

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897
www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS **February 12, 2009**
FROM:
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (February 11, 2009)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Herb Grant
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Peggy Jorgensen
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky,
Cablevision: Jennifer Young
Education Subcommittee: Gil Bray (Wilton)
Public/Guests: John Savarese (Wilton, Director, Information Systems), Erik
Haakonsen (Director, IT, Weston)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Wilton High School, with 10 towns represented. Marge Costa (Norwalk), Jeff Stollenwerck (Westport) and Paul Curtis (Greenwich) and Don Saltzman (Weston) were excused.

Opening comments from Chairman Hal Levy: Thanked Carole Young-Kleinfeld and John Repicky for hosting. Introduced guests.

1. **Minutes** of the December 3rd meeting approved with JC and PS abstaining.
2. **Treasurer's report:** JR distributed spreadsheets with current balances. HL noted that these recordings match bank statements exactly as of February 11, 2009.
 - ANCC Operating Account: Opening balance - \$7881.68 Closing Bal: \$8882.37.
 - ANCC Access Escrow Account: Closing Balance - \$4,476.15.

3. **Old Business:**

- **ANCC Operating Funds and E/G Grant Funding:** The ANCC has sent invoices to Cablevision for 2009 funding: \$2000 for operating funds and \$100,000 of funding for town-specific E/G channels.

-**Annual Report of ANCC and Grant Program Report to Cablevision:** HL and JR have completed the Annual Report for the DPUC and the Grant Program Report for Cablevision. HL has sent copies to all Area Nine superintendents of schools and first selectmen/mayors. The group thanked them both for the work and time that this demanded.

-I-Net Reports: These were due to JR on January 13. JR requests towns to use the template on the ANCC website for assembling these in a consistent format. Reports are overdue from Easton, Weston, and Stamford.

-Status of ANCC. Once again, HL reviewed the unclear status of the ANCC, since the law establishing Certificate of Video Franchise Authority (CVFA) calls for a state-wide--not regional--council for CVFAs. Cablevision holds a CVFA but has expressed interest in keeping the relationship with the ANCC status quo, continuing to support operating expenses and the PEG grant program, but is not supportive of legislative action by the ANCC to clarify its status.

The ANCC's ad hoc legislative committee has explored ideas for clarifying the role and status of the cable council and will consider contacting members of the E/T Committee from Area Nine provided that the deadline for introducing bills has not been missed. Committee members are: Hal Levy, Don Saltzman, Paul Curtis, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, and Jim Cameron.

-Discussion of migration of PEG channels to the digital service tier. JC questioned whether Cablevision would reconsider its December deadline for free converter boxes for analog-only customers, especially for elderly customers on fixed incomes. JY doubted whether CV would reconsider, because of setting a precedent for all areas, and reviewed the charges for converter box rental. BM requested clarification of the procedure for locating and tuning in channels using a QAM tuner. HL will distribute info about a website that helps to locate channel line-ups.

4. Pending Legislation . HL reviewed several bills that have been proposed (HB 6128, HB5051, HB 5988 and SB 590. CYK added HB 6132. See Agenda for summary of these. JC questioned whether the ANCC would support or oppose any of these and expressed interest in SB 590 *AAC PEG Programming* which proposes to require cable TV companies to provide free PEG to all subscribers.

JY reported that HB 5051 *AAC the DPUC's Oversight and Responsibility for Community Access TV* had been included in a 2/10/09 public hearing with no testimony offered from the public.

CYK will determine the date of the next E/T public hearing and the bills on the agenda.

5. Call Response Time

In response to a complaint from a Stamford subscriber regarding an inordinately long response time on the telephone, JY reported that this problem was researched and resulted from a system malfunction. She reported that response times are not formally reported to the DPUC under the CVFA status, but previously were averaging a 90% compliance rate of two minutes or less. She will ask for a recent update. JY confirmed that they still had on-going performance evaluation of their customer service, even though reporting was not required.

6. Other Business

-ANCC Grant Program: JR reminded several towns to complete their expenditure reports of their 2008 and/or supplemental grants ASAP. Towns with outstanding reports are Easton (both), Greenwich (2008), New Canaan (supplemental), Norwalk (2008), Redding (supplemental), Weston (2008), and Wilton (both-combined).

-E-Channel Budgets. HB requested budget information from Area Nine towns about their E-channel operations.

-General News/Announcements: Wilton's G-channel is broadcasting their BOS meetings live and Webstreaming them on their town's Website. Also broadcasting live are Easton, Westport, Weston, Darien, Greenwich.

Darien has copies of a transportation/DOT program available free of charge for Area Nine G-channels. Please contact Jim Cameron or Dave Dever for a copy.

-Future meetings: 4/1 (Darien); 6/3 (Annual Mtg - TBA).

Adjourned at 7:00 pm for tour of Wilton High School's E-channel and video production operations.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC