

# A9CC - Educational Access Committee

Area 9 Cable Council: <http://edaccess.a9cc.org/g/>

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**To:** A9CC Ed Access Committee Members  
Natalie Carrignan, Secretary  
**Re:** **Minutes of Meeting for June 12, 2023**

**Date:** June 12, 2023 **From:**  
**Location:** Virtual ([Zoom Link](#))

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**Attendance:** (yellow highlight & asterisk(\*) = present)

TOWN	Member(s)
Darien:	Joan McGettigan*
Easton/Redding:	Mike D'Agostino*
Greenwich:	Michael Reid
Greenwich /Sacred Heart:	David Pisani*
NCC:	Julie Casper Roth, Scott Perry
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski*
Norwalk:	Trevor Kline
Stamford:	Alec logman
Weston:	Vacant
Westport:	Natalie Carrignan*
Wilton:	Fran Kompar
Altice:	Esme Lombard

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Roman called the A9CC Ed Access Meeting to order at 4:12 pm. 4 towns were represented; 5 districts/locations.

## 1. Old Business/Approval of Minutes

Approval of [March 13, 2023 Minutes](#). Dave motioned to approve. Natalie seconded. Approved unanimously.

## 2. Grants

### Overview of 2023 Grants & eligibility

- Total amount is \$65,025.00. It will be split up among the districts who have met attendance requirements. There are a few districts not eligible.
- Maximum of \$3,000 for technical operations this year.
- Deadline for schools is Sept 14 for Round 1, grants can be submitted earlier if they are ready
- Any unused Round 1 funds will be retained separately for E and G and E and G will determine independently how to divide up the remaining funds in round 2
- Uverse grant funds will also be for Round 2 when it comes in.
- There are seven eligible entities for Round 1 but one entity is close to not meeting eligibility. Round 1 grant can be up to \$9,289.28 if divided by 7 and \$10,837.50 if divided by 8. .
- Mike asked for clarification about what we should/could do with the changes at Darien if they do not have a replacement right away for Joan. Roman said that Darien could have presented today, so following our protocol, Darien's second

option to submit a grant in Sept. If they do not have something in Sept. then they can apply for any funds left over for round 2.

1. Roman said that we could tell any of the 6 entities to come with two versions of their grant in Sept., if they go over a bit and Darien doesn't have a grant that they can go for Round 2

#### Missed Meetings [Letters](#)

1. Roman sent the letters out
2. Roman spoke with Sean Mayo in Greenwich, he will be able to rejoin again.
  - o Natalie asked for clarification on when Greenwich would be eligible for funding. Roman said he is just like a new person, and has to earn eligibility for the spring.
  - o Mike also mentioned that Greenwich should also be required to work towards broadcasting on Altice and broadcasting for CSH on their channel to remain eligible

### 3. Access Awards

- Recap & Recommendations
  - o Fran, David, and Roman met in Wilton. Fran was gracious in hosting. Thank you Fran!
  - o Fran asked if she could submit the food bill. Roman said she should and he is bringing it to Hal. The committee is in agreement.
  - o The process went well. There was some confusion over the number of submissions allowed per district per category and so there is need to clarify that for next year so it is fair to all districts who participate.
  - o One struggle was that several of the entries were in the wrong categories,
  - o There was a category not allowed at the HS level and it was confusing. There were documentary submissions that should have been school news story. The news story category should be added back in at the HS level for next year.
  - o The judging process went well. The new rubric created a better discussion and it made the judging process go smoother. We moved away from the spreadsheet and calculations. We moved a couple entries to a different category so they were just the only one. We need to work toward more entries.
  - o Mike mentioned that it needs to be more clear that the Repicky awards are equipment grant awards and not just cash. Mike did get one email questioning it.
- Trophy Update- press release took a little longer so we missed the window and the trophies won't be in before the end of the school year. Next year we have to get the press release completed at least a week earlier. David suggested that one person enter the press release as the entries are awarded during the day of judging and then there could be a 24-48 hour review period to turn it around for proofing.
  - o Mike asked for how we came out with the budget. Roman estimates that it was about \$1,500 for the main trophies. For the medals for participation it was \$10 each so we are at \$2,000.
  - o The Repicky awards were also part of the budget.

- Mike suggested we up the Repicky award to expend all the money.
- Roman said we should spend some of that money in the future for professional posters to market the contest.
- We need to decide how much we want the Repicky awards to be this year.
- Mike motioned that the Ed council approve, once we get the trophy invoice and food bill, we will divide the remaining grant amount among the three Repicky award winners. The Ed Council wanted to express their gratitude to Altice for the generosity of the grant, David seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Roman wanted to know how we could get some bigger promotion of the contest and the winners for next year
- Roman said we should send a formal thank you to Altice as well.

#### **4. Reflections for the Year**

- The areas Roman would like to see is more involvement outside of the regular people who have volunteered for years and to have a more set meeting calendar dates for next year
  - Mike suggested we pick a general theme for each month so that it gives members the awareness. Roman said we used to do that. Mondays had a lot of holidays.
  - We looked at the full council meetings and the days that we are more free.
  - Tuesdays looked the best. The second Tuesday seems to be the best.
  - Roman made a motion to move the meeting schedule to be the second Tuesday of every month . Mike asked to modify that the preferred meeting date in case we run into an reason that meeting has to move and this allows the flexibility. Mike second the motion. Passed unanimously
- We want to thank Joan for being part of the group for many years and for helping support and represent her district is such a warm and kind hearted way and we wish her well and hope to see her in another district soon.

#### **5. Upcoming Meeting Schedule- Next Meeting**

September 12, 2023 @ 4 pm on Zoom (we may try to meet in person a few times)

October 10, 2023 @ 4 pm

November 14, 2023 @ 4pm

December 12, 2023 @ 4pm

January 9, 2023 @ 4pm

February 13, 2023 @ 4pm

March 12, 2023 @ 4pm

April 9, 2023 @ 4pm

May TBD for judging

Meeting adjourned at 5.15 pm. Natalie motioned to adjourn. Mike seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Carrigan,  
Secretary