

# APCO 2023

Seeking Host Committee Chairperson

The Conference and Exposition Committee (CEC) is seeking a Host Committee Chairperson for APCO 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee. The event will be held August 6-9, 2023. We are currently accepting nominations to serve. For complete information the requirements for a nomination, go to PSConnect or contact the CEC Chair. Please submit your nomination, no later than December 1, 2021 to; Kim D. Ostin, CEC Chair at: <u>kostin594@gmail.com</u>

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October 2021

Member and Chapter Services Newsletter



## **Membership Information**

Member Type	9/1/2020	9/1/2021
Associate Members	2,567	2,651
Full Members	4,469	4,453
Full Group Members	8,324	8,242
Online Group Members	18,991	19,973
Commercial Members	496	498
Commercial Group Members	209	231
Total Number of Members	35,056	36,048
Total Number of Group Agencies	1,254	1,344
Commercial Groups	44	55



### **Kansas Chapter Highlights**

Tell us about your Chapter!

How large is your state(s)? 2.913 Million (2019).

Do you host an annual conference? Yes, we have a Spring and Fall conference.

Do you present awards? Yes, at the Fall Conference.

How many board members do you have? 9.

- Do you have great outreach for Compassionate Care or assistance in emergencies? We send sympathy cards to those we know in need and help them get in touch with the Sunshine Fund, if necessary.
- Do you have a great social media presence and if so, could share what you do? FaceBook <u>https://www.facebook.com/ks.apco/?ref=pages you manage</u> Instagram <u>https://www.instagram.com/ksapco/</u> LinkedIn <u>https://www.linkedin.com/in/kansas-apco-044b06212/</u> Website <u>www.ksapco.org</u>
- Have you found ways to encourage new membership? Nothing specific, other than offering first time conference attendees a class on what Kansas APCO is. We also always share information before a conference to save money on registration fees.
- Have you found ways to get the new workforce involved with the Chapter? We reach out on social media to advertise how they can get involved in committees and running for office.
- What do you offer members on the Chapter Level to encourage APCO membership? Cost savings incentive to our conferences on Flash Day. We also share the APCO International incentives of cheaper training, and free virtual training.
- What makes your chapter unique or different? Kansas has a strong committee that works along with a Lobbyist group, on behalf of KS 9-1-1 Professionals. We were finally named Emergency Responders by our Governor in 2021. It was all because of this committee's hard work!

The Kansas Chapter developed a new way to recognize 9-1-1 Professionals through the Kansas Shinning Star nominations. We have the agency fill out a form for us to give the 9-1-1 Professional a shout out on our FB page. We have great success with getting people involved in submitting the nominations. Our chapter also recognizes Years of Service to those that have been in 9-1-1 for over 30 years. They are recognized at our Fall Conference and on our website.

We also offer virtual training for members and non-members for any one that wants to join on Crowdcast at no cost. We have two more scheduled for 2022.

We still have two conferences a year in Kansas. We know that not many chapters still do that.

### **Virginia Chapter Highlights**

"The Virginia Chapter of APCO International, Inc. was chartered in 1959 as a Chapter of the parent organization, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, Inc. The Chapter represents a Commonwealth made up of 95 counties, 38 independent cities and 186 PSAPs.

The Chapter has eleven (11) elected members constituting it's leadership: President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Executive Council Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) *directors* at large. This group constitutes the Board of Directors of the Virginia Chapter of APCO and has equal voting rights when conducting the business of the Chapter. The Board meets monthly (virtually) and in-person at each of our 3 annual conferences.

The direction, priorities and long term road map for the chapter is governed by the Chapter's Long Range Strategic Plan, which is updated every five years. Our current iteration includes the following goals: (1) Enrich communications and outreach; (2) Enhance stakeholder relationships; (3) Human capital management; (4) Succession planning; and (5) Technology. While COVID restrictions have curtailed many of our planned activities for the past year and a half, we've built sufficient flexibility into our plan to make good progress in achieving our goals.

Virginia APCO has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Chapter of NENA to hold three statewide conferences per year. APCO is the lead for our Fall and Winter conferences, and NENA for the Spring event. Virginia APCO and Virginia NENA Executive Boards meet jointly during the Fall and Spring conferences, and provide liaisons to each other's conference planning committees. We are looking forward to returning to in-person events this fall (Oct 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) with our flagship Fall conference in Roanoke, Virginia. Pre-COVID, our conferences were growing annually and had recently expanded to include our Commonwealth interoperability partners and an ever-growing sponsor and vendor display hall. We anticipate resuming that positive growth trajectory in the coming years.

Virginia APCO maintains a robust Annual Awards Program to recognize individuals whose service to their employer and the communities they serve over the current year is deserving of recognition. Awards are presented in eight categories. All award recipients are recognized with a complimentary full conference registration and honored at a luncheon during the annual Spring conference. Because of COVID restrictions this year, we look forward to acknowledging both our 2020 and 2021 award winners at our Fall conference — our first in-person, statewide event in 20 months!

Virginia APCO has established a benevolent fund called the Virginia Sunshine Fund as a mechanism for providing a measure of financial assistance for those individuals who are employed by and work within a PSAP in the Commonwealth of Virginia that have suffered a loss. The fund is financed through donations from members, individuals and corporations, as well as fundraising activities (raffles, door prizes, etc.) at our various conferences.

The Chapter communicates with its membership via a Website, Facebook and Twitter, and periodic updates via a large listserv electronic mailing list. Our in-person conferences have historically been our most effective outreach/communications platforms, and we look forward to resuming those opportunities while adjusting to a new and challenging post-COVID environment.

### **Colorado Chapter Highlights**

Colorado NENA/APCO is invested in the growth, idea sharing, and comradery of all ECCs across the state! We have an Executive Board with 12 representatives from various different agencies and backgrounds. The several committees of the Chapter work to offer as much as possible to our membership. We make sure to keep our membership as involved as possible and not only do we livestream our regular meetings, we also have a YouTube channel where our previous meetings can be viewed at any time.

Our Outreach Committee works hard to set up gatherings and organize deals with local sports teams so we can come together as a Chapter, watch the Rockies or the Nuggets, and enjoy the best \$15 hotdog Colorado has to offer.

The Membership Committee pushes hard to recruit and interest new members and to keep current members engaged. Posting fun videos and insightful trainings across the State on Facebook allows our membership to engage in a comfortable, friendly environment. Though we may not be doing any TikTok dances, our growing social media presence has allowed us to stay hip with the trends and remain connected to our members.

Our Education Committee works closely with the local and national presenters to continue to offer Members growth opportunities through courses and instruction. We work in unison with the State's Resource Center to gather training opportunities from local agencies and well-known national industry presenters. In addition to our Education Committee, we are in the beginning processes of creating a Professional Development Committee to gather resources for all of those eager TC's and Supervisors looking to get their CTO, RPL, and even CPE certifications!

We are proud to hold an annual conference for all of our members and commercial partners. These conferences feature several breakout classes, a star-studded pre-conference and outstanding keynote speakers. We also feature a vendor hall highlighting all of our industry partners that help supply and support us to be the best we can be, both locally and nationally. We strive to put on the best conference we can for our Members year after year. Even through the unprecedented times of 2020, we were still able to band together and put on an amazing virtual conference for the entire State, and even those outside of the State, to enjoy, network, and learn from.

The Colorado NENA/APCO Joint Chapter looks for any opportunity we have to offer elite training and experiences to our Members. Whether it is quickly adjusting to a global pandemic and offering an entire conference in a virtual format, meeting our Members on their turf using the power of social media, or getting together for the aforementioned \$15 hotdog at the Rockies Stadium, we want to do what is best by reaching each Member across the State.

### **APCO Life & Senior Members**



Each month the Member Chapter Services Committee will be highlighting one of the many Senior or Life Members of our organization that have contributed so much to our organization. We hope you enjoy this feature and if you know of someone we need to highlight, please reach out to—Liz Phillips, Kansas Chapter at <a href="httphillips@ku.edu">lphillips@ku.edu</a>

This month we recognize Senior Member Roger Martin, Missouri Chapter.

• Tell us about you (job history, education, experience, family) Training coordinator for the Highway Patrol since 2008. Began with the Patrol in Troop E Radio in 2001. I retired from the US Air Force in January 2001 after 20 years as a Tactical Air Command and Control Specialist. I've earned several certifications over the year for instructor, management, supervision, and technology. Several years of college but no recognized degree - College of the Air Force. I am married with 2 sons and 2 step-sons. 2 daughters-in-law so far and 2 gorgeous granddaughters.

What year did you receive Senior Member? 2017

• How has APCO helped you in your career/life? I became a member of APCO because of the training. I spent a few years thinking of them as a training source before becoming more involved in the various aspects of APCO. Chapter level involvement as President – Executive Council Representative – and now Treasurer. International level involvement in committees – chairing committees – Group leader – and now back to active committee member. The network of people – ideas – support – advocacy which is provided by APCO membership is life changing.

• What advice do you have for new APCO members? Get involved – you won't get that life change if you don't step forward and make it happen.

• What has been your favorite Committee or project? Missouri Professional Training Partnership – I wasn't there when it was formed but I've done my best to maintain the legacy passed down to us and provide the best possible support to the instructors and agencies that are a part AND to the public safety communications professionals across this state.

• What is your favorite quote? "You have to learn why things work on a starship," Captain James T. Kirk | Star Trek II

• What is your favorite book? The bible - it's where I try to focus my reading.

• What are your hobbies? Singing – Karaoke in every city I visit is the goal / Theatre – I have acted since high school. I have directed several plays and musicals. Writing added to my credits as I adapted A Christmas Carol to a musical stage production 2-years ago. Currently involved with the Stained Glass Theatre of Mid-Missouri – acted in "The Robe" earlier this year, have just cast and will direct a play in October / Art – I originally started in college with the intent of getting a degree as a graphic artist. That never happened, but I do design and paint a lot of background scenes for the theatres I've been involved with.

• What is a random fact about you? I don't have a single painting in my house that I painted.....

## **APCO Life & Senior Members**

(continued)

- What are three career lessons you have learned thus far?
  - 1. Don't let your own head (doubts) screw you out of a golden opportunity or prevent you from achieving your goals.
  - 2. Be honest with your boss with yourself with your people with your peers. Honesty is a protective measure to get you (and others) to where you need to be.
  - 3. Never pass up a chance to pee. (plus don't take yourself too seriously and leave the place in better shape than when you found it!)

What haven't we asked? My favorite color is blue.

### **Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee was able to see the amazing after effects of two years' worth of hard work at the annual Conference and Exposition. While at conference in San Antonio, TX, award winners from both 2020 and 2021 were recognized during the opening session. The 2020 award winners were not able to be recognized in 2020 due to the conference being cancelled. While at the conference on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Committee Chair James Oehmke and Vice Chair Jason Meeder was able to attend the Committee Chair and Vice Chair training summit with the chairs of the other committees. Then there was the recognized for Committee work where Group Leaders and Committee chairs were recognized for the past years hard work. The Chair of the Awards Committee from 2020-2021, Sarah Hills, was recognized for her amazing work she did on the committee. Later that afternoon, the Awards Committee expectations. Then on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 members of the 2020-2021 Awards Committee were able to attend the Awards Winner breakfast with all the award winners prior to the opening session.

The Awards Committee for 2021-2022 will have two webinars for committee members to explain what is expected and how to score and rank the nominations. In late November or early December, committee members will be creating test nominations so that the system can be tested and members can get familiar with how the process works. Then on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 the heart of the committee action begins when the nominations open up and remain open until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at midnight.

Most members of the Awards Committee find this committee very rewarding and intriguing and continue to return year after year. I invite you to join the committee next year when committee signups open in February of 2022. If you have questions about what the Awards Committee does or what is expected of a committee member please don't hesitate to reach out.

Submitted by: James Oehmke, Chair

### **Teammates in Action**



Courtney Peregrine



Jessica Vogel



Spencer Teegarden

Early on Monday morning, May 17th, 2021, a female called 9-1-1 reporting she had driven into flood waters on Missouri Highway E near Strasburg, Missouri. Jessica Vogel and Courtney Peregrine were the Communication Officers on duty at the time of the call. Jessica answered the call. The woman said she was able to get herself out of the vehicle and onto the roof. While phone reception was not perfect, the dispatchers were able to understand that she was in water. The two Communications Officers were able to use mapping technologies to determine the caller's location was in a river.

Jessica stayed on the phone with the caller for approximately 40 minutes, reassuring her that help was on the way. Courtney dispatched police, fire, EMS, rescue boats, and other available resources by radio and by phone to the caller's location. These actions allowed Jessica to concentrate on the panicked female who was holding to a branch and her phone. As the call went on, the caller said she was starting to feel hypothermic. Jessica and Courtney worked tirelessly to make sure the caller kept talking to them about her family. Jessica maintained a calm, reassuring voice throughout the call - trying everything possible to encourage the desperate woman to continue to struggle and to hang on as the water continued to rise up to her neck.

Deputy Teegarden risked his own safety by wading through waste-high water in the direction of the caller provided by dispatch. Courtney had the Deputy shine his flashlight until the caller saw it. When found, the woman was still hanging onto a tree branch with fast flowing water continuing to rise around her. She was over a quarter of a mile from the roadway and the truck she escaped from was nowhere to be seen. Responders were able to throw a rope to her and then pull her from the tree through the rushing water. She did not suffer any injury.

The patience, compassion, and fast actions displayed by Communications Officers Vogel and Peregrine were critical to Deputy Teegarden successfully locating and rescuing this woman. Her life was saved that day because of them! The Missouri Chapter of APCO is proud to recognize these Cass County Sheriff's public safety professionals as Missouri Teammates in Action.

To learn more about this award please visit: <u>https://www.apcointl.org/membership/awards-</u> recognition/teammates-in-action/

### **Commercial Corner**

Chapter Leaders, are you engaged with your Commercial Members?

Commercial Members, are you engaged with your Chapter Members?

Commercial members are here for more than 'just selling things'. They are experts in their respective fields who bring depth of experience and information that are up-to-date and relevant to your needs.

In addition, a healthy commercial membership brings much needed additional financial support to a chapter that allows for a variety of useful events such as training, product exhibitions, and award ceremonies.

Finally, through partnering, members who rely and utilize their Commercial Members' services strengthen those relationships and build stronger Chapters.

Submitted by: Ron Lyons



### **Silent Key**



Richard (Rich) Boettcher Atlantic Chapter



William (Bill) Cade Missouri Chapter

For more information about Rich and Bill, please click on the links below. https://psc.apcointl.org/2021/09/02/silent-key-richard-c-boettcher-rpl/ https://psc.apcointl.org/2021/09/02/silent-key-william-a-cade-jr/

### **APCO Announcements**

**The APCO Institute recently opened registration for the updated Communications Training Officer (CTO) course** – CTO 6th Edition. This course provides comprehensive training to experienced Telecommunicators on the roles and responsibilities of CTOs in running an agency's one-on-one training program. In addition to: <u>https://www.apcointl.org/training/courses/</u> <u>catalog/#tab-93983</u>, an updated version for instructors is also available - <u>https://www.apcointl.org/</u> <u>training/courses/catalog/#tab-93984</u>

Delivery of the CTO 6th Edition courses begin in January 2022. For those certified in the CTO 5th Edition, a free update course for both general students and instructors is available. Additional information can be found at <u>CTO 6th Edition Update Course FAQs for students</u> or <u>CTO 6th Edition Update Course</u> <u>FAQs for instructors</u>

#### **APCO Launches Redesigned Website**

Our website had not been redesigned in 10 years – a lifetime in websites – and was lacking in functionality and personality, so we tore it down and built a new one.

One of our main goals was improving functionality and making it easier for visitors to find what they are searching for, so we reorganized and consolidated all of the content on the site. Another important goal was to make sure we represented you – the first of the first responders – by using images of real telecommunicators doing their lifesaving work and giving you resources to get involved.

As with any big change, there is going to be an adjustment period, and we invite you to <u>browse the</u> <u>new site</u> and to <u>view this recorded webinar</u> where we talk a little more about the redesign and walk through the new navigation.

#### Free for Members: Upcoming Webinars

Meeting the Recording Challenge of Evolving PTT Over LTE, MCPTT and LMR Recording Technologies October 20 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

This webinar presents an overview of current state of PTT over LTE and MCPTT today as a complimentary technology to LMR along with approaches to meeting recording requirements today and in the future.

<u>Register</u> Sponsored by Eventide

## Every Call, Every Time: Why Redundancy and Resiliency Are Ever More Critical for Safer, Smarter Cities

November 9 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

As the world continues to face a global pandemic, we are being forced to respond to and manage in-

### APCO Announcements (continued)

creasing complex and severe climate related disasters ranging from fires to floods. Successfully planning for and responding to this incredibly demanding new reality starts with your technology and systems and asking the hard questions about interoperability, flexibility, and stability.

Will your systems be there when you really need them? What can you do to help make sure these essential systems are effective? How can you overcome the challenges of today and tomorrow by deploying advanced software solutions? Why is it worth the investment? These are questions everyone in public safety must be able to answer today and tomorrow and what we will discuss in this timely and informative webinar.

<u>Register</u> Sponsored by Hexagon

#### Join Us Virtually for the Tech Forum, Nov. 2-4

Join us online November 2-4 to hear firsthand the latest developments in NG9-1-1, cybersecurity, First-Net, location accuracy and other major issues. View the program. Attendees can earn up to 12 CDEs. And because it's a virtual event, you can attend from anywhere. <u>Register</u>

#### **Reminder: CPE Application Deadline Is Coming Up Soon**

October 15 is the last day to submit your application to be considered for the next Certified Public-Safety Executive (CPE) Program, which begins January 2022. The program consists of two 12-week online courses and one 10-day capstone course at APCO headquarters in Daytona Beach, Florida. Learn more

#### **APCO Announces Final Approval of American National Standard**

APCO received final approval from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for <u>Crisis Interven-</u> <u>tion Techniques and Call Handling Procedures for Public Safety Telecommunicators</u>, a newly created American National Standard (ANS). The purpose of this standard is to identify operational factors related to handling calls involving emotionally distressed individuals. This includes procedures for effectively recognizing and communicating with individuals in emotional or mental crisis and resources that should be available to the public safety telecommunicator.

### **MCSC Monthly Chapter Survey**

The APCO International Member & Chapter Services Committee is excited to introduce our new monthly Chapter survey. Each month we will include a new survey topic within our newsletter with one, or more questions, for our Chapter leadership to complete. Please ensure that you are submitting your answers each month, as this will help Chapters identify resources/tools from other Chapters, and/or assist us with identifying needed training. Each survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. If you have a topic you would like to see, please reach out to one of the Member & Chapter Services Committee members.

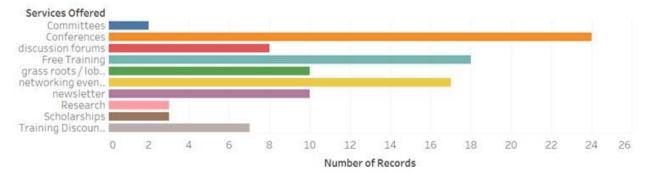
In August, we asked: <u>What Chapter level benefits do you provide to your members?</u>

For this survey question, we had 24 Chapters respond. The top six benefits provided were:

100% provide a Chapter level conference for their membership.

75% offer their members free training.

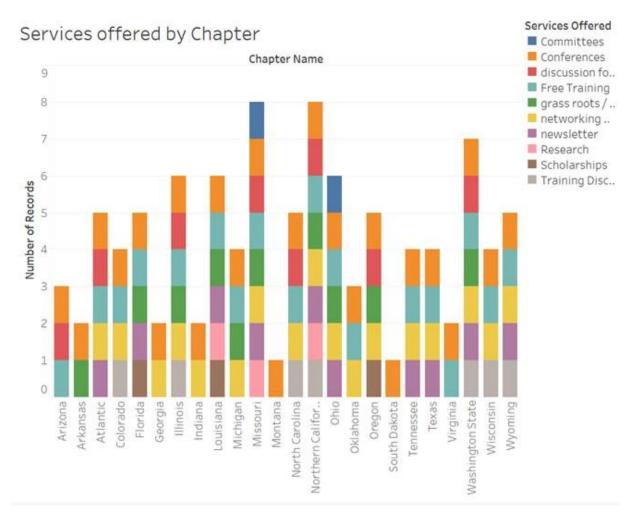
- 71% provide networking events for their members.
- 42% send out a newsletter to their membership.
- 42% spend time on grassroots efforts and lobbying for 9-1-1 legislation, such as Reclassification.



33% provide discussion forums for their membership.

In the survey, there was a selection option for other benefits provided. Some of the benefits listed in this portion of the results were: 2% provide Committees for members to participate in and 3% provide some level of scholarship program for their members. Various Chapters also provided additional benefits: Research on 9-1-1 related topics (3%) and offer training discounts (7%).

Two Chapters stood out for the wide variety of benefits they offer to their membership: Missouri and Northern California. The Missouri Chapter provides the following benefits: Chapter Committees to serve on, Chapter conference, discussion forums, free training, grassroots efforts/lobbying, networking events, newsletter(s) and research on 9-1-1 related topics. The Northern California Chapter provides their members with the following benefits: Chapter conference, discussion forums, free training, grassroots efforts/lobbying, networking events, newsletter(s), research, and training discounts.



### **MCSC Survey (continued)**

If you are looking to integrate any of these benefits into your Chapter, please reach out to those that have successfully implemented them, and ask questions. You can locate each Chapter President's name and email address by visiting <a href="https://www.apcointl.org/">https://www.apcointl.org/</a>, hover over Community, and select Chapters & Chapter Presidents.

- If you have a topic you would like to see discussed, please send them to <u>chris-</u> <u>tine.moore@greensboro-nc.gov</u>, <u>ljscott224@gmail.com</u>, <u>heather.barnes@csec.texas.gov</u> or any other member of the Member & Chapter Services Committee.
- Your MCSC is tasked with putting together best practices for Compassionate Care. Please tell us what your chapter is doing!
- For September's survey visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCSCSep21Poll

### **Upcoming Conferences**







https://www.apcoatlantic2021.com/



### **20th Annual Conference**



October 31-November 3, 2021

Clarion Inn at Platte River 123 West E Street Casper, Wyoming

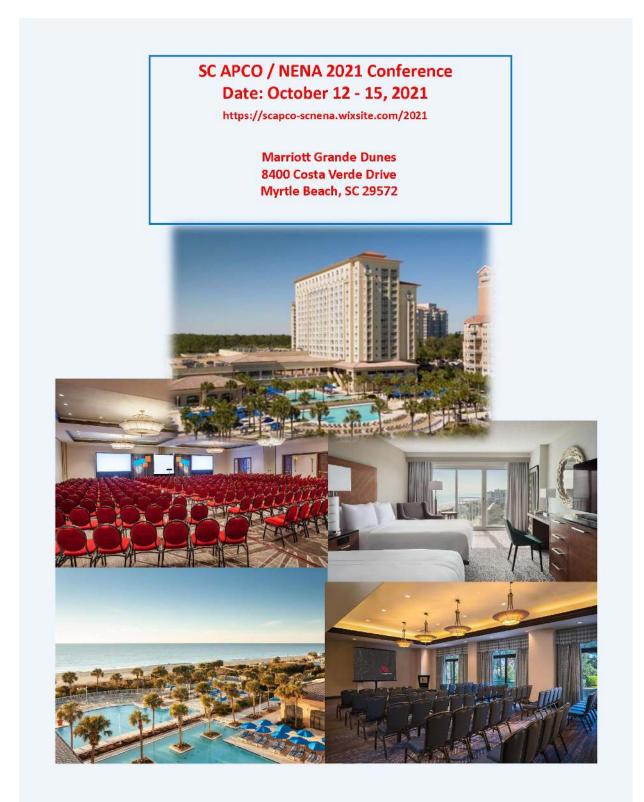


Contact Chapter President Monte McClain for registration details: MMcClain@parkcountysheriff.net

October 2021









### **APCO—San Antonio**

Chapter Leader Training/Workshop Contacts

A special thank you to all of the attendees and speakers at the Chapter Leader Training and Chapter Leader Workshop in San Antonio. For information about any of the additional topics presented, please contact our speakers: Tina Chaffin- Texas Night Out <u>tina@training911heroes.com</u> James Oehmke- Awards <u>JOehmke@vcso.us</u> Zachary Dykes- Social Media <u>Zachary.dykes@mshp.dps.mo.gov</u>

Jeryl Lynn Anderson- Call for Papers janderson@orangecountync.gov

Chapter Leader Workshop Tim Stencel (<u>tstencel@nwcds.org</u>) Grayson Gusa (<u>grayson.gusa@ncapco.org</u>) Michael Speigle (<u>michael.speigle@sarasotasheriff.org</u>) Andrea King (<u>a13557k@lvmpd.com</u>) Zach Dykes (<u>zachary.dykes@mshp.dps.mo.gov</u>)



During the conference last month the Young Professionals Committee hosted the first ever community service project at the APCO conference. A group of 23 volunteered at the San Antonio food bank packaging food for the needy in the area. The group packaged 756 boxes of food totaling 43,00lbs of food! To put that in perspective a normal group of 50-60 packages around 400 boxes, so our group of 23 did double the work!

### CHAPTER MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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