

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF March 18, 2026 MEETING VIA ZOOM

March 19, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron, ~~Mike Wheeler~~, Carrie Wysocki, Tim McGuire
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: ~~Craig Jones, Horst Tobbe, Don Conway, Ken Borsuk, Sean Maye~~
New Canaan: ~~Bob Doran~~, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: ~~Jenn McMurren~~, Mark Minnock, ~~John Freda~~
Redding: ~~Bob Moran~~
Stamford: ~~Eric Morson, Ryan Fealey~~
Weston:
Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow~~, Natalie Carrignan
Wilton: ~~Maria Breece~~
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Optimum: Brian Smith
Ed Committee:
Guests: Alberto Vargas (Westport)
Excused: Mike Wheeler (Darien); Maria Breece (Wilton)

Hal called the meeting to order at 5:05pm with six towns represented.

Announcements:

1. **Minutes** of the January 28 meeting was approved as written.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - I-Net Logs or program logs due 2/1 – New Canaan E, CSH E, New Canaan G, Redding G – No new grants until logs are submitted
4. **Nutmeg TV petition to takeover Community Access Operations in Area 9**

Docket 25-09-07 Nutmeg TV would replace Optimum as CAP in A9 replacing our town-specific PEG model with a centralized model. A9CC received Intervenor status on 1/9. Jim leading efforts for community opposition to Nutmeg. Optimum and the other targeted cable companies requested a suspension of the docket, which was denied in part but delayed pending a scheduling conference by PURA on 3/30. Brian stated that Optimum will push for a September closing date at the scheduling conference. Optimum is working on answering interrogatories from Nutmeg & OCC, while developing their own interrogatories for Nutmeg. Hal has been communicating back & forth with Brian on the outstanding issues (financial motivation of Nutmeg and lack of any answer on how TS channels will be funded if Nutmeg becomes CAP. Hal made a technical inquiry to PURA on when it would be appropriate for A9CC to submit its recommendation in concert with the controlling statute in this docket is § 16-331a(c) which states "The authority (PURA) shall assign this responsibility to the most qualified community-based nonprofit organization or the company based on the following criteria: (1) The recommendations of the advisory council and of the municipalities in the franchise area" & others. PURA responded that there will be several opportunities to do this. We'll wait for the scheduling conference. Nutmeg sent emails directly to individuals who filed comments in opposition to the Nutmeg takeover, claiming that their objective is to only take over P. However, their petition clearly states that they wish to control all of community access and they have remained silent on how the existing town-specific stations would be funded. The executive director of Nutmeg contacted Jim

to schedule a phone call and Jim replied that Hal, as the A9CC chairman should be included in that phone call to which Nutmeg would not agree. After which, Nutmeg stated that going forward they would only communicate via official docket filings. There is concern about state government pressure favoring regionalization from state elected officials and agencies such as the OCC & PURA might present a challenge to our position.

Current Docket Time Schedule is:

External Events	Status	Date	Time
Notice of Proceeding Issued	CONFIRMED	01/07/2026	11:00:00 AM
Request for Participant Status Due	CONFIRMED	01/21/2026	04:00:00 PM
Scheduling Conference (New)	CONFIRMED	03/20/2026	10:00:00 AM
End of Rolling Discovery	CONFIRMED	02/27/2026	04:00:00 PM
Hearing, if requested	TENT.	03/19/2026	10:00:00 AM
Proposed Final Decision Issued	TENT.	05/04/2026	04:00:00 PM
Written Exceptions Due	TENT.	05/18/2026	04:00:00 PM
Regular Meeting/Final Decision	TENT.	05/27/2026	09:00:00 AM

5. 2026 Round 1 grant program

\$65,000 each to E & G; 8 grants of \$8,125 on the Government side; Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; A maximum of \$3,500 for each grant could be allocated to operations; The deadline for submitting grants from the towns is May 22; The deadline for submitting grants from the schools is September 11; Unused Round 1 funds retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants; Eligibility requirements as outlined in the Grant Procedures <http://a9cc.org/GrantProcedures.pdf> shall apply to these grants

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Westport G	\$8,125.00	\$265.80	Approved

Delinquent Grant Reports:

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
New Canaan G	\$3,000.00	9/24/2024	3/22/2025	Refund requested
New Canaan G	\$2,500.00	12/16/2024	6/14/2025	"
New Canaan G	\$7,099.00	8/1/2025	9/30/2025	"
Region 9 E	\$1,264.84	12/15/2025	2/13/2026	
Wilton E	\$8,100.00	10/27/2025	12/26/2025	
Wilton E	\$5,799.99	12/12/2025	2/10/2026	
New Canaan E	\$6,013.95	12/15/2025	2/13/2026	
CSH	\$5,598.00	12/19/2025	2/17/2026	

6. **Annual Meeting:** Scheduled for 5/27/26 on Zoom. EAAA presentation - Mike D will contact Maria. Election of officers for new 2-year terms - Dempsey & Minnock voted to nominating committee.
7. **Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions** – Doug reiterated the signal quality problems on Easton Government channel 78. He is working with Brian to find a resolution. Problem could be running of coax next to fans.
8. **Other Matters:** None

Future Meetings: 5/27/2026 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.