

**FLORIDA APCO BOARD WORKSHOP  
MIAMI, FEBRUARY 22, 2007**

Present:

Eddie Williams  
Sue Pettingill  
Robin Schmidt  
Priscilla Miers

Debbie Gailbreath  
Ricky Rowell  
Bryan Rintoul

Workshop held at the Miami Doral and commenced at 9:00 a.m. Members absent: Lori Van Gilder, Randy Kerr, Clara Woody-Redmon and Tom Sorley.

**Retirement Task Force update – Barry (via phone).**

**House Update**

- Our bill was filed in the House, and was referred to two places
- The bill has to be heard by Representative Atkinson's (Osceola) committee first - If passed from that committee, it then goes to a larger committee, chaired by Representative Andy Gardnier (Orange)
  - Our internal contacts have good working relationships with both Atkinson and Gardnier.
  - Our internal contacts have been unable to get an agreement on when (if) the bill will be heard by Atkinson
  - Atkinson's committee has to hear property tax issues and all of the FRS issues, (there are about 27 of them)
  - Representative Gardnier advised our internal contact that he would not pull the bill from Atkinsons' committee, that he sent it there and it has to be worked there.
  - Gardnier advised that the property tax issue is the highest priority for them.
  - Our goal is to find an APCO member in the district of each House member on the Atkinson committee and immediately schedule a meeting to go visit them next week, (this week, everyone is in Tallahassee for committee meetings, next week, everyone is back in their District before the legislative session starts the following week)
  - That APCO member will need one of the "big books" and they will need to be coached on what to say and what to ask.

**Senate Update**

- Our bill was filed in the Senate
- The Senate has sent our bill to four different committees
- The first committee is chaired by Senator Rudy Garcia (Miami Dade)
- We do not have any indication that Senator Garcia will schedule our bill
- APCO can engage a separate lobbyist (Rick Penia) who will work with Senator Garcia

- It will cost APCO approximately \$ 7,500 to get the bill placed on the agenda.
- APCO will have to work hard to get support in this Senate Committee for the bill to pass
- It would cost APCO approximately \$50,000 to get the bill "passed" in this first committee.
- If the bill passes this first Senate Committee, it has three more committee stops before it would reach the Senate floor.
- More dollars could be needed at each Committee stop.
- Our goal is to find an APCO member in the district of each Senate member of this committee, and immediately schedule a meeting to go visit them as well.
- The APCO member will need to carry a "big book" with them and be coached on what to say.
- We do not have any "internal contacts" with the Senate
- I know understand why it cost the Forensics technicians more than \$120,000 to get their bill passed.

### **Overall**

- Richard Pinsky is recommending that we not proceed with the dinner option (APCO was going to be asked to pay \$ 1,500 to sponsor the table for Senator Garcia).
- Those dollars would be better spent on hiring a lobbyist with Senate expertise.
- It is possible that APCO might spent \$ 7,500 and the bill does not pass the committee vote, or that the bill is not heard in the House committee, or that additional dollars are needed at every stop, beyond the reach of the APCO budget.
- It is possible that this legislative session will be completely consumed with the Property Tax relief issue and that no other business will be conducted.
- My concern is that if our local team, which has a daily relationship with Atkinson and Gardnier, cannot get the political buy in to help move this forward, that we should not expect any other political favors or buy in.
- That will make this a very difficult battle ahead, and one that we might conclude is not viable.
- There are some "back door" methods, including contact with Representative Marty Bowen of Polk County.

**Concerns:** We cannot identify the APCO members in each Senate and Representative District to set up appointments next week.

This legislative session seems to be completely consumed with Property Tax issues and that no other legislation will be considered.

We may be pushing APCO dollars toward a project which seems to have little hope of moving forward this legislative session.

Board to meet with lobbyist Richard Pinsky during this workshop. (see notes below)

**Chapter policy update & By-laws change proposal:** Robin made a motion that the current Chapter Secretary position be extended for another year before the position is open for election. In addition, recommended that the current By-laws be amended for the Secretary and Treasurer positions so that both positions are a 2-year term, with elections occurring on opposite years (unless one of the positions becomes vacant during the 2-year term). Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ricky, motion carried with no opposition. Robin to draft proposed by-laws change and publish in time for a vote at the May conference. In addition, Robin to draft proposed By-law amendments stipulating that a maximum of two employees from the same agency can serve on the Board at the same time. This proposal will also be published in time for vote at the conference.

## Article VI            CHAPTER ELECTIONS

### 6.0    ELIGIBILITY

Only members who hold ACTIVE membership status in this Chapter may be considered for any elective position in this Chapter. **No more than two members from the same Public Safety Agency may hold a position of Chapter Officer.**

### 6.1    POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

~~The following officers shall be elected at each Annual Conference: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, three Board of Officers Members, and an International Executive Committee Person. Additionally, Should the president-Elect be unable to advance to the office of President then a President shall be elected. At the next annual conference~~

**The following officers shall be elected at the annual conference yearly:**

**President-Elect  
Three Board of Officers Members**

**The following officers shall be elected at the annual conference every two years:**

**Secretary on the odd number years  
Treasurer on the even numbered years  
Executive Counsel on the even years**

### 6.2    HOW FILLED

All elective positions in this Chapter shall be elected by ballot from nominations submitted by the nominating committee in accordance with Article 6.2.1, or from nominations from the floor. Such balloting shall be done at the last scheduled business session at the Annual Conference.

### 6.2.1 TIES

In the event of a tie of a officer position that position shall be determined by the president. Should one of candidates be the current president then the determination will be made the president elect or the next succeeding officer.

### 6.2.2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This Committee shall consist of at least three (3) Past-Presidents as far as possible, and shall be appointed by the President during the Annual Conference. This Committee shall have as its Chairman, the Immediate Past-President, if possible. The Committee shall report a slate of nominees for office to the Conference prior to the casting of ballots. Additional nominations may be made by the Quorum from the floor of the Conference.

### 6.3 DATE FOR TAKING OFFICE AND OATH

The President-Elect shall advance to the office of President and the other candidates elected at the Annual Conference shall ~~automatically~~ take the oath of office as the last order of business prior to the close of the Annual Conference.

### 7.6 VACANCIES

7.6.1 In the event an elected official is unable to complete their term, the vacancy shall be filled in the following manner:

- a) President, President-Elect, and Board of Officers will be filled through advancement in rank.
- b) Vacancy in any other office shall be filled by presidential appointment with approval of the Board of Officers, until the next annual conference when the position can be voted on by the membership.

**Quarterly Round Up** has not gone out as scheduled and needs to get out ASAP. Robin created task list for articles as follows:

- How to become a conference sponsor (Ricky)
- President's message (Eddie)
- Conference Update (Sue)
- Retirement Update (Barry)
- Golf Tournament info (Eddie)
- Current vendor sponsors (Ricky)
- "Kuddos Korner" (Robin)
- Awards (Nancy)
- Executive Council – Florida Workshop update (Tom)
- 2007 Elections Info (Debbie)
- Bylaws notices (Robin)
- Vendor Update (Priscilla)
- Training update (Cary/Laurie)
- Candidate Bios (Bryan and Nancy) (Eddie to contact Vic Cullars)
- Committee & Task Force Descriptions (Debbie)

All articles are due to Eddie by 5pm on Monday, February 26. Eddie to coordinate with Dick to work on the Round Up for distribution within a week.

**Robin coordinating with Eric to update the website to include:**

- Vendor partnerships
- adding meeting/conference calls minutes
- info on the Super Session and conference class agenda
- Golf Tournament
- Executive Council Report

**2008 & 2009 Conferences:**

Sue and Debbie conducted site visits on 2/19 at the Marriott Vinoy in St. Petersburg and the Hyatt in Tampa. The only 2008 dates available at the St. Petersburg Marriott are in late June. The Hyatt does have available dates in May 2008, however National NENA is being held in June 2008 in the same area. Sue to research Orlando area hotels for availability for May 2008 dates and provide an update by the conference call on 3/19.

Debbie to follow-up with the St. Pete Marriott and re-negotiate proposed dates/room rates provided by the Marriott for 2009:

May 8-15: \$199

May 29-June 5: \$189

June 6-12: \$189

June 21-26: \$139

June 26-July 1: \$129

The workshop recessed at 12:00 p.m.

Robin, Sue and Debbie reconvened at 2:00 p.m. at the Miami Fairfield Inn and worked on the above listed items for the Roundup.

**Meeting with lobbyist Richard Pinsky:** 8:00 a.m., February 23; Sue, Robin and Debbie. Mr. Pinsky provided much of the same information as listed above by Barry, expressing the urgent need for one-on-one meetings by APCO members with the committee's Senators during the week of February 26. He also provided information on monetary contributions that may be necessary.

After the meeting with Mr. Pinsky, Sue, Robin and Debbie had a discussion about the "best interest of the membership" and agreed that we should proceed with a monetary commitment to attempt to get the legislation passed this year. Phone calls were made to all Board members (except Tom) and all agreed for the Chapter to make \$5000 available immediately, with a cap of \$10,000 for use by Mr. Pinsky.

Sue, Robin and Debbie divided up the Senator's information by area and made phone calls to various APCO members regarding scheduling meetings with these senators:

Garcia & Villalobos (Dade) – Natalie  
Hill (Putnam) – Randy  
Crist & Storms (Hillsborough) – Debbie  
Dawson (Palm Beach) – Robin  
Geller (Broward) – Nancy  
Handopolis (Osceola/Brevard) – Sue  
Siplin (Orange) – Sue  
Weiss (Nassau) – Ricky

Debbie and Robin then met with Natalie and provided her a copy of the documentation (part of the "big book") provided by Barry. Natalie met with her communications labor rep and they will attempt to schedule meetings with Garcia.

Business concluded at 11:30 a.m. on February 23.