



I have been on the APCO Awards Committee for two years and have had the honor of serving as a working group chair for those two years. As a civilian, committed to public safety education in our local schools, I have always had great respect for the work that the public safety communications professionals do. Being able to serve on the APCO Awards Committee has elevated this respect to a new level. It is with reverence that I perform my duty, receiving an intimate view of individuals and situations that call for them to rise above and beyond what most would consider an impossible task. The APCO awards program is well respected, and it is very humbling to participate in the process of selecting recipients. I have never read a nomination that has not been deserving of recognition, and I feel this speaks to the dedication of the industry. When one calls 9-1-1, desperate for help, the call taker, technology and system utilized are often forgotten in the end. This program allows us to recognize the hard work and commitment of the faceless heroes and I am blessed to be a part of this.

– Jackie Andrews, Kid Safety 1st



Being a part of the awards committee is an honor to me. I enjoy reading the different accomplishments handled across the country. It's amazing to read the incidents handled day in and day out by our peers. Public safety telecommunicators do so much behind the scenes, and they need to be recognized for the dedication they have for others.

– Lydia Frey, Ohio State Highway Patrol



I find being a member of the awards committee very rewarding. This is my third year as a member of the awards committee. Last year I worked as a working group chair and found it very fulfilling being in charge of a work group and getting to see all the nominations come in and motivating the group members to keep up with scoring and evaluating them. This year I am the vice-chair and have had the honor of working with the Chair Sarah Hills. I have enjoyed being able to look at all the nominations submitted and see all the great public safety professionals out there, not just nominated, but the nominators as well. It is enjoyable to read the nominations, score them and then, once nominations are closed, rank the nominations. The last and awesome part of being a member of the Awards Committee is having the opportunity to meet the award recipients and see them receive their award on stage at APCO's annual conference and expo. Also at the annual conference we start all over by having a committee meeting and allowing the new and existing committee members to meet everyone.

– James Oehmke, Awards Committee Vice Chair

Sign up to participate on the APCO Awards Committee each year when sign ups open on February 1. ●

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