



The Iowa Chapter of NENA held their annual Fall Conference and Chapter meeting at Holiday Inn in Urbandale on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. President Brandon Miller-Guss called the meeting to order at 12:12pm.

Quorum was determined.

Motion to approve the agenda by Doug McCasland, Warren Co. Seconded by Jason Hoffman, Carroll Co. All in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary Mel Burton was unable to be at the conference. Previous meeting minutes will be up for approval at the next Chapter meeting.

Legislative Update- Threase Harms, Advocacy Strategies, was present to give a legislative update. Threase began that the most significant success has been the Chapter's voice at the Capitol. NENA did not have that voice before representation by Advocacy Strategies.

#### 2019 Session Review

Bills that passed:

- ISICS payment again came out of the RIIF fund, 911 funds safe
- FirstNet tower legislation
- 911 Service Board- Addition of Sheriff and Police Chief who oversees a PSAP
- Property tax limits- NENA stood against this bill, though there was not much opportunity for specific engagement.

Bills that did not pass:

- School emergency plans
- EMS levies
- Interoperable communications access

#### 2020 Policy Agenda

- Protect 911 funding
- Increase grant pass through- needs more discussion
- Secure Protected Status for dispatchers
  - Go before the BAC in January
- Backfill to local governments- item of interest to watch
  - Not a lot of concern about the backfill going away- Will not be a popular proposal this session
- Property tax reform
- Monitor Service Board and other city and government issues

Harms reminded members to please reach out to Advocacy if there is a bill of interest or legislation topics that our lobbyist should engage in.

She explained that Advocacy registers NENA status as monitoring right away to enable them to be able to be involved with a bill if necessary. NENA does not have to register on every item that Advocacy sends. NENA can easily withdraw from any legislation.

Hoffman mentioned that it has worked well to have a single point of contact to communicate the Chapters stances to Advocacy Strategies. Hoffman has acted as the single point of contact for NENA.

Mark your calendars for 911 Goes to the Capitol/Lobby Day February 5, 2020. Iowa State Capital, Des Moines, afternoon reception from 2-4pm. The Chapter should consider displays, etc. and make sure we have several people there to speak with legislatures- open to anyone to be involved. Lobby Day will be our big push for Protected Status. Save the dates will be emailed and posted on the website and Facebook.

Harms said that relationships with the legislatures is critical. She advised that everyone reach out, make sure you know who your legislatures are and try to meet or invite them to the communication centers. Advocacy will send out a letter to legislatures with our priorities.

Harms provided a 2019 Session Debrief & 2020 Session Prep handout as well as a Legislative Process Cheatsheet.

Always consider supporting the interests of other groups who we would want support from in return.

Treasurer Report- Roush reported that the beginning balance (8/8/19) was \$52,059.48. We expended \$2,380.20, which included conference and speaker deposits and conference supplies. We had \$3,815.00 in deposits. The balance as of 10/14/19 was \$53,494.28. No questions or concerns. Amanda Bieber, Linn Co., made a motion to accept the financials as reported. Shanna Krogmeier, Des Moines Co., seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Miller-Guss added that NENA makes money at the spring conference and then most money gets expended in the fall. The balance looks large now but after payments will drop before the next Chapter meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

911 Council- Cara Sorrells, Washington Co., gave an update on business at the 911 Communications Council.

- State 911 received a 2 million dollar national grant that will be used in the virtual consolidation effort and will in turn free up 911 surplus funds for pass through to PSAPs at the end of the FY.
- Peer Assessment is completed and the report is available. Recommendations from the report:
  - Recommend the authority to audit surcharge collection
  - Recommend establishing minimum performance guidelines for PSAP call handling
  - Improve training programs- telecommunications performance, professional certifications
  - Possible minimum performance guidelines for QA data collection
  - Statewide public education plan
  - Recommend requiring EMD

Blake will task the 911 Communications Council 34A Committee to prioritize the recommendations and see if any legislation needs to be changed.

- Network merging- outreach will begin Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, data collection will begin Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, training November-April, account setup in December and login credentials available in February.
- Shared Services- 7 PSAPs are live. Reach out to Blake for questions or interest.
- GIS Grants- Reminder to upload GIS data to GeoComm for opportunity to receive \$12,000 per year. Thirty-two (32) counties have met the grant guidelines so far for FY20.
- Approximately \$34,000 is left in the state Training and Public Education fund
- State is working on Text-to-911 transfers
- There is a new DOM form for FY21 Budgets. PSAP Expenditure Collection forms will be due Jan 1<sup>st</sup> (admin. date)- legal due date in March.
- The 911 Communications Council meetings are relocated to Des Moines Parks & Rec while the WDM City Hall undergoes renovations. Conference call and YouTube recordings are still available, but there is no live stream at this location.

- HSEMD, 911 Program has hired Allison Bright. John Benson was promoted to Chief of Staff. Blake DeRouchey will be 911 Program Manager and Legislative Liaison.
- This afternoon Tracey Bearden will lead a 34A/Best Practices Workshop in the hotel following the NENA Conference.

Nominations- Mike Becker, Nominations Committee Chair, was not able to be here, but sent a sealed envelope with the results of the officer elections. Miller-Guss mentioned that last year the elections were not handled as they had been handled in the past resulting in some unhappy Chapter members. He contacted National NENA who referred him to NENA Attorney John Kelly. Kelly recommended to follow the Chapter Bylaws as written and decide later if changes need to be made to the process. For this election, we followed the Bylaws and Becker took nominations for offices online. All officers ran uncontested; write-ins were accepted. Mike Kasper, Linn Co., volunteered to read the results of the elections- President, Brandon Miller-Guss; First Vice President, Jason Hoffman; Second Vice President, Darin Riney; Treasurer, Amanda Roush; Secretary Melvina Burton.

Bylaw Revision Committee- The current committee members are Brenda VandeVoorde, Charlie McClintock, Jason Hoffman and Brandon Miller-Guss. Please volunteer if interested. The committee is working through the Bylaws and hopes to make them consistent with our practices. The goal will be to give notice by email so the Chapter can review and provide input. Advocacy Strategies did comment that they have a more difficult time working with NENA due to the past practice of officer succession; a new President each year.

Hoffman- Perhaps mirror APCO but stagger election years so that we don't have total turnover in both organizations all at once.

Cherese Sexe, Humboldt Co- Like the idea of succession of officers because it provides somewhat of an on the job training. Can also see the benefit of doing opposite years.

Miller-Guss- Wants to follow the Bylaws. Whatever the membership decides should be written into the Bylaws and that way there will never be a question.

Angie Dobyms, Pottawatomie Co- Like the idea of longer terms with the consistency of succession. Would like to see NENA & APCO have similar models.

Hoffman- Believe the membership should have the option for course correction if an officer in succession is not representing the Chapter favorably.

Discussion on this topic will continue.

Joint Website- A joint APCO/NENA is up and running. One main goal was to have online registration available for the Fall Conference. We accomplished that and will have after action meetings to work on improving the process before the 2020 Spring Conference. Please provide and suggestions or tips you may have.

Miller-Guss passed around information supporting the items in New Business section of the agenda.

Motion to adjourn at 1:16pm by Jason Hoffman, Carroll Co. Seconded by Marilyn Stayner, Worth Co. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Roush for Mel Burton, Secretary