



SEWCRSG

Southeast Wisconsin Communications Resource/Support Group

2007 Annual Report



SEWCRSG Mission

The SEWCRSG is enhancing public safety communication systems by facilitating regional peer networking of emergency service providers. This is being accomplished through:

- Regular dialogue and information sharing
- Training
- Interoperability advancement
- Coordination with other related state/local initiatives

2007 – THE HIGHLIGHTS

Last year the SEWCRSG was able to fulfill its mission and make significant progress on existing initiatives while also moving forward with new initiatives. Below are some of the accomplishments of 2007.

- SEWCRSG was formalized as a 509(a)(2) non-profit organization.
- The SEWCRSG hosted 4 free dispatcher training classes, which were attended by more than 110 people.
- Development of the Wisconsin Interoperability System Exchange, or WISE, was completed and the application went live online in November 2007.
- The SEWCRSG, in partnership with WI-NENA and WI-APCO, continued to provide support for the development and implementation of the Wisconsin Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce, or WI-TERT.
- The SEWCRSG initiated development of regional guidelines for communications when pursuits cross jurisdictional lines.
- Committee meetings and the Web site provided SEWCRSG members multiple forums for networking and sharing information.

SEWCRSG COMMITTEE

On February 8, 2007, the first official SEWCRSG Board of Directors was elected. In turn, the board of directors elected the following executive officers:

President: Connie Catterall

Vice President: Captain Jay Maritz

Treasurer: Wendy Maechtle

Secretary: Anne Reshadi

With support from the Wisconsin Chapters of NENA and APCO, the SEWCRSG was able to apply for and was granted status as a 509(a)(2) non-profit (tax exempt) organization in early 2007. This formal structure will help assure longevity of the SEWCRSG and allows the group to pursue funding opportunities that could further support SEWCRSG initiatives.

The SEWCRSG committee continued to meet regularly and held seven meetings in 2007. Each meeting gave members an opportunity to share information about other related state/local initiatives they are part of including WI-APCO, WI-NENA, the 9-1-1 Joint Legislative Committee, the State Interoperability Executive Council and the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement Program. The committee also used the meetings as a forum for discussing special topics. Special topic presentations included:

- “Reassignment of Frequencies in WI,” presented by **Bill Dean**, from Communication Planning Consultants. During his presentation, Mr. Dean explained the desire of Pappas Telecasting of WI to cease operations of analog Channel 68. Removal of this channel from active broadcast transmission will enable reassignment of frequencies in the 794 MHz to 800 MHz range for use by WI and IL public safety agencies.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jefferson County

Todd Lindert - Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Kenosha County

Dolly Brennan - Kenosha City/County Joint Services

Milwaukee County

Lt. Daniel Schmerse - Milwaukee Police Dept

Ozaukee County

Wendy Maechtle - Ozaukee County Sheriff's Dept

Racine County

Sgt. Robert Kacmarcik - Racine County Sheriff's Dept

Walworth County

Capt. Jay Maritz - Walworth County Sheriff's Dept

Washington County

Jill Raffay - Washington County Sheriff's Dept

Waukesha County

Richard Tuma - Waukesha County Communications

SE WI Regional Planning Commission

Jason Zehrung - SEWRPC

WI State Patrol

Connie Catterall - WSP, Waukesha Post

WI Dept of Transportation

Anne Reshadi - WisDOT Bureau of Highway Operations

2007 Treasurer's Report

In 2007, the SEWCRSG began collecting annual membership dues of \$10. Treasurer's reports are given at each committee meeting and a Treasurer's Report for 2007 is provided below.

Beginning Balance: \$110.00

Total Income: \$510.00

- 2007 Dues: \$190.00
- Donations: \$320.00

Total Expenditures: \$343.00

- Web site Hosting Renewal: \$43.00
- US Treasury - 509(a)(2) Application: \$300.00

Ending Balance: \$277.00

TRAINING

Basic Fire Operations and Incident Command System, or ICS, Overview

A half day Basic Fire Operations and ICS Overview training session was taught by Battalion Chief Mike Romas from the City of Milwaukee Fire Department. During the class Chief Romas provided an overview of basic fire operations including terminology, gear, response, scene management and the Incident Command System (ICS). In addition, Chief Romas taught the classroom portion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 course entitled NIMS: An Introduction. One of the main purposes of this class was to assist agencies in achieving compliance with the Office of Justice Assistance's (OJA's) NIMS and ICS training requirements. Two classes were held on January 23, 2007 and 40 participants representing 13 agencies attended.



"Very beneficial to visually see and understand the basics as we normally do not get to see what happens as a dispatcher. The instructor was very animated and held your attention... made the class more entertaining and interesting." - Becky, 1/23/07 Attendee

Flight for Life and WI EMS Emergency Preparedness Plan Overview

A half day Flight for Life, or FFL, and WI EMS Emergency Preparedness Plan, or WEEPP, training course was developed. The training included a presentation by Paul Wittkamp on EMS dispatching and the WEEPP. Claire Rayford from FFL-Wisconsin provided an overview of FFL. The training sessions were taught at Froedtert Hospital and attendees were taken on a tour of the trauma center, dispatcher center and FFL landing pad. A total of two classes were held in May and June and 73 participants representing 23 agencies attended.

WI-TERT

WI-TERT Mission

To provide and maintain a resource network of qualified Telecommunicators whom are available for rapid deployment to assist Public Safety Communication Centers in times of man-made or natural disasters.

TELECOMMUNICATOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASKFORCE

The SEWCRSG, in partnership with WI-NENA and WI-APCO, continued to provide support for the development and implementation of the Wisconsin Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce, or WI-TERT. Some of the key accomplishments of WI-TERT in 2007 include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, between WI-NENA, WI-APCO, the SEWCRSG and Wisconsin Emergency Management, or WEM, was signed by all parties at a press conference on March 27, 2007. The MOU establishes procedures and policies to guide use of the WI-TERT for requested assistance during man-made or natural disaster relief operations.
- A WI-TERT Web site was developed: www.wi-tert.org.
- Standard operating procedures for WI-TERT deployment were developed and provided to WEM.
- Seven regional coordinators were identified and trained.
- With trained regional coordinators in place, WI-TERT is now capable and ready for deployment.

The steering committee plans to finalize the basic training program for WI-TERT team members by the end of 2007 with the goal of recruiting and training WI-TERT members in 2008. As always, the committee will maintain close coordination with ongoing national efforts.



March 27, 2007 WI-TERT MOU Signing

INTEROPERABILITY

Development of the Wisconsin Interoperability System Exchange, or WISE, application continued in 2007. The WISE application is designed to help law enforcement and other emergency responders communicate during mutual aid situations. The application can identify common mutual aid radio frequencies for voice communications between emergency response agencies, and provides agency contact information.

Jason Zehrung from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission continued to manage development of the WISE application and efforts over the last year focused on an extensive data collection effort overseen by Eve Malin. Successful completion of this effort allowed for the application to go live online in November 2007.

In 2008, the SEWCRSG will move forward with emphasis on outreach and training for the WISE application. Additionally, data collection efforts will be expanded to include fire and emergency services agencies.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Conferences Attended:

- March 28-29, 2007
40th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security

- July 15, 2007
WI Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association Summer Training Conference

- July 29 - Aug. 1, 2007
WI Chiefs of Police Association Annual Conference

- August 23-24, 2007
32nd Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety

- October 27-31, 2007
WI-NENA Annual Great Lakes Fall Conference

OUTREACH

In 2007, the SEWCRSG partnered with the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement, or TIME, Program to help promote the SEWCRSG and related initiatives. Representatives from both groups attended 5 conferences and hosted booths in the vendor area. The booths provided conference attendees information on both the SEWCRSG and WI-TERT.

The SEWCRSG also continued to use their Web site, www.sewcrsg.org, to promote activities and keep members up-to-date on current initiatives. In 2007, a training page and an outreach page were added to the site.

