

A.N.C.C. - Ed Access

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

www.westportct.net/ancc

MINUTES OF MEETING (March 23, 2009)

Darien:		Redding:	Evelyn Reeve
Easton:		Stamford:	
Greenwich:	Charles D. Chiesa	Stamford:Wright Tech:	Pat Paktinat
Greenwich-Convent of SH	Karl Haeseler	Weston:	Peggy Jorgenson
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski	Westport:	Bill Derry
Norwalk:		Wilton:	John Repicky
NCC:	Stoney Duren	Cablevision	Jennifer Young

1) Approve the minutes of Jan 12, 2009

Meeting began at 1:43 pm with 5 towns represented. Minutes of Jan 12, 2009 were approved. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC web site (www.westportct.net/ancc).

- 2) **Grant Reports:** JR reviewed the status of 08 and 08s grants. He noted that two schools (Darien & NCC) have not yet submitted vouchers for approved 08s grants. By ANCC rule, these grants should have been rescinded and returned to the access fund. A motion was made and approved to give the schools until April 1st to submit a voucher. JR reminded the group that the grant request cannot be modified without approval of the committee.
- A number of reports were submitted at the meeting. Reports still due: Weston-07, New Canaan-08s (invoices)

- 3) **2009 Grant Program:** JR thanked Jennifer Young for Cablevision's continued support of E & G access. CV has again provided the ANCC with \$100,000 for E & G operations. She also indicated that they would be providing an equipment package to supplement the cash grants. JR noted that the actual distribution of grant assets between will take place at the April 1st meeting of the Council. Traditionally this has been a split of \$60,000 for E and \$40,000 plus the equipment package to G. He noted that last year E-grants were used to support 10 institutions and the access awards, while G-grants were distributed among 9 towns.
- Although the Committee could not establish grants, an emergency request by Easton for \$771.00 to repair and upgrade the head end at Staples school was approved.
 - CC noted that grant funds are used for E&G. What about Public Access? Jennifer explained that CV is the Community Access Provider (CAP) with the responsibility for PEG access. At the suggestion of the ANCC, CV provides the grant funds to the ANCC and allows the local institutions to provide E&G access. Meanwhile, CV uses the remainder of its PEG funds for access outreach and public access facilities and staff. CV maintains an access studio, editing suites, and equipment for local producers. It also conducts an access training class. Unlike the town-specific E&G programs, public access (CH 77) is system-wide. She offered a tour of access facilities after the meeting.

- 4) **CV Plans to Abandon Analog Service:** JR distributed a news article stating that CV will stop selling an analog expanded basic tier after Dec. 31, 2009. Jennifer noted that CV would still have some sort of analog basic, but this is the first step to allow the company to make more bandwidth available for HD services. While nothing will happen immediately to affect the schools, the migration of analog channels to digital will eventually have a major impact on schools that distribute cable directly to TV's throughout the building. Those that re-modulate specific CV channels with their own internal modulators will see less of an impact, but even these schools will see an expense due to the need for a cable box for each digital channel that they wish to broadcast.
- JR asked if CV would provide analog expanded basic to new school installation. Jennifer did not know but will check.

- CC asked about re-activating I-Net connections to schools that have had them but did not use them. Jennifer replied that CV has no obligation to do so, but they will still provide support.

5) **ACCESS AWARDS 2009:**

Plans were made for judging the entries for the 2009 Access Awards. We will meet on Tuesday, April 28th, from 9:30-3:00 at Cablevision. (May 4th is the next regularly scheduled meeting and will be used to finish the judging if necessary.) JR provided a spread sheet with his estimate of the number of entries in each category. There was much discussion about the judging process, especially with regards to time constraints and a desire to get consistent scoring.

- Suggested that we have two stations... One group watches high school the other elementary. Final awards to be made by the full group.
- Karl is setting up a Zoomer document to provide basic info on each entry, including the length of the program (which is not on the entry form). John will forward to all to fill out.
- **I-Net Preview:** While not all agreed that entries should be pre-screened on the I-Net, it was left up to the individual districts to broadcast their entries during the week of April 20. JR suggested running the programs during the overnight hours (preferably for multiple nights). Notify him of your schedule and he forward the info to the Committee.
- **Equipment:** Karl will bring a monitor. JR will bring a DVD player. Bill will bring a laptop with DVD.
- **Certificates:** Evelyn & Carol will print the certificates. Evelyn will get the paper and John will acquire the holders.
- **Scoring:** There was much discussion of the scoring process. It was agreed that we would reduce the scoring range to simplify the process.

Please notify JR by April 22nd if you are going to attend so that we will have an accurate number for refreshments.

6) **Meeting adjourned at 3:08. Motion to adjourn: Peggy/Charlie**

After the meeting, some members took a brief tour of the Public Access facilities.