

# A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 17 Crawford Road, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS** **May 31, 2018**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF May 30, 2018 MEETING AT ALTICE NORWALK**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron,  
Easton: Doug Dempsey  
Greenwich: Stu Reider, Barbara Heins  
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roman Cebulski  
Norwalk: Kyle Seaburg  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: Bob Lion, Andy George  
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman  
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow  
Wilton: Jeffrey Boehme  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice: Laura Jordan  
Ed Committee:  
Guests:

Excused: Andy Anderson (Easton); Susan Morris, Craig Jones (Greenwich); Irene Dixon (Norwalk); Natalie Carrigan, Judi Freedman (Westport); Fran Kompar, Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm with ten towns represented.

Senior Director of Government Affairs, Laura Jordan was introduced as the Council's contact from Altice. Laura takes over the duties of Jennifer Young who worked with A9CC for over 11 years.

1. **Minutes** of April 4 meeting were approved as amended.
2. **Financial Report** was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
  - **2017 I-Net reports & Member appointments:** Status has not changed since last meeting.
4. **Election of Officers for new two-year terms:** Jim Cameron and Jeffrey Boehme, who were elected to the Nominating Committee at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, presented and put into nomination Hal Levy for Chairman and Jim Cameron for Vice Chairman. As no members agreed to serve in the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary, it was proposed that Hal Levy would continue with the duties of Treasurer and Secretary until replacements may be found. As no other nominations from the floor were made, the proposed slate was approved. Don Saltzman was commended for his many years of excellent service as Vice Chairman.
5. **Educational Access Awareness Awards:** Winners for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual awards program were recently announced. The Educational Access Awareness Awards honor original student video productions that have been broadcast throughout the school year on Optimum's Educational Access Channel 78. The Area 9 Cable Council (A9CC) & Altice sponsor this contest yearly to encourage students to develop video production and storytelling skills by creating access television shows relevant to their school and community. Student videos are recognized in seven separate categories. Roman Cebulski of the A9CC Educational Access Committee presented a compilation of the winning videos from this year's entries.

6. **2018 Round 1 Access Grant Applications:** The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Westport G	\$6,200.00	0	Approved with comments
Weston G	\$3,758.40	\$2,500.00	Approved
Redding G	\$6,200.00	\$2,500.00	Approved
Easton G	\$3,700.00	0	Approved
Darien G	\$3,542.50	0	Approved
Region 9 E	\$6,892.84	0	Approved

This concluded 2018 Round 1 grants.

7. **Formulate 2018 Round 2 Grants:** After processing the 6 grant applications (item 6), there was \$26,995.39 of unencumbered funds remaining in the education pool and \$16,199.10 remaining in the government pool. There is also a pending \$25,000 contribution of access funds from Altice that could add \$12,500 each to the grant pools. Laura says she expects a final answer on the commitment of the \$25K within 2 weeks.

Therefore it was proposed and approved that either \$39,500 or \$27,000 would be made available to Round 2 Education grants with an application deadline of 12/10, whereby the Education Committee would determine how to allocate the funds. It was further moved and approved that 10 Government grants of either \$2,870 or \$1,620 each would be made available with an application deadline of 10/22. In either case, a maximum of \$1,620 can be used for operations. Hal will inform the towns and schools which amounts once he hears from Altice regarding the commitment of the \$25K.

8. **Rate Hike:** Altice announced a 3.2% average increase taking effect in June billing. Set-Top Box: from \$10>\$11; CableCARD: \$2>\$2.50; Sports Surcharge: \$6.97>\$7.97; Broadcast TV Surcharge: \$3.99>\$4.99; Broadcast Basic Tier: Existing customers paying above \$13.99 > \$19.99, Existing customers paying \$13.99>\$14.99, new customers \$19.99; Sports and Entertainment Package: \$8.99>\$10; Residential Service Protection Plan: \$4.99>\$6.99; Restoration Fee: \$4.99>\$10 (1 or 2 svcs) >\$15 (3 svcs). Installation Fee: (\$69>\$99 STD, \$99>\$129 PREM). It was discussed that rates and programming is unregulated and the Council has no role in these areas.

9. **2018-2019 Meeting Schedule:** (See Future meetings below)

10. **Other Matters**

- Don reported that the Drone received through a grant by NCC is being used as a teaching tool. It was reiterated that it is to be made available to all Area 9 access channels.
- All town-specific Govt. & Education Access channels can be viewed at your local headend. A list of I-Net channels appears on a9cc.org. Jim Cameron will compile the links to all the Area 9 access entities that are streaming its content. This will then be posted on a9cc.org.
- Laura announced that sometime in June, Altice USA will be spinning off from the foreign corporation as a separate USA based company.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11

Future meetings: 9/12/2018, 10/24/2018, 12/12/2018, 2/6/2019, 4/3/2019 - all 6PM at Altice & 5/29/2019 at location TBD