

Joint APCO/NENA Committee Meeting
January 28, 2010
Greensboro, NC

Kelly asked about the cost of using West Coast Merchant Services for credit cards. Kelly said the statement looks like we are getting only about 30% of the money and we need to sit down and understand the statements. Kelly said we might need to consider going back to the credit card machine as this may be a cheaper amount. Kelly advised there was one month with no activity and there was a \$102 fee. Tammy said in the past they have charged \$5 for non-activity months. The statements also don't seem consistent.

APCO discussed about how to keep interests and attract new interests. We talked about how it used to be we had training or some information was given out at a lot of meetings. We don't want to support any particular vendor but informational sessions can be very useful. The problem is that if we put the presentation at the end no one stays. One suggestion is to give the speaker 10-15 minutes. The presenter for tomorrow will be given 10-15 minutes just after the start of the APCO meeting. Jeryl thinks it's a good idea to have informational sessions. The concern NENA has is that we don't want vendors to present and other vendors get upset. NENA doesn't plan to have vendors during meeting time. If APCO sees a topic that would benefit the membership they will put it during their meeting time.

There was a suggestion from APCO to have the APCO and NENA regional rep give their report together during the first meeting. We want the two reps to work together towards the same goal. Even if each organization still wants to give their own reports Jeryl would still like both to stand up in the first meeting and share the time. Kelly also wanted to be sure that the reps are the ones to give the reports and not get information from the audience. Ed disagreed – he would like to see people from the audience to be able to speak for themselves. Janet agreed with Ed. Kelly feels like it's the representative's job to give the report. Janet said allowing people to speak lets people get to put a name with a face.

Barry Furey believes that we need to work together and present a letter to the 911 board as a united front regarding 911 funds. Everyone agreed.

On the giving back food program – APCO agrees this is a great initiative. APCO had some other ideas such as a blanket drive. Jeryl would like to maybe try this or combine it with the food drive. The prizes for the food drive have come out of Kelly and Brenda's own money and would like to know if APCO had any prizes. Jeryl said since NENA did the first two drives APCO would do the next two. Marsha suggested challenging the comm center managers that will be in attendance to put up a box in their center to collect food.

Marsha Withrow and Randy Wood will be representing NC APCO at 911 Goes to Washington.

Kelly advised she put out an RFP on CVENT for conference sites. We had 8 people turn us down mostly do to space or because the dates didn't work. We received several proposals (see attachment). Randy advised he is familiar with the MC Benton Convention Center and they will dollar you to death so it was decided to not look at them. Steve Lomax goes to the Sheraton Atlantic Beach for two different conferences and it is quite popular. You are right on the beach. The drawback is the vendor space will be tight. Kelly said you could probably only get 45 booths in there. Steve said another issue might be the airport. New Bern is approximately 30 miles away – Sea Trail has the same issue. Jeryl asked if there were concerns about people attending sessions because it's too nice. Kelly said when you look at prices it really comes down to the Crown Plaza and Atlantic Beach. The Crown has about 1600 extra square feet of vendor space. The Sheraton does have two restaurants that are very large and reasonably priced. The Wilmington Convention Center is also interested. It is under construction and will be completed in September of this year however there is no hotel with it. There will be an Embassy Suites but that won't be built for about two years. They did get room rates for local hotels. The Hilton responded with \$109.

The most requested places to have a conference on the survey were Wilmington, Sunset Beach and then Asheville.

The two main ones are the Crown Plaza and Sheraton Atlantic Beach. Jeryl is concerned about vendor space at the Sheraton but then the Crown doesn't have a lot more. Crown Plaza is hard to find and there is nothing to go to and it's hard to get anywhere. There is only one small restaurant at Crown so the Sheraton definitely has an advantage as far as that is concerned. The beach is a definite attraction. The Sheraton does have enough classroom space. There is a building that we can use as hospitality. Jeryl asked if Atlantic Beach would have enough restaurant space and Kelly thought they definitely would. Crown Plaza would need to be in August due to leaf season to get the state rate.

Jeryl asked if the Sheraton would comp us a room – 1 for every 50. They will. Crown Plaza will only comp us a room if we don't use the state rate. Randy asked if there would be some heartburn if some of the vendors were in the hall. Steve didn't think it would be a problem – especially if they were at a different rate. Randy Wood made a motion that we go to Sheraton Atlantic Beach. Harold Oakley seconded. Jeryl advised the western members always say we don't go west. We know the surveys say people always want to go to the beach. We do need to revisit the mountains again in the future again. Jeryl asked if we needed to lock into a several year contract. We do not. Motion carried. The dates would be September 11th – 15th, 2011.