

National Emergency Number Association Keystone State Chapter

Executive Officers

John Geib – **President**
Gene Good – **Vice President**
Brad Lavan – **Secretary**
Timothy Baldwin – **Treasurer**
John Grappy – **Past President**



Regional Directors

Jen Cass – Eastern Region
Bart Shellenhamer – Central Region
Frank Jannetti – Western Region

Committee Chairs

Legislative Affairs – Michael McGrady
Conference – Michael McGrady

December 20, 2022

To the members of PA NENA:

It hardly seems possible that it has been three months since we were together at State College for our annual conference. There has been a flurry of activity from region to region and across the state over the final quarter of 2022. The officers of PA NENA thought it prudent to provide a summary of events as we look toward a very busy 2023.

Conference Review

The 2022 conference was loaded with great educational sessions and meaningful networking opportunities. The event continues to grow and that is a direct result of your active participation and support. The board continues to evaluate all aspects of the conference to ensure we are providing a relevant and purposeful event worth your time and financial investment.

The Toftrees Resort has been a long-standing partner with PA NENA and extremely supportive and responsive to our conference needs. However, some initial discussions with event attendees led the board to ask the question: have we outgrown our current conference venue?

We need your input and feedback. A brief 5-question conference survey has been provided ([click here](#)) to all members and registered attendees of the 2022 conference. If you would prefer to send additional information or comments in lieu of the survey, you are welcome to reach out to me, your regional director, or another member of the board. Regardless of how you respond, we want to ensure that our decisions are based on the needs of our membership. Feedback will be collected as we continue to plan logistics for the 2023 Conference. Be on the lookout for a conference announcement early in the year.

Statewide NG911 Migration

During the most recent meeting of the State 911 Advisory Board on December 8th, PEMA and Comtech provided an in-depth status report on the progress of the ESInet (Emergency Services Internet-protocol network) deployment. The member counties of the Northern Tier have successfully transitioned to the state ESInet and provided valuable feedback during and following the PA NENA Conference in September. The member counties of WestCORE have started their transition and anticipate completion of that transition by March 2023. Plans to transition the remaining regions are in the preparation stages as GIS data is validated and network designs are finalized. Comtech's onboard team will be reaching out to every 911 center—if they haven't done so already—to coordinate training and other valuable conversations prior to the transition. We encourage you to fully engage your team in the process. The 911 Office has clearly communicated their desire

for the local 911 leaders to drive this ESInet rollout. The only way to ensure it meets the needs of your operation is to have participation from all disciplines—operations, technology, GIS, training—in addition to your organization’s decision-makers.

Legislation

Pennsylvania Act 17 of 2019 is the current legislation that provides the structure and funding for the statewide 911 program. This legislation is set to expire on January 31, 2024. A year may appear to be a relatively sufficient length of time to renew established law. The truth is we need to start right now in order to reach an agreement and have a bill proceed through the legislation process before the January 2024 expiration date.

Unlike the 2019 effort that extended the original legislation (Act 12 of 2015), we expect more significant change proposals to be on the table. One of the primary discussion points will need to be the current fee rate of \$1.65; and, any time you propose changes to a set fee, the discussion will include many meetings, discussions, and opportunities to testify. The PA NENA board has begun the process to coordinate initial meetings with a diverse stakeholder group to include PA APCO, PEMA, and CCAP (the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania).

Additionally, we will be developing a larger PA NENA group that will provide an opportunity for you to participate in the process. A core team will conduct regular briefings for this larger group to report on progress and gather questions, concerns, suggestions, and other feedback. Your regional director will be reaching out to agencies in their area as we continue to coordinate a meeting schedule.

Reference Link: [Pennsylvania Act 17 of 2019](#)

Social Media Engagement

Over the past few months, PA NENA has increased their presence on social media. Currently, our primary platform is Facebook with plans to add Instagram early in 2023. Social media platforms are a primary source of communication and information gathering for our younger generations – the generations entering the workforce. As the 911 community continues to struggle with staffing levels nationwide, we need to leverage every opportunity to tell our story and recruit our next generation of telecommunicators.

Below is a link to the PA NENA Facebook site. We encourage you to connect and interact with us throughout the year as we post information ranging from emergency information to fun stories. Creating a network presence that spans the 911 community in the state and beyond will carry our story to those we help every day and to those that will join our ranks in the future.

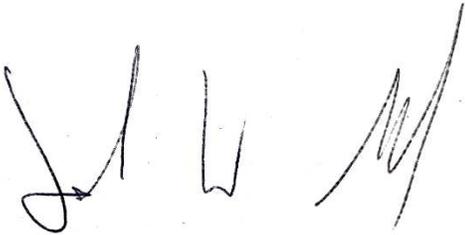
Reference Link: [Keystone State Chapter of NENA | Facebook](#)

2023 Regional Meetings

Mark your calendars! The 2023 regional meetings will be held on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The board will be coordinating details in January and an announcement on location and meeting content will be sent to all members by February. We will likely not be hosting a NENA education session as we have over the past few years. Rather, we will focus on the NG911 migration, legislative activity, and other items pertinent to the 911 community.

In closing, the PA NENA leadership would like to thank everyone for their tireless efforts and commitment to the public safety mission. Our 911 community received over 15 million calls statewide from those in crisis and in need of emergency services. **You** make a difference. Happy holidays to each of you. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, or another day of significance, we hope you have an opportunity to relax and reflect on the countless people you have helped throughout this past year.

Together in community service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Geib', written in a cursive style.

John W. Geib