

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 17 Crawford Rd, Westport, CT 06880 www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (September 11, 2013)

September 12, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson
Greenwich:	
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	Herbert Grant, Erin Herring
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport:	Hal Levy
Wilton:	Phil Sharlach
Cablevision:	Jennifer Young

Excused: Judi Freedman (Westport) Paul Curtis (Greenwich).

HL called the meeting to order at 6.12 pm. 8 towns were represented.

New Wilton representative Phil Sharlach was welcomed to the Council.

Longtime A9CC member Geza Ziegler, who passed away on June 10, was eulogized by the members.

1. **The minutes** of May 29 were approved with 1 correction.
2. **The financial report** from the Treasurer (HG) was distributed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - HL sent a thank you letter to Tom Appleby for speaking at the Annual Meeting
 - Government appointment letters for the new term have been received for all towns except Greenwich, Stamford & Weston. DS & HB will f/u for Weston. Only Westport has sent in an Education appointment letter. HL will email Peggy Jorgensen. EH will look into getting a library representative for the Council.
4. **2013 access grant program**

The deadline for submitting round 1 grants up to \$4,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be for operations, is 10/11. Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Darien & Westport are now up to date on reports.

Council will address ideas for utilizing \$100K U-verse grant funds at the October meeting. We are seeking proposals for using these funds for a large integrated project to enhance Government access. DD put forth an idea of equipment that can be used to send live remote feeds to the headends similar to that used by News12. The Council requested a presentation by a CV tech at a future meeting.

JC will attend the next Ed Access Committee meeting to convey the Council's parameters for utilization of access funds and to affirm that Ed applications now require full council approval.

5. **Discussion on how CV determines its channel lineup**

JC inquired about carriage decisions by CV for new networks, for example Al Jazeera. JY responded that while CV makes every attempt to accommodate programming requests to satisfy customers' preferences, factors such as technical limitations, contractual obligations with programmers and federal government regulations may limit their ability to honor each request that received.

6. **August 18 CV service outage**

All services were out for several hours in all of Area 9 and some towns in Area 2 and Westchester due to an internal power issue at the Norwalk headend. The malfunction also resulted in the disruption of call center access, which further frustrated customers. JY stated that this particular failure was due to an internal problem at CV, which "won't happen again". CV is issuing automatic refunds over 2 billing cycles to all affected customers subscribing to: TV-\$5, Internet-\$3, Phone-\$2.

7. **Meeting schedule 2013-2014:**

10/16/2013 Norwalk; 11/20/2013 Darien; 2/5/2014 Wilton; 4/2/2014 Easton; 6/2/2014 TBD

8. **Other Matters:**

- DS reported that a Weston subscriber is pushing for senior discounts and other subsidies. JY said that some time ago, a CV CSR had misinformed this subscriber that senior discounts could be requested through the local municipality.
- JY announced that CV will be offering a TV-Phone bundle, no longer requiring an Internet subscription for phone.
- DD inquired about any CV plans for a la-carte. JY responded that CV CEO was in favor of a la carte but networks typically require bundling of channels in their contracts.
- PS expressed opinion that new cable guide was difficult to navigate, however it offers more robust features.
- DS reported that the governor has suspended PEGPETIA grants until after 2015 as the funds have been diverted into the general fund.
- JC handed out DVD's of Congressman Himes Town Hall meeting for carriage on G channels. He also has available some short clips that were produced by a Darien TV79 intern.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Next meeting: October 16, 2013 in Norwalk

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Levy
Secretary in lieu