

CANDIDATE FOR APCO 2ND VICE PRESIDENT -2008

Hello to all my fellow APCO members. My name is Barry Woodward from the Georgia Chapter and I am announcing to you that I am a candidate to be your 2nd Vice President for 2008.

This is something that I have given thought to for a long time, and finally made the decision in March of 2007 to take the step and run for the position. I have a lot of good friends within the Association that have encouraged and supported me to embark on this endeavor. And I would be remiss if I did not include my wife, Trish, who is the 911 Director for the City of Conyers, GA., who, without her 100 percent support of this, I would not be able to begin this journey.

A little history about myself. I am a native of DeKalb County, Georgia which is a suburb of Atlanta. After High School, I got my first job in this business as a part time radio operator for the State Civil Defense Office on the weekends on the grave yard shift. This was in June of 1972. In August of 1973, I went to work as a Communications Operator for the DeKalb County Police Department, retiring in March of 2003 as the Director of the 911 Center and Emergency Management. Since that time, I have done some consulting and have worked part time at the Stone Mountain Park Police and Fire Department as a Corporal doing primarily Fire and Rescue, but also communications, technical operations, and training. I am embarking on another full time career effective January 1, 2008 as the 911 Director for the City of Decatur Police Department in Decatur, GA., and I look forward to that challenge it presents.

I am a certified Communications Operator, Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT, Terminal Agency Coordinator, and Master Emergency Manager, and hold several instructor disciplines, including Senior Instructor through the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council.

I first got started as an operator member of APCO in 1977 as the State of Georgia's first "Operator Member", but my agency at that time did not support the funds for it, and I let it lapse until 1984 when I moved from operations to technical, and they supported my re-joining of APCO. Since that time, I have served in virtually every position on the Georgia Board of Officers since 1985, including Chapter President in 1990-1991, and still serve today as the Chapter Treasurer. I have also been involved in the National level since 1990 by joining a number of committees including the Emergency Medical Services Committee, 911 Committee, Emergency Management Committee, and currently serving on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Homeland Security, and Spectrum Committees, as well as a number of the Georgia Chapter committees.

I say all of that to tell you that I am 100 percent committed to APCO and what it represents, which is YOU who are in the communications field. Communications is the LIFELINE of any organization, and is evidenced every day by the hard working men and women who man our centers and keep up with the mountainous volumes of traffic that come through each day. It is also evidenced by those individuals who do our technical work, our frequency coordination, and most of all, the training of our line personnel. All of that has to come together to make our profession the BEST in Public Safety. But we

still have a long way to go to be recognized as equals in Public Safety to our partners in the other disciplines. One of my goals if I am elected is to continue to push for more training for Communications personnel through Web Based Training, and through an individual's own agency. We must continue to strive for excellence within our Centers, and training is a major part of that. We could call this "Raising the Standard of Excellence" for all of our personnel, and for that matter, all of our members in general. I am also committed to continue to work for "parity" with our Public Safety partners because without Communications, the other disciplines could not do their job effectively. We also need to be pushing for wireless and VoIP to come on line quickly so we can locate these cellular callers when they do not know where they are. There are also a host of other items that we need to continue to push for that current and past administrations are currently working on for the betterment of Public Safety Communications

Lastly, I am committed to the members of the Association to make this the premier organization in the world for Public Safety Communications. With your help, we can accomplish this. We can do this, but we have to do it TOGETHER.

I hope to see you along the way and certainly in August in Kansas City.