

# FINDING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS' EVERYDAY HEROES

The APCO Awards Committee recognizes the industry's top performers.

By Sarah Hills

**W**e all have one or several co-workers that go above and beyond for the public safety communications industry. Maybe your peer has implemented a new program that helps responders do their job quicker or safer. Or you have a peer who has put together a high-tech system that makes your job easier. How about the super quiet techie who works tirelessly to ensure all systems are running at optimum levels no matter what hour of the day? That manager who is always checking in on the staff and knows a little bit about everyone on the floor, who goes to bat for you when someone outside the center wants to make changes. These are the people the APCO Awards Committee would like to recognize at the annual conference every year.

Wouldn't it be rewarding to recognize these peers? What if you could also help decide who APCO International recognizes at its annual conference?

The APCO Awards Committee makes it easy to nominate the hero in your life, and for

you to help decide who receives recognition. In January, APCO puts out a call for volunteers, and you can answer that call by signing up to volunteer on the Awards Committee. After being selected, you will review documents and attend a webinar that prepares you

for scoring nominations. In January the awards site opens, and you will begin the rewarding process of scoring the nominations. When the awards site closes April 1, your committee sends your recommendations for award recipients to APCO International. The best part of this process is that award recipients are sent to the annual APCO conference held in August where they receive lodging, food, a full APCO conference registration, a special breakfast and recognition in APCO publications. As a member of the committee you can meet the award recipients as well.

By signing up for the Awards Committee, you are not only helping APCO recognize the heroes of the industry, you will also gain a new prospective on the industry and get recharged by the experience.

But don't take my word for it. Here are some comments from current Awards Committee members.



The ability to be a part of the awards committee ... is a great way to acknowledge the hard work others all over are doing on a daily basis. The chance to be able to acknowledge and praise the hard work of others is very rewarding and solidifies my devotion to my work in my own communication center. I have been a subcommittee chair on the committee for the past two years. I enjoy being involved in the committee in any capacity, as long as I am able to help out and ensure that we are recognizing the hardworking people in our industry.

– Jason Meeder, Kitsap 911 – CENCOM