

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Call to Order – Rob Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. President Robinson welcomed the group to the meeting and introduced and thanked Jim Carr, Chowan County Communications Director, for hosting the meeting.

Jim Carr introduced Sheriff Fred Spruill and said that he was in his last term as sheriff and would be leaving in December. He stated that Sheriff Spruill was a real supporter of APCO/NENA and that they would miss him in Edenton.

Sheriff Spruill welcomed everyone to the Town of Edenton. He said that they were working hard towards building a new 911 Center and a 480' tower within the last six months. He invited everyone to take tours of the 911 Center.

President Robinson again thanked Jim Carr, his staff, and the Sheriff for hosting the meeting in such a beautiful place.

First Time Attendees – One present – Michael Gray from Carolina Recording Systems.

Announcements:

President Robinson announced that the training coordinator for North Carolina – Debra Connors from Mt. Holly – accepted a position with OSSI as a training specialist and he had therefore appointed Jeryl Brown as the training coordinator for North Carolina for the remaining part of the year.

President Robinson said that he had been personally working with the National Chapter to get good quality courses at a low cost. He stated that APCO has good quality courses but they tend to cost too much. He said that the most popular course, the CTO class, runs over \$400 per student. He spent two hours on a conference call with National APCO and told them that they are losing customers in North Carolina due to the cost; \$400 x 20 students, even with North Carolina APCO covering half the cost is still too expensive. He said that the travel costs of running the courses was a big factor in the cost of the courses, but that North Carolina has fantastic instructors that could teach the classes. He said that one thing to consider was how to do the classes as a CTO class can only be taught in-house through train the trainer, but the instructor couldn't do a regional class. President Robinson said that had been changed that the courses could also be taught through a NC Justice general instructor that attends one of six APCO classes that are available and then the instructor can teach regionally. This would mean \$70 for the CTO class as opposed to \$400. He stated that Jeryl Brown would be lining this up this year or early next year and that the APCO Board had put money aside for training and that the guidelines/bylaws allowed ½ cost paid by NC APCO so a regional class could cost as little as \$25-\$30 per student. President Robinson told the group that if anyone wanted to be a regional instructor to contact him or National.

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 2

Bill Hans asked what the potential was for instructors.

President Robinson said that National has to make sure you can be an instructor before NC APCO pays ½ - he said that NC APCO can't stop you from doing your own classes, but teaching regionally. He stated that there was a set block of certain courses that can be taught, but that North Carolina would be the first state in the group allowed to do this and they want to make sure that you are qualified to teach the course before they cover ½ the cost.

Minutes – Donna Wright made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Jim Carr. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report	-	Tiered MMI	\$47,039.06
	-	Custom Bus	\$ 5,910.24
	-	Non-Profit Chkg	\$ 1,176.95
	-	T/C Conf	\$ 4,000.00
	-	Total Assets	\$68,126.25

Committee Reports:

President Rob Robinson reported that he, David Dodd and First Vice President Susan Waddell had been working on the Bylaws Committee coming up with resolutions for modifications to the chapter bylaws to bring them into compliance with National bylaws. He said that some would be changed and they found some missing; for example, there had never been a section for Members at Large, and they had added that section. He also said that they had modified and changed the entire voting process—changing it to a total ballot system that would be mailed out by the nominating committee and that anyone nominated, no matter how many nominations, would be on the ballot. He stated that these changes/modifications would be posted within the next couple of weeks and encouraged the membership to look at them; he said they would be looking for questions or comments and hoped to send the resolutions out by June and that they would be voted on at the September Conference.

Philip Penny asked if the committee had addressed that if you nominate someone do they have to agree to run. He said that in the past when people were nominated and were contacted, they weren't aware that they were nominated and didn't want to serve.

President Robinson said that the nominating committee would verify that nominees could and wanted to run and that they wanted the supervisor/director to agree that the nominee

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 3

can serve due to travel costs of attending meetings, etc., by giving letters of support for the nominees. He stated that pre-addressed, stamped envelopes would be distributed with the ballots.

Michael Gray asked if it had been thought about to let commercial members serve on the board.

President Robinson said that according to National bylaws a commercial member cannot run. He said that also on the National Level a telecommunicator cannot vote but that NC APCO had changed the bylaws to let telecommunicators vote. National has approved this change.

President Robinson reported that the Training Committee had been working on long range planning and were working with National on a bid proposal to bring the National Conference back to Charlotte. He said that Charlotte has a lot to offer since the meeting was last held there in 1997, especially the Nascar Hall of Fame which will drive expanded bed space.

Kelly Palmer reported that the PSAP News was running a little late for publication due to getting ads in place from the sponsors but that it should go to press soon. She stated that several new contributors were in the paper this time and the committee was pleased with the latest response of stories. She reminded the membership that news stories will earn ENP points, and that all contributors were welcome and encouraged to submit news stories.

Regional Members at Large Reports:

A – Franklin Jackson reported that Elizabeth City was groundbreaking for a new communications center they hoped to open near Memorial Day 2007; he said they were currently talking to vendors about equipment including stand to lift workstations.

B – Judy Capparelli reported that Person County went into their new communications center on February 15th.

C – Debra Edwards – Absent, no report.

D – Randy Surratt – Guilford Metro 911: The current class of new telecommunicators are about to finish rookie school; they are planning for interviews around mid-March for the next round of potential new hires with the next rookie school to begin sometime in April; their radio shop is working on the first wave of lower 120 rebanding with Nextel;

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 4

the radio shop is also in the planning phase to relocate the entire 800 MHz trunked radio system; they will be posting for a new position of Mobile CAD Terminal – Tier II Level Support Technician sometime in March. Caswell County: They are preparing to add a Global Positioning System (GPS) sometime this year; they are making photographs and measurements and will be implementing the system with their CAD provider Southern Software. Director Harvey Rudd used an old fashioned procedure for locating frequency interference on their low band system. The radio technicians had been unable to locate it; Harvey drove through the county early one morning while the noise was present. He detected the interference on his portable unit after removing the antenna, which reduced the amount of area to cover. He was able to pinpoint the noise at the clearest reception to a vacant building used for storage. During recent renovations, the electrical breakers for the alarm system had been reactivated, producing a frequency that was being picked up on their low band. This had not been a problem for the communications center because of their power, but the units in the field had trouble communicating. When the building reps were notified, they turned off the remaining breakers and the interference ceased.

E – Sonya Shores – Absent – Report given by President Robinson: Alexander County doing an update to their system, adding a true supervisor position, and will be advertising for that position on March 13th. Burke County was still working on upgrading and had installed a new generator; he said their server room had been moved and it was going well. Caldwell County was working on a joint CAD system upgrade with OSSI and that the County went live and Lenoir was going live in three weeks; he reported the sheriff's are on the same CAD. Cleveland County 911 upgrade went in last week and has 3 PSAPs, with everything going live with no trouble; Shelby PD is also doing an upgrade that will link them together next week. Gaston County is working on an interoperability project for the area. Mecklenburg County: Charlotte-Mecklenburg PD has a new 911 Manager, Joe Vanderlip, who took Jimmy Jones place; just completed purchase order for VESTA upgrade; going live with 7.9 CAD upgrade on March 27th; sponsoring TTY class on April 13th and Hostage Negotiations Class for Telecommunicators on April 21st. North-Mecklenburg Communications Center: Phase 2 compliant; fully staffed right now; put through APCO basic class to be instructor; vice chair of the RCC Committee. Pineville PD: Currently in the process of hiring several new dispatchers. Charlotte Fire Communications: Consoles installed in February, CRS; new phone system Power 911 will be installed April 4th. Stanley County: Lisa is leading interoperability group for the area. Watauga County Sheriff's Communications is moving to a new communications center on March 8th with upgraded 911 system going live at 10:00 a.m.

F – Brannon Young – Absent, no report.

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 5

New Business:

President Robinson reported that Frank Thomason told him that the National Director of APCO was hoped to be named soon.

Richard Taylor reported that they were almost finished with funding seminars for wireless funds across the state and were doing New Bern next week and Wilmington the day after that. He said that only the northeast section of the state was left. He said that he felt the finance directors had learned a lot from these seminars.

Richard reported that in regards to oblique imaging the sub-committee has been working with whether it is or is not an allowable expense. He said the sub-committee was presenting to the full Wireless Board next Friday and would recommend that one type of technology be funded; you could not run dual systems. He stated they would also recommend that you could update/replace that technology once every four years. He said that if an agency thinks that is too long that they could go back to the board and ask for a variance. He said that there were six individuals on the sub-committee, 3 private and 3 public, and that they had voted on the recommendation to be made to the Wireless Board and made a unanimous decision. He said they were working on some statute changes and a comprehensive state-wide 911 plan that addresses the future of 911 uses of the available resources, e.g., VoIP and GIS. He stated they were working on pulling together an RFI to begin work on an RFP and hoped to have it ready that afternoon or Monday and hoped to present it to the Board next Friday. He said that it was exciting for the next generation of 911.

Philip Penny asked if the APCO members were happy with the committee's recommendation of four years.

President Robinson said that it comes back to funding; that the four years was ok for his operation as they couldn't afford it more often. He stated that at least the committee has given a start and the board needs time to go over the information, but that it really comes down to funding.

Philip Penny told the APCO/NENA Boards had one week to decide before it went to the Wireless Board; he stated that he personally felt that four years was too long.

The discussion on the timeline of four years went forward with some agreeing that it needed to be a shorter amount of time, namely two years. President Robinson said that the APCO Board would do a letter of support based on what the membership wants.

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 6

Jason Barbour said that he hoped the Wireless Board would allow counties the 50% rule and not limit what you can do.

President Robinson reminded the group that Richard Taylor said they could go back to the Board if they have new information to put more technology in.

Donna Wright said that it sounds like everyone thinks their choice is being taken away.

Jason Barbour said that he liked what Richard Taylor said about going back to the board.

Richard Taylor said that the recommendation was a guideline only—and that you could go back to the board if that doesn't work for your county; step forward to the board and try to get a modification for your county. Richard explained that if you choose oblique imaging for your technology that the dollars spent for your GIS person would not be allowed.

President Robinson said that no other states are funding oblique imaging entirely.

Erin Ford from Pictometry said that other states are allowing it as an expense.

President Robinson asked if APCO wanted to go to the Wireless Board with a position; he stated that we needed to start working closer with the Wireless Board and not shut the door as that will cause problems.

Richard Taylor stated that the sub-committee was putting together a lot of questions and whatever way the recommendation to the Wireless Board goes, they will have those questions ready and will send out to the PSAP managers information about the recommendation and the impact of funding.

Jason Barbour asked if a center can take 50% of their money and do two technologies.

Richard Taylor said that he had that question on his list.

Jason Barbour said that if you have a pot of money and put ½ here and ½ there that the spending would be the same.

Donna Wright supported the 50% rule and made a motion for the board to support it.

President Robinson said that he would be at the Wireless Board Meeting and that it could be addressed at the meeting by Frank or Betty.

NC APCO MEETING

Edenton, NC

March 10, 2006

Page 7

Philip Penny said that he felt it should be in writing to make it crystal clear for Betty and Frank what the position was.

Tonya Pearce said that she would help Jason do a write-up with APCO's position.

Paul Brantner from CRS spoke about the latest trunking system that Motorola is putting out and that they are encrypting their software so that only one logging recorder can be used, which is a sales partner of Motorola. He said that this allows Motorola to dictate your recorder, including pricing, maintenance, etc. He stated that there is a concern that this takes away choice for the customer and their ability to do business with the PSAPs. He said that it also takes away choices of the PSAP manager and that he wanted to educate everyone about this. He said that PSAPs should contact their Motorola sales rep and let them know that you want a choice on the logging recorder and that they must provide an open interface to any logging recorder.

President Robinson said that it is not just a CRS problem—Motorola is giving NICE a monopoly; he suggested taking the information back to the respective agencies for discussion. He stated that this borders on anti-trust.

President Robinson advised that the conference committee was working on planning the State conference and that corrections have been done to the form on the website. He said that it would be a very good conference this year and a lot was being planned.

Philip Penny said that he wanted to reiterate that Positron was extending an offer to a telecommunicator to go to the State Conference.

Next meeting in Region D at Greensboro/Guilford Metro 911 on May 12, 2006.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kelly Palmer, Member
NC Chapter of APCO