

Iowa Chapter of APCO 2023 Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 31st, 2023, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport Conference Center
6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines IA 50321

In attendance: Amanda Pyle – Story County 911, Cara Sorrells – Washington County Communications, Chris Jasper, Muscatine County EMA/911, Angie Dobyms – Pottawattamie County Communications, Nick Laning – Advocacy Strategies, Doug McCasland – Warren County 911, Eric Dau – Clinton County Communications, Marsha Southwick – O’Brien County SO, Eric Nevins – Lifetime Member (retired), Jason Hoffman – Carroll Communications Center, Nic Briseno – Story County SO, Marylin Mosinski – Story County SO, Alicia Scott – Dallas County EMA, Michelle Campbell – SECC, Todd Malone – SECC, Caitlan Reineke – Marshall County Communications, and Rhonda Braudis – Marshall County Communications.

The 2023 Fall business meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by President Alicia Scott, Dallas County EMA. It was recommended that we amend the agenda as published to add a discussion item under new business for the member at large position. A motion was made by Chris Jasper, Muscatine County EMA/911 to approve the amended agenda. Angie Dobyms, Pottawattamie County Communications seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda. The amended agenda was approved without opposition. The next item on the agenda was the approval of the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 business meeting minutes. Chris Jasper, Muscatine County EMA/911 made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from the 2022 Fall business meeting dated October 18th, 2022, and the 2023 Spring business meeting dated May 1st, 2023. Eric Dau, Clinton County Communications seconded the motion and the previous meeting minutes were also approved without opposition.

Next under new business was the discussion and update from Advocacy Strategies. Nick Laning presented the update. They are preparing for three issues this coming legislative session. The first being the IPERS initiative for telecommunicators. They have been working with Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird who is helping investigate the legal hurdles we are facing. The second issue is the possible legislative perspective that PSAPs have a surplus of 911 surcharge revenue. It is important that we can explain what the surcharge revenue is being used for and how some PSAPs have funds reserved for projects that are quite expensive. They will be working on some data/cost collection figures, and it is important that local PSAP representatives reach out to their local legislators. Lastly, is the proposed elimination of the 911 Council. They have worked on a document with talking points that can be shared with key law makers. Other items of note that may be key in this legislative session are an income tax cut, preschool funding, property tax reform, and housing. It is possible that it may be a bit more relaxed this year since it is an election year. Nick can be reached at nick@advocacyiowa.com or 515.985.9054.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer’s report. Eric Nevins, Lifetime member (retired) presented his report. The general fund for the period of 01/01/23 – 10/29/23 had a beginning balance of \$36,340.26. There was revenue posted totaling \$3,137.35 and expenses totaling \$10,553.12 for an ending balance of \$28,924.49. The conference fund for the same period showed revenue from the Spring Conference as \$34,161.13 and the Fall Conference as \$3,803.55 for revenue totaling \$37,964.68. The total of the Spring meeting expenses was \$21,345.00 and there were additional Fall meeting expenses of \$736.20 totaling \$22,081.20. This was a net income of \$15,883.48 and left a remaining balance of \$22,348.49. The starting balance had been \$6,465.01. The Joanne Perkins scholarship fund had a beginning balance of \$10,799.34. There was interest income of \$120.25 and Joanne Perkins scholarship expenses totaling \$699.84. These transactions left a balance of \$10,219.75. Additionally, a

total of \$22,327.77 has been paid as a pass through to Iowa NENA as revenue from attendee registrations and vendor registrations received. Angie Dobyns, Pottawattamie County Communications made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report presented by Nevins. Jason Hoffman, Carroll Communications Center seconded the motion, and the report was accepted unanimously.

The Executive Council report was next on the agenda. Eric Dau, Clinton County Communications gave the report. Dau advised that there had only been one meeting and there was not a lot of substance. There is a new member category for students, but it has not gained a lot of momentum. There are a lot of states (Wisconsin was given as an example) that are combining APCO and NENA state chapters. One of the reasons being that both organizations are often the same leadership recycled.

Activities & Membership – Todd Malone, SECC advised he did not have much to report. They are working on planning the Spring Conference. APCO currently has approximately 495 members. This has increased, in part, due to APCO International offering the agency group membership option.

Historical – Amanda Pyle, Story County 911 had no report. She has been taking pictures of the conference for the website and/or social media.

Training – Angela Dobyns, Pottawattamie County asked that if anyone has any information on possible speakers or training, please forward it and she will add it to her spreadsheet.

Telecommunicator of the Year – Chris Jasper, Muscatine County EMA/911 reported that NENA voted to add new award categories on the NENA side in addition to APCO's Telecommunicator of the Year and the Team Telecommunicator of the Year. They will be having awards for Supervisor or Leader of the Year, CTO/Trainer of the Year, and a Technology or Innovator of the Year. They want to bring the banquet back in the Spring as well. He will be pushing the revised forms out by the end of the week, and this would be for the 2023 calendar year. Cara Sorrells will also be handling the APCO Milestone awards. As a reminder you need to be an APCO member for a Milestone award but not for the Single or Team Telecommunicator of the Year awards.

Telecommunicator Training Board – Chris Jasper, Muscatine County EMA/911 and Angela Dobyns, Pottawattamie County Communications reported that they have not met recently. ILEA is scheduling some regional telecommunicator training.

Iowa E911 Council – Cara Sorrells, Washington County Communications reported that they are looking at various ways to involve artificial intelligence to help us do our jobs. They have also recorded the 911 Leadership Training and it is available on demand via their Google shared site. Missouri is the next state coming on board for 911 border transfers. Pottawattamie County now has text to 911 capability. That means every county in Iowa now has this technology. The 911 Program is reviewing the 911/988 survey results and determining which areas make the most sense to onboard next. Blake DeRouchey travelled to Atlanta at the end of the month to present at the NASNA Conference, and presented at the NENA Conference day yesterday. There are still statewide training funds available in the amount of \$53,950.50. These training funds pay for speakers for both the APCO and NENA days of the conference. Allie Bright is working on a statewide training pilot program and there will be more on that in the upcoming months. The next 911 Council meeting is scheduled for November 9th, 2023, at 9:30 AM at the Dallas County Human Services Campus 25747 N Ave., Adel.

Legislative – Michelle Campbell, SECC reported that they are planning the APCO/NENA Day on the Hill for February 27th, 2024. She urged everyone to come and help educate legislators on the issues that are affecting telecommunicators, 911, and the PSAPs.

Corporate Advisory – Stacey Gross, Geo-Comm was absent.

Frequency Coordination – Nic Briseno, Story County SO has been gone through the training process and thanked Eric Nevins for his assistance in the coordination process. There is not a lot going on right now other than meetings with local and state advisors. There is a National 800 MHz coordinator meeting upcoming.

Constitution & By-Laws – Shanna Krogmeier, DESCOM was absent.

Joanne Perkins Scholarship – Todd Malone, SECC reported that three scholarship winners were selected for this conference, and they were Marsha Southwick, O'Brien County SO, Sandy Lovetinsky, Washington County Communications, and Lisa Graves, Carroll Communications Center. He has some ideas on how to promote the scholarships and extended the deadline to apply. He will also be working on the website to make improvements to the process of applying online.

The next item under new business was discussion by President Alicia Scott, Dallas County EMA on the APCO National Conference held in Nashville, TN. She was able to attend and there were quite a few telecommunicators from Iowa represented there. Next year they need to make sure and sign up ahead of time for a meeting space for the Iowa Chapter there. She was able to attend valuable training and break-out sessions. She worked on speaker recruitment and networking with other states. APCO 2024 will be held August 4 – 7, 2024 in Orlando, FL.

The discussion on a proposition to bring the annual Telecommunicator awards banquet back at the 2024 Spring Conference was next. We had moved away from an actual awards banquet due to costs and have been giving the awards away at the morning breakfast during the APCO training day. They would like to have it held the night before and hope to get vendor sponsored entertainment as well. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Angie Dobyms, Pottawattamie County to proceed with planning for the awards banquet with NENA. Doug McCasland, Warren County 911 seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The update and discussion of the Fall 2023 conference was next on the agenda. The current conference venue is more affordable and easy to work with. Some of the rooms have been remodeled but there were a couple of attendees whose rooms were dated and the bathtubs rusty. The hotel agreed to adjust the group room rate for the Spring down \$5 to \$113. They are also adding more rooms to the block. The dates for 2024 are April 8th and 9th, and October 14th and 15th.

The last order of business was the discussion on an open Member at Large position. Allison Anderson has stepped down and will need to be replaced. It is an appointed position and President Alicia Scott is accepting input from those who are interested, She hopes to fill the appointment by the end of the year. Rhonda Braudis, Marshall County Communications indicated that she would be interested.

Doug McCasland, Warren County 911 made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Nic Briseno, Story County SO. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara L. Sorrells, Iowa APCO Secretary
Washington County Communications