

# *A.N.C.C. - Ed Access*

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Area Nine Cable Council, PO Box 1144, Weston, CT 06883

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

## MINUTES OF MEETING (February 11, 2008)

Darien:		Stamford:	Pat Paktinal
Easton:	Carol Weinschel	Weston:	Ritch Blozie
Greenwich:	Charles D. Chiesa	Westport:	Bill Derry
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski	Wilton:	John Repicky
Norwalk:	Marge Costa	Wright Tech:	Pat Paktinat,
Norwalk –NEFINPS	Lauren Rosato	Sacred Heart	Ellyn Stewart
NCC:	Stoney Drew	Cablevision	
Redding:	Evelyn Reeve		

- 1) Meeting began at 1:46 pm with 8 towns represented. Minutes of Dec. 3, 2007 were approved. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC web site. Approved – R. Cebulski/C. Chiesa
- 2) **Grant program & reports reviewed:** Darien, Easton, New Canaan (supplemental), Weston please send in final reports as soon as possible.
- 3) **Tech Talk. Video policies and waivers.** Shared district policies from Easton (C. Weinschel), Redding (E.Reeve), Weston (R. Blozie) – policies are under review now also talked about an official document which stated that pictures can not be taken in a “covert” manner, Convent of Sacred Heart (E Stewart), New Canaan (R Cebulski) did an OPT OUT form, Wilton (J. Repicky) shared that one teacher has students sign a form NOT to put videos with school material on YouTube. J. Repicky said he will compile and e-mail the policies and procedures that have been shared by the group.

C. Weinschel announced that on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00 she will be hosting a webinar with copyright guru Carol Simpson. Contact her if you are interested in attending.

Roman asked if the Council might address standards for Area Nine... Guidelines for Broadcast Usage. J. Repicky suggested checking the ANCC website for existing policies from other towns (see <http://westportct.net/ancc/EastonGovAccessPolicies.pdf> ), but that each town would have to make it's policy.

- 4) **I-NET REPORTS due at January meeting:**  
Thanks to those who responded with the iNET reports. Start keeping the log for next year with program length and the name
- 5) **Docket 07-10-11 – PEGPTIA Account**  
**Public Act 07-253** This is a state law saying that there will be a tax on earnings of cable companies and video programming services beginning Oct 1, 2007. “50% of said moneys shall be available to boards of education and other education entities for education technology initiatives.” This is NOT the money that currently goes to education through this Council, but above and beyond. Keep aware of what is happening with this. No one knows how schools will gain access to this fund. Should happen before April 1<sup>st</sup>. The online DPUC website has the information on this Act.

**6) Docket 08-01-14 – CV petition for CVFA**

Cablevision's Litchfield franchise has petitioned for a statewide certificate to provide video services anywhere in the state similar to the way AT&T is going to do. The Dept. said they can not get a certificate in Litchfield where they currently have an operation. The two major implications: 1.) It would disband the cable council 2.) allow them to not carry analog channels anymore (since cable companies "basic" service must include analog channels).

**7) Membership update:**

Went through names to determine each official appointment by a district superintendent. J. Repicky mentioned that the recent report gave all education appointees a zero attendance at meetings, since this only dealt with ANCC meetings. Although we are invited to attend the Wed. night meetings, over 90% of the information does not deal with education issues.

**8) ATT U-verse PEG access plans:**

Launched in 77 towns with Internet Protocol TV rather than standard cable. Comes over CAT5 to the homes, and fiber to nodes. Designed to serve several hundred homes with 1 VRAD – have to be less than a mile from a VRAD to get service. With letters from AT&T, nothing should preclude you from sending a letter to AT&T to share programming... BUT how do you get your programming to the headend. Need an encoder (\$5000) and a DS1 loop to stream it to head end (costs \$9000 a year, but they have it down to \$700 a year). On top of that they said they will upfront the cost of the encoder, then take it back later as the \$5 per subscriber per month. Determine who is talking to the town leader about where the money that AT&T is going. PEG will be offered from the entire state...AT&T is only required to give schools AT&T service IF the school does NOT have any cable service at all.

**9) Access Awards:**

**Talk up the contest.... Moving quickly to the April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline now.**

**10) Report on meeting with Michael Chowanec, the new Area Director for Government Affairs.**

The company is now beginning to look at analog as a competitive advantage. With the "2009" scare people are confused, since it only means over the air transmission, NOT over cable. If your whole house is wired, as long as they stay analog, everything will work fine.

This has a real implication for schools, since the signal is split and rebroadcast on modulated channels.

Asked again if PEG money could do outreach with funds. John asked if they could put more money into sponsoring the access awards for next year.

**Meeting adjourned at: 3:20 next meeting is on March 17<sup>th</sup>!**