

A.N.C.C. - Ed Access

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

www.westportct.net/ancc

MINUTES OF MEETING (September 8, 2008)

Darien:	Ivan Crowther	Stamford:	Mike Pensiero
Easton:	Carol Weinshel	Weston:	Ritch Blozie
Greenwich:	Charles D. Chiesa	Westport:	Bill Derry
New Canaan:	Roman Cebulski	Wilton:	John Repicky
Norwalk:		Wright Tech:	Pat Paktinat,
NCC:		Sacred Heart	Ellyn Stewart
Redding:	Evelyn Reeve	Cablevision	Jennifer Nacewicz

- 1) Meeting began at 1:42 pm with 9 towns represented. Minutes of June 2, 2008 were approved. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC web site. Approved – C. Chiesa/C.Weinshel
- 2) **Cablevision Educational Access Fund Grant:**
 - Evelyn went over grant – John Reed Middle School. Increased to \$3800.00 to include additional hard drive space for storing video. Accepted – C.Weinshel/C.Chiesa
 - Greenwich: Asked for 4 DVC-20 digital cameras, cases, firewire cables and software - \$6012.60 Approved – R.Cebulsi/R.Blozie
 - Westport: Asked for \$5725 for 25 Canon ZR900 cameras. Approved – C.Chiesa/E.Reeve
 - Application deadline is 10/2/08 on this first round of grants.
 - Three reports needed from last year – Darien-07; Weston-07; NCC-07.
- 3) **Discuss CV's proposal to move access channels to digital and the Attorney General's request for a docket:**
 - Jennifer Nacewicz talked about the movement of many channels to a digital format. On Sept. 16, PEG will be moved to digital. Analog only customers can receive one free PEG box. For schools and municipals you can get one free PEG box. CV will supply a free digital box in place of the PEG box if a school decides to rent one or more digital boxes.
 - Charlie Chiesa asked what the rationale was that PEG would be going digital. Any audience members who are not connected to a digital box will not see it. Jennifer Nacewicz said it was a corporate decision, and would check on the exact reasoning.
 - John Repicky recommended that every district run on their E channels a notice that as of Sept 16, the channel will be a digital only.
 - "As of September 16th you will not be able to watch this channel unless you have digital cable or have contacted Cablevision at (800) 353-9821 for a free upgrade. There is no need to do anything if you have digital service. This offer is only available through October 16th."
 - Each school has to call 516-803-2148 option #3.
 - R.Cebulski will make a PowerPoint slide that can be distributed to all districts.
 - Mike Pensiero from Stamford asked for the support of this committee to petition Cablevision to receive a bare minimum of one cable box per school to receive the channels that have been moved from analog to digital. He stated that this is a backward move. He will go to the full council meeting to present this petition.
 - C.Chiesa/C.Weinshel made a motion to accept this petition.
 - Discussion followed in which J. Repicky agreed with the comment that we have received basic cable for a long time. He agreed with M. Pensiero that it is a step backwards. Jennifer said that we have been receiving a higher level of basic. John Repicky stated that some of the "lost channels" are not such a big loss, but The Learning Channel and A&E do have educational programming that teachers are missing.

- C.Chiesa added that the amount of TV available is diminishing.. it is becoming only an analog world for the students right now. We shouldn't be going backwards with TV.
- Roman Cebulski asked how the channels are being used. Has there been a survey? He wonders if we are fighting with an aging dinosaur, since many schools are using Internet based video.
- Ritch Blozie wonders if that is true. Roman said that the Internet is opening up new possibilities for streaming and watching TV on demand.
- Mike Pensiero asked what the cost of a "dumb" box vs. a "smart" box could be. From a financial standpoint what are we asking for?
- Vote to approve the motion to petition Cablevision -- Unanimous support of the committee.

4) Consider running a 2009 Access Awards Program:

- Charlie had mentioned not doing it and starting a film festival. Others thought that the competition generated spirit.
- Maybe entries should be limited to only the three best from each school.
- R.Cebulski: Need to have categories
- If we are going to show ALL entries or ALL winners why can't we show all of our entries on every channel. This would mean we need a good digital copy of every program.
- Roman talked about having anchors at each school present the work from their school then making one ANCC VIDEO Awards program that can be shown in each district.
- Between now and the next meeting we should try to come up with the proposed categories- if we have a competition. Also, if you think there should be an awards program, please look at last year's rules and rework them. Determine what you would like to have as the expected outcome(s). How/will it be judged??
- Please look at the applications and rules from last year so we can be prepared to intelligently discuss this.

Meeting adjourned at: 3:03 next meeting is on October 6th:

bd

9/8/08