

# A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 6 Lazy Brook Ln, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS** **September 26, 2019**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 MEETING AT ALTICE NORWALK**

## ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Joan McGettigan  
Easton: Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson  
Greenwich: Barbara Heins, Sean Mayo  
New Canaan: Roman Cebulski  
Norwalk: Irene Dixon  
Redding: Robert Moran  
Stamford: Bob Lion  
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin  
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Judi Freedman, Natalie Carrignan  
Wilton: Jeffrey Boehme, Gary Battaglia  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice:  
Ed Committee:  
Guests: Roland Poirier (Weston), John Amarilios (Darien)

Excused: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron (Darien), Horst Tebbe (Greenwich); Paul Sedlak (New Canaan); Mark Minnock (Norwalk);

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm with ten towns represented. New members Joan McGettigan (Darien-E) and Sean Mayo (Greenwich-E) were introduced and welcomed to the Council.

1. **Minutes** of the May 29 meeting was approved.
2. **Financial Report** was distributed discussed and approved.
3. **Old Business:**
  - Altice Connecticut Government Affairs hire is still pending, John Dullaghan, who was not in attendance, remains as the contact until someone is hired. The position has remained vacant since April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
  - Member appointments are pending for New Canaan, Stamford & Wilton Govt. and Stamford Edu., awaiting responses from those CEO's & Superintendents. The status of member appointments can be ascertained at a9cc.org, pending as either "vacancy" or incumbents marked with an \*.
  - E&G Station Information spreadsheet can be downloaded from the A9CC website at <http://a9cc.org/forms.htm>. Please review and send any missing information to Hal.
  - There has been no change in status on FCC Docket No. 05-311 to allow cable companies to apply in-kind expenses to franchise fees, although it was reiterated that this shouldn't affect PEG in CT; HB 5486 - An Act Repealing the Transfer from the PEG Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) to the General Fund; and Proposed H.B. No. 6421 An Act Concerning The Regulation Of Cable Television Rates
4. **2019 Round 1 grant applications:** The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Weston G	\$5,000.00	\$2,500	Approved
New Canaan E	\$6,251.64	0	Approved
Westport E	\$6,250.00	0	Approved

This concludes 2019 Round 1 grants.

## 5. 2019 Round 2 grant program:

Since Round 1, there has been \$45,957 in new funding (\$25K supplemental + \$20,957 U-verse). \$22,978 will be allocated each to Round 2 Education & Government grants. \$22,000 remains in Round 1 Education funds and \$30,000 in Government funds. These amounts will be rolled over into Round 2 E&G funding pools.

On the education side: A total of \$45,000 is available for Round 2 grants, with a hard application deadline of 12/2, whereby the Education Committee will determine how to allocate the funds. Educational grant applications may include up to \$2,500 of it in operations funding, (i.e. labor costs for operating cameras & editing equipment).

On the government side: Each eligible town may apply for up to \$5,300 with up to \$2,500 of it in operations funding, (i.e. labor costs for operating cameras & editing equipment), with a hard application deadline of 12/2.

<http://www.a9cc.org/Report Checklist.xls> to check eligibility

6. **Optimum system outages** from the evening of 9/6 into morning of 9/7 affected CT, NY & NJ. Altice attributed it to a power failure. The company emailed customers: *"In light of the service disruption, we will be automatically issuing a credit on one of your next two monthly billing statements."* (\$4.50 to \$6.50). There were many complaints about getting information from Optimum Customer Service.

## 7. Other Matters

- Optimum Gold was replaced with Optimum Premier on 9/19. Premier does not include Cinemax & TMC. Past Gold customers need to subscribe to those separately to retain the same level of service. However the price of Premier has been increased by \$5/mo to the level of Gold.
- Some wait times for Optimum CSR's in the call center are still excessive. Sometimes a CSR does not have access to the calling customer's records.
- It was reported again that some cloud DVR service lags and freezes. (Witnessed in Easton)
- Weston G is looking for service vendors to replace its tech director who retired. Hal will forward Harvey's email seeking service providers.

Future meetings: 10/30/2019, 12/11/2019, 1/29/2020, 4/1/2020 all 6PM at Altice, 5/27/2020 TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm