

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897 www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS **October 21, 2009**
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld (and Geza Ziegler)
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (October 21, 2009, at Room 307, Westport Town Hall)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever
Easton:
Greenwich: Stu Reider, Paul Curtis
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roger Williams
Norwalk: Phyllis Bolden, Herb Grant
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: John Repicky, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Lisa Bogan
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Christopher von Keyserling (Greenwich), Diana Paladino (Norwalk), Jim Cameron (Darien),
Andy Anderson (Easton), Marge Costa (Norwalk)

Public: John Savarese (Wilton)

Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM. Thanked Judi Freedman for hosting and introduced Roger Williams, a new member from New Canaan. Jennifer announced that she will be absent for the February & April meetings when she is on maternity leave. Mike Chowaniec will attend representing Cablevision.

1. The minutes of September 29, 2009 were approved.
2. The financial report from the Treasurer was distributed and discussed and approved.
3. Updates on old business
 - Alliance for Community Media membership renewal, approved at the September meeting, was paid.
 - Member appointments: no letters from Easton, Stamford, and New Canaan received.
 - Jim Cameron will talk at the Dec. meeting.
 - Channel shift and notification of Public Access channel 77 to 88 was addressed.

4. New Business:

Cablevision's petition to the FCC for a waiver of the prohibition on encryption of the basic service tier, including PEG channels, in its NYC franchise areas was discussed. JY presented Cablevision's reasons for submitting the petition, such as preventing theft of service, security concerns, and lessening the environmental impact of service calls. HL described three major concerns of the ANCC regarding this petition:

- its precedent-setting potential for a similar move in its Connecticut market areas,
- its potential impact on CT customers who would have no option other than acquiring additional equipment for every television set in their homes at additional monthly costs to receive Basic service,

- the lack of accessibility of PEG channels to customers with Basic service unless they acquire special equipment. This is contrary to the intent of community access television.

JR suggested that the letter include a suggestion that Cablevision provide free converter boxes for each residential television or that Cablevision agree not to extend its policy to Connecticut customers. HL will submit the ANCC's concerns to the FCC electronically before the deadline of October 22, 2009.

5. Grant Applications

The ANCC reviewed 5 grant applications from municipalities which had not received a grant of equipment from Cablevision for 2009. Each community that did not receive equipment was eligible for a cash grant of no more than \$6500, provided that their past expenditure reports had been submitted to the ANCC. Two grant requests were submitted by the deadline established at the September meeting; three were late submissions. HL reminded the group that deadlines had been established to give members time to review grant applications prior to the meeting and to give the ANCC's grant coordinator the time required to prepare financial status reports to the ANCC and plans for supplemental grants. The group voted to consider all current submissions, with the caveat that future deadlines will not be as flexible as tonight's.

- New Canaan's grant for \$6500 for equipment and equipment upgrades was approved.
- Westport's grant for \$6428.10 was approved, pending exploration of whether used equipment from New Canaan might be able to be transferred to Westport, offsetting a portion of the cash request.
- Greenwich's grant request for equipment was approved, pending submission of past due vouchers. PC to resolve this.
- Darien's grant request for an additional \$2421 to replace failing equipment was approved.
- Wilton's grant request for replacing failing camera, additional microphones, and consultation services to reconfigure equipment in video control room was approved in the amount of \$6479.

The Council created a 2009 supplemental grant program from the remaining funds in the grants account. Town may apply for 5 grants not to exceed \$1700 each. The deadline for submission is 11/30 for action at the 12/2 ANCC meeting. Grants will be awarded based on the merits of the applications.

6. Remote Access DVR launch by Cablevision

Cablevision implemented the ability for subscribers to program their DVR's online at optonline.net. HL & PC suggested that they add manual time & channel setting ability for programs that do not have accurate time slots on the program guide such as access channels. Launch of the network DVR was discussed. Cablevision does not have a launch date as JY said that they are still negotiating with advertisers on commercial skipping. It will probably be beta launched in Long Island first.

7. Other Business

Used equipment: PS (New Canaan) has e-mailed a list of used equipment available for use by other municipalities' access operations to all members of the ANCC. Contact him if interested. Currently, items 4, 8, 9, 11-13 are still available. HL reminded members that equipment acquired with access funds are still the property of the 10-town access operations. If it is sold, the proceeds revert to Area Nine community access.

Alliance for Community Media: CYK reminded the group that the ANCC is an organizational member of the ACM. The ACM-Northeast Chapter is holding its regional conference in Connecticut on Saturday, November 7. One of Darien's G-channel coordinators, Jim Cameron, is a featured speaker. Registration is \$20, which will be paid by ANCC for members who decide to attend. Please contact Carole Young-Kleinfeld ASAP (ctyk@optonline.net) if you plan to attend. Register online and see the program agenda at <http://acm-ne.org/registration> . HG will issue one check from ANCC for everyone's registration.

Alliance for Community Media--CT Chapter of the ACM-NE Region is in the process of organizing. PC and CYK are following their progress. An initial meeting will take place at the November 7 conference in West Hartford. All are invited to participate.

PC updated the group on 2 pieces of legislation and urged contact with state and federal legislators.

HR 3745 Community Preservation Act (CAP Act) introduced in Congress by Wisconsin U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin and co-sponsored by CT's John Larson seeks to end discriminatory treatment of PEG channels, study the effects of states' video franchising legislation on PEG, and define wireline video services as "Cable" for policymaking purposes. Read the CAP Act here, the summary, and use the ACM online tool kit for communications with U.S. Representative Jim Himes, and Senators Lieberman and Dodd.
<http://www.alliancecm.org/node/218>

Rep. Nardello's bill, supported by the ANCC, may be raised again in the CT General Assembly. PC and CYK will follow this.

DS updated the group on the status of the **Statewide Video Coordinating Council**, the advisory group for holders of Certificates of Video Franchise Authority. DS chairs the SVCC. The council is working to resolve complaints regarding the transfer of U-Verse subscriber PEG fees to municipalities.

DD has used a ChyTV box for adding intermittent crawls to recordings. Recommends it.

JY (Cablevision) announced the launch of Optimum Select, IO Shortcuts on Channels 670, 671, and 672, and C-Span Student Cam Competition. She described each, which can be found on the Optimum site-- <http://www.optimum.com/io/index.jsp>

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM. Next meeting is December 2nd at Wilton H.S.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
October 22, 2009