



WASHINGTON APCO-NENA Chapter Highlight

WA APCO-NENA is a joint chapter representing both APCO and NENA with close to thirteen hundred members from across the state. The Washington Chapter was chartered in 1944 as a Northwest Chapter that included Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and northern Utah. Now a single state Chapter, we host 2-day educational forums (usually 2 per year) and an annual state Public Safety Communications Conference.

WA APCO-NENA is in front of public safety leaders on a regular basis. We have positions on the state 911 Advisory Committee, State Interoperable Executive Committee, and a very active [Public and Governmental Affairs committee](#) working on 911 legislation. In 2022, we helped pass a [bill](#) that defines our PSTs as first responders and creates a Certification Board that will establish minimum training standards for PSTs.

Our [Executive Committee](#) consists of the President, Past President, Vice President, APCO Executive Council Representative, APCO Treasurer, NENA Treasurer, Secretary, West and East Side Ambassadors and a Commercial Representative. There are multiple ways we engage with our commercial members. They are allowed to vote in chapter business, their Commercial Representative is voted on by the commercial members, and we recently began having dedicated [commercial membership meetings](#). Our leadership team includes the Executive Committee and all Committee Chairs. We meet each month to attend to Chapter business and have a little fun too!



Organized by our Events Committee, the [annual conference](#) is four days of incredible training (organized by our Professional Development Committee), networking opportunities and includes a vendor hall with dedicated vendor time. The chapter offers scholarships for conference attendance and all annual award winners are given free conference registrations, rooms, and board. Attendees make new connections through a fun event we call “Speed Networking”, and our New

Attendee Breakfast helps welcome newcomers. Our yearly basket auction is a great way for agencies and individuals to showcase their creativity in basket-goodie development and the tense last minute bidding makes for a fun but competitive atmosphere.

Other [chapter committees](#) offer great opportunities for our members to support and encourage each other, network, learn new skills and share their knowledge with others. In addition to our Event Committee, we have Administrative, Engagement, Awards, Marketing, Public & Government Affairs, Professional Development and TERT. The Awards Committee is very active. The committee selects our [Chapter Award](#) winners in the first quarter of the year, announces them during Telecommunicator Week and organizes the presentation ceremonies during the awards banquet held at conference.

Annually, the Chapter recognizes Telecommunicator of the Year – Critical Incident, Team of the Year, Technician of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, Trainer of the Year, and Telecommunicator of the Year – Sustained Performance. In addition to the annual awards, we honor members through special awards. The [Maurice Courtright Award](#) recognizes Washington State Chapter members who influence others to accomplish great deeds via a caring attitude and who inspire others to greatness beyond the limits they themselves ever imagined. [The Presidential Award](#) was created in 2010 to recognize an individual or group who has contributed to the communications profession that had or will have an undeniable impact on the profession. The Washington Chapter has bestowed 16 [Chapter Life Memberships](#) to celebrate these special contributors to our Chapter.

Some activities our chapter recently adopted include welcome packets to new members, local ambassadors in our ECCs that can help engage PSTs with the Chapter, an annual chapter wall calendar with pictures selected from a photo contest, and, taking a nod from APCO Intl, a Chapter t-shirt contest. Our marketing committee manages our website, LinkedIn, and social media accounts – keeping everyone updated with fun and interesting posts that celebrate our memberships’ accomplishments and publicizing our events.

Our Chapter has a strong history with brilliant, engaging, and inclusive members and leaders. We are proud of our Chapter, grateful for the legacy of those that came before, and inspired as we continue to prepare for and influence the future.

Mission: Join together as public safety communications professionals to lead, learn, and leverage our influence, for the benefit of our profession, the public safety workforce, and ultimately the public we serve.