



TO: ANCC MEMBERS **September 6, 2007**
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (September 5, 2007)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:
Easton: Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Stu Reider, Paul Curtis, Anne Semmes
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Marge Costa
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy, Jeff Stollenwerck, Judi Freedman
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky, Harry Somerdyk
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Westport Town Hall with 9 towns and the press represented.

1. Chairman Hal Levy welcomed new members to the Council: Harry Somerdyk—Wilton; Andy Anderson—Easton; Paul Curtis and Anne Semmes—Greenwich; and Harvey Bellin—Weston.

2. Minutes. The ANCC approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 30, 2007 with no changes.

3. Treasurer's Report. John Repicky (temporarily filling in for treasurer) presented the financial status of the Council. We have \$7,405.82 in the ANCC account and \$103,137.56 in the Government Access account, temporarily, since no applications for grant funds have been received yet from any of Area Nine's member towns.

Although previously approved by the Council, three grant requests, from Norwalk Community College, Easton-G channel, and New Canaan-E channel, have not been issued because the grantees have not submitted vouchers for these funds nor expense reports from previous grants.

HL and JR reviewed the grant program's procedures and purposes. They reminded members that the ANCC must receive a written description of each request for grant funding, a voucher for payment, and an accounting of all expenditures. Expense reports of past grants must be submitted before applying for new grants. Forms are available from the ANCC Website. Grants are strictly to support Educational and Governmental Access programming—for equipment and technical needs, but not for staffing or personnel.

DS reminded members that most towns must rely on additional funding from their town's budget to support their E/G channel operations and urged members to become informed about their town's budget process and to seek town support.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

4. New Council Treasurer. HL announced that Weston's representative and ANCC treasurer Robert Atkinson had resigned and that the ANCC must name a replacement to fill Bob's unexpired term. Hal thanked him for his years of service to the ANCC. JF suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to Bob from the ANCC.

JR and GZ nominated Jeff Stollenwerck (Westport) to serve as ANCC treasurer for the unexpired term. His nomination was unanimously approved.

5. Old Business. ANCC appointment letters for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009 membership terms are due from mayors and first selectmen for G-channel representatives and from superintendents of schools for E-channel representatives. So far, every town, except for Norwalk, has formally named at least one G-channel representative to the ANCC. Several towns still have additional vacancies to fill, should they wish to do so. CYK will assemble a status report to distribute to members.

HL has sent a formal letter of thanks to Annual Meeting speaker Harvey Glass from OmniVue for his presentation to the ANCC last May.

6. Membership in Alliance for Community Media

CYK reviewed the purpose, history, and activities of the Washington DC-based Alliance for Community Media. A summary of the benefits and costs of membership was e-mailed to all members. Since the ANCC has a budget of only \$2000 per year for operating expenses, we qualify for a \$100 membership fee. Membership in ACM includes an automatic membership in ACM's NE Chapter. MC suggested that we discuss with ACM a prorated membership for the remainder of calendar year 2007. The Council voted unanimously to join the ACM and named CYK as ANCC's contact with ACM.

7. DPUC Open Dockets. HL reviewed three open dockets of interest to the ANCC.

07-07-29. DPUC Review of Cablevision Systems Corporation Notice of Reorganization. This review covers Cablevision's intent to change its structure from a publicly held company to a privately held company. The DPUC must approve this change.

07-05-24. Review of Community Access Support in the Cablevision of Connecticut Franchise Area. This review was initiated by ANCC in its request for clarification of the program use restrictions contained in Section 7.13 of Cablevision's new franchise agreement. These restrictions affect E and G programming produced by local town-specific channels—which use a variety of different funding sources to produce their programming—by limiting the use of this programming to benefit only Cablevision customers. The Town of Weston has filed a letter—previously sent to all ANCC members—describing its position on this docket. CYK suggested that other towns may wish to review Weston's letter with their town officials to consider whether they might wish to send a similar letter to the DPUC. SR questioned whether Area Two's agreement contains a similar restriction. HL noted that Area Two does contain a similar restriction in its Section 7.09. Some members questioned the relevance of this docket to Webstreaming their G programming on town websites, such as Westport's, and third party websites, such as Soundview in Bridgeport.

07-05-23. AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations. This review covers an investigation by the DPUC of AT&T's funding obligations to community access. After discussion, the ANCC will follow the progress of this docket. (Members can view correspondence from various towns and from Area Two CC at <http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DOCKCURR.NSF/Web%20Main%20View/CATV?OpenView&Start=1&Count=30&Expand=5.1.4#5.1.4>)

The group discussed some of the issues of concern in the new law that covers video providers: no build-out requirements, no roll-out schedule, no needs assessment, unclear process for negotiating with municipalities, how to interconnect for access programming, etc. HL expressed concerns over the technical procedures and additional equipment that may be required for interconnecting E/G channel programming with alternative video providers. DS outlined possible equipment needs: an encoder and a DSL line and their possible costs to the towns. Several members questioned where funding would come from for these required expenditures. HB questioned public awareness of what a switch to a competitive video provider will mean for viewing E/G access channels in light of the interconnection technical requirements, assuming that the legal copyright issues are resolved.

DS mentioned that the DPUC determined that the emergency petition filed by Connecticut's Attorney General, requesting that competitive video providers seek franchise licenses, was not "ripe for Department review" as of August 31, 2007 and denied it without prejudice.

HL reminded the group that the ANCC has always publicly promoted a level playing field for all video providers in the franchise area.

ANCC members will continue to follow the developments in these dockets.

8. New Access Grant Funding. The ANCC has received its grant funding of \$100,000 from Cablevision subscriber fees and is making available \$60,000 for E-channel grants and \$40,000 (10 grants of approximately \$4,000 each) for G-channel grants. Any supplemental equipment will be directed toward G-channel operations. So far, no applications have been received. When towns apply for this grant funding, they must be aware of the restrictions in Section 7.13 and sign a statement acknowledging that the restrictions, as they currently stand, have been disclosed to them. Check ANCC Website for the statement. Deadline for grant applications is November 28, 2007.

Seven towns have agreed to a supplemental equipment request for Chyron graphic generators from Cablevision. The three remaining towns must collaborate on a request for another similarly priced piece of equipment.

9. Other matters

- JN announced Cablevision PSA Day: September 26, 2007.
- JN announced CV's new Public Access Coordinator Rich Turscany.
- JF reported a complaint from a constituent about uneven sound quality and volume in different programs.
- JF suggested a need for better public information regarding the switch to all-digital TV by February 17, 2009. HB will share information with members about the federal government's program of offering coupons to low income households

- to help offset the costs of set-top converter boxes.
- CYK asked JN for an update of whether Area Nine would be able to regain C-SPAN on the Basic service tier like Bridgeport has. No. JN noted that Bridgeport was a hold-over from past line-ups and that C-SPAN in Bridgeport would be moved to a higher service.

Future meeting schedule-- 10/17 in Weston, 11/28 at Cablevision (Norwalk), 1/9/08 in Wilton, 2/13 in Greenwich, 3/19 in Easton, 4/23 in Redding, 5/28 TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm for a tour of Westport's Channel 79 facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC