.*
- *Legislation*
 - *Bills that we are monitoring*
 - *HB463 – Additional Insurance for First Responders Diagnosed with Mental Health Illness*
 - *HB675 – Certification Requirements – pertaining to EMDs*
 - *HB695 – VIPER Funding*
 - *SB1050 – OSFM Emergency Support Function Changes*
 - *Changes several functions from firefighters to Emergency Management*
 - *Moves this to OSFM Management*

NC APCO Interfaith Critical Incident Support Network/Scholarship Committee

Morrissa Moyer



- *Scholarship recipients have been selected:*
 - *Connie Gartin, North Carolina State Highway Patrol (Ret.)*
 - *Melissa Copeland, Pasquotank-Camden Central Communications*
 - *Amanda Gardiner, High Point 9-1-1*
 - *Courtney Owens, Davidson County Emergency Communications*
 - *Jennifer Rose, North Carolina State Highway Patrol*
 - *Jeryl Anderson, Orange County (Ret.) – will be going through the program so she can co-chair this initiative.*

New Business

Chad Deese

Life Membership Nomination

Grayson Gusa

- *Grayson Gusa made a motion to nominate Melanie Jones for Life Membership in North Carolina APCO.*
- *Christine Moore seconded the motion.*
- *Melanie Jones was asked to leave the room for voting.*
- *Quorum of membership was met, and this motion was unanimously approved.*
- *Melanie Jones was asked to return to the room for her official welcome as our newest Life Member.*

Swearing in of New Chapter Officers

Jack Varnado, President APCO International

- *1st Vice President Jacob Butcher, 2nd Vice President Kyle Thaggard, Treasurer Jackie Ezzell, Executive Council Grayson Gusa, Region A Ambassador Ruth Barefoot, Region C Ambassador Hope Downs and Region E Ambassador Samantha Peaks were sworn into their respective positions.*

Next Chapter Meeting – *We look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting which will be held Friday, July 17, 2026 in Durham.*

Adjournment

Motion to approve: Cassie Sexton

Second: Herman Weiss