

# A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council

[www.westportct.net/ancc](http://www.westportct.net/ancc)

**TO: ANCC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (November, 28, 2007)**

**November 30, 2007**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien:	David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Andy Anderson, Leighton Jordan
Greenwich:	Paul Curtis
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	Marge Costa, Herb Grant
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin, Peggy Jorgensen
Westport:	Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton:	Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Harry Somerdyk
Cablevision:	Jennifer Nacewicz

Gil Bray, Wilton BOE, and Dolly Curtis, public access producer, also attended. The meeting began at 6:05 pm at Cablevision offices in Norwalk with 10 towns represented.

**1.** Chairman Hal Levy welcomed Norwalk government representative Herb Grant and Weston's educational representative Peggy Jorgensen. Mr. Grant is a former Councilman for the City of Norwalk. Peggy Jorgensen is the Gifted and Talented Program coordinator for Weston Middle School.

**2. Minutes.** The ANCC approved the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2007 with no changes.

**3. Treasurer's Report.** HL (temporarily filling in for treasurer) presented the financial status of the Council. We have \$7,253.46 in the ANCC account and \$104,144.32 in the ANCC Access account. He urged towns that have not completed required paperwork for grants to submit them to John Repicky. He reminded the group that the ANCC Annual Report is due mid-December.

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.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**4. Old Business** PS reported that the FAA hearing regarding a new air route over SW Connecticut was not taped by community access. JN noted that Cablevision New Channel 12 taped segments for the news program.

**5. Cablevision Rate Increases for 2007.** Cablevision announced rate increases on October 26, 2007 amounting to an average of 4.7% increase for all services in all CV's franchises in CT, NJ and NY. HL has requested a weighted average for the Norwalk franchise area, a figure that has historically been provided, but is not available from CV

this year. To try to determine the impact on subscribers with different services and equipment, HL has analyzed each item separately and posted the information on our Website. He noted that Family Basic, the service with largest subscribers, will increase by 6.4%, or \$3 per month. To see the complete analysis, go to our Website. See above.

Members noted that community access channels were all on Basic cable service, but that other favorites, like TCM, had been moved to the digital service tier.

**6. DPUC Docket 07-10-04 and PA 07-253.** After the new video provider certification law effective October 1, 2007, AT&T applied to the DPUC to become a certified competing video provider. On October 16, 2007, the DPUC issued an order to AT&T to stop enlisting new customers and seek a cable franchise to deliver its U-verse service, which was a reversal of a previous decision. On November 1, 2007, the DPUC reversed itself again, granting AT&T a certificate under PA 07-253, pursuant to a court decision. Although the Council noted that there is no “red-lining” allowed under the new bill, ANCC still has 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, and especially how to interconnect for access programming.

The group raised some specific concerns over the logistics and the cost of getting PEG programming to the U-verse system for each individual town. Some members reported complaints over the large U-verse V-Rad boxes that are being attached to poles. Others have heard that Verizon cuts the cable line to a home, making a switch back to cable service costly. Verizon discloses this fact to customers in “the small print” on their service agreements. The group thought that customers should be made fully aware of this fact.

JC suggested that CV offer the option of a 6-month temporary service hiatus to appeal to subscribers who leave the area for the winter. DS emphasized that town officials should be kept informed about the roll-out of U-verse in their towns; so far 5 Area Nine towns are affected.

**7. Election of a Representative to the new Statewide Video Advisory Council.** The ANCC elected Don Saltzman as the ANCC representative to the statewide council with Hal agreeing to fill in occasionally as needed. HL said that he believed that it was important to move ahead on our selection to help us gain “standing” in any upcoming decisions and to be ready to act whenever the council is convened.

## **8. Access Grants**

- Norwalk’s grant application was approved and should facilitate their G-channel going on air.
- New Canaan’s grant application was approved conditionally, subject to New Canaan’s confirming with JR that their paperwork is up-to-date.
- Redding’s grant application was approved.
- Darien’s grant application was approved.
- Wilton’s application for equipment and installation of a remote-controlled camera system for its Town Hall conference room was approved.

JN reminded people that they can use CV’s studio and equipment for editing, as long as they are certified to use it. PJ recommended an online tutorial—[www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com)—which is a subscription service for \$79/year. PC and DD also

recommended Apple's Final Cut Pro.

HL noted that there may be some supplemental grant funding (amount TBD) available, pending the next Treasurer's Report, and that the group may wish to give priority to those towns who have not applied for a full \$4000 grant this year for their G-channel.

HL reminded the group to get their vouchers in for any grant payments and for ANCC expenses.

## 9. Other Business

PC announced that Greenwich is installing a satellite dish so they can receive Free Speech TV (specifically to air Democracy Now (7 pm) and INN (6:30 pm). G-channels can retrieve it from I-Net Channel 15 (Greenwich) and patch it in for their own G-channel. A standard VCR may be used to tune in channel 15.

PC also announced that Greenwich is going completely tapeless and that he had some equipment available for Access stations. DS announced that Weston has 2 Panasonic heavy duty VHS recorders/playback for Access.

CYK announced that the Alliance for Community Media has 2 national listservs—one for members only and one for anyone interested in Access issues. The ANCC is a member. General Website is [www.alliancecm.org](http://www.alliancecm.org)

Addresses are:

- Members only listserv--- [\[alliance-announce\]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[alliance-announce]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org)
- General listserv-- [\[access-forum\]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[access-forum]-subscribe@lists.alliancecm.org)

The Alliance sends a confirmation when you subscribe.

Other addresses for further info....

Questions, problems with the listserv: [\[list name\]-owner@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[list name]-owner@lists.alliancecm.org)  
FAQs--- [\[list name\]-faq@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:[list name]-faq@lists.alliancecm.org)

JN announced that CV is launching downtown WiFi in Westport and New Canaan on a trial basis for CV Internet service subscribers.

**Future meeting schedule--** 1/9/08 at Weston.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary  
ANCC