



Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors

A professional organization of individuals and organizations serving citizens in the development, regulation, and administration of cable television and other telecommunication systems.

WATOA Board Meeting Minutes May 24, 2023

1. Call to Order – 2:06 PM
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATOA Board Position	2021 Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Jon Funfar, City of Pasco	x	
Vice-President	Chris Jaramillo, King County	x	
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County		x
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle	x	
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham		x
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Patti Belle, City of Kent	x	
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	George Geyer, Kitsap County		x
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver	x	
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Vacant		
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg		x
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	Jessica Fisher, City of Spokane	x	
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Vacant		
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools		x
Past-President	Jeff Lueders, City of Tacoma	x	

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. No agenda provided
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. Patti Belle, unanimously approved
5. President's Report – Jon Funfar
 - a. NATOA Meeting notes – July 28 due date for NATOA Conference ad. Alice working on full page ad.
6. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Previous balance
 - i. 3/31/23 - \$21, 875.90
 - b. New balance
 - i. 4/30/23 - \$21,969.90
 - ii. A few renewals came in
 - iii. 23 agencies registered
7. Vice President's Report – Chris Jaramillo
 - a. Connecting with possible new board members
 - b. Proposing full NATOA Conference scholarship and half scholarship – see 9.g.iii.
8. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. absent
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Conference Cmte

- i. Conference has been cancelled.
- b. Policy/Legal – Alice Lawson
 - i. Introduced April 10 in the House – Community Broadband Act of 2023, H.R.2552
 - 1. This bill prohibits states from blocking the provision of broadband by public providers, public-private partnership providers, or cooperatively organized providers. Further, public providers and state or local entities participating in a partnership must administer applicable ordinances and rules without discrimination against competing private providers.
 - 2. NATOA, Conference of Mayors, etc. expressing support
 - ii. Washington State Department of Commerce broadband grants (\$121 M) – mainly in rural communities
- c. Production – Jim Demmon/Megan Hutton
 - i. Keycode’s Post NAB Seattle event - May 11
 - 1. Event went well. Chris was able to get some business cards for future recruitment.
 - 2. Tested out some new state of the art equipment
 - ii. Content Sharing – exploring a way to share content between members.
 - 1. Google Drive and Vimeo are possible solutions. Committee is looking into this.
 - iii. Alice working with Jessica for WATOA website access/training
- d. Membership – Chris Jaramillo
 - i. Need to fill two vacancies (Tri-Cities and Rainier Valley (Pierce Co))
 - 1. Chris is working on possible board members. Made some good connections at Keycode event.
- e. Nominating – Jeff Lueders
 - i. No report
- f. By Laws – Jeff Lueders
 - i. Start on this in summer. One major change – rewrite to clarify how positions were described. George has provided documents. Needs to be approved by the Board in November, and on the ballot in December.
- g. Brian Wilson Scholarship – George Geyer
 - i. Two \$1200 scholarships for NATOA were approved at the March meeting. George was unable to send scholarship via listserv; Alice sent the scholarship via listserv.
 - ii. July 15 due date and scholarship awards announced Aug. 10.
 - iii. Chris motions for a NATOA Conference scholarship up to \$3,000 (award to smaller city under 25,000 pop.) and scholarship up to \$1,200. Money to be used for conference registration, hotel, and airfare. - \$4,200 total (increase of \$1,800).
 - 1. Jon Funfar, unanimously approved

10. New Business

- a. Possibility of holding a future WATOA Conference
 - i. What type of speakers are our members looking for? Looking for value add.
- b. Association of Washington Cities – Promote WATOA membership and possibility of presenting
 - i. Topics – shooting short form video for social media
 - ii. Conference scheduled for June 20 – 30, 2023. We will have to work on a partnership for 2024.

11. Next Meeting – Typically the 4th Wednesday of every month (June 21)

12. Adjournment – 3:13 pm