



T.G. MIEURE

Ten Commandments of an APCO Member

I wish to offer my condolences to the Rhett McMillian family. While I never met him, I have constantly heard about him during my involvement with APCO. If there was ever a "Mr. APCO," it was J. Rhett McMillian. He left behind a legacy and a big pair of shoes that no one else can fill. May God bless his family.

Historical Committee Activity

Of concern to the Historical Committee is a resolution the Board of Officers brings to the quorum in Minneapolis. As explained by President Keating, "the previous executive director had a PR firm review the format and presentation of the magazine. Its objective was to suggest ways to make it more appealing to the public safety communications community as a whole, expand its readership and help with the ultimate goal of attracting new members - which in my view is a critically important issue." Keating also said they wanted to make the magazine more cost-effective.

The resolution the quorum will vote on is to change the way the magazine's name is determined - currently mandated by the C & B - and move the naming of the magazine to the policy manual so it could be changed at the discretion of the Board. The Executive Council has to approve changes at one of its meetings.

The "APCO Bulletin" has been the magazine's name since 1935. The format has changed during the years, but it has always been known as the "APCO Bulletin." Some of you are probably saying, "Big deal." The Historical Committee believes this is a big deal. The committee urges the quorum to vote against this resolution.

Dave Swan and I will make a presentation titled "APCO Historical Collection" at the Conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 12 from 1030-1130. This session is open to members and non-members, especially chapter historians and chapter officers. We want the session to be a round-table discussion of historical items, problems, etc.

From the Archives

In the November 1966 APCO Bulletin, I found an article submitted by William "Chief" Keel titled "Ten Commandments of an APCO Member".

"1. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most ungentlemanly-like manner.

2. Cause thy switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, that thy days may be long in this earthly vale of tears.

3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou work are grounded and thusly tagged, lest they lift thee to radio frequency potential and cause thee to make like a glow lamp.

4. Tarry thou not amongst those fools that engage in intentional shocks, for they are surely non-believers and are not long for this world.

5. Take care thou usest the proper method when thou taketh the measure of a high voltage circuit, so that thou dost not incinerate both thee and thy simpson. For verily thou hast no plant account number and can easily be replaced. Thy simpson doth have one, and as a consequence, bringeth much woe to thee.

6. Be sure thou tampereth not with interlock safety devices, for this incurreth the wrath of thy fellow workers and bringeth forth the mighty fury of thy supervisor upon thy head and shoulders.

7. Work thou not on energized equipment, for if thou dost, thy fellow workers will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in certain ways not generally accepted by thee.

8. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, never service equipment alone, for electrical cooking is often times a slothful process, and thou might sizzle in thine own fat upon a hot circuit for hours.

9. Trifle not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug and thy wife be frustrated and have no further use for thee except for thy wages.

10. Commit thou to memory words of the prophets, which are here written down on this tablet and which giveth out with the straight dope, and consoleth thee when thou has suffered a ream job by the ever-watchful supervisor."

Some items Keel mentions may be outdated, but I am sure some techs can relate to it.

And last from July 1949...

"A good operator spends as little time as possible transmitting - and at least 90 per cent of the time listening" Still holds true today.

Editor's Note: Mark Twain once wrote "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." That of Helen Rushing, due to an error on my part in editing this column last month, is similarly premature. She is alive and well! I regret the error and apologize profusely to the members, T. G., and, of course, Helen. - J. Hagstrom ■