



## **General Meeting August 20, 2020 Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Kelle Hall.

**Minutes:** from previous meeting read by Jeremy Hill, motion made for approval by Roderick Jackson and seconded by Jeremy Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking account balance is \$124,305.27.

**Letter regarding Baltimore Conference:** Texas APCO submitted a letter to Derek Poarch expressing our concern about having future conferences in Baltimore, which is in the current rotation of APCO International Conference host cities. Additionally, a contract is in place for the 2025 International conference. The letter addressed concerns about member safety as well as aggressive panhandling when leaving the hotel. Many attendees stated they wouldn't return to Baltimore for future conferences. Mr. Poarch contacted Kelle upon receipt of our letter and shared we weren't the only chapter with these concerns. He did state that we were contractually obligated to Baltimore for 2025, but that they had met with the hotels and visitor's bureau and additional security will be assigned for the future conference. He thanked Texas APCO members for their concern and appreciated our letter.

**Conference cancelations:** The annual spring Texas Public Safety Conference was initially postponed and ultimately canceled out of concern for attendee health and safety during the pandemic. Galveston waived any fees we were obligated to pay and in turn, we committed to having our 2022 conference back in Galveston.

**COVID Fundraiser:** Texas NENA president, Frances Garcia, contacted Kelle Hall regarding a fundraiser for 9-1-1 professionals affected by COVID, whether it was the actual illness, a family member losing their job, or even a 9-1-1 professional who was furloughed. The decision was made to that each Association would raffle 5 throw blankets and together, we raised \$5100.00.

Eleven 9-1-1 professionals were blessed by these funds, and the checks were mailed this week.

Texas APCO Treasurer Robbyn Hart and Texas NENA Panhandle Regional Coordinator were recognized for their efforts in this very successful fundraiser.

Texas CPE Graduates for this year were Shantelle Oliver and Kevin Kleck with the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District, Kelle Hall, and Mindy Cook with the Amarillo Emergency Communication Center.

**Death of APCO Life Member Ken Yoder – 11/7/2019:** Life Member Ken Yoder passed away on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Ken served as the TX frequency coordinator for over 30 years. He was very knowledgeable, served on numerous APCO committees and was passionate and committed to public safety communications. He was 86 years old and will be missed.

**9-1-1 Goes to Washington & 9-1-1 Goes to Austin:** Jeremy Hill spoke to the need to keep this movement alive and stated he strongly felt reclassification at the National level would have been approved

outside the existence of the pandemic. He will be pushing for more member support and looking for interested volunteers.

**Executive Council Report:** Executive Council Representative Greg Ballentine shared information from the Executive Council meetings held July 30 via teleconference. He discussed the review of joint chapter regulations and recommendations; Texas being specifically affected by the recommendation regarding joint ventures which includes co-located meetings, conferences, and other efforts. The Council recommends a written agreement specifying the workload and revenue share between coordinating bodies such as Texas APCO and Texas NENA. The recommendation was accepted by the Council and is being implemented. There are were some other bylaw changes which must be approved at the 2021 Conference.

Going into the meeting, were Becky Neugent and Angie Bowen. Becky was term-limited and could not run again. Stephen Martini of the Tennessee Chapter was elected to replace Becky Neugent as one of the two Gulf Coast Regional Representatives to the APCO Board. Following the regional voting, Angie Bowen was elected second vice president creating another vacancy for the Gulf Coast Region. Jack Varnado from Louisiana was elected to replace Angie Bowen.

Membership is 34,468 with about ½ of them being online members.

APCO published seven (7) ANSI standards over the past year and there are 18 active standards committees (volunteer opportunities may be found on the APCO website).

**Historical Overview:** Mr. Joe Blair spoke about the history of the Texas chapter, and stated this is the third attempt to locate the charter for our chapter since the 1970's. He shared the Library at the University of Illinois houses an extensive APCO Collection and the charter wasn't found in their documents either; the Texas Board could request a new charter from APCO International.

### **Election Results for the Proposed changes to the Texas APCO Bylaws:**

Resolution #1- Amend the Bylaws to separate the position of Secretary/Treasurer in two separate positions.

Resolution #2- Amend the Bylaws to include the Immediate Past President as a member of the Board of Officers.

Bylaw #3- Amend the Bylaws to change the term of office for the International Executive Council Representative to three years.

Bylaw #4- Amend the Bylaws to permit non-substantive changes to the bylaws.

The above changes were voted on by membership and approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Communications – Cindy Bridges

Facebook traffic has seen a marked increase, posts are updated regularly and cross-posted via Hootsuite. Membership Chair, Mandi Jones, put together a push/giveaway basket based on Facebook shares. Cindy shared the basket posting on its own lead to 87 new likes, 48 shares, and reached over 5,600 people between July 28, 2020 and August 20, 2020. At the time of the general meeting, we only lacked 13 likes to reach our goal of 100 new page likes.

#### Membership – Jennifer Garner

Mandi Jones (Potter County SO), Jennifer Arnold (Flower Mound), and Jennifer Stull (Randall County SO) make up the membership committee. Mandi and Jennifer Garner are looking for giveaway ideas to

increase active membership and seeking input from existing and potential members regarding what benefits they want from an active membership.

The Texas APCO website still needs more reform to improve usability and decrease scrolling.

#### Training – Roderick Jackson

Roderick and the Training Committee chair, Gloria Johnson (Randall-Potter County), plan to develop training that can be offered to agencies across the state as the pandemic allows.

#### Awards – Kelle Hall

The 2019 Award Winners were shared via PowerPoint.

The President's Award was presented to Jeremy Hill for his pivotal role in the State of Texas officially categorizing 9-1-1 Telecommunicators as First Responders.

#### **APCO International conference, 2021:**

The 2021 International Conference will be held San Antonio August 15 – 18. Kelle Hall will serve as chair of the conference committee. Other members include Cate Hedrick; Audry Verver; Blaine Bertrand; Kristi Stamnes, and Tammy Wright (Berlin, Connecticut PD).

We will be seeking volunteers; attendees who volunteer for four hours or more will get a free day pass to attend sessions. Texas APCO is also looking at a variety of incentives to encourage volunteering.

#### **Legislative Information:**

Texas APCO and Texas NENA will join forces in the continual push for legislative changes as they affect 9-1-1 Telecommunications. The boards will share the cost and benefit of 9-1-1 Goes to Austin beginning 2021.

Joe Hannah swore in new officers:

Jeremy Hill, President

Cindy Bridges, President-Elect

Roderick Jackson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Shantelle Oliver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

Jennifer Garner, Secretary

Robbyn Hart, Treasurer

Beth English, Primary CCAM

Greg Ballentine, International Executive Council Representative.

#### **New Business:**

Kelle suggested another attempt at creating an APCO Ambassador Program for our chapter.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Cindy Bridges and seconded by Kelle Hall. Motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned by President Jeremy Hill at 11:25 a.m.