

A.N.C.C. - Ed Access

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

www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ED COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: JOHN REPICKY
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 30, 2007)

May 1, 2007

Attendance:

Greenwich	Charlie Chiesa
New Canaan	Roman Cebulski
Wilton	John Repicky
Westport	Bill Derry
Weston	Peggy Jorgensen
Norwalk CC	Stony Duren
Cablevision	Jennifer Nacewicz

1.) Meeting began at 1:40. March 7, 2007 minutes approved.

2.) 2007 Grant Update:

Cablevision approved \$100,000 for Access grants for 2007-2008. The Council has not yet determined how the funds will be split between E & G access. They are also considering a \$25,000 equipment grant. In order to make this happen, we must decide what equipment would be common to everyone. Each equipment package would be approx. \$2,000. We discussed creating a two-column approach: pick one item from Column A such as a video camera or one item from Column B such as a deck. Some equipment suggestions included a DVD Recorder, JVC Combo Mini DV/DVD deck, and a chyron box. **Any other suggestions for equipment preferences need to be submitted to JR by the end of this week.**

3.) New Franchise Rules:

JR explained that Cablevision's recent PFR (Proposal for Renewal) includes a clause that anything produced with equipment that was purchased with Cablevision grant money is only for the benefit of Cablevision viewers. This means that if AT& T puts a cable line into your school, nothing that your school produced using Cablevision money would be allowed to be shown on that cable line. Similarly, anything that your school produced using equipment purchased with Cablevision funding could not be broadcast to non-Cablevision subscribers. JR said that the Council objected to these rules at last Wednesday's meeting. JN explained that these new rules reflect corporate Cablevision's desire to protect their assets in today's competitive media world. It is unclear what the ultimate ramification of these rules will be, but JR advised that we think wisely when choosing how we spend our grant money so that we don't run into problems with this new rule. JR noted that these rules only apply to equipment purchased under the new franchise (i.e. with '07 grant funds.)

4.) NCC on Ch. 78:

SD mentioned that he is not getting as much air time as he would like for NCC programming. JR suggested that we designate Wednesdays as "Higher Education Wednesday." Now, NCC will be shown on CH 78 across Fairfield County from noon to midnight every Wednesday. The switch will be made at the head end and local CH 78 broadcasts will be pre-empted.

5.) Access Awards

Access Awards were discussed and decided upon. SD brought sample trophies to look at. An Oscar look-alike statue was voted the winner. The statues will be engraved and each student in a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place project will receive a trophy & certificate. Note: Students in the three projects that were submitted as class entries will only receive certificates.

- The group also authorized a camera package to be given to the school of each of the 1st place entries. The package will consist of a Canon ZR-800 Mini-DV camcorder, shotgun mic, wireless lavalier mic, extra battery, and case.
- During the discussion, JR noted that the ZR-800 is the only low-end camcorder (under \$1000) available with an external mic jack. It would be helpful if a manufacturer would consider educational needs when creating designs.

6.) Student Television Network

ES strongly recommended that other Access educators join Student Television Network. It is the largest organization in the nation devoted to scholastic broadcasting. Many of the issues that we discuss in the Access group are discussed on a national level at STN.

It costs \$40 to join STN. These are some of the benefits:

- A "best practices" DVD, containing STN's award-winning clips to be used as a teaching platform at the local affiliate school
- Regular updates on affiliate activities in each region, as well as e-mail reminders for exclusive affiliate camps and contests
- Access to the affiliates-only e-mail discussion group to share and discuss with affiliate peers

Here's the link to join: http://studenttelevision.com/join_us.html

Meeting adjourned: 3:25 pm

Submitted by E. Stewart