



**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2011**

**Attendance:**

Dan Kochensparger, City of Upper Arlington Fire	Alexis Evans, Madison County/London City Health District
Leslie Dybiec, Washington Township	Kelly Hand, Morrow County Health Department
Jennifer Thrush, Union County Health Department	Shawna Sue Jordan, Union County Health Department
Amber Breedlove, Franklin County Public Health	Dennis Oliver, Fairfield Department of Health
Pam Palm, Knox County Health Department	Carrie Hoover, Village of Canal Winchester
Michael Fowler, Columbus Division of Fire	Angie Tabor, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Mitzi Kline, Franklin County Public Health	Amanda Ford, Columbus Department of Public Safety
Mike McNutt, Columbus Public Health	Emma Speight, City of Upper Arlington
Laura Young Mohr, Columbus Dept. of Public Utilities	Chris Bournea, OH Dept. of Job & Family Services
Mark Anthony, FC EMA & Homeland Security	Bill Ehrgood, Columbus Division of Fire
Bernice Cage, MORPC	Brian Hoyt, City of Gahanna
Elizabeth Kress, Franklin County Public Health	Scott Kibler, Crawford Cty General Health District

**Call to Order:** Made by Brian Hoyt at 2:05 p.m.

**Previous General Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Mitzi Kline with second by Jennifer Thrush to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. Motion carried by acclamation.

**Special Presentation:** Kal Dworkin and Brent Sheffer, of the Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (COARES), gave an overview of their organization. To learn about them, visit [www.COARES.org](http://www.COARES.org). Some highlights from their presentation:

- The organization is made up of volunteers; roughly 200 members in Central Ohio.
- Their primary repeater is on top of the Nationwide building. Receivers are located on the NBC4 tower, Franklin County EMA and several additional locations.
- COARES provides back-up communication for Central Ohio hospitals during emergencies.
- They practice their skills at non-emergency events like working alongside the American Red Cross First Aid Service Team at OSU football games, at the Arnold Classic, the Columbus Marathon, etc.
- The National Weather Service uses ham radio operators for their "SKYWARN" program to get ground level reports of events that are missed by Doppler radar.

**Committee Reports:** Each chairperson gave an overview of their committee's duties and tasks:

Professional Development (Angie Tabor). Based on member survey response, the Red Cross (April meeting) and COARES have presented to the membership. The October meeting will feature a media panel to discuss how they talk about emergency situations and how PIOs can help facilitate the process. Members were invited to bring guests to this meeting.

JIC Logistics (Dan Kochensparger). The committee is recruiting more additional members; the committee's major responsibilities include performing a yearly review and update of the COPIN JIC plan; conduct regular surveys of

the physical assets of partner COPIN agencies, including designated JICs, media briefing locations remote from JICs, and resources listed in the COPIN JIC plan.

Membership (Emma Speight). The board will vote on one new member in a special session after the general membership meeting. Two more membership applications are in process. Emma encouraged members to refer potential members to her for follow-up and to bring them to the October meeting.

Message Development (Jennifer Thrush). Nothing to report.

**Exercises:**

9/15 Tabletop drill in Norwich Township with a radiation hazard

9/20 Full scale drill at Airport. COPIN members are media portrayers, evaluators, controllers, & players

10/13: Full scale in Gahanna with the public information component one of the areas being evaluated

9/2012: Full scale radiation drill will occur

**COHAN Update:** Mitzi Kline reported 85% of supporting members, 73% of response members and 100% of COPIN board confirmed receipt of the recent COHAN call-down test. She reminded members that we can change how COHAN contacts us by changing our priorities on Everbridge.net. If members experience difficulty in logging into the system, they may call Mitzi. She suggested that if cell phone is a priority method, members save a COHAN contact # of 614-525-3160 in their phones so the calls can be easily identified. Finally, she advised, "Don't forget to confirm at the end of the message, or the system will continue to call you."

**Announcements:** Bernice Cage, MORPC, reminded members of the PIO Symposium in Aug. Amanda Ford offered to email details to full membership. Leslie Dybiec, Washington Township, announced that they are now on Twitter and Facebook. Emma Speight reported that there is a new city manager in Upper Arlington – Ted Stanton. He will start in mid Oct. Pam Palm, Knox County Health Dept, and others thanked Mark Anthony, FCEMA&HS for his distribution of storm updates. The request was made that he issue information about severe heat situations. He agreed. Brian Hoyt shared a Facebook trick. He will include it in a future training – Social Media 201. Mark Anthony mentioned that he had an interesting meeting to prioritize alert systems for the deaf community and pointed out that 3% of the population is deaf. It was suggested that this be a discussion at a future meeting.

**Next General Membership Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Franklin County EMA and Homeland Security at 5300 Strawberry Farms.

There being no more business, Emma Speight moved to adjourn, with a second by Angie Tabor.