

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, c/o Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897 www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 3, 2013)

April 7, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Art Scialabba,
Redding: Robert Moran
Weston: Don Saltzman, Peggy Jorgensen
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow,
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Chris von Keyserling, Stu Reider (Greenwich), Paul Sedlak (New Canaan), Erin Halsey, (Norwalk), Judith Freedman (Westport), Harvey Bellin (Weston), and Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

HL called the A9CC Meeting to order at 7:15 pm. 7 towns were represented.

1. **The minutes** of February's meeting were approved with one correction: The last meeting of 2012 took place in November 2012, not in December.
2. **The financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed and approved unanimously. A \$1000 check for the John Repicky Education Access Awards for Area 9 student film makers was presented to HG.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - **Access funds:** Cablevision presented a check for \$100,000 to the A9CC for 2013 community access support. Another check for \$100,201.37 from U-verse subscribers' access fees that have accumulated in escrow since 2007 to support Area 9 town-specific E & G channels was presented. PURA had previously approved Cablevision's and the A9CC's request that U-Verse access funds be administered by the A9CC through its well-established grant program.
 - **I-Net Log reports from our towns are incomplete.** Reports were included in the Annual Report submitted by Cablevision to PURA, showing the activity on our G and E channels. The I-Net Log reports received for 2012 can be found at <http://www.a9cc.org/logs.php> Several E-channel I-Net Logs are missing and must be submitted before towns may apply for additional grant support.
 - **HL presented an update on the limitations of including on-air recognition to commercial sponsors on G-Access and E-Access channels** and gave examples of allowable wording of such recognition, based on the information that JY (Cablevision) had distributed to all A9CC members. If on screen, only the name of the sponsor may be listed in regular font (not by logo) and, if mentioned verbally (voice), you may mention the name of the sponsor only. No other identifying information may be included. In addition, funding must be used for equipment, goods, or services needed for the production of an access program and cannot be distributed as salaries to producer, director, crew, talent, or others, or their families. HL urged members to be cautious and careful in recognizing any sponsors of programs and to consult Cablevision's PEG Access Kit (distributed by JY) for guidance.

4. **Plan for 2013 Government Access Grant program**

The Area 9 CC has approximately \$200,000 available to support Area 9 G- and E-channels in 2013. Half of that amount came from accumulated U-Verse subscribers' fees held in escrow since 2007.

In discussing the ways that these funds might help to promote G- and E-Access programming, the group discussed several ways to improve the quality of the access signals that subscribers receive, e.g., high definition for our channels and required equipment to accomplish this. Group discussed a high definition pilot program, meeting with CV about the feasibility of this, and delaying any immediate decisions on use of the U-Verse funds. JC preferred a continued focus on producing original programming on our channels to inform residents about local government and school programs. SW/JC moved to sequester the U-Verse funds for future needs TBD at a later date. Motion passed unanimously.

DS/JC moved to establish a 2013 grant program of \$60,000 for Educational Access channels (amount per channel to be determined by E-Access Committee) and \$40,000 for G-channel support (approximately \$4,000 for each municipality). Discussion: Members assume that \$25,000 worth of equipment will again be made available to G-channels by Cablevision—TBD later this year. Towns making application for the funding must be current with I-Net Logs and all outstanding expenditure reports, and requests must continue to report the current activities and programs carried on the G-Channel. Up to \$2,000 from G-channel allotments that will be allowable for operating expenses, e.g. videographer services. Deadline for Round 1 grants is the Friday before the October meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. **2013 Annual Meeting**

The A9CC Annual Meeting will be May 29 @ 7 pm at the SBC in Southport. Speaker TBD. Please submit suggestions to HL. Guests are welcome, at their own expense. Cash bar.

6. **Other Business**

Increasing Communication with E-Access Committee. Peggy Jorgensen, Chair, E-Access Committee, reported on activities and the need for her committee members to gain a better understanding of the purposes of Educational Access. JC/CYK moved that A9CC approve all future E-grant awards. Discussion included: need for more frequent communication with E-Access Committee, broadcasting Board of Education meetings on either G or E channels, importance of presence of E-Access Committee members at A9CC meetings, and responsibility for A9CC for promoting E-Access programming. Motion passed.

Discounted cable TV Rates for Senior Citizens? EH (Norwalk) submitted an inquiry to Cablevision via HL. JY: Discounts not available.

Statewide Video Coordinating Council: DS retiring as the A9CC representative to the Statewide Council. A9CC thanks DS for his service. JC volunteered, nominated, appointed to represent A9CC on this statewide council.

Sports Programming Surcharge: JY announced a \$2.98 surcharge for several subscription levels.

Next meeting: May 29, 2013 in Southport—SBC Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Secretary