

Georgia 9-1-1 Directors Association
Inaugural Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2026 via Teams

Present: President Tom Cisco, Emergency Management & 911 Director - Forsyth County
Vice-President Sommer Robinson, E911 Director - Floyd County
Secretary Bonnie Slaney, Sheriff's Office E911 Director – Madison County
Treasurer Katye Vogt, 911 Director - Fayette County
South West Representative Lalon Smith, E911 Comms Department Director - Griffin-Spalding County
South East Representative Dylan Towne, E911 Director - Brantley County
Metro Representative Myisha Callaway, EMA/911 Deputy Director - Rockdale County
North East Representative Katrina Dent, Sheriff's Office Communications Director – McDuffie County
IT Advisor Heather Hooker, CAD Manager - 911 Forsyth County

Absent: North West Representative Shane Bonebrake, E911 Director Cherokee County (excused due to court attendance)

President Tom Cisco called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

The following was reviewed and discussed:

- **Welcome**
 - President Cisco welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the background for the Georgia 911 Directors Association. The revitalizing of the association began in 2025, when President Cisco had noted his agency was paying dues to this association and investigated why (what did this association provide his agency). After he found the association was defunct, and had advised his agency to not pay the dues, he was asked by Greg, Barry and others if he would take over the association.
 - President Cisco's goal is to make this association the strongest association in the nation, where when this association speaks, people listen and they know that we're speaking with one voice for every county in Georgia, from the smallest to the largest. He thanked everyone for being here and advised he needs everyone's support to make this an obtainable goal.
 - President Cisco noted the association was paying \$1,200/year for website management and the website had not been changed since 2020. IT Advisor Hooker volunteered to redo the website. A link was sent out to everyone to review the new website.
 - The agenda sent out was a big start for this association.

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- **Introductions**

- President Tom Cisco: He has been in emergency management for 26 years now; started when he was 11. President Cisco started his career in Ohio, then went to Florida for 15 years, then decided to come to Georgia, which is where he first became a 911 Director. He has been in his current position for three and a half years now.
 - Work: 770-519-3842
- Vice-President Sommer Robinson: She is the Director at Floyd County 911, and has been in this role for 5 years, and has worked there for 26 years. She also worked at Polk and Gordon in part-time capacities as well. She volunteered due to she has not volunteered before, wants to see how other counties work, how she can improve her center, and offer information/guidance on the way her agency operates.
 - Work: 706-844-6708
- Secretary Bonnie Slaney: She became the 911 Director at Madison County Sheriff's Office in mid-February 2026. She has over 27 years of public safety experience. She first became a dispatcher at Athens-Clarke County Police Department, and was full-time for about 4 years; then part-time for over 10 years. Her experience included working for GBI as a compliance specialist and an officer manager. She is looking forward to learning new information and providing her experience and knowledge to the group.
 - Work: 706-714-9434
- Treasurer Katye Vogt: She has been at Fayette County 911 for 34 years, and this is the only 911 center she has ever worked at. She volunteered to be the treasurer because she is also the treasurer of a local nonprofit for public safety, the Fayette County Public Safety Benevolent Society.
 - Cell: 678-614-6233
- Metro Representative Myisha Callaway: She is the Deputy Director for Rockdale County 911, which covers EMA, 911, animal services, and risk management. She has been in 911 for 25 years; started off at Cobb County and made her way to Rockdale, where she has been for 15 years. She volunteered for the Metro representative because she also serves on the Georgia NENA board as the Region 7 representative as well.
 - Work: 770-362-7063
- South East Representative Dylan Towne: He is the Director at Brantley County for just over a year now. He was interim director prior to that. He has

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been with Brantley County for almost 5 ½ years. Prior to that, he was at Glynn County. He covers NENA Region 5.

- Work: 912-614-8837

- South West Representative Laroni Smith: She is the Director at Spalding County 911, as of this year. She has been there since December of 2024, where she started out as a deputy director, and then through some other situations, became the interim director, and now officially the director. Before that, she was at GPSTC for six years, which is where some may know her through the communications programs, continuing education, and Basic Comm. She also helps out with GECC, where she is on a couple of the committees. She previously worked as the training coordinator with Henry County 911, for 13 years. She has been in public safety around 21 years. She is the Region One Director.

- Work: 678-972-5955

- North East Representative Katrina Dent: She is the Director at McDuffie County. Prior to that, she started in Columbia County, around 2002. She has a little bit under 25 years' experience. She is one of the smaller counties, approximately 20,000 citizens. She volunteered to give back in some way and is eager to learn and participate.

- Work: 706-914-6445

- IT Advisor Heather Hooker: She is the CAD manager (aka Faux IT) at Forsyth County 911, and has been there for 22 years. She will be handling all website items for the association. She encourages everyone to check out the website, especially their bio as she made some changes to make everyone uniform. Also, if anyone has an upcoming training, please send her an email.

- Email: HCHooker@forsythco.com

- **Website**

- Discussed current website, which is in its early stages but very well developed. Kudos to IT Advisor Hooker. Want the website to be a place where people can go to get information and not just look at who is on the board.

- Training Section

- IT Advisor Hooker has some training already listed on website. As of now, she has manually added each class/meeting by date. She is working on having a link where people can self-register for events to the sponsor of such event.

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- Any upcoming trainings, events, conferences, etc., please send the information to IT Advisor Hooker via her above-referenced email, so she can add to the website.
- There was a suggestion on open records class specific to public safety to be held at various locations across the state and/or have someone go to specific areas and teach. Georgia Sheriff's Association has an open records request class specific to public safety; however, they are in the mostly metro Atlanta area. Discussed Rebecca, who was the President last year of the Records Association in Georgia and contacting her for assistance with open records training. SE Representative Towne will contact Rebecca for information.
- Suggestions for sections/items to add:
 - Adding section for other organizations, such as what is under the "Stay Connected" section.
 - Have list of all 911 Directors (President Cisco Tom has list that shows 196); SW Representative Smith will send one as well.
 - Add GECC to training since the dates are known; SW Representative Smith will send what she has.
 - Section for the CAD, Phone, Radios, etc. vendor(s) each agency uses. This is like the emails that Hope sends out; suggestion to have a way to capture those and have people submit it to our website.
 - Section for Questions & Answers.
 - Link for information on vendors.
 - Salary surveys, as well as number of dispatchers (example is information on the recent FCC Annual 911/E911 Data Survey Submission form). There is a possibility of making a survey to send out.
 - Record retention site for local government; SW Representative Smith will send what she has.
 - Example policies; obtain different policies from different centers.
 - Section for information on topics for new directors, such as what are 911 Fees and what are they used for.
 - Legislation link for ongoing open legislation that is being viewed and/or heard; SW Representative Smith will send what she has.
- *NOTE: IT Advisor Hooker left the meeting after her portion regarding the website was concluded.*
- **Corporation/EIN/Non-Profit 501(C)(6) Status Update**
 - As President Cisco had noted, the association (aka corporation) had been defunct since 2020. He could not find anything regarding the association

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anywhere in the State of Georgia, Secretary of State, or any kind of organization for this group. So, he re-did the incorporation in the State of Georgia as a domestic nonprofit.

- He filled out the paperwork online with the IRS to get an Employee Identification Number (EIN), so a bank account can be opened; however, he received an error code. He has worked diligently with the IRS to correct this. Hopefully, this will be resolved by this Wednesday, August 19, 2026, and we will have an EIN.

- **Treasurer/Banking Status**

- Once an EIN has been received from the IRS, President Cisco, Treasurer Vogt, and Vice-President Robinson will go to Truist Bank (which is statewide in Georgia) to have the bank account set up. Before, this association had only 1 signatory for the bank account; we will have now 3 signatories for the bank account.
- Once the bank account is set up, there will be an option to pay membership fees through the website; possibly with a QR code from Truist bank.
- The Association will have a W-9 form as well. Discussion was held as to whether or not to have the W-9 posted on the website, and a general consensus was that a link to the W-9 may be posted on the website.
- *NOTE: President Cisco will be out of town the latter part of this week. Treasurer Vogt will be out of town from August 26, 2026 to September 7, 2026.*

- **By-Laws**

- Brief discussion on review of bylaws. Several have not reviewed the bylaws. There was a new version sent out last Friday (August 14th); main change was cost of dues. Everyone should review the bylaws and send comments to President Cisco by the end of today so those may be updated on the website.

- **Membership/Membership Building**

- Goal is every county with a PSAP to be a member; this includes directors and deputy directors. Discussed if we want to open it up to others, such as operations managers, operations coordinators, or leave at a more senior leadership level. Consensus was held to leave at the senior leadership level for now and reevaluate after a few months.

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- Discussed if the assistant deputy director may have voting privileges; consensus was to leave as director having voting privileges and possibly reevaluate after a few months.
- Discussed corporate membership; they would be non-voting members. This should be really pushed out. Example – every CAD system vendor could be a corporate member. President Cisco wants to get a good list for him to reach out to and discuss corporate membership; requests everyone to send him a list of vendors used, and include the vendor name, what they do for your agency (i.e. – CAD, RMS, radio, etc.), and good contact information (i.e. – person name, phone number and/or email).
- Also, discussed reaching out to vendors at conferences, as well as doing a sign-up. Next Georgia Emergency Communications Conference (GECC) is March 7-11, 2027 in Columbus, GA. President Cisco advised he will reach out to Wakita Crawford, who used to be with Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (GECA) and is now with InDigital and covers his area. SW Representative Smith advised she will reach out to GECC to see if they will share their vendor list. It was also discussed to do a sign-up for vendors at the next conference.
- President Cisco will also get with GECC, APCO, etc. about being members of the association.
- **Committees**
 - Discussed having specific committees. Consensus was to get the focus of the association, then discuss after the first of 2027. This will give time to get membership and involvement up to have people to put on committees. May plan to have a meeting at every center once focus is determined.
 - It was brought up that in the past, this association was basically a meeting at every conference and viewed as not doing anything and/or participating in anything, so it is very important to figure out how the association will make an impact and give people a reason to join. Also, to be a place people can get answers and one-on-one help; especially as the State resources are very limited with answers.
 - The T-CPR, EMD and Mason Sells Act (AED) were discussed as some members relayed real-life problems at their centers (i.e. who does liability fall on), as well as problems agencies that have a lower budget and cannot afford the EMD software programs. It was discussed that there is not a standard in Georgia for this.

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- The Pro-QA EMD software was discussed (expensive software but does great job), as well as the EMD program through APCO. It was brought up to put information together on the different EMD software programs to advise what information agencies have received on those.
- President Cisco requested members to send him and/or the group an email detailing the concerns they brought up.
- **Conference**
 - It was decided that having a conference would be a good idea; however, at some future point.
- **Legislative**
 - Discussed Georgia House Resolution (HR) 1243, which establishes a fund that will be specific for support of Georgia's 911 centers, including infrastructure and system upgrades, operations and facilities, and workforce support. The fund will be a roll-over account and POAB cannot touch it. In the past, the monies in the account would be lost at the end of the year. It was brought up to see if the account could be put into a high yield account; President Cisco will check into this.
 - President Cisco has been appointed to the 911 Advisory Committee, which was established for review of funding. He advised they have a meeting on August 27, 2026 regarding HR 1243. Discussion included the 911 call fee of \$1.50, which has not gone up with inflations. Some counties have to ask their county government for monetary help due to the \$1.50 fees may not cover the rising costs for a 911 center.
 - Review of funding does not just include providing funds but also to bring every Georgia 911 center to current standards. Every citizen needs to have same minimal level of service. Discussed what the acceptable minimum standard is for PSAPs.
 - Discussed if 911 centers charge cities that 911 services are provided to.
 - Discussed current open record laws and need for change due to being very open. Would like to be more inline with Alabama, who has very restricted open records laws.
 - President Cisco requested all ideas for legislation be put into an email and sent to board.

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- **Recognitions/Awards**

- No specific recognition/award for association at this time.
- Discussed APCO (monthly award), GECC (yearly award), and NENA and the differences in the groups. Georgia 911 centers are not required to be members. Discussed the GECC EMD and the discount on EMD software.

- **Meetings**

- Plan to have 4 meetings a year, with a fifth as general membership meeting as a voting meeting. No Mondays or Fridays for meetings.
- Plan to go to each region for meetings; discussed possible counties in each region.
- First in-person meeting to be in early September in C Area - SW Representative Smith. President Cisco will send her information.
- May have in-person and virtual meetings.

- **Board Terms**

- Current board will run through December 2027.

- **General Discussion**

- Discussion on direction of association, which included:
 - Need to figure out what the common ground is for problems center's experience.
 - Have resource for new and current 911 Directors to be able to go to for help and who to contact. Help topics would be different areas, i.e. what you need for a brand new 911 center (new building, new floor, new wiring, etc.
 - Send in ideas on direction for this association.
 - No one person is an expert at everything; goal is for everyone to help each other and be advocates for everyone. Example – if you know someone who has gone through an experience that another person is looking for help with, refer them to that person. Personal experiences were brought up.

Conclusion of meeting at 11:59 a.m.