

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council

www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (October 17, 2007)

October 18, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	David Dever
Easton:	Andy Anderson
Greenwich:	
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler, Mike Pensiero
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport:	Hal Levy
Wilton:	Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky, Harry Somerdyk
Cablevision:	Jennifer Nacewicz

Gil Bray, Wilton BOE, also attended. The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Wilton High School with 8 towns represented.

1. Chairman Hal Levy noted that Norwalk has a new G-channel representative, Herb Grant, and that Wilton has a member of the BOE Gil Bray, who will be attending meetings. Gil is expected to be arriving late to this meeting.
2. **Minutes.** The ANCC approved the minutes of the meeting of September 5, 2007 with no changes.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** John Repicky (temporarily filling in for treasurer) presented the financial status of the Council. We have \$7,253.13 in the ANCC account and \$85,852.16 in the ANCC Access account. Six E-channel grants have been approved and are pending checks being issued.

HL and DS discussed the timetable for towns to submit grant requests and reminded towns that grants up to \$4,000 are available per G-channel. Although only a few grant requests have been received for 2007 funding, both HL and DS expect more requests from the towns this fall as the towns launch into their fall programming plans. HL has suggested that the DPUC not recommend crediting unencumbered '07 funds to the '08 funding amount and will make that recommendation in the ANCC funding program report—which will be due in mid-December.

Towns that have not submitted their reports from previous grants will not be eligible to apply for a 2007 grant until they do so. Currently six towns must submit their reports from earlier grants: Easton 2006, Redding 2006, Stamford 2003, Darien 2006, New Canaan 2006, and Westport 2006). 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.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business The ANCC's membership application to the Alliance for Community Media has been submitted. HL has written to Robert Atkinson, former ANCC treasurer thanking him for his years of service to the ANCC. HL reported on town appointments for July 1-2007-June 30, 2009. Every town's G-channel has formal representation on the ANCC, even though some towns also have vacancies. E-channel appointments are still being received by the ANCC secretary and assistant secretary.

5. DPUC Dockets Updates HL reviewed the dockets of interest to the ANCC, recent orders of DPUC, and Cablevision's petition to the FCC.

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 Cablevisions new franchise agreement. The DPUC's draft and final decisions favored the ANCC position that Cablevision's franchise agreement does not allow the company to restrict the export of community access programming to other cable and video providers. HL explained to members that the final decision removes the uncertainty over use of funds by towns.

6. DPUC Docket 07-10-04. After the new video provider certification law effective October 1, 2007, AT&T applied to the DPUC to become a certified competing video provider. ANCC had identified several issues of concern in the new law: no build-out requirements, no roll-out schedule, no needs assessment, unclear process for negotiating with municipalities, how to interconnect for access programming, etc.

On October 16, 2007, the DPUC reversed its previous ruling in 05-06-12 and issued cease and desist orders to AT&T and stated that AT&T is a CATV service and must seek a "cable" franchise. AT&T may continue service to its 7,000 customers in CT until DPUC has ruled on a franchise application—which must be submitted by December 31, 2007. The ANCC will continue to monitor this.

7. Cablevision's FCC petition for a Determination of effective Competition. With no current video competition in Connecticut, following the DPUC's reversal of its previous position, the status of this petition is unclear. ANCC will monitor this.

8. Access and Equipment Grants

- Greenwich's grant application was approved, subject to receipt of a duly signed application form.
- Weston's grant application was approved conditionally, subject to Weston's submitting a detailed breakdown of its costs to JR.

Eight towns received character –generating equipment. Members should contact Laura LaVigne at 750-5773 to arrange for pick-up of the Chyron units. Darien and Westport will be seeking alternatives, working with Myles Rich. HB requested information on training on the Chyron units. DD suggested contacting the manufacturer's website at www.chyron.net and mentioned a good resource, Steve Rivera, at the company.

9. Other Business

CYK announced a conference at the Capitol on December 1, 9-12 noon, featuring several speakers on various media-related issues, including community access TV. The

conference is sponsored by the League of women Voters of CT and is open to the public. Alliance for Community Media is one of the organizations represented on the panel discussion.

JR distributed the current listing of I-Net contacts with a request that members review these contacts and send any corrections to JN at Cablevision. He also distributed a survey of what was broadcast on the I-Net on October 17, 2007 at 3:30 pm—showing many message boards, but not much video. DS thanked JN for her help with Weston's E-channel.

Note: HL left the meeting at 7:20. DS took over as chair.

PS asked for ANCC help in locating a venue and taping of a 10-town program on the towns' lawsuit with the FAA. PS would like it to be taped for government access. DD suggested that Darien might be available to help.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC