



Hello Florida 9-1-1 Professionals,

The Florida Legislative season is coming to a close and we wish we were here to provide better news. FL APCO, FL NENA and the FL 911 Coordinators' Association have been working diligently to have Florida 9-1-1 Public Safety Telecommunicators classified as First Responders. Unfortunately, we were not successful. That is not to say we did not make some significant strides and learn some valuable lessons!

To give a brief synopsis, we had Bills (HB 49 and SB 200) introduced before session that dealt strictly with reclassification of 911 PSTs and certain workmen's compensation benefits for stress related illness and injuries. HB 49 did not make it to Committee and was withdrawn from consideration. SB 200 died in the Banking and Insurance Committee without a hearing.

Other Bills were introduced for certain corrections employees with the same provisions, First Responder and workmen's compensation for stress related illness or injuries. We tried to get 911 PSTs added to these Bills. We were unable to get 911 PSTs added to this legislation. Thanks to many, 911 PSTs were presented in a positive manner and the profession was portrayed for the stressful job it is. I believe it was educational for several of our elected officials.

On a positive note, we have gained some great supporters of 9-1-1 and its personnel in the House and Senate. We have also learned some valuable lessons. The three organizations will be meeting within the next month or two to discuss plans moving forward. One of our goals will be to organize our members earlier, possibly starting with year round outreach to our elected officials. We will be reaching out to our memberships for assistance.

Also [HB 593 - Telecommunicator Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation](#) has passed both the House and Senate. It is reported that Governor DeSantis will sign this Bill. We will use this as a prime example of the state using us as First Responders but not giving us the proper recognition. Again, it is more duties and responsibilities for 911 PSTs without input from 9-1-1 professionals.

FL APCO, FL NENA and the FL 911 Coordinators' Association remain united for our members and all 911 PSTs across the state. We appreciate the mission critical, lifesaving jobs you do every day for the residents and visitors to Florida.

Vonda Jones
President, FL APCO

Jacob Saur
President, FL NENA

Jody Kenyon
President, FL 911 CA