

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897 www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS **June 8, 2009**
FROM:
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (June 4, 2009)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever
Easton: Andy Anderson, Leighton Jordan
Greenwich: Stu Reider, Paul Curtis, Christopher von Keyserling
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: -----
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky, Lisa Bogan
Cablevision: Jennifer Young, Myles Rich

Public/Guests: Mrs. Esther Ziegler; Judge Samuel Freedman, John Savarese, Director, Information Services, Town of Wilton; Paul Giguere, Executive Director, CT-N—The Connecticut Network.

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Red Barn Restaurant, with 9 towns represented. Herb Grant (Norwalk), Marge Costa (Norwalk), Jim Cameron (Darien), Peggy Jorgensen (Weston), and Jeff Stollenwerck (Westport) were excused.

Opening comments from Chairman Hal Levy: HL welcomed two new ANCC members: Christopher von Keyserling who has been appointed as a Greenwich representative to ANCC and Lisa Bogan who has been appointed to be one of Wilton's representatives. Both new members briefly summarized their backgrounds and their interest in participating in the ANCC.

1. **Minutes** of the April 1, 2009 meeting approved with no changes.
2. **Treasurer's report:** JR distributed spreadsheets with current balances.
 - ANCC Operating Account: Balance - \$9,745.35. This account provides support of the council's operating expenses. JR reports that HL will negotiate with Wachovia to have a check-ordering fee of \$50 waived (done 6/5).
 - ANCC Access Escrow Account: Closing Balance - \$104,911.85. JR reports that this account reflects Cablevision's 2009 support for community access (E/G) in the amount of \$100,000.
3. **Old Business:**

Update on Educational Access Awards: JR reported that the Educational Access Committee of ANCC awarded 30 awards and 104 certificates to students who participated in the 2008-2009 Fifth Annual Access Awareness Awards for students in Grades K-12. Original student television productions were cablecast during the school year on each town's Educational Access channel (Cablevision Channel 78). The goals of the program—funded this year by a special grant from Cablevision—are to encourage video production and storytelling skills through the creation of short television films on topics relevant to their schools and community. First, second, and third place winners will also receive special equipment for their schools from Cablevision.

Legislation Update—HL reviewed the activity of ANCC members in support of HB 6604 An Act Concerning Public Access TV Channels and a related amendment. This legislation would have addressed some issues left uncompleted by the video legislation passed in 2007. The legislative session ended at midnight on June 3, 2009 with the bill not being called in either the House or the Senate. CYK thanked the members for their messages, letters, phone calls, and meetings with legislators. The community access community in Connecticut has begun to network effectively with each other and serve as resources to each other. CYK especially thanked PC for his consultation to PEG supporters around the state.

4. Guest Speaker—Paul Giguere, Executive Director, CT-N: Mr. Giguere reviewed the roots of public affairs communications and the importance of open and transparent government to democracy. He reviewed the structure, features, and funding of CT-N and thanked Cablevision for providing a dedicated channel for CT-N on its basic service tier. CT-N has a 3 web-streamed channels and one live feed on its TV station. Website is http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctn_web.asp

5. ANCC E/G Grant Funding: Cablevision has also indicated that it will provide a supplemental grant of equipment to the towns, provided that the towns can work together to agree on items to request. PC, HL, DS, and JR have met with Cablevision representatives to determine the status of current equipment and future equipment needs of the towns. PC stated his need for additional information from the towns before the ANCC and Cablevision can proceed on this plan and will re-survey the towns. Please respond to PC's e-mail survey before June 12, 2009. Motion by PC: For the 2009 access grants, the ANCC will establish 4 grants of equipment and 6 grants competing for remaining access funds. Second by DD. HL explained that the intention of this effort is to have the G-channel in each town enjoy the same capabilities and functioning (even if their equipment differs somewhat) and for the value of the 2009 grants to be approximately the same value as the equipment packages. Motion passed unanimously.

The grant deadline for the towns that opt to apply for grant awards in lieu of an equipment package will be October 16, 2009.

6. Activities/Goals of the ANCC: HL announced that the ANCC has been in existence for 28 years and that Geza Ziegler was there from the beginning of the council. He thanked the officers and continuing members for their hard work, and new members for their interest. PC expressed the thanks of the ANCC to HL for his tireless and expert leadership of the council and to JR for his leadership of the Educational Access Group and administration of the G-Channels grant program. CYK noted that Area Two had followed the ANCC model in its successful launch of town-specific programming. HL reviewed changes in the role of the ANCC in recent years with the changes in certification laws in CT, emphasizing the continuing role of the ANCC as an advisory body to the region's official community access provider, Cablevision. He acknowledged the helpful presence of Jennifer Young, Mike Chowaniec, and Myles Rich at meetings and the positive working relationship that the council has with these individuals. HL raised the possibility of inviting more guest speakers to meetings in the future.

7. Future meetings: Tentative schedule for 2009-2010

9/9/09—Cablevision, Norwalk Headquarters.

10/21/09—TBD

12/2/09—Wilton High School. Room D-101

2/10/10—Darien

4/7/10—Easton Town Hall

6/2/10—Annual Meeting

Adjourned at 9 pm.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary, ANCC