



# Southeast Wisconsin Communications Resource/Support Group

## 2005 Annual Report

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### 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
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### SEWCRSG Participants:

- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
  - Kenosha City/County Joint Services
  - Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office
  - Milwaukee Police Department
  - Racine County Sheriff's Department
  - Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department
  - Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Program
  - Walworth County Sheriff's Department
  - Washington County Sheriff's Department
  - Waukesha County Sheriff's Department
  - Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
  - Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Highway Operations
  - Wisconsin Emergency Management
  - Wisconsin State Patrol
  - Others
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In 2005, the SEWCRSG held nine committee meetings. The SEWCRSG meetings continue to provide the forum for regular dialogue and information sharing. Participants give regular updates on the initiatives of related state/local groups including the newly formed State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), APCO, NENA, OJA, and the TIME Program.

Consistent with the requirements for establishing the group as a 501(c)(3) non-profit (tax exempt) organization, the SEWCRSG decided to move forward with the development of bylaws. Draft bylaws were presented to the Committee in October and the Committee would like to finalize the bylaws by early spring of 2006.

The Committee, in effort to more efficiently accomplish their mission, created the following four sub-committees: Interoperability, Training, Outreach and 911. The sub-committees meet as needed prior to each SEWCRSG committee meeting. Following is an overview of the accomplishments made by each sub-committee in 2005.

### *Interoperability*

In January, Milwaukee County's Information Management Services Division (IMSD) was awarded an Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) Communications Interoperability Engineering Needs

Assessment grant for Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties and the Waukesha Post of the Wisconsin State Patrol. The Interoperability Committee provided support to IMSD and regularly discussed the progress of the assessment. The final engineering needs assessment was completed in May. The assessment recommended the formation of a regional board, which has since been formed.

Through Interoperability Committee discussions the development of the Wisconsin Interoperability System Exchange (WISE) application was initiated. The purpose of the WISE application is to aid law enforcement and other emergency responders in communicating during mutual aid situations. The application has the ability to identify common radio frequencies for voice communications between emergency response agencies and provides agency contact information. The Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) created the original prototype and is currently in the process of developing the application for the Southeast region for pilot implementation.

### **Training**

The Training Committee set forth with the goal of providing two training sessions this year. The Committee achieved this goal and sponsored two daylong trainings titled *Amber Alert and Deciphering Drivers License Records*. During the morning session of the training, representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Justice covered the protocol required for Wisconsin's Amber Alert plan. In the afternoon session, representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation presented on deciphering drivers license records. The classes were attended by approximately 160 people representing 57 agencies from across the state.

The Training Committee identified the need for and initiated the development of a Mutual Aid Dispatch Team for the Southeast region. The effort will be supported and coordinated by the Wisconsin Chapters of APCO and NENA.

### **Outreach**

The Outreach Committee initiated the development of a website for the SEWCRSG in order to facilitate outreach efforts. A draft version of the website was presented to the entire SEWCRSG Committee in September. The layout of the website was well received and it is anticipated that the website will be up and running in spring of 2006.

Over the course of the year Connie Catterall gave multiple presentations on the SEWCRSG including the 2005 Governor's Annual Conference in Lake Geneva and the WINENA 2005 Annual Great Lakes Fall Conference. In addition, Connie Catterall and Katie Belmore submitted an abstract for the Institute of Transportation Engineers 2006 Annual meeting titled *The Invisible Communication Link: Recognizing a Dispatcher's Role in Traffic Incident Management*.

### **911**

The number one issue faced by the 911 Committee this year was Wireless 911 Implementation. In March, the Committee sponsored a Wireless 911 grant review session for all counties in the Southeast region. The grants were submitted on April 1, 2005 and grant awards were approved and distributed at the end of the year. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of Wireless 911 in Southeast Wisconsin. The next issue the Committee is focusing on is Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) 911. This effort will also be coordinated with the Wisconsin Chapters of APCO and NENA.