



**TO: ANCC MEMBERS** **January 10, 2008**  
**FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (January 9, 2008)**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron  
Easton: Andy Anderson, Leighton Jordan  
Greenwich: Paul Curtis  
New Canaan:  
Norwalk: Marge Costa  
Redding: Robert Moran  
Stamford: Geza Ziegler  
Weston: Harvey Bellin  
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman  
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky  
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz

Don Saltzman, Paul Sedlak, Harry Somerdyk (Wilton), Herb Grant (Norwalk), and Stu Reider, (Greenwich), were excused. The meeting began at 6:15 pm in Weston with 9 towns represented.

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:15, following an informal presentation to interested members from AT&T representatives.

**1. Minutes.** The group approved the minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting with no changes.

**2. Treasurer's Report.** JR (temporarily filling in for treasurer) presented the financial status of the Council. We have \$7184.07 in the ANCC account and \$22,642.67 in the ANCC Access account. This does not include the yearly \$2000 stipend to the ANCC account from Cablevision.

Expense reports of past grants must be submitted before applying for new grants. Forms are available from the ANCC Website.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**3. Old Business** HL updated the group on some new information on rate increases, specifically for those customers who had added Optimum Voice to their service, expecting a \$20 discount. Besides the rate increases, the discount has been decreased to a \$15 discount, so that customers actually see a \$5 increase above the expected rate increases.

HL and JR have been working on reports for the DPUC and for Cablevision's annual Access report of Area Nine E-Access and G-Access activity—submitted to CV on December 7, 2007.

**4. Supplemental Grants.** The access account will have approximately \$16,700 in 2007

funds available for supplemental grants. Grants requests must be received by Friday, February 8, 2008 to be considered for discussion and approval at the Wednesday, February 13, 2008 ANCC meeting. JR and HL reminded the group that paperwork for past grants must be up-to-date in order to be considered for new grants.

**5. DPUC Docket 07-10-11 and PA 07-253.** *DPUC Proceeding to Establish Administrative Guidelines for the Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account Pursuant to Public Act 07-253 and formulate written comments. (a.k.a. PEGPETIA Account.)*

The 07-10-11 Docket includes questions regarding administration, purpose, and disbursement procedures for the new PEGPETIA state account established in PA 07-253. This law provides for 0.5% of gross earnings from video providers to be collected and used for funding PEG programming and technology. The group discussed JR's draft comments to the DPUC's request for comments that he had prepared for the Wilton Superintendent of Schools. Discussion centered on:

- how the ANCC would recommend distribution of funds, e.g., among towns or access centers in financial need vs. cable councils who are willing and capable of administering grant funds vs. non-profit organizations vs. municipalities (or regions) where revenue is generated vs. access operations with well-established programming vs. those with little access capability.
- the differing willingness, expertise, and capabilities of Connecticut's cable councils to oversee grants to local access operations and to support local PEG operations.
- division of funds between P, E, and G purposes
- use of funds, i.e. technology vs. production.

The ANCC members believed that the ANCC current grant program offers one effective model of managing grant funds. Council members are requested to review JR's draft, any additional comments that have been submitted by other towns, and e-mail their input to HL by January 14. After receiving input from the Council, HL will file comments for the ANCC.

**6. Darien I-Net Request.** The ANCC voted (JC moved and GZ seconded) to support a request from the Darien Library for an I-Net connection for their new facility. An I-net drop for the town's middle school had been previously approved but not installed.

## **7. Other Business**

CYK asked about E and G policies about political speech—specifically campaign advertisements. JC and LJ recommended that each town develop policies in their by-laws to cover questions like this. An Alliance for Community Media staffer has said that "equal time" regulations do not apply to community access operations. PC agreed, except for immediately preceding an election, based on past experience with the town of Greenwich. CYK will pursue this question further with the ACM listserv members.

JC suggested that the ANCC consider discussion and guidelines for increasing original programming on local E/G stations. He recommended establishing local advisory groups to help promote PEG locally, as Darien and Easton have done, and airing the local advisory meetings on Channel 79.

JN announced a new Area Director for Cablevision CT—Mike Chawaniec (at x 5613). Responding to a question, JN stated that Cablevision has not filed an application for

video provider status.

HB offered a program for G-access from Weston. Weston Honors the Dagger Brigade Combat Team. Contact Harvey at [MediaGr@aol.com](mailto:MediaGr@aol.com) for details.

CYK announced that local Leagues of Women Voters will be contacting G channels with a video of the League of Women Voters of CT's Fall Conference: E-Democracy: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizen's Right to Know. The conference featured CT's AG Richard Blumenthal, Alliance for Community Media's Tony Riddle, Common Cause Maine's Jon Bartholomew, and Free Press's Alexandra Russell from Washington, DC. ANCC members can also contact the producer Margaret Wirtenberg at [margaret@aboutweston.com](mailto:margaret@aboutweston.com) for copies. (2-hour complete conference and 1 hour edited version)

Reminder: The Alliance for Community Media has 2 national listservs—one for members only and one for anyone interested in Access issues. The ANCC is a member. General Website is [www.alliancecm.org](http://www.alliancecm.org) Addresses for listservs are:

- Members only listserv--- [\[alliance-announce\]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[alliance-announce]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org)
- General listserv-- [\[access-forum\]- subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[access-forum]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org)

The Alliance sends a confirmation when you subscribe.

JN announced that CV is launching downtown WiFi in Westport and New Canaan on a trial basis for CV Internet service subscribers.

**Future meeting schedule**—Greenwich Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (later rescheduled to February 6<sup>th</sup>)

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary  
ANCC