

# A.9.C.C.

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

[www.a9cc.org](http://www.a9cc.org)

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (June 1, 2011)**

**June 5, 2011**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Darien:	David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Andy Anderson
Greenwich:	Stu Reider
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	Herbert Grant
Redding:	Bob Moran
Stamford:	
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport:	Hal Levy, Judith Friedman
Wilton:	Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Lisa Bogan
E-Access Committee	Ellyn Stewart, Peggy Jorgensen
Cablevision:	

Excused: Paul Curtis (Greenwich), Geza Ziegler (Stamford), Stan Witkow (Westport)

Guests: Jennifer Evans (CT Chapter ACM, WHC-TV); Pua Ford (CT Chapter ACM); Mimi Griffith, Betty Ann Dever.

Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm, welcomed members and guests.

**1. The minutes of April 6, 2011 were approved as submitted.**

**2. The financial report provided by the Treasurer was distributed and approved.** HG reported a balance of \$102,994.13 in the Escrow Account. The balance in the Operations Account is \$11,366.57.

### **3. Old business**

**ACM Northeast Regional Conference**—HG attended the 3-day conference held in New Haven, CT and received the only Connecticut full scholarship from the NE Region Chapter. The conference included workshops and information from vendors of video-related products. HG reported that his participation was very worthwhile and thanked the CT Chapter for supporting his scholarship application.

HL requested that the agenda be modified in order to proceed with reviewing grant applications from towns.

### **4. Grant Program –FY 2011 Access Support**

PS presented New Canaan's grant request for \$1500 which included equipment and supplies along with an item called Cablevision Annual Bill. The council discussed whether this item should be included in the request, since CV will provide one free converter box for basic service for monitoring G-channel programming. Any additional service has been paid by each town.

Council deferred acting on this item and advised PS to research this with his town. Then council approved the equipment and supplies included in New Canaan's request.

HL reminded the group that expenditures of the recent \$1000 operating grants recently awarded to 7 towns for G-staff time should include time sheets and/or another means of accounting for hours worked, such as canceled payroll checks or 1099s.

## **5. To Review Legislative Activities Concerning Public Access Channels**

**HB6460**--HL reported that he and CYK had drafted a letter of support that council members sent to their legislators. Although much of the legislation does not pertain to Area 9, since Area 9 does not have a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party community access provider, there are some aspects of the legislation that the Area 9 Cable Council wished to support, such as adding labor and staff expenses to the allowable uses of funds used to create town-specific community access programming. The council also supports the spirit of the legislation in that it promotes town-specific community access programming as an important service to residents. HG reported that he had received positive feedback from Senator Bob Duff who serves on the E/T Committee of the legislature. JF suggested contacting Senator McKinney (Weston and Easton) to request that the bill be called for a vote in the senate. The session ends on June 8.

**AT&T Escrow Funds**—DS reported that the DPUC decided that escrow funds being held until towns are interconnected to AT&T for community access should go to both the regional cable councils and to the official CAP provider, but delayed implementing its decision for several months. So far, only Westport has reached an interconnection agreement with AT&T in Area 9. Greenwich has interconnected with Verizon for community access programming.

**HR 1746** (federal legislation)—Jennifer Evans and Pua Ford reviewed this legislation which would prohibit discriminatory practices by companies providing community access channels.

**CT DPUC Docket #110102**—Pua Ford reviewed this docket which was requested by NECTA which has argued that PEG fees should be lowered because much PEG programming is streamed on the Internet. It's not clear how that affects the need for equipment and staff for producing this programming. Members can follow the docket on the DPUC website.

## **6. Jennifer Evans-Guest Speaker**

HL introduced the council's guest speaker Jennifer Evans, Executive Director of West Hartford Community TV and Co-President of the CT Chapter, Alliance for Community Media. Ms. Evans described the goals of the CT Chapter of ACM: networking for access providers throughout the state, professional support for community access providers, resource-sharing, and advocacy in legislative activities. A9CC is a member of the CT Chapter and receives notices of ACM meetings, conferences, board elections, and available scholarships for interested attendees.

Ms. Evans updated the group about the various threats to the existence of community access entities around the country, recently in Ohio, San Jose, and Atlanta, due to statewide franchising and loss of protective legislation for access entities.

The New England Chapter, ACM, will sponsor a video competition in November. Information will be sent to members about submitting entries.

## **7. Educational Access Awards**

ES reported on the recent student video competition which pulled in 300 entries from Area 9 schools. The John Repicky Award winners came from New Canaan High School, Bedford Middle School, Westport, and Long Lots Elementary School, Westport.

JC suggested that the E-Access Committee produce a video montage of the winners for the G- and E-access channels to feature.

## **8. Activities and Goals of the Council**

HL thanked the officers of the A9CC and the members of the E-access subcommittee for their service. He appreciated the efforts of the Darien representatives in arranging several educational sessions during the year—such as social networking, promoting your G-channel, and increasing the production of original programming.

SR raised the question of the use of PEGPETIA funds. His comments are attached.

DS suggested that the A9CC conduct a survey to determine whether surplus equipment can be re-directed to schools that need it.

**9. 2011-12 Meeting Schedule:** 9/14 (Cablevision), 10/19 (New Canaan), 11/30, 2/15, 4/4, 6/6. Locations TBD.

## **10. Other Matters**

Grant Deadline for 2011 Funding—10/14/2011. Expenditure reports of past grants required for new funding.

Operations Grants for Labor Costs--Expenditure documentation due June 15, 2011. Time sheets are acceptable.

A9CC Appointment Letters—will be sent to all chief elected officials and superintendents of schools. Two-year terms are up 7/1/2011. Attendance will be included in the letter.

Equipment Grant—to be resolved during the summer.

Possibility of cooperative purchasing among A9CC—HB suggested this for the CT chapter of ACM to pursue for cost-savings for municipalities. JE and PF will consider the logistics of this idea.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary, A9CC

June 6, 2011