

WATOA –All Membership Teleconference 12/16/15 – Minutes

Attendees: Linda Seesz, John Delay, Tim Szambelan, John Miller, Mark Somers, Brian Parry, Jeff Lueders, Jeff Cox, Mike Connor, Dea Drake, Jim Demmon, Judy Devall, Brenda Tate, Daryl Peck, Alice Lawson, Charlene Burnette, David Hinman, Chris Jaramillo, Jon Rauch, Elana Zana, Daniel Kenny *Guest:* Steve Traylor

1. **Call to order** 2:04 PM
2. **PEG & Closed Captioning FCC Roundtable Report** (Steve Traylor, NATOA Executive Director):
 - Steve served as panelist at FCC's 11/10/2015 *Roundtable Discussion of Closed Captioning for Public Access and Governmental Programming*.
 - Major barrier to providing closed captioning (CC) is cost. PEG operators concerned CC so expensive new mandates could cause staff lay-offs, undermining ultimate goal of increased access to PEG content.
 - FCC doesn't appear to have anything new coming out on CC requirements and current rules provide exemption for PEGs with less than \$3 Million budget (or % of budget).
 - Concern area is Dept of Justice (DOJ) and application of ADA law. DOJ is looking around at who is providing CC and who is not.
 - Recommendations:
 - Strive to have any CC costs worked into your *City's/County's* budget, not channel's budget.
 - Weigh accuracy with cost when considering possible CC tools (e.g., Voice to Text tools only 80-85% accurate).
 - Look at how stations could work together to lower costs of providing CC. (NATOA to add more to website on what others are doing to meet CC needs)
 - Participate in 1/11/2016 eNATOA webinar *Closed Captioning - Best Practices and Solutions for PEG Programming*
 - Watch FCC Roundtable Discussion video here <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2015/11/roundtable-discussion-of-closed-captioning-for-public-access-and-governmental-programming>)
3. **Approval of Minutes from 12/10/2014 All Membership Meeting:** Judy Devall moved to approve minutes as presented. Mark Somers seconded. Vote taken and minutes approved.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Month-end November 2015 report presented. Current fund balance is \$12,300.60. The 2015 starting fund balance was \$11,554.16, making current YTD difference a fund balance *net gain* of \$746.44. There are no outstanding checks at this time, but Chapter fees to NATOA are expected to be approximately \$750 to be paid by year end.
5. **Membership Report:** 2015 saw an overall increase in total number of agencies, individual members and associate memberships. Membership agencies cover eight (8) different cable operators (Comcast, Charter, Wave, Frontier, Click, CenturyLink, FairPoint, Rainier Connects) and 905,300 cable TV subscribers across WA State.

	Membership YE 2014	Membership YE 2015	Change
Member Agencies	24	27	+3
Members	64	77	+13
Associates	1	4	+3

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6. **WATOA 2016 Conference Update:**

- 2016 Conference is **April 28-29, 2016** (Thurs-Fri) to be held again at Campbell's resort at Lake Chelan. Registration is \$150/members and \$175/non-members. Registration will open on BrownPaperTickets.com in early January.
- Rooms can be reserved at Campbell's now (Group Code 384528). Conference room rates are \$89 single / \$109 double. Chris Jaramillo is WATOA's contact for any room issues.
- Thursday will be full day covering different topics for PEG and Legislative/Policy tracks. Friday will be ½ day dedicated workshops on (PEG) Story Development from shooter/editors perspective, and (Leg/Policy) Broadband.
- The 2015 Conference had 42 paid registrants, representing 20 different WA cities and counties.

7. **Other Business**

- **Board Elections:** Ballots for 2016 Board elections have been sent out. Members designated as the 'voting members' for their agency will receive a ballot; must be completed and post marked by 12/31/2015 for vote to be valid.
- **WATOA 2016 Membership Renewal:** Invoices for renewing membership will be mailed next week. Everyone is encouraged to renew early. Strong membership numbers help WATOA advocacy efforts at state and federal levels.
- **CenturyLink Franchising:** Tacoma reports CenturyLink making local fiber upgrade investments past couple months and requesting a cable TV franchise. Tacoma seeks samples of CenturyLink franchises from other areas. Seattle finished CenturyLink franchise in Aug 2015 and document is available on www.seattle.gov/cable website. City of Vancouver/Clark County is currently finalizing a franchise; is up for Council approval on 12/22/2015.

8. **Adjournment 2:46 PM**