

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF May 28, 2025 MEETING VIA ZOOM

May 29, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron, ~~David Dever~~, Mike Wheeler, Tim McGuire
Easton: ~~Doug Dempsey~~
Greenwich: Craig Jones, ~~Horst Tebbe, Don Conway, Ken Borsuk, Sean Mayo~~
New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak, Bob Doran~~, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, Mark Minnock, ~~John Freda~~
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Eric Morson, ~~Bob Lion, Ryan Fealey~~
Weston:
Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow~~, Natalie Carrignan
Wilton: Jeffrey Boehme, Maria Breece
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Altice: ~~Esme Lombard~~
Ed Committee:
Guests: Eileen Zhang (Westport), Larry Manzi (Norwalk)
Excused: David Dever (Darien); Stan Witkow (Westport); Doug Dempsey (Easton); Sean Mayo (Greenwich)

Hal called the meeting to order at 5:02pm with nine towns represented. This is the A9CC Annual Meeting, however there is no election of officers this year. He announced that Carrie Wysocki has been appointed as a Darien A9CC government member for the new term starting in July to replace longtime member Dave Dever. Hal noted that when he joined A9CC about 30 years ago, Dave was already a member. Jim thanked Dave for the work he did in starting and developing the Darien Government Access channel.

1. **Minutes** of the March 19 meeting was approved as written.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - **I-Net Logs** or programming logs are due from E: *Norwalk, Region 9, *Weston, Wilton, *NCC, CSH; G: *Greenwich, *Stamford, *Weston, *Wilton (*no grants taken in 2024). Logs must be submitted to qualify for future grants.
 - **Frontier** pass through access funds & **EAAA** funding were received from Altice.
4. **2025 Round 1 grant program**

\$65,000 each to E & G; 9 grants of \$7,225 on the Government side (Weston has opted out); Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; A maximum of \$3,000 for each grant could be allocated to operations; The deadline for submitting grants from the towns was May 19; The deadline for submitting grants from the schools is September 13; 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	\$7,225.00	0	Approved
Norwalk G	\$7,225.00	0	Approved

Darien G	\$4,225.00	0	Approved
New Canaan G	\$7,099.00	\$3,000.00	Approved
Region 9 E	\$6,430.00	0	Approved
Redding G	\$2,718.74	0	Approved
New Canaan E	\$4,187.88	0	Approved
Wilton E	\$8,100.00	\$3,000.00	Approved

Hal noted that last-minute applications have been a problem and going forward, grant requests will no longer be accepted after the deadline or after the weekend before a council meeting. He requested that the Education Committee do a better job of sending through grant applications approved at Ed meetings.

Delinquent Grant Reports:

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
CSH E	\$500.00	12/17/2024	2/15/2025	Repicky MS, Contact David P.
Easton G	\$4,900.00	3/24/2025	5/23/2025	Extend to next meeting

5. **Presentation on the 2025 Education Access Awareness Awards**

Maria and Natalie made a presentation on the 2025 EAAA honoring original student video productions that have been broadcast throughout the school year on Optimum's Educational Access Channel 78.

A press release can be downloaded at: <https://www.a9cc.org/A9CC2025WinnersPressRelease.pdf>

A video of the Elementary, Middle & High School Repicky Award winners were shared with group.

The complete collection of videos can be viewed at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16J48shMzwM2WKXC5l_qxpOnzWy4Ffw6u/view

6. **Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions**

Mike Wheeler made a presentation on *DarienTV79 and AI*. An Area 9 grant funded Darien's subscription to ChatGPT which it uses to catalog programming on TV79. Since then, Darien TV79 Board of Advisors members Carrie Wysocki and Mike started doing a weekly "Best of TV79" newsletter as a companion to Jim's Program Guide. Both get a phenomenal 65%-70% hit rate to the 1200 opt-in subscribers Jim has built. They try to organize the information in three buckets for those who gather and process their information differently. First, there are the headlines. According to *MailChimp*, reading them takes 3 minutes. If someone wants to zero in on one of the highlights in the newsletter, there is a time-stamped link to that part of the video. If someone wants to go to the full meeting, they can access the complete time-stamped agenda and the video of the full meeting. To see how this works, download <http://a9cc.org/DarienTV79 and AI.pdf>

7. **A9CC meeting schedule for 2025-26** – See below

8. **Other Matters**

- A9CC member appointment requests for term ending 6/1/2027 will be sent to CEO's & School Superintendents, Please follow up with your appointment authority.
- Jeff reported that the Wilton Government channel has been dark for a month. Wilton contracts out its IT operations and has run into resistance from the town in getting back up and running. Jeff has been told that there is no need to put the content on cable, since it is available online. Jim offered help in resolving this and welcomes other A9CC members to collaborate.

Future Meetings: 9/17/2025, 10/22/2025, 12/10/2025, 1/28/2026, 3/18/2026, 5/27/2026 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.