

# A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 6 Lazy Brook Ln, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS** **March 28, 2019**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2019 MEETING AT ALTICE NORWALK**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, Dave Dever  
Easton:  
Greenwich: Craig Jones, Horst Tebbe  
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roman Cebulski  
Norwalk: Irene Dixon  
Redding: Robert Moran  
Stamford:  
Weston: Don Saltzman  
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Natalie Carrignan  
Wilton: Jeffrey Boehme, Fran Kompar  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice:  
Ed Committee:  
Guests:

Excused: Andy Anderson, Doug Dempsey (Easton); Barbara Heins, Stu Reider (Greenwich); Bob Lion (Stamford); Judi Freedman (Westport); Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm with eight towns represented.

1. **Minutes** of the December 12 and January 30 meetings were approved.
2. **Financial Report** was distributed discussed and approved. A \$2,000 payment from Altice for council operations and \$100,000 payment for 2019 Altice E&G funding have been deposited.
3. **Old Business:**
  - Access channel info still owed by Darien E, Easton G, Greenwich E, Norwalk E, Weston E, Region 9 E. The form is on the A9CC website. We will begin posting the info we have on the website.
  - 2018 I-Net logs are owed by Edu: Greenwich, Norwalk & Weston; Gov: Easton, Stamford & Wilton. The deadline for the logs for Altice's report to PURA has passed, however towns & schools will not qualify for grant funding until delinquent logs are submitted to Hal.

#### 4. **2019 Access funding:**

There is currently \$108,891.02 in the escrow account available for access grants. We anticipate that we will be receiving an undetermined sum of U-verse funds from Altice in the not too distant future. The Council decided to create a first round of grants from the available funds and defer any future influx of funds to a second round of grants.

The Council approved a motion to make \$100,000 available for Round 1 E&G access grants with \$50,000 each going to Government grants and Education grants, whereby the remaining \$8K will be retained for possible emergency funding as may be needed. Individual grant requests may include funds for operations up to \$2,500. Any funds not encumbered in Round 1 will be retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants. All towns and schools must be current with grant reports and I-Net logs to be eligible for these grants.

The Education Committee will determine how to award Education funds with final approval by the entire council at the September meeting. Round 1 Education Grant applications must be submitted to

Hal no later than the September 11. Roman reported that the Education Committee will be awarding a total of \$1,500 in equipment grants for the Repicky Awards in this year's Educational Access Awareness competition. These awards will come out of the Education funds and Roman will submit a grant application for the \$1,500.

It was further moved and approved to create ten \$5,000 Government grants with a maximum of \$2,500 for operations and an application deadline of September 11.

**5. 2019 Round 1 grant applications:** The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Region 9 E	\$6,250.00	0	Approved
Wilton E	\$6,246.50	\$2,500.00	Approved; Owes 2018 EAAA report

**6. Review active legislative and regulatory proposals affecting video service:**

- FCC Docket No. 05-311 to allow cable companies to apply in-kind expenses to franchise fees: There was no new information on this docket from what was reported last meeting.
- CT HB 5486 - An Act Repealing the Transfer from the PEG Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) to the General Fund: A public hearing was scheduled for March 4.
- Proposed H.B. No. 6421 An Act Concerning The Regulation Of Cable Television Rates: This is a proposed bill with no information beyond the titled purpose. The F.C.C. provides for regulation of only "Broadcast Basic" rates by a local franchise authority (in our case, State of CT). CT opted out of BB regulation in 2007 and presumably this would seek to reverse this. The topic of cable rates spawned a discussion on cable competition and loss and attrition of subscribers, mostly to cord cutters.

We will follow these cases and look for new information as it becomes known.

**7. Appointment of an A9CC representative to the Statewide Video Advisory Council:**

No member agreed to serve and therefore the A9CC slot on the SVAC remains vacant.

**8. Plan for the annual meeting:**

The Council voted to hold the Annual Meeting in the Altice basement classroom on May 29. In addition to regular Council meeting business, there will be a presentation of Education Access Awareness Awards winning videos and we will seek a speaker. There were some suggestions for speakers including a representative from Altice on the topic of the company's future technologies and a State legislator involved in issues we are following. However the date of our meeting might conflict with the end of the legislative session. We remain open to other suggestions for a speaker.

**9. Other Matters**

- It was reported that some wait times for Optimum CSR's in the call center are still excessive
- It was reported that Hartford feeds on channels 3 & 8 have been off the air at times
- It was reported that some refurbished equipment dispensed at the Optimum Store was faulty

Future meetings: 5/29/2019, 9/25/2019 all 6PM at Altice

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm