

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 **December 5, 2008**
FROM:
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (December 3, 2008)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	David Dever
Easton:	Andy Anderson
Greenwich:	Paul Curtis, Stu Reider
New Canaan:	
Norwalk:	Herb Grant
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport:	Hal Levy
Wilton:	Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky
Cablevision:	Jennifer Young
Public/Guests:	Christopher von Keyserling (Grn), John Savarese (Wilton) Steve Israelsky (Tightrope Media Systems)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm at the Greenwich Town Hall, with 9 towns represented. Jim Cameron (Darien), Leighton Jordan (Easton), Marge Costa (Norwalk), Jeff Stollenwerck (Westport) and Paul Sedlak (New Canaan) were excused.

Opening comments from Chairman Hal Levy: Thanked Paul Curtis and Stu Reider for hosting. Introduced guests.

1. **Minutes** of the October 29th meeting approved.
2. **Treasurer's report:** JR distributed spreadsheets with current balances. HL noted that these recordings match bank statements exactly.
 - ANCC Operating Account: Opening balance - \$8,107.21; Closing Bal: \$7881.98. The \$100 ACM membership renewal authorized in September has been paid.
 - ANCC Access Escrow Account: Closing Balance - \$27,329.55.
3. **Old Business:**
 - **Status of ANCC.** HL reviewed the unclear status of the ANCC, since the law establishing Certificate of Video Franchise Authority (CVFA) calls for a state-wide-- not regional--council for CVFAs. Cablevision holds a CVFA but has expressed interest to HL and DS to keep the relationship with the ANCC status quo, continuing to support operating expenses and the PEG grant program, but is not supportive of legislative action by the ANCC to clarify its status. HL noted that, at the October 29 meeting, the ANCC voted to establish a committee to explore further the issues to consider in determining our future status and activities: our autonomy and effectiveness as both consumer advocates and PEG advocates and discussion of amending current legislation to sanction an official

role as ombudsman. JY reminded the group that there exists a customer complaint process for resolving service issues under the new legislation and stated that a level playing field with competitors is Cablevision's main interest in this regard. HL and DS have agreed to keep JY informed about committee discussions and directions. DS suggested that CV might assist in helping to "wordsmith" proposals that the committee might work on for Area 9, Area 2, or Litchfield areas. Committee members are: Hal Levy, Don Saltzman, Paul Curtis, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, and Jim Cameron.

-Discussion of migration of PEG channels to the digital service tier.

HL noted that CV had denied Stamford's request (per MP) for unrestricted free converter boxes so schools can receive channels that were moved to the digital service package. HL wrote a letter of support for Stamford's request on behalf of the Area Nine Cable Council.

HL reported that the FCC had stated that it may be addressing the migration question.

-Rate Adjustments. HL's summary of adjustments and yearly comparisons are on the ANCC Website.

4. Alliance for Community Media CT Chapter . CYK reviewed recent efforts by several community access providers to re-establish a CT chapter of the ACM which would be part of the Northeast Region of the ACM. She attended an initial exploratory meeting with access providers from Simsbury, West Hartford, Wallingford, Hartford, and Area 2. Hartford is ready and willing to chair a chapter, but additional volunteers have not stepped forward. Establishing a chapter requires significant time and energy, complicated by the fact of PEG providers being far-flung geographically and structured differently from region to region within the state. The group has not focused on what the priorities would be for a chapter: legislative advocacy for PEG with new video providers, education/information for access providers, networking, etc. Until further notice, the ad hoc group will use a blog or a Wiki to stay in touch.

5. 2008 Grants --Use of Leftover 2008 Funding

Easton, New Canaan, Redding, Weston, Westport, and Wilton submitted grant requests and described the rationale for the submission to the group. Each was approved with the request to submit vouchers for payment ASAP because of the need to provide an Annual Report to DPUC.

Because of a disastrous technological "perfect storm" at Darien Community TV recently, DD suggested that ANCC establish an emergency fund for purchasing equipment. JR suggested three contingency plans for emergencies: loaning/borrowing equipment from other ANCC towns, requests for an advance payment against future grant funds from CV, and requests for a temporary loan from ANCC operating fund.

6. Other Business

-Annual Report to DPUC. HL to complete this in January.

-Access Grant Program Report to CV JR to complete by December 15

-I-Net Logs are due to CV by January 15. Forms are on the ANCC Website.

-Changes from CV: JY announced that C-Span is moving from the analog to digital and moving from Family to Basic. Several NBC owned channels are going HD.

-League of Women Voters Fall Conference at the Capitol will be taped by Weston Public Access producers Al and Margaret Wirtenberg. Topic is "Did My Vote Count on November 4: Security of CT's Voting Technology and the National Popular Vote Movement". They will make DVDs for Area Nine representatives.

-Greenwich G-channel will be participating in the ACM project to produce interviews with freshmen senators and representatives in Congress by interviewing Jim Himes. Will share DVDs with ANCC members.

-Future meetings: 2/11(Wilton); 4/1 (Darien); 6/3 (Annual Mtg - TBA).

Adjourned at 7:50 pm. Tour of Greenwich G-channel and demonstration of Tightrope Media Systems' Cablecast Digital Broadcast System.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC