

WATOA Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2013

Present: Chris Jaramillo, Jeff Lueders, Linda Seesz, Brenda Cooper, Mike Charboneau, Randy Beehler, Alice Lawson

Next meeting: Wednesday, Aug 21, 2013

1. **Call to Order.** 2:05pm
2. **Approval of Minute from 6/19/2013.** Jeff motioned to approve. Mike seconded. Minutes approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report and Update**– Dea was not able to attend; Treasurer's report tabled until Aug Board meeting.

Chris reported WATOA gift basket was sent to Garth Ashpaugh during the first week of July. The Board had previously approved \$75.00 for the condolence basket and final basket cost was \$77.00.

4. **NATO A Update – Jeff Lueders**

- 2014 Conference will be hosted in Minnesota by MACTA (Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators).
- 2013 Conference planning continues and there is still a need for recruiting sponsors. Past sponsors Granicus and Alcatel-Lucent have not yet committed to sponsorship; request was made for WATO A Board members with any connections to the vendors to encourage their participation again.
- NATO A has sent out annual ballots and votes are due by August 14, 2013. Write-in candidates are accepted.
- The Brian Wilson Memorial scholarship is still available for the NATO A registration fee for one WATO A member. Chris to send out an email alerting members to this opportunity, and requesting anyone interested to contact her. The final scholarship recipient would require Board approval.

5. **Board Vacancies and Recruitment – Chris Jaramillo**

Vacancies still exist for Region #3, #7 and #1. Dea is to provide Chris with a list of WATO A members in Region #1, to be used for targeted recruitment to fill Dal's new resignation. Chris had hoped replacement for Spokane's Marlene Feist would be a candidate for Region #7, but learned that Marlene's position was not filled. Instead Spokane has split franchise management functions between two existing people, one being John Delay, Director of Spokane's government channel.

6. **WATO A Workshops and Fall Conference – Chris Jaramillo**

Franchise/Legislative Workshop: Woodinville City Hall is available at no cost. The date of Wednesday, September 11th is proposed.

Jeff reported on offer from Mark Siegel (ABS) to use Fremont Studios space, free of charge, in conjunction with the annual Media Technology Expo (MTE) on October 1, 2013. Meeting space and (potentially) parking would be at no cost. Board discussed the benefits of this possibility and of

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shortening the conference to a morning event (e.g., 9 am – 1 pm) with three sessions (legislative update, franchising panel, and PEG HD Conversion/Transition).

WATOA Joint Conference with ACM: Next subcommittee call has not been scheduled; report will be provided for August Board meeting.

7. Summer Newsletter Status– Linda Seesz

All articles have been submitted to Linda as of July 16th. Linda is not able to use the Apple-based newsletter publishing program Dal had been using, so she is working to adapt the newsletter format into her publishing program. Linda asked about the Communication subcommittee and the process for newsletter review, to ensure she has volunteers to assist in reviewing the newsletter draft. Mike and Alice volunteered to review the draft before Linda finalizes it for the Board.

8. Other Business

Mike Charboneau reported Cities of Richland and Pasco are issuing a Request for Franchise Renewal Proposal (RFRP) in order to get Charter to come to the negotiating table and be reasonable. The recent Franchise Agreement with the City of Vancouver is being used as their guide for the franchise.

Jeff Lueders suggests WATOA consider establishment of two annual awards. The first would be a *WATOA Member of the Year* award, to serve as concrete way to recognize people who make special efforts during the year (e.g., legislative advocacy, innovations, etc.). The second would be a plaque for the departing WATAO President, commemorating the administrative and leadership service they provided during their term.

9. Adjournment: 2:35 pm