



**Executive Council Meeting Brief
Highlights from the 2009 Mid-Year Executive Council
Meeting
February 14-15, 2009**

**APCO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
SUSPENDS DUES INCREASE**



In recognition of the tough economic times, the APCO International Executive Council suspended the annual dues increase for 2010. As directed by a recent change in the association's Bylaws ([Article II Section 1](#)) to avoid large dues increases every several years, the Executive Council considers a dues increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) every year. This year, based on discussion with the Executive Council, the Board of Officers decided to pull the item from the Executive Council 2009 Mid-Year Meeting Agenda.

**GRASS TOPS VS. GRASS ROOTS:
HOW YOU CAN AND WHY YOU
SHOULD GET INVOLVED**



APCO International staff took time during this year's Mid-Year Executive Council Meeting to discuss the importance of issue advocacy at the local level. With dedicated policy staff and a presence in Washington, DC, APCO International's government affairs is strong at the national level, but, as explained by Legislative Affairs Director Yucel Ors, the organization's strength comes from its roots, not its tops.

Ors highlighted examples from two chapters who have effectively advocated for policy change in their states. The

Meeting Agenda.

President Elect Richard Mirgon described this as a "philosophical act" representing APCO International's recognition of and appreciation for the financial struggles of our members and their agencies.

The increase this year would have been approximately \$3. The dues increase for consideration next year cannot be larger than the cumulative CPI increase of 2008 and 2009.

NEW APCO PROJECT ADDRESSES STANDARDS FOR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



Not only within our country but also all over the world of public safety is moving to graphical geospatial applications that allow for real time monitoring of public safety events. These types of systems

Florida Chapter recently succeeded in instituting [minimum training and certification requirements](#) for public safety communications personnel. In addition, the Montana Chapter is working to secure [retirement benefits](#) for public safety communications personnel.

All of the tools you need to get your Chapter started can be found on the [Government Affairs Web site](#).

CORE COMPETENCIES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY



The Executive Council, also during their 2009 Mid-Year Meeting, unanimously approved the [Core Competencies for Public Safety Communications Manager/Director](#), which was developed by APCO International's Call Center Standards Committee and is currently in

have been used by the military for decades to successfully manage events and to make real-time decisions either on scene or from anywhere in the world. This technology has been making its way into public safety and is known as either "Common Operating Picture" or "Situational Awareness" and has been defined as the ability to have a common operational picture which facilitates collaborative planning and assists all echelons to achieve situational awareness.

Many of our members may associate this as a function of Computer Aided Dispatch systems that have real time tracking of resources and incidents on a GIS-based map. However, without coordination, as in APCO Project 25 radio interoperability, those functions do not have the ability to be shared with neighboring jurisdictions or agencies that may be required to provide support during major incidents. Examples of major incidents would be tornados, floods, hurricanes, large fires and terrorist acts which need to be supported by multiple jurisdictions and regional or state emergency

Standards Committee and is currently in the process of becoming an American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standard. The focus of this collaboration is to help public safety communications managers/directors expand their knowledge, as well as to prepare the next generation of managers/directors currently working at various levels of our public safety communications centers.

Look for APCO International's 75th Anniversary Logo as we Celebrate our Diamond Anniversary!



management agencies as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This past weekend, the Executive Council unanimously voted to create Project 42 to identify those areas where standards are needed to achieve system interoperability and create a common operating picture at all levels, horizontal and vertical.