

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton Town Hall , 238 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897 www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (June 2, 2010)

June 6, 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson, Douglas K. Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis, Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision: Mike Chowanec, Jennifer Young

Excused: Roger Williams (New Canaan), Chris Von Keyserling (Greenwich), Lisa Bogan (Wilton), Marge Costa, Diana Paladino, Herb Grant (Norwalk)

Guests: State Representative William Tong (Stamford/New Canaan - Guest Speaker), State Representative Peggy Reeves (Wilton/Norwalk), CT Alliance for Community Media (ACM) Board Member Pua Ford (Bethany), Esther Ziegler (Stamford), John Repicky (Danbury).

Resignation: Phyllis Bolden (Norwalk).

Hal Levy called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed members and guests.

1. The minutes of April 7, 2010 were approved as submitted.

2. The financial report provided by the Treasurer was distributed and approved. HL reported a balance of \$108,108.57 in the Escrow Account, which matches the bank statement. The balance in the Operations Account is \$11,536.55.

3. Old business-No Updates.

4. Election of Officers 2010-2012

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, GZ presented the proposed slate of officers for 2010-2012 - Hal Levy (Westport), Chair; Donald Saltzman (Weston), Vice-Chair; Herbert Grant (Norwalk), Treasurer; and Carole Young-Kleinfeld (Wilton) Secretary. Since there were no additional nominations from the floor, the proposed slate was approved by acclamation.

5. Legislative Activities

- Substitute House Bill 5463 was passed overwhelmingly by the House. Bill required a biennial performance review by the DPUC as a contested case of all certified video service providers and would designate advisory councils as intervenors in these cases. Several ANCC

members contacted their legislators in support of this bill but it was ultimately tabled in the Senate.

- HB 5509—which dealt with quality of PEG channel signals on CVFAs was not raised by the E/T Committee during this session.

6. Presentation by Representative Tong

HL introduced Representative William Tong, Vice-Chair, Energy and Technology Committee, who presented an overview of the past legislative session. He credited Committee Chair Representative Vicki Nardello and Senator John Fonfara with excellent work on the massive “Energy Bill” that was subsequently vetoed by Governor Rell. He also advised the ANCC on strategies to educate legislators on PEG issues, emphasizing the advantages of early-in-the-session (January), face-to-face meetings with them.

Questions for Representative Tong included clarification of most effective ways to communicate with legislators, the raiding of the PEGPETIA fund to offset state budget shortfalls, and the need for clarification of the DPUC’s role in overseeing analog/digital issues and signal quality standards. DS, as chair of the Statewide Video Advisory Council, indicated that a meeting has been proposed with DPUC to address several statewide video issues—date and place TBD.

7. Elimination of Analog Service

MC and JY updated the group on the phase-out of analog service and roll-out of digital, which has been delayed in Area Nine at least until mid-June. Current analog customers can get up to 2 digital boxes for 2 years at no charge, and current digital customers can get up to 3 additional digital boxes for 1 year at no charge. Medicaid eligible customers can receive 2 free converter boxes for 5 years.

Every school is eligible for 1 free box and a discount for additional boxes. If school districts have questions about their eligibility for free boxes, contact JY at Cablevision for assistance.

8. Grant Program

- At its April meeting, the ANCC established a plan for distribution of the annual \$100,000 grant: -\$60,000 to Area Nine E-channels and \$40,000 to G-channels. G-channels will be also eligible to participate in CV’s supplemental equipment grant offering.
- HL noted that none of the towns that received most recent supplemental round of grant funding has returned the required expenditure reports. Those towns are reminded to submit them before applying for additional funding.
- The deadline for application for grant funding is October 15. Any remaining funds will be available for supplemental grants, to be distributed before the mid-December report to the DPUC.
- A Weston request for a \$1000 grant to purchase an encoder/decoder for transmitting remote programming within town buildings was tabled due to late submission of the request and inquiries about the status of G-channel programming in Weston. JC recommended that G-channels distribute their schedules for the public and concentrate on increasing content on their channels.

9. 2010 Educational Access Awareness Awards

HL has added a press release about the awards on the ANCC Website and congratulated the Educational Access Committee for their work. The Committee honored the past work of John Repicky by establishing the John M. Repicky Award for the top video submissions. William Derry (Westport) has a DVD of the award winning videos.

10. Activities and Goals of the Council

HL suggested that the ANCC feature an informational presentation at each ANCC meeting. Members offered suggestions: activities of the CT Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media, technical issues in PEG broadcasting, setting up local G-channel advisory councils, promoting and publicizing your town's G-channel, and producing PSAs. Members will submit additional ideas to HL for consideration.

11. 2011 Meeting Schedule: 9/15—Cablevision, 10/20, 12/1, 2/16, 4/6, 6/1.

12. Other Business

CYK introduced Pua Ford from Area 2 and Woodbridge G-TV. Pua is a board member of the newly-created CT Chapter of the ACM. She announced a statewide conference in West Hartford on Columbus Day weekend. One focus will be kids creating content for community access television.

Ms. Ford also reminded members about the importance of federal legislation HR 3745 Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act) which supports PEG across the country. So far only CT's Congressman John Larson is a sponsor of this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary, ANCC
June 6, 2010