

New York State 9-1-1 Coordinators Association May 2008 Conference and Meeting

Minutes of Association Business

President John Merklinger called the spring meeting of the New York State 9-1-1 Coordinators Association to order at 9:30 am on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008 at the Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, New York. The conference opened the previous day with training presented by various members of the Association. Attendees were welcomed to Cattaraugus County by Sheriff Dennis John. Tuesday, May 13th was dedicated to training and no business was conducted on behalf of the Association.

President Merklinger asked for reports from the officers. The Vice President had no report. The Secretary was otherwise occupied with host duties.

Treasurer Susan Crimmins (Herkimer) gave her report. Currently, the checking account stands at \$18,660.96 and the CD balance stands at \$10,699.46 (as of 12/30/2007). Sue also reported that she has been investigating the tax liability of the Association. She conferred with a professional and found that as long as we raise less than \$25,000 per year, we have no tax liability. She also reported that vendor tables were increased in priced to \$400, and that the price included funding the hospitality time on Wednesday. This was done to ensure the vendors stay, encourage our membership to interact with the vendors, and to share the costs of social time across all vendors. Carl Amaditz (Orange) moves and Steve Griffin (Washington) seconds to approve the report of the treasurer.

The floor was opened for business. Mike Allen (Oswego) filled in the group on efforts to meet with Senator Schumer's office during his visit to Washington during the NENA 9-1-1 Goes To Washington event. Roy Althiser (Otsego) moved and Don Jaquish (Essex) seconds to send a follow-up letter to Senator Schumer's office expressing displeasure with our inability to schedule time with either the Senator himself or his staff during Mike's visit. The motion was carried.

Garth Hiller (Fulton) gave an update on the PSIC Grants being managed and distributed by New York State. (Funding from the Federal Government). \$60 million was allocated to New York State. Of that, \$34.8 million was earmarked for New York City; \$4.7 million was earmarked for an interoperability strategic reserve, which the state is using for strategically placed command posts; \$4.9 million was earmarked for statewide planning initiatives; \$3 million was designated as available for covering costs associated with the interoperability mandates included in the program; and \$10 million was available to local municipalities. The state received requests for funding amounting to \$26 million from the local municipalities. Awards will be made during the summer months.

There was discussion on our Association providing support for the state funding of Pictometry. Tim Wixom (Steuben) moved and Garth Hillier seconds to send a letter of support for this project. The motion was approved.

Roy Althiser requested that the dates for the Fall Conference be moved because they conflict with Northeast APCO.

Conference volunteers for the future were designated as Cayuga County for the Spring of 2009 (potential dates of May 12-14) and Onondaga County for the Fall of 2009 (potential dates of Oct. 20-22).

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President Merklinger informed the membership of the resignation of Brett Chellis (Broome) as director for the Central Region. John Balloni (Onondaga) suggested Denise Stayton (Cayuga) be appointed to this new vacancy. President Merklinger complied.

It was brought up to send a letter to Cortland County thanking them for hosting the Association E-mail Listserv.

There were no Committee Reports.

There was discussion on the potential appointment of a Statewide 9-1-1 Coordinator. Mike Smith (Chemung) suggested we have a conversation with Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security, Michael Balboni regarding this potential appointment. It was suggested a committee be formed to look into other states positions of this type and to perhaps define the role of such a position. A white paper would be circulated to the membership prior to the Fall Conference. The committee was appointed as John Balloni, Mike Allen and Nick Wagner (Cortland).

Tom Burke of the New York State Public Service Commission updated the membership on the potential of the states being granted permission from the FCC to regulate VoIP Telephone providers. He also reported that, while they are not required to do so, both Verizon Wireless and AT&T Wireless work well with the Public Service Commission.

President Merklinger adjourned this session of the meeting at 11:45 am.

President Merklinger reconvened the meeting of the Association to conduct further business on Thursday, May 15th at 10:40 am.

President Merklinger went over the previous discussions regarding the State 9-1-1 Board and the training program. This discussion reviewed again the current status of the course and what actions the Association will take to encourage OFPC to move forward in an active way to package the course appropriately for use. It was suggested that either members of the training committee or the officers or both offer to meet with OFPC staff to finalize a plan.

The correspondence to be sent was reviewed. Letters to be sent to Senator Schumer's office regarding Mike Allen's futile attempt at scheduling a meeting with his staff during 9-1-1 Goes to Washington. There was also a need to send a letter in support of the funding of Pictometry statewide with state funds. The letter is to be sent to the State 9-1-1 Board.

President Merklinger announced Joseph Grube's resignation as secretary of the Association. Anyone interested in filling the position for October and beyond should contact the President. Mark Ballisteri (Rensselaer County) expressed an interest in filling this position.

President Merklinger reminded the membership of the upcoming conference dates and locations. Fall 2008 will be held in Saratoga County on October 27, 28 and 29th. Spring of 2009 will be held in Cayuga County and Fall 2009 will be held in Onondaga County.

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President Merklinger extended his thanks to Joseph Grube for his assistance in hosting the conference and to the Holiday Valley staff for their hospitality and cooperation.

The Spring Meeting of the NYS 9-1-1 Coordinators Association was adjourned at 11:17 am.