

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council

www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (March 19, 2008)

March 20, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:
Easton: Andy Anderson, Leighton Jordan
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Herb Grant
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky, Harry Somerdyk
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm in Easton, with 9 towns represented. Stu Reider introduced a guest, Jim Thompson, Greenwich.

1. Minutes. The group approved the minutes of the February 6, 2008 meeting with no changes.

2. Treasurer's Report. JR presented the report to the Council. We have \$7184.07 in the ANCC account and \$1,986.42 in the ANCC Access account which includes encumbered grant awards for Norwalk and Redding. 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: none

4. 2008 Access Grant Program. JN delivered a \$100,000 check for 2008 E&G access funding to the ANCC from Cablevision. The ANCC unanimously approved a motion to direct \$50,000 for E-channel grants and \$40,000 for G-channel grants, and to reserve \$10,000 pending a possible future G-channel equipment grant from Cablevision. If the equipment grant from Cablevision is received, the reserved \$10,000 will then be directed to E-channels.

A second motion, approved unanimously, stated that G-channel grant applications will be limited to \$4000, that E-channel grant applications will be structured by the Educational Access Committee chaired by JR, and that the deadline for G-channel applications will be the September 2008 ANCC meeting (date TBD).

JR reminded towns to get final paperwork submitted for supplemental 2007 grants. So far, Wilton and Greenwich are up-to-date.

DS encouraged members to urge each town to seek town funding for items like staffing

for community access which PEG grants do not cover.

5. Review RB 5814 "An Act Concerning Community Access Television." The ANCC submitted verbal and written testimony about this proposed legislation. See the ANCC Website for the testimony. CYK summarized the public hearing at which HB 5814 was discussed. Community access providers and the public continue to be concerned about interconnection costs and on-going expenses of getting PEG programming onto the new systems of new competitive video service providers. Additional concerns were raised about the quality of transmission and slow-loading of PEG channels under AT&T's U-Verse system, as demonstrated by CT-N's side-by-side comparison filmed in Michigan. See <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/compare/>

DS and CYK reported that the Energy and Technology Committee of the CGA just passed a substitute bill (HB 5814JFS) with several changes in it regarding responsibility for assuming interconnection costs and responsibility for making changes to program format. HL and DS will review. JN briefly discussed the certificate of video franchise authority received by Cablevision of Litchfield which allows statewide video service except in the areas where Cablevision has a franchise. The Area Nine franchise is still in effect as is the requirement for a cable advisory council.

Several members emphasized the importance of preserving high quality PEG programming for cable and video customers and arguing for full channels for community access regardless of provider. The council agreed that a legislative approach is the most constructive strategy to support community access. The council will try to send a representative to a March 27 meeting in Hartford with the Co-chair of the E/T Committee.

6. Plan for Annual Meeting The ANCC approved plans for holding its Annual Meeting on May 28. The council will elect officers for two-year terms. Several members expressed interest in inviting a legislator to be guest speaker. Location and speaker – TBD.

7. Other Business

PS announced the filming of a panel discussion in New Canaan concerning the FAA lawsuit. Several Area Nine elected officials will be speakers. He offered DVDs to each Area Nine town. Please send Paul the contact information for your town's G-channel operator.

CYK announced that the Alliance for Community Media is making a map and listing of PEG channels in New England. So far, only Greenwich is listed as a community access provider in Area Nine. If you'd like to be part of this data base, please send the names of your community access channels, and best contact information (address, operator's e-mail address, etc) to CYK who will forward it to the Alliance.

Future meeting schedule—Redding, Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm for a tour of the Easton G-channel facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC