

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council

www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Geza Ziegler
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (February 7, 2007)

February 8, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Marge Costa
Redding:
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz

The meeting began at 6:05 pm at the Greenwich with 6 towns represented. Marge Costa arrived at 6:15 for a total of 7 towns represented. Paul Curtis, Greenwich Government TV, and Dolly Curtis, a public access producer from Easton, attended as guests.

- 1. HL** welcomed Jennifer Nacewicz, Cablevision's new Government Affairs Manager. Jennifer described her background and explained that she would be assigned to work in Cablevision's Norwalk office 4 days/week. Members can reach her at JNacewic@cablevision.com. (Drop the "z" at the end of her name for her e-mail address...) HL will send out additional contact information to all ANCC members.
- 2.** The ANCC approved the minutes of the January 3, 2007 meeting with no changes.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** HL presented the report which showed balances of \$8,449.60 in the ANCC account and \$7968.16 in government access grant funds. The report was approved unanimously.
- 4. New Government Access Grants from unencumbered access funds.** The ANCC voted to create 4 Government access grants @\$2000 each, to be considered and acted upon at the March 21st meeting. HL reviewed the grant process, including the Council's requirement that prospective grantees submit a final expenditure report from any previous grant before being considered for any new grant.

Past grant reports are available through John Repicky, ANCC Assistant Secretary.

Members discussed ways to get the best prices for equipment, such as using each town's purchasing order procedures and approaching corporations directly for discounts on equipment.

- 5. Role in the AT&T U-verse Launch in CT**—SR presented his support for promoting PEG access in the interest of open government—regardless of the provider of video service to CT residents—and suggested that a ANCC committee be formed to develop

strategies to do so, especially with the coming of IPTV to Fairfield County towns. HL reviewed the ANCC's strong past support for a "level playing field" concept for IPTV and cable TV providers alike, including the requirement for community access. In light of the DPUC's decision not requiring AT&T to seek a franchise in CT and the fact that the cable councils are charged with advising cable services under a franchise, the ANCC official role as a group is limited to working with cable companies with franchises.

DS believes that AT&T will make community access available to their customers—perhaps by negotiating with individual towns to make E/G programming available to those towns IPTV customers. JC suggested that cable council members could give their towns a "heads up" about this possibility, for the benefit of promoting SR's original concern for open government, citizen involvement in local public affairs, and preserving our Area Nine model of town-specific government/educational programming.

[CYK excused herself from meeting at 7 pm. GZ completed minutes for the remainder of the meeting.]

SR requested a town-by-town breakdown of number of subscribers from Ms. Nacewicz.

6. Discussion of Draft Decision Docket # 05-04-10 Cablevision 2007 Franchise Renewal—Cablevision was awarded an 11-year franchise with starting date of February 1, 2007. The main text specifies that the use of E&G access grants can be used only for equipment. A footnote allows for maintenance, installation and training. Members can check the DPUC Website and the ANCC Website <http://westportct.net/ancc/> for final details of the decision.

7. Review proposed changes to the ANCC bylaws.

HL distributed a copy of the changes. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to HL. Final copy of proposed by-laws and changes will be distributed by March 25, 2007, to be voted on at the April 25, 2007 meeting.

8. PEG access issues.

Dolly Curtis inquired about the list of active public access producers. She complained that the digital editing equipment is inadequate. HL suggested that Dolly meet with the producers and collect their complaints, suggestions and present them to the ANCC at the regular meeting. HL appointed Dolly as an ex-officio consultant to act in the previously described matter.

9. Follow-up on alternative funding for the 2007 Educational Access Awareness Program (EAAA) awards.

JN announced that Gary Shaw received approval for \$1000 from Cablevision.

10. Other matters

- Annual report was filed with the DPUC.
- Cablevision PSA Day: Next will be in Norwalk March 28. Others not finalized yet.
- INET Requests: Middlesex middle school in Darien submitted (06 year).
- JC announced that 2 volunteers from Darien sent to the Cablevision training. Very good program and important in recruiting volunteers.

Future meeting schedule-- 3/21 in Norwalk; 4/25 in Darien. **Annual Meeting**—TBA.