

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 MEETING VIA ZOOM

February 4, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron, Dave Dever
Easton: Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Barbara Heins
New Canaan: Bob Doran, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: Irene Dixon
Redding:
Stamford: Bob Lion
Weston:
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Fran Kompar
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Altice: Esme Lombard
Ed Committee: Julie Casper Roth (NCC), Trevor Kline (Norwalk)
Guests: Mike Wheeler & Cecil Wade from Darien

Excused: Natalie Carrigan (Westport); Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:05pm with nine towns represented. Jim Cameron introduced his guests Mike Wheeler & Cecil Wade from Darien TV79. The Council paid tribute to its colleague Harvey Bellin from Weston who passed away recently. Harvey was a very active member of A9CC for over 13 years.

1. **Minutes** of the December 16 meeting was approved.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - Invoices were sent to Altice in early January for \$2K Cable Advisory Council support and \$100K + \$25K for 2021 E&G access funding. Esme stated that the CAC support and E&G access funding should be paid within a week's time. (In fact, the payments were made on 2/4/21). A letter requesting the distribution of payments from U-verse was also sent.
 - The 2020 A9CC Annual Report was filed with PURA on 1/13. The report was also sent to the Council members and Area 9 CEO's & schools superintendents
 - I-Net logs were requested by 2/1 but have not yet been received from Greenwich E, Norwalk E, NCC E, Stamford E, Weston E, Easton G, Greenwich G, Stamford G, Weston G and Wilton G. Both Stamford E & G have not received access grant money and presumably do not produce video programming. Convent of Sacred Heart was asked to submit program logs although it is not an I-Net site but receives grant money to produce programming on the Greenwich E channel. Towns and schools that have not filed I-Net or program will not qualify for future grants.
 - Hi-Def PEG channels: Nothing to report from the committee. Esme stated that Altice fulfills its obligations in providing the access channels but is not required to deliver them in Hi-Def. However the company is open to hearing from the committee on any recommendations it may come up with. The committee was urged to begin collaborating to come up with solutions for delivering Hi-Def access channels.

- TiVo and Switched Video: There is still some confusion whether or not Altice will supply tuning adapters to Optimum subscribers using TiVo boxes so that they may again be able to receive standard Def and music channels. Bob Lion asked if these will not be distributed to subscribers, can they be made available for rental in the way cable boxes and cablecards are. Esme will get answers to these questions.

4. 2021 Round 1 grant program

Round 1 grants based on \$125,000 funding income. The current \$10,5K balance in escrow account will roll into remaining funds + UVerse funds to be used for round 2 grants. The following was adopted:

- \$62,500 each to E & G
- 10 grants of \$6,250 on the Government side
- Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee
- A maximum of \$2,500 for each grant could be allocated to operations
- The deadline for submitting grants from the towns & schools is 2 weeks before the May 26 meeting.
- retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants
- Eligibility requirements as outlined in the Grant Procedures <http://a9cc.org/GrantProcedures.pdf> shall apply to these grants

Delinquent Grant Reports

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
New Canaan E	\$2,000.00	11/14/2019	5/2/2020	Extended to next meeting
New Canaan E	\$8,928.25	11/13/2020	1/12/2021	Extended to next meeting
Darien E	\$8,896.31	11/16/2020	1/15/2021	Extended to next meeting
Region 9 E	\$8,928.57	11/9/2020	1/8/2021	Extended to next meeting
CSH E	\$8,927.71	12/1/2020	1/30/2021	Extended to next meeting

5. Other Matters

- Esme announced two Altice initiatives. One is related to student internet access and the other related to Black History Month. She will email A9CC members with the details.

Future meetings: 3/24/21, 5/26/21. All 5:00pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm