



March 2006

APRIL WORKSHOP

Friday, April 28, 2006

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Woodinville City Hall

Feeling like you don't know where to turn for answers for Legislative issues that will affect telecommunications and rights-of-way issues? Let's get together with the experts and our peers to discuss what is happening and what action we need to be prepared to take.

Presenters, Jim Haggerton, City of Tukwila, City Council and Technology Committee of the National League of Cities, Victoria Lincoln, Association of Washington Cities, U.S. Repetitive Jay Inslee, and Representatives from Charter and Comcast Cable will be present to discuss current state proposed legislation, the bills at the Federal level, and a roundtable discussion to assist with answers to your questions and to make sure your needs are heard. Reserve your spot for the "What's Hot and What's Not" April Workshop. Send in your registration form today!

This months FYI:

House OK's National Franchise

Multichannel News 3/9/2006 10:28 AM

In a setback for cable, key House lawmakers Wednesday night agreed in principle to award a national cable franchise to phone companies and to subject cable operators to continued local franchising requirements until phone rivals have reached 15% local-video-market penetration, industry and Capitol Hill aides said Thursday morning. The agreement was reached by House Energy and Commerce Committee chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas), Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Reps. Chip Pickering (R-Miss.), John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.), the sources said. AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. have been urging Congress to adopt a national-franchise policy, but the agreement includes provisions that have not been publicly debated. For more information: <http://email.multichannel.com>

WATOA in Action!

- ⇒ A proposal for changes to the By-Laws will arrive soon in a mailing to the general membership. Current By-Laws are posted at www.watoa.org
- ⇒ Members there will be a short general membership meeting at the April 28th workshop.
- ⇒ Please note the FCC Filing prepared by Ken Fellman is posted at the WATOA website for your review.
- ⇒ The ACMNWR Conference is June 2 & 3, Puget Sound Access, Kent. PSA address is www.pugetsoundaccess.org. More conference info via the Region's website, www.acmnwr.org.

Brian Wilson Memorial Scholarship

A \$600.00 scholarship is available to attend the 2006 NATOA conference in Florida. Visit www.watoa.org for complete entry details.

NATOA NEWS

The NATOA 2006 membership drive launches on March 1st! This year there are some special incentives both for YOU, as a recruiter and for new members! For every new member you recruit, NATOA members earn a \$25 discount on 2006 conference registration. For example, recruit 4 new members and earn a \$100 discount on 2006 conference registration!

WATOA Contacts:

Judy Devall	jd@midvalleytv.com
David Kerr	dkerr@ci.bellevue.wa.us
Jill Novik	jill.novik@seattle.gov
Marie Stake	maries@ci.woodinville.wa.us
Chas Hilton	chilton@cityoftacoma.org

FCC Notice of Rule Making

If you missed the February 13th FCC filing date for your cities franchise comments you may file them until March 28th The best way to file the reply comments with the FCC is to file electronically through the FCC's ECFS system. You should also cc by e-mail the following folks at the FCC: john.norton@fcc.gov and natalie.roisman@fcc.gov.