

# A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council, c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897

www.westportct.net/ancc

**TO: ANCC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: JOHN REPICKY**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (Oct. 13, 2004)**

**Oct. 18, 2004**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien:  
Easton:  
Greenwich: Jennifer Larkin  
New Canaan: Tony Thompson  
Norwalk: Marge Costa, Victor Cromwell  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: Geza Ziegler  
Weston: Don Saltzman  
Westport: Hal Levy, Bob Lasprogato  
Wilton: John Repicky  
Cablevision: Chris Klimek, Tad Diesel

1) **Meeting began** at 6:04 pm with 7 towns represented. HL announced that Dolly Curtis (Easton) has resigned. Hal expressed his gratitude to Dolly for her many years of service. Voted to approve the minutes of Sept. 8, 2004. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC website.

2) **Treasurer's Report -**

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	9/8/04	\$11,940.78	\$97,973.99
Interest & Dep.		.99	
Checks & Debits		59.13	\$ 1,735.22
Closing Balance	10/13/04	\$11,882.64	\$96,238.77

HL noted that the \$2500 check to Easton (6/3) has not been cashed. The Treasurer's report was approved.

3) **Cablevision Access Grants:**

Greenwich-G has submitted a grant request for \$4,525 for cameras, audio mixer, light kit, etc. Approved. Reminder: Application deadline for 2004 grants is Dec. 31

4) **Access Awards Program:**

CK and JR presented a program developed by the Ed Access Committee to increase student participation in access programming. The committee will award savings bonds to students who create the best access programs this year. Awards (per project) will run from \$200 SB to \$2000 SB, and will be available to all grade levels. Up to \$18,000 in U.S. Bonds will be available. Projects can range from a PSA to a full 30-min production. JR requested up to \$300 of ANCC funds for promotional materials for the program. (Approved.)

#### 5) Update of CV programming changes:

- CH707 (ABC HD) is now on the system. CH1000 announces CV ability to provide DVRs to customers. The program is not yet available, but will be rolled out soon. There will be a service charge for the new box. It will come in either standard or HD.
- TD noted that CV has introduced a PPV sports package. CV does not have access to NFL programming at this time. (Direct TV has exclusive rights to NFL.)
- CK on Transition to digital: Of 53000 people affected, over 81% have been transitioned effectively. Old boxes were dropped on 9/28. Those customers who did not make the switch were automatically downgraded to the Family package. Those with Family service were not affected. TD noted that customers who transitioned were moved at their old rate (for one year) even though the new service is more expensive. HL suggested that CV note on the bill that they are paying a promotional rate so that there will be no surprises when the 1-year period is up.

#### 6) Franchise Renewal:

TD: FCC law, section 626 says that the process opens 36 months before the end of the franchise period. Within 6 months, CV has to announce its intention to renew its franchise. At that point, the DPUC can decide to open a proceeding. At that time, CV would present the outline of its renewal proposal.

- HL asked about some CV franchises in NJ where senior citizens were given a 10% discount for service. TD noted that in some cases CV took over older franchises and continued their programs. Will CV consider this concept in franchise renewal? No comment.
- HL questioned TD about CVs filing of rate-regulation forms with the DPUC. Since equipment is rate controlled, he asked how the DPUC would respond to the consideration of DVRs as a service. TD noted that there seems to be a desire on the part of the DPUC to see improvements in technology and new technology should not be stifled by pricing geared to old technologies. DS asked if the DPUC ever had hearings over these rate-regulation reports. TD: Not really.

#### 7) CV notes:

- PSA day is October 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact CK if you have an organization that would like to make a PSA to be aired on CV in November and December.
- DS requested another trip to CV customer service department.
- Public Access dept just purchased mini-dv camcorders; tripods, etc

#### 8) Show & Tell:

JR brought a Panasonic 3CCD, Mini-DV camcorder (AG-DVC80). The camera is a good choice for access operations since it is light-weight and has two XLR audio inputs which accept both high and low-level audio signals. Wilton purchased theirs from B&H Photo in a kit form that includes an extra battery and soft case. JR also brought information on the Panasonic DMRT-3040, a digital video recorder plus DVD-burner that is a solution for recording those long Board meetings without having to change tapes every hour. Wilton uses theirs to record Board of Ed meetings, then burns the trimmed product to DVD for use on CH 78.

#### 9) PEG Access Issues:

- **Reminder: All I-Net channels must have programming (at least an identifying slate) by 12/31. Dark channels can lose their transmitter if we run out of channel space.** To run a message board requires minimal equipment (old computer, PowerPoint, and a scan-converter) CK & JR will survey the I-Net channels to identify dark channels.

#### 10) Other:

- JL mentioned that there is a huge volume mismatch between local insert commercials and programming. TD will investigate.
- JR asked why 78 & 79 were cut off during the day recently.

Adjourned: 7:35 pm