

# Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc.

It's a privilege to belong to APCO

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September 26, 1975

TO: The Board of Officers, Counsel Kittner  
FROM: The Executive Secretary *JRM*  
SUBJECT: Comments on Regional Conferences

During the recent series of Board meetings at the Washington Conference I was directed to "keep working on the Regional Conference Guidelines". This was a result of the association assessment made by a local attorney.

The subject to this time has remained a vague sort of thing. I have begun the task of defining the problem by slicing into it along the following lines:

- 1) What is a Regional Conference?
- 2) What does it do?
- 3) Under what circumstances?
- 4) For what purposes?
- 5) With what relationship to the Association?
- 6) Does that relationship differ from that with the chapters?
- 7) If so, why?
- 8) If not, what is the issue?

I have made the judgements that the Regional Conferences are a potential danger to one of our major revenue centers: the Annual Conferences; it will be difficult to steer them as the Board desires unless they are conducted by the Association as directly as are the Annual Conferences; that the chapters want the Regional Conferences as "their own". In addition, the Board has made it clear that the Association, too, wants a minimum amount of involvement with a minimum amount of risk.

Working in this direction, I have addressed these matters through cut No. (1). Please find this work paper, REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGREEMENT, attached. It defines a Regional Conference. It requires that such a function be representative. Without

going deeper at this time into the matter, it is believed these may represent the sum and substance of Association involvement:

- 1) Chapters within a region would be required to execute a compact between themselves in order for the Association to know clearly with whom it is dealing.
- 2) An agreement must exist between the Association and each Regional Consortium in order that each know what is expected of the other.
- 3) The term "Regional" is made meaningful.

It is here that the Association bites the bullet. No Regional Consortium, no agreement. No agreement, no Regional Conference. Otherwise, this would be the sum and substance of Association involvement. The Regional Conferences would be approved. The Association would get nothing from them in return but an agreement that absolves the Association of liabilities in connection with the management of a Regional Conference.

There is nothing now which says that a group of chapters cannot have a joint meeting.

Here I find myself in agreement with our local attorney. What is the difference between individual chapter meetings conducted separately and those conducted together? If we don't worry about financial liability with regard to individual chapter meetings, why worry about chapter meetings together? What is the difference?

Even though Regional Conferences are not mentioned in the Association's Constitution and ByLaws, the difference seems to be "Regional". It approaches the image of a quarter cut of an Annual Meeting.

If there is a difference, other than this, then we will need to continue to develop some sort of Regional Conference document. Moreover, of even greater importance, we need to do a lot of serious work that would change our current relationship with the chapters.

If there is no difference, then we can forget the whole thing, except, to amend our current Regional Guidelines by removing any reference to the Association in terms of management, finances, liabilities, etc.

I need the comments of the Board and Counsel in this matter before continuing this Regional Conference development.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The term "Association" as is used herein refers to the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc. (APCO). APCO is a not for profit group of individual chapters organized into a national association by means of a constitution and bylaws that are exhibited in this document. Other than as is required for the national purposes that are set forth in the Association's Constitution and ByLaws each chapter is a distinct independently organized and financially responsible group that operates separately from the Association itself.

An APCO Regional Conference is an annual function that is planned, managed and presented within one of four geographical regions by a regional consortium acting independently of the Association as shown above and is described hereinafter in this document.

A Regional Consortium is a group consisting of not less than a majority of the APCO chapters that are chartered by the Association within such a regional area each of whom by written consent agrees to share and participate to an individually specified extent in the tasks and financial arrangements of a Regional Conference.

The Host Chapter is a Regional Consortium Chapter that has accepted the responsibility of acting as the manager of a specific Regional Conference. The Host Chapter shall appoint one of its Active members as its Regional Conference Committee Chairman whose duties are subsequently set forth in this document.