

NC APCO Meeting  
July 14, 2017  
Greensboro, NC

Present

Melanie Neal  
Brett Wrenn  
Frank Thomason  
Judy Capparelli  
Herman Weiss  
Richard Batchelor  
Tracy Trogdon  
Janet King  
Ray Gilleland  
Derrick Duggins

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Melanie Neal called the meeting to order at 11: 20 a.m. and welcomed everyone to Greensboro

Melanie thanked Rick with Communications International for sponsoring lunch.

Melanie introduced the executive board. 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees, past presidents and RPLs were recognized.

Herman Weiss made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Richard Batchelor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:**

Main account - \$1,505.66  
TC Symposium account - \$3,928.41  
Scholarship account - \$1,432.00  
Money Market account - \$31,170.88

Total - \$38,036.95

Tracy Trogdon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. David Dodd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marsha Withrow gave the following report on FirstNet:

The Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority under the Dept. of Commerce, to provide emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed, broadband network dedicated to public safety.

- It is a result of a federal law signed in February 2012 because of 9-11. It was created to address the issues of agencies being unable to communicate with each other not only during normal conditions but especially during large scale events.
- Will it take the place of LMR – absolutely not! It is a broadband network being built for the nation as a result of seven billion dollars set aside from the FCC spectrum auction. Research is being done for LTE (cellular) to serve in the same capability as LMR, but this is years away and LMR has a long life ahead of it. (Cautionary note – do not let budget staff think they can replace LMR or stop investing in the infrastructure for LMR because FirstNet currently cannot replace it)

FirstNet is a broadband network for Public Safety which will give Public Safety high-speed mission critical data services.

- Initially it will be used for sending data, video, images, text and location information and will eventually support live streaming video.
- The partner building out the network across the nation is AT&T. From day one with the FirstNet network you will have priority on the network and by the end of the year you will have priority pre-emption. Agencies will have the whole AT&T network from day one of FirstNet.
- Does my agency have to be on FirstNet? No, absolutely not, it is your decision. To be on FirstNet however you must be a customer of AT&T.
- You can bring your own devices onto the FirstNet network – you will not be required to buy new devices if you already have AT&T ready devices.

Where are we right now?

- NC has received the State Plan and is currently evaluating it.
- It must be sent back to FirstNet around the beginning of August with comments – any likes/dislikes. FirstNet then has until 9-15-17 to respond back to NC.
- After that the Governor has 90 days to make a final opt-in/opt-out decision which takes us to 12-15-17.

- The Governor can do three things that could affect the timeline
- 1) he could opt-in immediately making the timeline go away,
- 2) he could opt-out which could take up to two years for the State to have a FirstNet approved build underway or completed and the state would bear all the costs of this network, or
- 3) he could do nothing which is considered an automatic opt-in.

I'm sure everyone has seen that Virginia was the first state to opt-in followed closely by Wyoming and now Arkansas too. I know that our SPOC, Red Grasso and several subject matter experts are working along with the Governor's office on the State Plan for a plan that will best suit NC.

If you want more information on FirstNet, [www.firstnet.gov/about](http://www.firstnet.gov/about) has a video that explains FirstNet very well.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Historical Committee:

Plaque given to Melanie Neal in the NENA meeting regarding the first NC APCO chapter meeting being held in Greensboro.

#### Pro-CHRT:

Janet King reported that right now there is not a lot going on. The committee will be reaching out to PSAP's across the state. The APCO International Conference will have presentations regarding Pro-CHRT.

Chapter Recognition: No Report.

#### Inter-agency Communications:

Lewis Cheatham reported on the FirstNet aspect. He is part of the review team. FirstNet is not replacing your LMR system. If you need help explaining the technical aspect of this to anyone – especially people in your budget – please reach out to Lewis.

Lewis is also part of the NG911 operability committee. They are looking at solutions for the radio piece of the back-up centers. These solutions are not cheap.

CJIN: No report.

911 Board: Report given in NC NENA meeting.

Legislative:

Thomas Moore reported the following in the NC NENA meeting:

Thomas Moore, our lobbyist, spoke at the NC NENA meeting. The highlight right now is a piece in the budget that would recognize the highway patrol as a PSAP which would make them eligible to apply for 911 grant funds. This did pass. There did not seem to be a big push back from the 911 board. The county commissioners were opposed. NENA and APCO opposed. This does not directly affect VIPER – this is more of a grant based situation – he can't speak directly as to what those funds will be for. It remains up to the 911 board how the grants will be given. Richard Taylor sent an email that Wildlife has tried to find out if they could get some of the budget. Everyone has tried to let the general assembly informed about changes in 911 such as NG911. We just need to keep a close eye on all of this.

There was HB 565 to modify the 911 board to add 3 new members connected to emergency management. There was nothing personal against emergency management however this is not the direction the 911 has gone recently – they have been reducing numbers not increasing numbers. This did not pass but he doesn't think we have seen the last of it. We need to keep an eye on this as well.

HB 418 – 911 funds being used for street signs – it did not take a lot to convince legislators this would not be a good idea.

HB 476 – training for police telecommunicators – the bill did not move but it may come back up again. APCO and sheriff's standards training were mentioned. Whether we were going to adhere to one type of training or not was one of the questions. We are going to see something about training again so we need to keep an eye on this. The concern for police chiefs is how do training for everyone.

The full session will be back in May.

HB 310 regarding 5G and small cell delivery system – This may have some impact on FirstNet from an industry perspective. This was a huge bill for the industry and it did go through.

There was discussion about First Net – North Carolina is reviewing the plan.

There was a discussion regarding the 911 fee. There was a concern that industry personnel were not receptive to the 911 perspective. They don't want anything to be adversarial. It is best for us to be "on the same side." They would like to meet and discuss different things that are going on and see if we can get on the same page and address any concerns/issues before we have to deal with legislation or a board action.

Vic Williams asked about the general statute requiring a backup center – the radio piece is not fundable through the 911 board – would that not be an unfunded mandate required by the state? Thomas said there is a question about how can we address that to get the funding for the radio piece from the state. We need to see if we can address this with the board. It's best to address it outside the general assembly.

We may have to re-draw maps which would mean your representative will change. That is taking up most of the bandwidth in Raleigh right now.

#### Training:

Melanie reported the following:

A friendly reminder that 2017 Telecommunicator In-Service training must be completed by December 31, 2017!

- a. Training is available through Alamance CC, Richmond CC and the NC Justice Academy on line
- b. Training is available in classroom format at the NC Justice Academy, check their website for dates and locations
- c. Instructors please remember that you are required to test out of each class that you teach, as well as, be General Instructor Certified

- d. If you host a class at your agency, the rules require that each student be given a copy of the lesson plan and any handouts, take and pass the test and if not from your agency be given an certificate of completion.

e.

NC APCO is now accepting agencies to volunteer and calendar any training they would like to host. Please contact Jeryl Anderson and/or Crystal McDuffie to schedule your training TODAY.

**Save the Date:** April 9-11, 2018 for the Telecommunicator Training Symposium, hosted at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, full registration is \$150 and day passes are \$80.

Executive Council:

Frank Thomason reported the following:

APCO filed comments to the proposal on broadcast television transmission standard ATSC 3.0. ATSC 3.0 will enable enhanced capabilities such as geo-targeting and ability to “wake-up” devices that have been turned off.

APCO filed an ex parte letter detailing phone calls with representatives of Chairman Pai’s office and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. The purpose of the phone calls was to discuss the agency’s draft order on procedure for Commission review of state opt-out requests from the FirstNet radio access network.

The FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would amend the Emergency Alert system rules by creating a dedicated Blue Alert event code to warn police officers of an imminent and credible threat to their safety.

Four years after the 2013 deadline, the FCC is still dealing with non-compliant licenses, of which there are approximately 10,000. FCC has been sending out emails and reminders but it has been a slow process. Converting a license from wideband to narrowband is straightforward and it can easily be accomplished via ULS.

APCO was asked to become a member of the AWARD Advisory Committee. AWARD, utilizing ATSC 3.0 Advanced Emergency Alerting, represents a major upgrade to American’s emergency communication system. AWARD uses next-generation terrestrial broadcasting to

deliver rich-media, geo-targeted public alerts. AWARN wakes up devices, delivering alerts even when the cellular network is jammed or the power grid is down.

APCO has issues a call for participation for committee to participate in the APCO Standards. We currently have openings on our technical, training and operational sub-committees. Interested parties should complete the Standards Development Committee Applications. The application deadline is July 30, 2017.

APCO International is in Denver this year. Housing for attendees is 89% full at this time. Currently there are 1,846 people registered. There are still volunteer spots available.

National APCO: Reported above.

Activities and Membership:

An outreach program has started for inactive PSAP's across the state.

CCAM: Reported in the NC NENA meeting.

Compassionate Care Committee:

Janet King reported Donna Estes' father passed away and Jeryl Anderson's mother passed away. Janet's dad had a stroke and is recovering well.

Regional Reports: Reported in the NC NENA meeting.

**Old business:**

Elections:

All biographies are posted on the main page of the website.

Grayson Gusa is running unopposed for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.

There are three candidates for the executive council position:

David Dodd  
Rick Thomas  
Marsha Withrow

Region A (Herman Weiss) and Region C (Tracy Trogdon) are running unopposed.

There are three candidates for Region E:

Ray Gilleland  
Todd Craddock  
Jennifer Stewart

We have a vacancy for Region F. If you know someone interested, please let us know.

You must be a full APCO member to vote. Voting will be open Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> through the first Monday of the conference, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. You should receive an e-mail with information on voting. If you are a full member and do not see an e-mail, please let someone on the board know.

**New Business:**

Chapter awards nominations will open Monday as well. Information for each award will be on the website. Nominations will close on Monday August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Lewis Cheatham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Capparelli, NC APCO Secretary