



Leaders in Public Safety Communications

2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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2nd Vice President

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Immediate Past President

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CHAPTER LEADERS

Morrissa Ahl-Walters
Regional Ambassador

Jeryl Anderson, CPE
Educational Advisor

Chad Deese
Regional Ambassador

Samantha Dutch
Regional Ambassador

Travis Essic
Public Information Officer

Shante Griffin
Regional Ambassador

Janet King
Compassionate Care Coordinator

Melanie Neal, RPL
NC 911 Board Representative

Randy Surratt
Historian

To: North Carolina APCO Members and Friends

From: Grayson Gusa
Chapter President

Date: March 13, 2022

Ref: Updates from March 2022 Chapter Meeting

On behalf of the Board of North Carolina APCO we thank everyone who took the time out of their schedule to join us for our March 2022 Chapter Meeting this past Friday. Since we were unable to provide a virtual option for the in-person meeting, I am writing this to share several updates with our membership about the continued work and advancement of YOUR Chapter of North Carolina APCO.

Before getting into the specific details, I would be remiss to not thank RapidSOS for their sponsorship of the lunch and to Dominick Nutter, the Raleigh-Wake 911 Staff and the City of Raleigh for hosting our joint NC APCO & NC NENA Meetings.

2022 Annual Conference Update

We are all excited to be returning to our first in-person annual conference since September 2019! This year's **NC Public Safety Communications Conference** is scheduled for **May 1-4, 2022**, at the Wilmington Convention Center in Wilmington, NC.

Early Bird Registration is open through March 17, 2022, so **register online on or before St Patrick's Day, and save \$25 off of a Full Conference Registration**. To register online, view the schedule of events, and learn more information visit www.nc911conference.com.

Training Updates

North Carolina APCO will host the following courses:

- March 25-27, 2022 – APCO Communications Training Officer (CTO) hosted by Onslow County 911
- April 8-10, 2022 – APCO Communications Training Officer (CTO) hosted by Wake Forest Police Department

Registration for both classes is now open.

We are also excited to announce the **2022 Telecommunicator Training Symposium** will take place **October 3-5, 2022**, at the Embassy Suites in

Greensboro, NC. Call for presentations will open in May.

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Treasurer Lori Laughlin shared an update on the finances of North Carolina APCO, sharing that our total assets are currently \$63,746.42.

North Carolina 911 Board Update

Melanie Neal, the NC APCO Representative to the NC 911 Board, shared that the next Board Meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 25, 2022, and will be conducted fully virtual. Following that, the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2022, and will be conducted in Goldsboro, NC.

Chapter Elections / Nominations Update

I am excited to share that we have several well qualified candidates running for Second Vice President, Executive Council Representative, and two Regional Ambassador positions. The candidates are as follows:

Second Vice President

Morrissa Ahl-Walters

Josh Benfield

Samantha Dutch

Shante Griffin

Executive Council Representative

Jeryl Anderson

Brigett Cerce

Frank Thomason

Regional Ambassador – Region A

Anna Johnson

Regional Ambassador – Region C

Chad Deese

I invite you to visit www.ncapco.org/2022-chapter-elections to meet all of the candidates.

Elections will open on March 14, 2022 and be open through April 15, 2022. North Carolina APCO Bylaws allow only Full Members of the Association to vote in elections. Electronic ballots will be sent out on March 14 to all eligible voters to your current email address on file with APCO International.

If you do not receive an electronic ballot by Wednesday, March 16, please first check your spam or junk folders, and if you still have not received anything please let us know by sending an email to nominations@ncapco.org.

President's Report

I also shared the following updates as part of my President's Report:

- As of May 10, 2022, North Carolina APCO was **1,499 members strong**. A challenge was made during the meeting that our 1,500th member would receive a free registration to the 2022 NC APCO Telecommunicator Training Symposium. Shortly after the meeting we were notified that Rebecca Zamangi-Mander from the Mecklenburg EMS Agency became the 1,500th North Carolina APCO Member for 2022!
- The annual **APCO International Committee sign-up** period is now open. There are multiple committees that serve for APCO International and anyone who is interested in serving in the upcoming committee year (starting July 1, 2022) must sign up before April 1, 2022, to be considered. Visit www.apcointl.org/community/committees/ to learn more about the committees or to sign up today.
- APCO International will be hosting the **APCO 2022 Annual Conference and Exposition**, August 7-11, 2022, in Anaheim, California. Flash Registration Day for that event is April 4, 2022, where all members can save an additional \$100 off conference registration.
- This upcoming week, I will be representing North Carolina APCO at NENA's annual **911 Goes to Washington** event. North Carolina APCO Board Members Chad Deese, Samantha Dutch, and Melanie Neal will also be attending and representing their respective agencies.
- Greg Dotson, who had been serving as our Regional Ambassador for Region F, for over five years recently took a job with the North Carolina 911 Board that required him to relocate to Raleigh. As part of this, he has stepped down from his role on the NC APCO Board. We are currently working with a well-qualified candidate for the position and look forward to announcing his replacement during our May 2022 Chapter Meeting.
- **Nominations for Chapter Awards are now open and being accepted through March 25, 2022.** This year to ensure we have an objective reviewer of our nominees, I have entered into an agreement with the Georgia APCO President Jonathan Jones, where the Georgia APCO Executive Board will serve as our Awards Review Committee and provide us recommendations on winners for each of the categories. In return, the North Carolina APCO Executive Board will also provide the same assistance to Georgia APCO in the spring of 2023 for their annual awards. Because of this, I reminded everyone submitting a nomination to ensure that they were very detailed since the reviewers would likely not be familiar with the agency or incident for which someone may be nominated. The following awards are now open for nominations:
 - Telecommunicator of the Year
 - Communications Trainer of the Year
 - Communications Team of the Year
 - Communications Support Personnel of the Year
 - Communications Supervisor of the Year
 - Communications Director of the Year
 - Radio Technologist of the Year
 - Information Technologist of the Year
 - Commercial Member of the Year

To learn more about the awards, or to submit a nomination, visit www.ncapco.org/awards. **The deadline for all nominations is March 25, 2022;** and the winners will be recognized during the Closing Banquet of

the 2022 NC Public Safety Communications Conference in May.

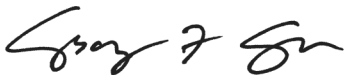
- During our last meeting, the Executive Board has voted to recommend and nominate the following two individuals as **Life Members of North Carolina APCO**:
 - **Ray Gilleland**, from the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, who has been a member since September 2004.
 - **Janet King**, of Randolph County Emergency Services, who has been a member since August 2007.

Both individuals have been tremendous advocates and dedicated members of North Carolina APCO. A full vote of the membership quorum to confirm these nominations will be conducted during the next Chapter Meeting that will be conducted during the 2022 NC Public Safety Communications Conference.

Again, on behalf of the Board of North Carolina APCO we thank everyone who joined us in-person, and hope that this will provide those who were unable to be with us with a brief overview of some of the important topics discussed during our Chapter Meeting.

As a reminder, the next North Carolina APCO Chapter Meeting will be May 4, 2022, as part of the NC Public Safety Communications Conference. Finally, to simply conclude, I remind you... **VOTE** in the NC APCO Chapter Elections, **REGISTER** to attend the 2022 NC Public Safety Communications Conference, and **NOMINATE** those who have provided exemplary service over the last year for 2022 Chapter Awards!

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact me or any member of our Chapter Board. Thank you all for your continued support of your NC APCO Chapter!



Grayson Gusa, RPL
Chapter President
North Carolina APCO
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