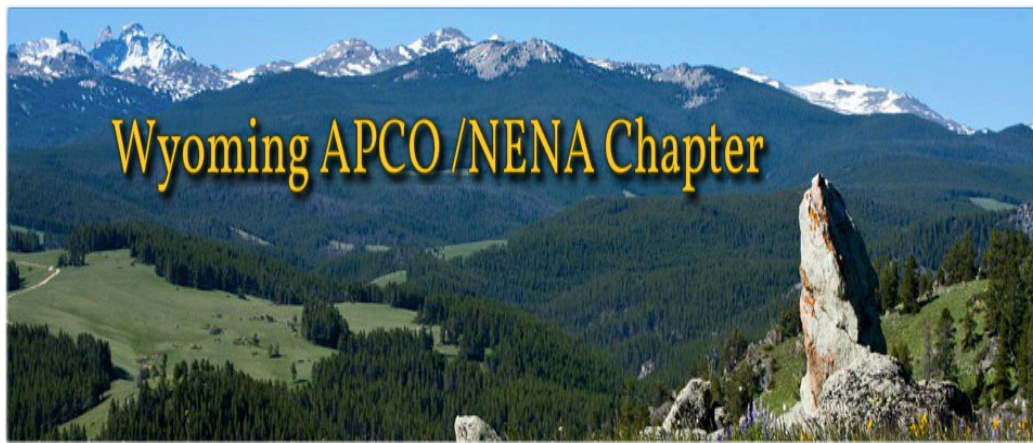


Newsletter

Fall Edition 2020



President's Message

Monte McClain

When I wrote my message in March for the newsletter, I had no idea what the world had in store for us. I was focused on training staff, keeping abreast of legislative events pertinent to all of us regarding NG911, planning our 20th conference and getting ready for some upcoming changes in my personal life. Nothing bad, just changes. Ask my wife how much I like change at home! (Hint: I don't). I can adapt to changes in my home life if given time to process it. She will warn me a month in advance before she rearranges a room to make it easier on me since it wasn't my idea. However, at work I make decisions that necessitate rapid changes to policy, procedure and the flexibility to adapt without issues. So on January 20th when there were a few reports of COVID-19 being discovered in the U.S. that were mildly concerning to me, I began to study it and what it meant to us in Telecommunications. After over 30 years working in EMS I have studied past and present diseases and how to assess and treat them. But this one has surprised me. This is just a

1

**STATE 911
COORDINATOR**

Wyoming

2

LEGISLATURE

Updates

3

SAVE THE DATE

Wyoming APCO/NENA
Conference

November 1-3, 2021

variation of an already known coronavirus. The same family of viruses that causes the common cold and we all expect to catch one sooner or later. So what was the big deal? Then the media reports started coming out about the varied symptoms, severity and even fatalities. From a cold? More research was required. I started having discussions with my peers, physicians and our public health officer. The consensus was that this would burn out. Wouldn't be a big issue. Nothing to see here, move along. The Influenza virus is more serious and causes many more fatalities than a cold right?

Now, we know that at the time of my writing this that we now have approximately 5.7 million cases in the United States with 177,284 deaths attributed to COVID-19. Compare that to 35.5 million cases of influenza in 2019 and it doesn't seem that bad. But only 34,200 people died from the flu last year. This is a disease process that is affecting people with pre-existing conditions. Discussions started in earnest when we realized that this was becoming a worldwide pandemic and I had numerous conversations with hospitals, Homeland Security, peers and department heads. We learned about personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing and public health orders. Then I met with the leaders of the agencies that my ECC dispatches for. And the first question out of their mouths was to ask how my ECC staff were going to keep the field units safe for them! Remember the ongoing argument that officer safety is the responsibility of dispatch first and foremost? I was more than willing to work with them on screening questions but at times felt they were expecting us to diagnose all COVID positive individuals via phone. No idea how we were supposed to identify someone who is asymptomatic. All attempts at explaining we can't effectively screen all callers 100 percent of the time fell on deaf ears. For medical calls it was much easier as we could report symptoms via EMD and EMS are already trained to use PPE on all calls. It took an officer interacting with an RP for 5 minutes before he said he was COVID positive for the reality to set in that they have to ensure their individual safety by utilizing appropriate PPE. The caller was asked screening questions and he answered no to all the questions prior to the officer being dispatched. He didn't want to have his call be delayed by saying he had COVID.

Ultimately, we need to keep ourselves and our co-workers safe to the best of our abilities. Regular cleaning, social distancing as much as possible within the constraints of our job duties, mask use when appropriate and a cautious approach have been working. In our line of work the social distancing is harder but we are becoming more accustomed to it as time goes on. If you listen to the CDC and their forecast of the winter months, they are expecting a large increase in cases beginning in October/November which is why we decided that it was prudent to cancel our 20th conference in November. It's not an easy decision and we know that there are a lot of us who rely on this conference to provide the continuing education and POST hours necessary for our job. That's why we have decided to try and assist in the development of regional training to help out the members. The goal of the APCO chapter board is to provide a series of regional trainings across the state that are free of charge to attend. We will offer POST approved trainings that are specific to our job duties and sponsored entirely by the Wyoming APCO/NENA Chapter. Heck, we will even provide food during a working lunch! The first training will be held in Evanston on November 4th, 2020 at the renovated Strand Movie Theater which holds 150 people. Training will be Rick Hooper (Rawlins PD), Carl Freeman (Fremont Co) and Chris McGuire (WHP). There will be plenty of room to social distance and stay safely apart in a nice clean environment. Knowing that we are only expecting a regional attendance this will be effective. Check the end of this newsletter for the details and save the date!

Our goal is to have more of these across the state. I am thinking that Gillette or somewhere around there will be the location of the next one. Should COVID throw yet another wrench in the works we should be able to host a virtual training so we can continue this training. We want to get our APCO members hours, and hopefully even entice new memberships doing this. The more members we get the larger the voice we will have when working with the State of Wyoming on NG911.

And finally, some GOOD non COVID news: We were notified by APCO that our chapter is receiving an award for Membership density for WY. We are increasing our membership numbers and have been recognized by APCO for it. Along the same lines, our membership in NENA increased in Wyoming as well and NENA has awarded us a free in person one day training for our conference next year taught by their instructors! We are excited to have been recognized for this and hope to continue the upward trend in membership. And we have begun our planning for the

2021 WYAPCO/NENA conference which will be held at the Clarion Inn in Casper. Once we have more concrete information it will be posted on our Facebook page as well as our web page.

As I wrap this up I would like to remind everyone that the board is always here to help. Should you need anything or have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact me. If I don't have the answer I will definitely find someone who does!

When I was a kid my Mother threatened to slap me into next year one time for being a brat. Think I'm gonna give her a call and see if that's still on the table.....

Stay SAFE!

Monte

Your Chapter Officers

Chapter President - Monte McClain
Email: mmcclain@parkcountysheriff.net

First Vice President/APCO Executive Council Representative - Maryanne Christensen
Email: mchristensen@lcwy.org

Second Vice President/NENA Representative - Chuck Trimble
Email: trimblec@laramiecounty.com

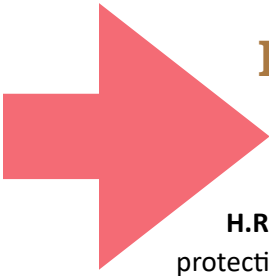
Chapter Secretary Val Gelina
Email: val.gelinas@sweetwater911.org

Treasurer - Crystal Mcquire
Email: crystal.McGuire@wyo.gov

Past Chapter President - Glen Crumpton
Email: glen.crumpton@motorolasolutions.com

Awards Chair - Joey Williams
Email: jlw05@ccgov.net

Training Coordinator - Cara Moore
Email: cara.moore@wyo.gov



Legislative Updates

There currently are no legislative efforts at the State level and we're watching 2 Acts at the Federal level.

H.R. 1629 – 911 SAVES Act would change the categorization of public safety telecommunicators to a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System, effectively moving public safety telecommunicators out from under the “clerical staff” classification into the “first responder” classification.

The Act was introduced in the House and then referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor on 3/7/2019 with no other updates or actions posted to Congress.gov.

H.R. 2 – Moving Forward Act is a 2,700+ page \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package that contains about 18 pages (“Subtitle F – Next Generation 9-1-1 Section 31601 -- for those of you keeping score at home) dedicated to funding \$12 billion for NG9-1-1 deployments across the country to be awarded in matching grants. Some of the language in this section also hints at a nationwide renaming of Public Safety Answering Points to a more accurate and appropriate term of “Emergency Communication Centers”.

Congress.gov indicates that the Act was passed by the House on 7/1/2020 and received in the Senate on 7/20/2020. Several news sources have quoted Senate leaders as having described the Act as “nonsense” and “absurd” and that the Senate will not vote on the legislation.

We'll continue to watch the progress of these Acts with our fingers crossed but unfortunately, the survival of each is tied to partisan political shenanigans.

Chuck Trimble, ENP



APCO Update

* Wyoming Recognition: Wyoming was recognized for “Membership by Population Density”.
YAY! WYOMING!

* In the recent year; the discussion of Joint Chapters has been on the forefront. This is the chapters, like Wyoming, that have APCO combined with NENA. There are many stated benefits of having the chapter joint, this is being brought up by your leadership and other states that do have joint chapters. Proposals are out to have APCO grandfather in the already established chapters to be able to continue as joint. This includes Wyoming.

It is recommendation of the workgroup that: 1. Existing Joint Chapters within APCO International be permitted. 2. Any existing Chapter that wishes to become a Joint Chapter request a charter modification through the process outlined in Article III, Section 3.3 of the Association Policy Manual. 3. The terms Joint Chapter and Joint Venture be added to the Association Policy Manual Specific positions within APCO International and Chapters be filled only by full members to ensure fiduciary responsibility to the Association. 4. The finances of a Joint Chapter be managed in a way that ensures accountability to the membership and independent of other associations.

* APCO has just completed their supplemental study on retention and staffing. Check out the full report here: <https://www.apcointl.org/resources/staffing-retention/project-retains/>.

* Don't forget to log into PSCONNECT and check out all of the webinars that come with your APCO dues! They are POST approved and will count towards your POST hours. I know I rely on the website to give me up to date training and information.

* APCO is dedicated to ensuring public safety communications has a role in the development of standards that affect our industry. The Standards Development Committee, subcommittees and working groups continued the development of standards that address current and future operations, training and technologies. Over the last year, APCO published seven ANSI accredited standards, maintained 18 working groups for standards development and conducted seven operational analyses. Join APCO International and get connected to a larger community that understands your needs as a public safety communications professional. From industry-leading education to national advocacy, APCO provides the support you need to enhance your career at all levels.

*Hurricane Laura Relief - APCO Collection: We are beginning the effort to collect donations to assist our fellow Emergency Communications Center personnel who have been impacted by Hurricane Laura. If you have anyone, other organizations, other Chapters, community or faith-based organizations that want to contribute to these relief efforts you can contact either John Graham or Amber Clause using their contact information below. Monetary donation can be made to Louisiana APCO, c/o Bill Vincent, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

Contact APCO representatives directly at
John Graham, lafiremedic@gmail.com
Amber Clause, Aclause@lpsso.org

Maryanne Christensen WY 1st VP



NENA Update

NENA Remote Learning

Did you know that NENA is now providing many of their educational offerings online?

From Webinar Wednesdays to courses such as Leadership in the 9-1-1 Center, Disaster Planning for the PSAP, Advanced Police Dispatching, Advanced Fire & EMS Dispatching, and even Tactical Dispatch for the Telecommunicator (to name a few) are offered on the NENA website. And many are instructor-led courses!

Remote learning can be just as effective as classroom training and will save your agency some money since there are no travel and food\lodging expenses. Head over to the NENA website and check out all of their offerings under the "Education" tab at both the "NENA Education Calendar" and the "Webinar Wednesday" links.

Chuck Trimble, ENP

NENA is doing their 2020 conference ONLINE and it's FREE this year. The conference is going to be held September 22-24,2020. For more information go to <https://www.nena.org/news/522973/Registration-Is-Now-Open-for-NENA-Ignite.htm> Register at <https://nenaignite.onlineeventpro.freeman.com/>



Award Nominations

As you may have heard, the Wyoming APCO/NENA 2020 conference was canceled due to the Covid19 situation. That means we will not be able to gather in one location this year and unfortunately also not be able to honor deserving individuals or groups at an award ceremony.

However, we decided that hard work and dedication to this profession still needs to be recognized in one form or another so an idea was pitched that we ask our communications peers to submit a letter or note to the APCO board to highlight an individual or group that they feel should be recognized . We would then post it on the APCO/NENA website and the Facebook page.

Hopefully next year we can resume our awards program and conference activities, but we wanted to give you the chance to showcase someone's performance in the communications profession for 2020. If you would like to give a co-worker a "pat on the back" please feel free to email me or contact any member of the board and we will get the kudos on the website and Facebook page.

Thank you, Joey Williams

Awards Committee Chair

TAC Corner

So, just what is 'NCIC'??

We call it NCIC. It tells us about driver's licenses, registrations, warrants, protection orders, and so much more.

But what we call NCIC is actually three distinct computer systems used to transmit and receive teletype traffic.

The local system is the Wyoming Criminal Justice Information Network (WCJIN) that runs through computer equipment located at, and managed by, the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation. The WCJIN system consists of a message switch that provides network interface for all Wyoming user agencies and allows for direct messaging between agencies within Wyoming. The WY motor vehicle registration files and WY driver's license files are the property of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and reside on the state mainframe, with access to these data bases being provided through the WCJIN. The WCJIN message switching system also provides a special interface with the National Weather Service.

WCJIN also supports communications capability with the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS). NLETS is a high-speed message switch located in Phoenix, AZ, and allows messages between agencies in different states or territories. It includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The types of data being exchanged on NLETS varies from motor vehicle and drivers' data, to Canadian and Interpol database information, to state criminal history records and corrections images. Operations consist of more than 1.6 billion transactions a year. In each state, an interface agency is responsible for maintaining an in-state law enforcement telecommunication systems that delivers messages throughout the state. For Wyoming, that interface agency is DCI, and the in-state network is WCJIN. Through those connections, any criminal justice agency in one state can communicate with any criminal justice agency in another state. In addition, many prosecutors, probation departments, parole offices, etc. communicate with each other and with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies through these systems.

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) operates under a shared management concept between the FBI and federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice users. The FBI provides a host computer and telecommunication lines to a single point of contact in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada, as well as federal criminal justice agencies. Those jurisdictions, in turn, operate their own computer systems (back to our own WCJIN!), providing access to nearly all local criminal justice agencies and authorized non-criminal justice agencies nationwide.

The NCIC database consists of property and persons files, and images that can be associated with NCIC records. The Interstate Identification Index, which contains automated criminal history record information, is accessible through the same network as NCIC

We know that each communications system is distinct, yet all three systems are interconnected, via WCJIN. The guys and gals on the street don't care about the bits and pieces. But us knowing how it works together, helps us to keep them safe and informed. Let's just call it NCIC.

Laramie County TAC - Candice McCart

Upcoming Training

WY-APCO/NENA Leadership has not given up on trainings. We decided to travel around the state and offer free trainings. Our first is going to be in Evanston WY.

Nov 4th, 2020 @ 10am until 3pm

Come join us:

Instructors are: Rick Hooper (Rawlins PD)

Carl Freeman (Fremont County)

Crystal McGuire (WHP)

Lunch is provided by WY-APCO/NENA

Upcoming Conferences

Most conferences have been cancelled - Due to the COVID Situation

NENA is doing their 2020 conference ONLINE and it's FREE this year. The conference is going to be held September 22-24, 2020. For more information go to <https://www.nena.org/news/522973/Registration-Is-Now-Open-for-NENA-Ignite.htm> Register at <https://nenaignite.onlineeventpro.freeman.com/>

2020 Wyoming APCO/NENA

**Save the Date:
November 1-3, 2021 In
Casper WY**

More to come

So many exciting options!

Thank you to Cara Moore for searching out and getting our training conferences outlined.

Next Chapter Meeting

Our Next Chapter Meeting will be

May 2021

Casper's Public Safety Operations Center

441 Landmark

Casper WY

