

WASHINGTON STATE APCO-NENA CHAPTER 2010 Chapter History



Our History

Gov. Chris Gregoire signs SB 6046.

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Behind the Scenes in Making the Modernization of 9-1-1 Happen!

By WA APCO-NENA Past President KD Seeley

The Legislative Committee started our efforts by formalizing our message, estimating statewide costs to modernize and educating ourselves on delivering the message to those in power that would need to vote to increase the excise tax in order to make this happen.



KD SEELEY
WA APCO-NENA
Past President

Part of this effort included organizing several Legislator Meet and Greet Days. Our statewide members flocked to the call to help by setting meetings with their local legislators and



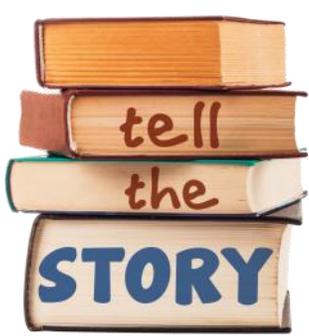
The Legislative Committee recognized at the 2010 June Chapter Meeting.
From L-R: Jean Nealy, Keith Flewelling, Millie Tirapelle, Richard Kirton, Peggy Fouts, Deb Flewelling, Jim Quackenbush & Stephanie Fritts. Not pictured: KD Seeley, Lorlee Mizell and Marlys Davis.

we scheduled two meet and greet days where we hosted all legislators to come and meet with us at local restaurants in Olympia to discuss the need and the importance of taking the state forward as a whole, not just in those counties that had a large population base but in our rural communities statewide.

State 9-1-1 directors, deputy directors, managers and telecommunicators came to Olympia to hear the common message and learn the hard task of educating our legislators on this important need and how to share the 9-1-1

system was already behind the curve on trying to keep up with technology and the citizens' expectations for 9-1-1. For those who asked, members of the Legislative Committee scheduled time to go with them to their meetings with their legislators, to help them gain confidence in their message and be there for support if needed.

As the process continued members gained support of their legislators but found out that what should have been a joint effort by all legislators had turned into a partisan issue. Some republican legislators had to tell their 9-1-1 managers that they could not support the bill because it was considered new taxes even though they agreed with the need.



Do YOU have a WA APCO-NENA Historical Story to tell? Please share your memories with our Historical Committee by contacting us at:

historical@wapconena.org

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Senator Dale Brandland, Whatcom County is recognized by the WA APCO-NENA Chapter for his efforts towards getting this bill passed.

In a time when we thought the bill might not pass, a new hero emerged to support the need for modernization... his name was Senator Dale Brandland from Whatcom County. He made it his mission to bring together other senators to vote for the Modernization Bill and even though only four republican senators including Senator Brandland voted for the bill, that was all that was needed to pass this essential legislation.

In recognition of his courage and support of Modernization of the state 9-1-1 system, Senator Brandland was honored as "State Legislator of the Year" at the 2010 Annual APCO-NENA Conference.

Not to leave out our own members in this effort to pass this legislation, it is important to note two extraordinary efforts:

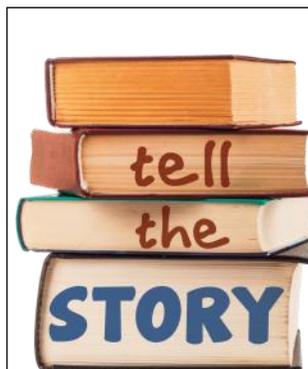
First, the hundreds of hours of time and energy needed by key members of the Legislative Committee to testify at a moment's notice to pass the legislation. Assisted by the APCO-NENA Lobbyist Scott Sigmon, identified members who volunteered to be on a call list to testify were notified by Scott Sigmon, and they would drop everything to be at whichever State Committee needing a 9-1-1 professional to testify on what was needed to modernize and the impact if this was not done. Those members included Lorlee Mizell, Stephanie Fritts, Richard Kirton, Peggy Fouts, Marlys Davis and for very short notice appearances the local 9-1-1 management, Jim Quackenbush and I were there to help.

And second, another essential piece of this legislative effort was the grass roots efforts by every county in Washington state; a statewide telephone tree was developed, as well as an email list, to notify all agencies of the need to contact their legislators by email or by phone to help educate their legislators to the need for this modernization. And boy did they act when contacted! The phones at the Capital rang, letter and emails were written, and those that could travel to scheduled meeting did! The rooms were full of professionals who made a difference!

It is hard to share how proud we all were of everyone's willingness to help make this essential legislative action happen, without it our state would still be trying to function with an aging analog system with no ability to keep up with the needs and expectations of the citizens we serve. Thank you all for all that you accomplished!

For more history about the WA APCO-NENA Chapter see the REFLECTIONS section of our website:

http://www.waapconena.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=170



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