

# Ohio 9-1-1 Newsletter

## Ohio 9-1-1 State Fair Booth 2019

This summer, the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office staffed an informational booth at the Ohio State Fair with the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee. Staff members from the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office or committee members from the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee were present each day to engage with the public.

Fairgoers visiting the booth received a variety of printed materials, including informational cards describing the current state of 9-1-1 in Ohio as well as what to expect in the next few years with the arrival of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). In addition, information was shared about AMBER Alerts, Endangered Missing Child Alerts, Endangered Missing Adult Alerts, and the Ohio Blue Alert. We also distributed child identification kits to help in the recovery of missing children and coloring sheets for children featuring the characters Op and Rader from the Ohio 9-1-1 Elementary Education Program.

Throughout the entirety of the fair, workers at the informational booth interacted with the public about a wide range of topics related to 9-1-1 and AMBER Alerts. This event again served to increase public awareness about the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office and how coming changes to the 9-1-1 system will positively impact their lives.

We would like to thank our partners at the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee and the Ohio Department of Public Safety for helping make this event a success.



*Sharon McMurray of the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office talks to members of the public about 9-1-1.*



*Ohio 9-1-1 Administrator Rob Jackson meets the Ohio State Highway Patrol explosives sniffing canine Bodie at the Ohio State Fair.*

## New Technical Standards Subcommittee Member

At the July 25 meeting of the ESINet Steering Committee, members voted to approve a new member for the Technical Standards Subcommittee. Denis Walsh will now represent the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet) on the Technical Standards Subcommittee, replacing the retiring Paul Schopis. Denis is OARnet's Interim Executive Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Chief Relationship Officer. With the addition of Walsh, the rosters for the ESINet Steering Committee and two subcommittees are as following:

### ESINet Steering Committee

- Ervan D. Rodgers II, Chair
- Matthew Hiscock, Ohio Municipal League
- Thomas Robbins, Ohio Municipal League
- John Leutz, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- Edwin Humphrey, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- Jason Loree, Ohio Township Association
- Sen. Frank Hoagland, Ohio Senate
- Sen. Sean O'Brien, Ohio Senate
- Rep. Kent Smith, Ohio House of Representatives
- Rep. Rick Carfagna, Ohio House of Representatives

### Technical Standards Subcommittee

- Dave Blackstone, Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP), Chair
- Denis Walsh, OARnet
- Tom Bretthauer, Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS)
- Nancy Serafino, Ohio Telephone Association, CenturyLink



*Denis Walsh, new OARnet representative to the Technical Standards Subcommittee*

- Matt Franke, Ohio Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
- Chris Santer, Ohio Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA)
- Lawson Dripps, AT&T
- Roger Hixson, At-Large Member

#### **PSAP Operations Subcommittee**

- Jay Somerville, Ohio APCO, Chair
- Ronald (Dave) Ford, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management
- Lydia Frey, Ohio State Highway Patrol
- Kim Brandt, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- Jeff Busch, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- Matthew Hiscock, Ohio Municipal League
- Tom Robbins, Ohio Municipal League
- Chief Deputy Tom Morgan, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
- Chief Jeffrey Mitchell, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Chief Brad Shull, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association
- Patrick Goldschmidt, Ohio NENA
- Lisa Raffurty, At-Large Member representing Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS)

A special thanks to Paul Schopis for his years of service on the Technical Standards Subcommittee and to the citizens of Ohio.

## **Save the Date: 2019 Ohio 9-1-1 Symposium on September 18**

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office is pleased to announce it will host the Ohio 9-1-1 Symposium Wednesday, September 18 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy.

Topics and highlights for this year's symposium include a presentation from OnStar about new advances in emergency communications, a presentation from the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator from the State of Massachusetts, and a special presentation about 9-1-1 and the Amish community.

In addition, there will be updates from representatives of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System and the Ohio chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), as well as the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office.

Lunch will be available on-site for \$6.45 (cash only) at the academy cafeteria. Please [register](#) by September 6 for this free event. The academy is located at 740 E. 17th Ave, Columbus, 43211.

## **County 9-1-1 Spotlight: Lawrence County**

### **What is your name, job title, what agency do you work for, and for how long?**

My name is Lonnie Best. I am the 9-1-1 Director for Lawrence County 9-1-1 and Communications Center.

### **How long have you been involved specifically with 9-1-1?**

I have been involved with Lawrence County 9-1-1 for 23 years. I started as a part-time telecommunications officer in June 1996, working with a DOS-based system. I became Director in 2006, moving that system to a cloud-based system.

### **Give us a brief description of how 9-1-1 operates locally in your county.**

Lawrence County 9-1-1 is the only PSAP in Lawrence County. Lawrence County implemented and maintains a countywide 9-1-1 system, which started in July 1996. In 2016, the Sheriff received control of Lawrence County 9-1-1 from the Lawrence-County Commission. Lawrence County 9-1-1 dispatches fire and EMS while the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office dispatches law enforcement. The county has 15 fire departments with one being a paid department, one EMS service, the sheriff's office, and six village police departments.



*Lonnie Best,  
Lawrence County 9-1-1 Coordinator*

Lawrence County is building a new 9-1-1 Center, which will combine the Sheriff's Office dispatch with Lawrence County 9-1-1 into one Emergency Communications Center. At the present time, Lawrence County 9-1-1 consists of six full-time and nine part-time telecommunications officers.

Lawrence County 9-1-1 utilizes EmergiTech as its vendor for CAD and 9-1-1. APCO International supports the Emergency Medical Dispatch program.

### **What is your favorite part of being involved in 9-1-1?**

My favorite part of 9-1-1 is the constant changing of the guard of technology and communications officers. It is pleasurable hearing the older telecommunications officers telling the new personnel how tricky it was navigating DOS in the 90's, Enhanced 911 Phase 1 and Phase 2, with the lives it saved into the upcoming Next Generation 9-1-1 technology that will be antiquated and replaced before they retire and pass that torch of knowledge and dedication of saving lives onto the future generations of 9-1-1.

### **What might your staff or other county 9-1-1 coordinators be surprised to learn about you?**

I believe what might surprise others is I was a high school teacher and football coach for several years with a 35-year medic career before joining Lawrence County 9-1-1 in 1996.

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### **Contact Information Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office**

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