



TO: ANCC MEMBERS **January 4, 2007**
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (January 3, 2007)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Richard Seclow
Greenwich:	Stu Reider
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	
Redding:	Bob Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler, Mike Pensiero
Weston:	Don Saltzman
Westport:	Hal Levy
Wilton:	Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky
Cablevision:	Gary Shaw

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Wilton High School with 9 towns represented. Dolly Curtis, a public access producer from Easton, attended as an observer.

1. The ANCC approved the minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2006 with the following corrections: both Dolly Curtis and Doug Dempsey attended the November 29 meeting as members of the public; the word “draft” was deleted from second sentence of Item #6 ; Item #7 was corrected to reflect that ownership of equipment acquired under the grant program becomes the property of “community access” ; and Future Meeting Schedule was corrected to reflect the location/date of the February ANCC meeting-- 2/7/07 in Greenwich.

2. **Treasurer’s Report** was approved unanimously.

3. **Discussion of Draft Decision Docket # 05-04-10 Cablevision 2007 Franchise Renewal**—HL reviewed the major features of the draft decision of 12/7/06. Cablevision was awarded an 11-year franchise with starting date TBD. CV retains its status as Area Nine’s community access provider—a decision supported by the ANCC. DPUC agreed to a reduction in the “per subscriber per year” fee to support PEG (community access) from \$6.23 to \$5.00. The ANCC had opposed this reduction, fearing that community access—particularly Public Access—would be jeopardized. HL expressed the wish to work cooperatively with CV to assure that community access, as a whole, won’t suffer because of the per subscriber reduction.

Other specifics of the draft decision include:

- DPUC support for the current model of ANCC/CV negotiations for its grant program to support the operations of town-specific E/G channels
- DPUC designation of use of grant funds for equipment only. The ANCC has requested clarification from the DPUC on whether expenditures for maintenance, repairs, training on use of new equipment, etc., are acceptable uses of

- equipment funding.
- DPUC requirement of discontinuing monetary awards from ANCC's Educational Access Committee to student filmmakers in its annual Educational Access Awareness program.
- DPUC decision that end-of-year leftover grant funds from one year can be used to offset, or supplement, CV's total grant allotment from the new year.
- DPUC directed ANCC to include the guidelines for its grant program in the ANCC By-Laws.
- Grant program accounting should be shared with CV by December 15 of each year for inclusion in CV's annual Community Access Report and should also be included in the ANCC Annual Report.

Discussion of the draft decision included how per subscriber funding (that supports community access) is reflected in customer bills in CT, NY, and NJ; reminder that these subscriber funds are re-invested in each community of Area Nine to support town-specific programming as well as public access studio space and staff. Members can check the DPUC Website and the ANCC Website <http://westportct.net/ancc/index.htm> for final details of the decision.

4. Educational Access Committee Request for Alternative Award Funding 2007—Educational Access Awareness Program. In light of the DPUC recent draft directive to discontinue monetary awards from ANCC's grant program and in light of the 2007 announcement of the program already having been publicized to area schools, JR presented to the ANCC the Educational Access Committee's proposal to make a request to CV to cover this year's student awards, perhaps through its community access "outreach" activities.

JR described how the program has worked in the past, the participation of various age groups in the program, and mentioned the positive reception from CV personnel to engaging students in community access.

JC requested that ANCC members receive a copy of the announcement that was released. Further discussion included other ways to recognize outstanding student or classroom educational access awareness projects and the Council's future support of the program.

MP indicated that the Ed Access Committee is presenting a two-fold question to the ANCC: the current funding dilemma and consideration for the future of the program.

HL suggested that JR work with GS (Cablevision) to request one-time funding for this year's 2007 awards, as a community access "outreach" activity. GS requested a letter from the ANCC describing its request and agreed to pursue this with Cablevision. MP suggested that the ANCC Educational Access Committee work on the program's future.

5. Changes to By-Laws—Per direction by the DPUC, HL presented a draft of proposed By-Law changes incorporating description and guidelines for the ANCC grant program. After brief discussion, HL requested that ANCC members consider the draft and send any suggestions to him.

6. New I-Net Site Requests—The ANCC has received three requests for I-Net "return" lines:

- Stamford Government Access line—Currently Stamford is the only Government Access entity with no return line.

- Middlesex Middle School—Darien. (Educational Access)
- AITE—Stamford (Educational Access)

7. Grant Program (including Supplemental Equipment Update)—

HL reminded representatives to finalize any outstanding equipment acquisitions (supplemental equipment grants from 2006) with Myles Rich at Cablevision ASAP.

The council reviewed and approved two grant requests from Area Nine towns: Wilton and Easton. HL advised grantees to submit their vouchers for payment within 30 days.

8. ANCC Role in AT&T U-Verse Launch in CT—DS reviewed AT&T's press release describing the U-verse launch into several Fairfield County and New Haven County communities. The proposed coverage does not correspond to existing franchise boundaries and, therefore, crosses the coverage areas of several cable council areas. Members noted that there are no channels in the publicized AT&T channel guide for CT-N, Educational Access, Government Access, or for Connecticut's CBS and NBC affiliates. DS understands that no channel will be assigned for Public Access.

SR inquired as to Cablevision's intention if other companies decide against offering PEG access channels. GS suggested that Cablevision would most likely seek recourse from the DPUC.

SR also suggested that the ANCC could play a role in encouraging all companies to continue offering community access programming to Connecticut customers by mobilizing other cable councils in Connecticut to promote PEG throughout the state.

JR reminded members that the ANCC could tape a PSA promoting its Educational and Government Access programming in each community. CYK requested that GS send the ANCC a schedule of its 2007 PSA Days.

HL and DS have invited representatives from AT&T to meet with the ANCC at their convenience.

9. PEG Access Issues—DC raised the continuing problem of audio quality on Channel 77 (Public Access). DS reminded the group that the "head end" in the Norwalk office (750-5777) can check the source of audio problems.

JC asked about the staffing situation in Norwalk. GS said that progress is being made in staffing the unfilled positions. DS urged Cablevision to give the Norwalk staff the flexibility and authority to handle local issues as simply as possible within the corporate structure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Future meeting schedule--2/7 (Greenwich); 3/21 in Darien; 4/25 in Norwalk. Please contact Hal if you wish to host a meeting in your town. **Annual Meeting—**TBA.