

# APCO REPORTS



## ASSOCIATED PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS, INC.

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**APCO COMMENDED IN CONGRESS FOR ASSISTANCE IN SEVERAL MATTERS:** U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), instrumental in obtaining adoption of the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Resolution and co-sponsor of the so-called spectrum relief bill, recently commented about APCO on the floor of the House:

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the nation's recent celebration of "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week." During the week beginning April 12, 1992, Americans honored the thousands of public safety officers and employees whose job it is to coordinate, dispatch and facilitate the execution of law enforcement and emergency response activities in all of our districts.

"Each day, Americans place over one million calls to 9-1-1 services. In order for emergency services to respond promptly, public safety telecommunicators swiftly and efficiently direct appropriate law enforcement, medical, rescue or firefighting teams where they are needed. The daily regimen of these public safety officers is filled with life-or-death crisis situations to which they must respond calmly, confidently and with utmost precision.

"And though untold numbers of Americans owe their lives to their heroic efforts, public safety telecommunicators are not in the limelight. Rather, these dedicated individuals work behind the scenes with little public recognition of the tremendous value of their service. This year, Congress showed its appreciation for public safety telecommunicators by passing and enacting H.J. Res. 284, which designated the second week of April as 'National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.' This commemorative not only heightened public awareness of the lifesaving communications services provided by public safety telecommunicators but also recognized the leadership of the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers (APCO) in ensuring the continued quality of these services. With a national membership of 9,000 public safety (communications personnel), APCO is a unified voice for the public safety community in advising federal, state and local government agencies on ways to improve emergency response.

"The Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, which I chair, has benefitted from APCO's input on a number of important issues, ranging from spectrum allocation to telephone privacy. I hope that the Subcommittee will continue to have the benefit of APCO's views in the future. Moreover, as we progress further into the information age, advanced communications technologies will increase tremendously the lifesaving capabilities of public safety telecommunicators.

"The emergency telecommunications systems of the future will incorporate new technologies such as digital mapping, solar-powered cellular public rescue phones, and (further implementation through the nation of Enhanced) 9-1-1 that will permit dispatchers to respond to emergency calls with greater speed and precision.

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"Judging by their past performance, APCO and public safety telecommunicators will be on the cutting edge in employing these new technologies and services to save lives.

"Mr. Speaker, In recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, I want to express my enduring appreciation and gratitude to the thousands of men and women whose efforts on our behalf have long gone without appropriate public recognition."

**APCO MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION PROPOSED FOR INFORMATION SPECIALISTS:** With the opening of the 58th APCO Public Safety Communications Conference & Exposition in Seattle less than three months away, final plans are being made by the Northwest Chapter's Conference Committee while reservations for exhibit booths are still being received by the APCO Conference Department in Florida. The Conference Department is preparing its second mailing to the APCO membership, which will include the program lineup with description of the many and varied panel discussions, seminars and other educational opportunities.

At the Board of Officers meeting in St. Charles, Illinois, during April at the North Central Regional Conference, the resolutions proposing changes in the APCO Bylaws were formalized. The most significant of the four resolutions is the one calling for the addition of a membership classification for public safety communications information specialists.

In its deliberations on the matter, the Board noted there is a trend toward merging of communications, computer and electronic data processing technologies, applications and services. Many states, cities, counties and other political subdivisions are consolidating their telecommunications operations into Information Technology departments, divisions and sections. Many APCO members already have responsibilities that include information technology operations. But in some agencies, some personnel are responsible only for information technology (data management), and there is no specific APCO membership classification for them.

The proposed resolution would amend the Bylaws' Article I, Section 2.1 and 2.2 to read (with the new wording in boldface type):

2.1 Administration and supervisory personnel responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling functions required in the design, construction, installation, maintenance, command and operation of public safety communications systems **and supporting information systems** who are full-time, employed and salaried by a federal, state or local governmental agency; provided that such personnel in emergency medical, emergency management and volunteer fire communications systems need not be so employed or salaried.

2.2 Persons who have maintained Engineer/Technician, **Information System Specialist**, or Telecommunicator membership, or combination thereof, for a minimum of the past two years (may upgrade their memberships to the "Active" classification).

The resolution also calls for adding a sub-section to Article I, Section 2, (to provide for an Information System Specialist membership category) to be numbered 2.4 and read:

2.4 Those non-supervisory or administrative persons who are responsible for the planning, design, development, operation and maintenance of communications-related information systems who meet the appropriate technical, employment and salary requirements in Section 2, 2.1 membership under this classification. These members shall enjoy all the benefits and privileges of the Constitution, Article III, Section 5.

**1992 QUORUM IN SEATTLE TO BE PRESENTED RESOLUTION CONCERNING DUES:** Carrying out the directive of the APCO Executive Council to clarify language of the bylaws regarding dues, the Board of Officers will present a resolution to the Quorum which states: Whereas: The 1991 Annual Quorum approved a procedure for an option to increase dues by the amount of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on an annual basis by a positive vote of the Executive Council, and dues amounts would be more

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appropriately listed in the Policy Manual, and *Whereas*: At the mid-year Executive Council meeting the Council received a report regarding the extremely good financial health of the Association, and the Executive Council commended the Board of Officers and APCO staff for running the Association in such a businesslike manner as to create significant savings; and *Whereas*: Such savings make it unnecessary to increase the dues during the upcoming fiscal year, causing the Executive Council to vote to not raise dues, and *Whereas*: The cumulative provision and other provisions of bylaws regarding dues are in need of clarification; therefore be it *Resolved*: That Article III of the APCO Bylaws be amended as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph 1.2 through 1.2.12 shall be deleted and restated to read as follows:

1.2 The amount of the Association's portion of Chapter annual dues shall be identified in the Policy Manual and corrected upon any adjustment to the dues amount. The Association's portion of annual dues may be modified as follows:

1.2.1 Any annual adjustments shall be tied to the cumulative changes in the Consumer Price Index, rounded to the nearest U.S. dollar for the preceding calendar year.

1.2.2 In the event that no increase is approved for a particular year, the next increase approved will be cumulative only in the amount of the preceding calendar year CPI adjustment. It is not cumulative for multiple years to cover years in which there was no increase.

1.2.3. Any changes to dues amount shall be effective on October 1 of the year in which the change was approved.

1.2.4 A majority vote of the Executive Council is required for the CPI dues adjustment. such a vote may be taken during a mid-year Executive Council meeting or, in the event there is no mid-year meeting, the President shall require a poll of the Executive Council during the month of April.

1.2.5 If, for any reason, a resolution for a dues increase above the CPI adjustment as described above should be recommended by the Board of Officers, the Executive Council must indicate concurrence or non-concurrence. A majority vote of the Quorum at the Annual Conference must then be received to approve such an increase.

**RESOLUTION TO FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** Another resolution to face the 1992 Quorum in Seattle deals with the Annual Conference. Again, it was submitted by the Board of Officers at the direction of the Executive Council. The resolution points out:

The APCO Annual Conference objectives are to conduct Annual Meetings of parent and subsidiary corporations, contribute financially to APCO's operations while holding attendance costs to reasonable levels, provide a setting and program as attractive as possible for the education and training of those who attend the conference and for the exchange of information and concepts between them, and to provide a showcase for the latest relevant technological and services advances. It is advantageous to the membership to foster competition that may result in lower costs of attendance at the Annual Conference. The present method of selection does not initiate the desired economies. The APCO Board of Officers is charged in the Conference Manual with the responsibility of establishing policy and running the Annual conference, and the Executive Director is charged in the Conference Manual with carrying out the policy and directions of the Board of Officers. The APCO Executive Council has directed the Board of Officers to initiate a change to the Bylaws which would provide a more competitive selection process with the goal of reducing rates for the membership.

Article X of the bylaws would be amended by deleting Section 1 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Section 1 reading as follows:

The Association shall meet annually at a time and place approved by the Executive Council. Such meeting shall be known as the APCO Annual Conference and Exposition. Rules and policies governing the Annual Conference and Exposition shall be set forth in the APCO Conference Manual.

1.1 Conferences shall preferably rotate among the four U.S. Regions. Canadian cities directly north of the regions with a common U.S./Canadian border may be considered when the border U.S. region is considered.

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1.2 The selection process shall be administered in the following manner:

1.21 Bids from major convention agencies within the area under consideration for the year being bid shall be solicited and reviewed by APCO staff.

1.22 The bidders receiving the best evaluations shall provide information or make presentations to the Board of Officers.

1.23 The Board of Officers will be informed as to the level of chapter and regional support available at each site. The level of support may be a determining factor in the Board's recommendation.

1.24 The Board of Officers shall provide a report on their top selections, which shall not be less than two, unless only one bid is received. These reports shall be provided to the Executive Council at the Annual Conference Executive Council Meeting.

1.25 The Executive Council will make the final selection at the Annual Conference Executive Council Meeting.

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZES APCO STAFF ASSISTANCE FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES:** The final resolution for the 1992 Quorum in Seattle recognizes the optional availability of the services of APCO Headquarters Staff with respect to APCO Regional Conferences. A growing number of APCO Chapters have been designated as Regional Conference Host Chapters and have requested formal assistance of the APCO Headquarters Staff in planning for, and conducting the Regional Conferences. The present bylaws specify that Regional Conferences will be held by a Regional Consortium acting independently of the Association.

The Board of Officers has determined that it would be in the best interests of Regional Conference Host chapters to be able to avail themselves of such Headquarters Staff assistance on an optional basis should they choose to do so. An APCO Regional Conference Manual has been prepared and distributed to all Chapters, and should have recognition in the bylaws. Therefore, the resolution would amend Article X, Section 2, by adding new Subsections 2.6 and 2.7 to read:

2.6 Notwithstanding the preceding language in this Section, a Regional Host Chapter may request the assistance of the APCO Headquarters Staff in planning and conducting a Regional Conference, under terms to be set forth in a written contract between the Chapter and the Association.

2.7 A Regional Conference Manual shall be part and parcel of these bylaws.

**FCC PROPOSES TO MODIFY FILING, COORDINATION OF CERTAIN APPLICATIONS:** The Federal Communications Commission has released the text of its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modify its rules regarding filing and coordination of applications to increase or decrease the number of mobiles on a private radio system (PR Docket No. 92-78). The Commission proposes that license modifications will not be necessary for increases or decreases of less than 20% in the number of mobiles on a system. Also included is a related proposal that applications to modify the number of mobiles, when required, can be filed directly with the Commission, bypassing frequency coordination. Neither of these proposed rule changes would apply to systems using frequencies in the 470-512 MHz band or on 800 MHz conventional channels.

The Commission said, "In furtherance of our goal to reduce regulatory burdens on our licensees while maintaining an adequate data base, we also propose to change the license modification requirements for private land mobile systems that are not licensed on paging-only channels . . . We do not believe that all licensees are complying with this rule (that any change in the number of mobile transmitters, even one, requires license modification) and, furthermore, we question whether there is any valid reason for the Commission to seek such compliance. This requirement seems unduly burdensome both to the Commission and to our licensees. We have no regulatory need to be informed every time a system increases or decreases by one or two mobiles.

"Thus, with the exception of licensees of systems operating on paging-only channels, we propose that all licensees be required to modify their licenses only when their number of mobiles increases or decreases

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by 20% from that authorized. We believe this represents a significant change in operation warranting modification of the Commission's and coordinator's data base. In order to maintain the integrity of our licensing records, we will, however, continue to require licensees of systems in the 470-512 MHz band and licensees of conventional 800 MHz systems to modify their licenses in accordance with our existing requirement until the channel has achieved exclusivity.

"The 20% benchmark, rather than a 35% threshold as proposed for systems operating on paging-only channels, is because the change in the number of mobile units for most private land mobile systems on two-way channels occurs less frequently than changes in the number of pagers . . . This simplified license modification process will both relieve a regulatory burden and fully replace the end user list by providing the coordinators and the Commission with current channel occupancy information on which to base new licensing decisions.

"We invite comment on whether the benchmark figure of 20% is an appropriate one. Additionally, comment is sought on whether the 20% benchmark figure also should apply to two-way systems with paging receivers. How do we reconcile a change in the number of pagers with a change in the number of mobiles on a two-way system? Finally, interested parties should address whether, as an alternative, a change in the number of mobile units or pagers need only be authorized at the time of license renewal. That is, can a need be demonstrated for information on mobile units, or for authorization of mobile units, between a system's initial licensing and license renewal?"

The Commission's reason for proposing the bypassing of frequency coordination: "It would appear that a more expeditious procedure would be to allow licensees of all systems to file their applications for license modification for an increase in the number of authorized mobiles or pagers directly with the Commission, provided the system's technical parameters remain unchanged . . . Coordination, however, is necessary when there is an increase in the number of mobiles for systems operating in the 470-512 MHz band or on conventional channels at 800 MHz, where exclusivity may be earned based on numbers of mobiles on a system. Therefore, applications for license modification requesting an increase in the number of mobiles authorized in the above-mentioned frequency bands should continue to be sent to the relevant frequency coordinator for coordination before the application is forwarded to the Commission until the channel becomes an exclusive assignment. We invite comment on all aspects of this proposal."

Comments should be filed on or before June 26, and reply comments on or before July 13. The Private Radio Bureau contact person for this proceeding is Freda Lippert Thyden at 202-634-2443.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT ISSUES CALL FOR APCO COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** One of the roles of an incoming APCO President is to organize the Association's committee structure. It's important that the committees be comprised of APCO members who the incoming President feels will further the important role APCO is playing in public safety communications today.

The APCO committees, therefore, are an integral and important part of APCO activities, "and I will do all I can to name the very best persons to handle the responsibilities and the work involved with our committee structure," said President-Elect John S. Powell of the University of California Police Department. "No committee appointments, or reappointments, are automatic. All committee members, including the chairs, will be selected from those APCO members who have notified me that they wish to serve. To be considered for appointment or reappointment, I ask that each interested APCO member advise me in writing before July 1."

"Committee service is the path to recognition by your fellow members that you care enough about our common goals and objectives to give a piece of yourself to them and at the same time benefit personally from the added knowledge and experience that such service will bring to you," President-Elect Powell said. "APCO needs the best possible volunteers to serve as the experts to advise our growing membership on the many issues in public safety communications. In return for committee members'

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dedicated service, the APCO Board of Officers will provide our committees the most support possible at both the Board and Staff levels. A list of committees is below. I will consider your suggestions for expanding, contracting or consolidating the entries on the list. Remember, please let me know before July 1 if you are willing to serve, and on what committee(s). Thank you."

**APCO President-Elect John S. Powell**  
**University of California Police**  
**P.O. Box 4342, Berkeley, CA 94704**  
**Phone (510) 642-4530**

**APCO Committees:**

Activities & Membership, Emergency Management, Highway Maintenance, Fire Service, Historical, National Plan Steering, 9-1-1 Emergency Number, Public Affairs, Resolutions & Bylaws, Satellite, Commercial Advisory, Emergency Medical Services, Forestry-Conservation Service, Telecommunications Management, Law Enforcement Service, Nominating, Operating Procedures, Regulatory Review, State & Provincial Police, Telecommunications Service Priority.

**9-1-1 STANDARD GUIDE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE E 9-1-1:** After nearly two and a half years of writing, balloting and rewriting within the arduous and often cumbersome system of ASTM consensus standards adoption procedures, the Society in February adopted the first Standard Guide for the **Planning and Development of Statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 Systems**. This document is available through ASTM, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 (phone 215-299-5585 or fax 215-977-9679. Ask for # F1381. The following information was provided by APCO Florida Chapter member Roanne Rubin Tall, 9-1-1 Coordinator for Seminole County, Florida, and a member of the team that worked on the project resulting in the Standard Guide.

The Guide does not set standards for 9-1-1, but instead recommends minimum performance requirements for planning and developing enhanced 9-1-1 telephone services. By not setting a rigid standard, the authors of the Guide decided to allow a state the flexibility to adopt its own operational standards using the Guide as a starting point. However, it does not preclude a state from adopting the Guide in its entirety as that state's standard. When reading or using the Guide, it is urged that you pay particular attention to the description of terms. These definitions set the guidelines apart from any other (outside) interpretation of the document. Furthermore, the task group that wrote the Guide reminds all potential readers and/or users that the Guide pertains to statewide or regional systems and not to individual local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) operations.

Some of the major obstacles the Task Group had to overcome during the development of this document were related to the definition of terms, including the interpretation of ASTM's definition of a "Standard Guide." The Task Group members included people with 9-1-1 expertise from throughout the country, most of whom are APCO members. One significant problem was that the project was undertaken as a task of ASTM's EMS Communications subcommittee and, as a result, initial drafts were balloted through that subcommittee, some of whom had little or no knowledge of 9-1-1 operations or technology.

Because the Task Group recognized that shortcoming in the formal process, it elected to also seek comments from outside, i.e. non-ASTM Society members, especially from 9-1-1 product and system providers and 9-1-1 system managers. All comments were carefully reviewed and considered. Each one received a reply, and, if not incorporated in the Guide, an explanation was given regarding the decision not to include it in the document. Most comments that were not included appeared to be the result of misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the intent of the document as described above or were considered to be biased toward a particular product or provider of 9-1-1 service.

This seeking of comments continued through many revisions and subcommittee ballots. When the Guide was finally accepted at subcommittee level, it went to the full EMS committee. Even then the Task Group received comments that required a written response. At long last, in the first ASTM Society ballot for

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1992, it was adopted. *For additional information* about the Guide or the reason something is or is not in it, contact any member of the Task Group. They were: **Roanne Rubin Tall**, Chairman (in Florida at 407-323-2500 extension 5911), **Thera Bradshaw** (in Washington at 206-696-8135), **Jlm Beuteispacher** (in Minnesota at 612-296-7104), **Glenn Roach** (in Massachusetts at 617-727-7827), **Bob Miller** (in New Jersey at 609-882-8000), **Chuck Glass** (at NHTSA, 202-366-4297) or **Roger Reinke** (at NTIA, 202-377-1635).

These people did an excellent job of putting together a document with no precedents and, with two exceptions, no experience in ASTM processes. They ask only for your tolerance of the constraints of the standards format and hope that you will find the Guide a useful document for your 9-1-1 system.

**ANYONE REMEMBER CALL SIGN KNFE?** The Federal Communications Commission office in St. Paul, Minnesota, has a photo on an office wall of an "Inter-Zone Police Radio Station" and the call sign attached to the radio is KNFE. The photo is from the 1930s but has no other identification. The FCC doesn't have records back that far. Frank M. Evans of the FCC St. Paul office is requesting anyone with information as to whom the call sign KNFE was issued back in the '30s to contact him at the St. Paul District Office, 316 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

**MASSACHUSETTS ENHANCED 9-1-1 BOARD HIRES DIRECTOR:** Glenn A. Roach, a member of the Texas Chapter of APCO and vice chair of the APCO 9-1-1 Emergency Number Committee, has become Executive Director for the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board. He began his new duties May 1, moving from Texas where he was Programs Director for the Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications. Roach will be directing the Board's efforts to implement Enhanced 9-1-1 service throughout Massachusetts. Roach has 14 years of experience in communications, including three years as a supervisor at the City of Houston Enhanced 9-1-1 PSAP.

**3 APCO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT BUSH TO EBS ADVISORY COUNCIL:** CPRA Chapter President Don Root, Northern California Chapter President Glen Nash and Joe Blair, APCO Executive Council member from Texas, have received appointments by President Bush to the Federal Communications Commission's Business and Industry Advisory Council for the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). The Council will be providing additional input into updating and revitalizing EBS, including providing public safety communications facilities with up-to-date methods for accessing this public warning tool.

**JAMES BLESSO RETIRES FROM STATE POSITION IN CONNECTICUT:** James F. Blesso, Administrator of the Connecticut Bureau of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, retired from state service in March. Prior to his 14 years of service with the state, he was a captain with the Hartford Police Department, where he commanded the Support Services Bureau.

On his retirement from the Police Department, he joined the Connecticut Justice Commission as its Manager of Communications Grants, and in 1979 he was appointed to the position of Administrator of the Bureau of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications. Blesso spearheaded the state's efforts to implement a statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 system. That effort was successfully completed in December 1989. He also was responsible for the implementation of a mandated public safety telecommunicator training program for the state. And he was active in the 800 MHz planning process.

As a long-time member of the Atlantic Chapter of APCO, Blesso served as Chapter President and participated on numerous committees and projects. At the Annual Conference last year in Tulsa, the Quorum amended the Association's Bylaws to provide a "Senior" grade of membership classification so that chapters could recognize those APCO members who have given distinguished service to the organization. Blesso was honored at the Annual Conference after the Quorum voted with the designation of the Atlantic Chapter's first such honoree.

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The Northwest Chapter of APCO  
Cordially Invites You to Attend the  
**58th APCO Public Safety Communications  
Conference & Exposition**  
**August 9 - 14**  
**Seattle, Washington**

If you have not received a package of information and a registration blank, all APCO Members will soon be receiving the Second Mailing of Conference Information.

If you are interested in exhibit booth space, contact the APCO Conference Department at 800-824-1850

**APCO Members Receive a Discount on the Registration Fee**  
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