

A.9.C.C.

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF MAY 31, 2023 MEETING VIA ZOOM

June 2, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

- Darien: Jim Cameron, David Dever, Joan McGettigan
- Easton: Doug Dempsey
- Greenwich: Craig Jones, Horst Tebbe, ~~Don Conway, Michael Reid~~
- New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak, Bob Doran~~, Roman Cebulski
- Norwalk: ~~Irene Dixon, Mark Minnock, Andy Garfunke, Trevor Kline~~
- Redding: Bob Moran
- Stamford: ~~Eric Morson, Alec Logman~~
- Weston: ~~Don Saltzman~~
- Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow~~, Natalie Carrigan
- Wilton: Gary Battaglia, Jeffrey Boehme, Fran Kompar
- Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
- Altice: Esme Lombard
- Ed Committee:
- Guests: Larry Manzi (Norwalk)

- Excused: Irene Dixon (Norwalk); Stan Witkow (Westport); Bob Doran (New Canaan)

Hal called the meeting to order at 5:04pm with eight towns represented. This is the A9CC Annual Meeting as stipulated in the by-laws.

1. **Minutes** of the March 22 meeting was approved as written.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - **Return of Weston Equipment** – Doug reported that all requested items have been claimed. He is holding remaining unclaimed items in Easton Town Hall until the Town needs the space, at which time it will be donated or otherwise disposed of.
 - **2022 I-net reports** due 2/1/23. Owed E: *Greenwich, *Norwalk, *Stamford, *Weston, CSH; G: *Greenwich, *Stamford, *Weston; Wilton. Towns & schools that have not submitted I-net reports or program logs will not be eligible for 2023 grants.
* indicates no grants taken in 2022.
4. **2023 Round 1 grant program:**

\$65,025 each to E & G. 9 grants of \$7,225 on the Government side (Weston has opted out). The breakdown of the Educational portion will be determined by the Ed Committee. A maximum of \$3,000 for each grant could be allocated to operations. The deadline for submitting grants from the towns was May 17. The deadline for submitting grants from the schools is September 14. Unused Round 1 funds retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants.

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Norwalk G	\$7,225.00	0	Approved
Redding G	\$4,672.85	0	Approved with conditions see * below
Darien G	\$570.00	0	Approved
New Canaan G	\$7,225.00	0	Approved

*Redding grant was approved on condition that whoever operates drone must be licensed and insured and that the operation will be made available to other access channels in Area 9.

Delinquent Grant Reports:

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
New Canaan E	\$1,000.00	11/1/2022	4/30/2023	Extended to next meeting
Easton G	\$2,000.00	10/24/2022	4/22/2023	Extended to next meeting
Easton G	\$6,025.00	3/27/2023	5/26/2023	Extended to next meeting

5. **DOCKET NO. 22-06-26 PURA Study of the Operations of Certified Third-Party Nonprofit Community Access Programming Providers:** Although Area 9 Access does not operate under a Third-Party Nonprofit CAP, some of the suggestions filed by the parties affect our area. Such as a shift in funding of PEG and the elimination of Cable Advisory Councils. Hal and Jim will compose and file written comments in the docket by the June 13th deadline to reflect the A9CC positions.
6. **2023 Education Access Awareness Awards:** The *Educational Access Awareness Awards*, is a contest that honors original student video productions for broadcast throughout the school year on Optimum’s Educational Access Channel 78. The Area 9 Cable Council (A9CC) and 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. The Council thanked Altice for its financial support of the awards and the Educational Access Committee for its tireless efforts in running the contest. Fran shared two of the winning videos with the Council.
7. **Optimum equipment rental rate increases effective 5/24/2023:** New bills have begun reflecting the monthly equipment rental fees below. The rate announcement states *“for new customers or existing customers requesting a change to their video service or package”*. Esme will verify that the increases are for those customers only and will pass on the company’s justification for the increases.

Device	Old Price	New Price
Cable Box	\$11.00	\$13.00
Optimum One6	\$20.00	\$24.00
Stream*	\$10.00	\$12.00
TiVo*	\$17.00	\$19.00
Digital Adapter (DTA) HD DigitaLink	\$5.00	\$7.00
TiVo Mini*	\$10.00	\$12.00
DVR w/ STB	\$23.95	\$25.95

8. **Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions:** Jim urged access channels to share programming of general interest with the other channels in Area 9. Programs can be sent to Jim for distribution.
9. **Tentative A9CC meeting schedule for 2023-24** (See “Future Meetings” below)
10. **Other Matters:**
 - Appointment letters will be going out in June to CEOs & Superintendents for new 2-year terms 7/1/23 – 6/30/25

Future Meetings: 9/20/23, 10/25/2023, 12/13/2023, 1/31/2024, 3/20/2024, 5/29/2024 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.