

# Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc.

*It's a privilege to belong to A P C O*

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## M E M O

DATE: 9 May 1978

TO: Board of Officers

FROM: *EM* Executive Director

SUBJECT: Draft Resolution to change Association Name

As instructed by the Board at the May 1st meeting, I contacted Mr. Kittner for his opinion as to any legal liability ramifications resulting from a change in the name of APCO by substituting the word "organizations", "organization" or "officials" for the word "officers" in "Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, Inc."

Mr. Kittner's reaction to substituting the word "organizations" was that this connotes a basic change in the APCO organization. It could mean to an outsider that APCO was becoming an organization of organizations similar to the LMCC. It could be construed to mean that APCO was no longer an individual member organization but was composed of FCCA, IMSA, ASHTO and other organizations within the public service radio service.

Mr. Kittner said that the substitution of the word "organization" would connote to him a more cohesive organization than the present APCO structure, but that he felt the name was not truly descriptive of what APCO is composed of, i.e., individual members working in public safety organizations.

Mr. Kittner's comment as to the legal ramifications of such a name change were that he did not believe that the liability of the organization would be affected by the name change alone, but would be based upon the relationship between the National and local structures. He pointed out that APCO is already a corporation and efforts to develop a nationally engineered frequency system may more closely knit the organization together, regardless of its name.

Mr. Kittner felt that any abrupt name change could, based upon past experience, trigger a number of suspicions as to the motive behind such a change. His suggestion was that any change of this sort should be pursued on a gradual long term basis with sufficient lead time for the Chapters to consider the matter. He felt that the ideal approach would be through use of the committee process, i.e., either establish an ad hoc committee to study the need to amend APCO's name to more closely reflect its

ITEM 5

Memo  
Board of Directors  
9 May 1978  
Page 2

membership composition, or assign such a duty to one of the existing National committees, asking that a recommendation be developed and presented at the National Conference the following year.

Mr. Kittner felt that this latter course of action would provide sufficient lead time to prevent any individual or group within APCO from suspecting a hidden motive behind the proposal.