

# WATOA NEWS



**Message from Jill Novik, Chapter President:**

## Legislative Issues

**Olympia:** The 2007 session has ended, fortunately, efforts to adopt statewide franchising failed. We know that this issue has not gone away, so the Board urges you to work with your elected officials over the summer to educate them on the importance of local franchising. If you need information, please visit the WATOA website at [www.watoa.org](http://www.watoa.org) and click on "documents" for the WATOA letter and key points, or contact one of us on the Board.

## FCC: Order on Local Cable Franchising:

The proposed Order, in essence, created a new form for franchising, so the Order is required to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. We do not yet know when it will clear that hurdle, but we hear it will not be before June. Should either your incumbent Telco or cable operator tell you that the Order applies now, this is not the case.

## Order on Exclusive Contract in Multifamily Dwelling Units and New Developments:

The FCC is also seeking comments on exclusive service contracts in the above. Aside from the fact that the exclusive contracts are very anti-competitive, for those jurisdictions in or wanting to enter the video market, breaking the hold on exclusive contracts would provide considerable additional opportunities. To comment, the docket is

**MB Docket No. 07-51;** please go to:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-7254.pdf>

## June 12 Workshop Features National Expert Tillman (Tim) Lay and PEG Info:

Tim Lay, legal expert extraordinaire and one of the two main attorneys working on the FCC order, will update and answer questions at our workshop. Chris Bacha, former telecom attorney for Tacoma and now in private practice, and Victoria Lincoln, Washington legislative pro with AWC will also be on the panel. The afternoon will focus on PEG and will feature Marc Pease, long term media specialist, and Ross Davis, Seattle Community College TV. SCCTV is one of the largest educational content distributors in the country, so these presentations should be very informative. A flyer with registration is attached. For those of you whose Electeds will be attending AWC, this is a great opportunity to encourage them to attend the WATOA conference at the same time. Hope to see you all in June!

**April 2007**

## By-Laws to be Voted on at June 12 General Membership Meeting

Your WATOA Board has voted to accept the by-law changes as attached. We will vote on these at the general membership meeting that will be part of the workshop on June 12th. If you have any questions about the proposals, please contact one of the Board members.

## Brian Wilson Scholarship

### for NATOA Conference in Portland:

Time is running out (May 31) to apply for this \$600 scholarship for small cities (under 5000 subscribers). Since this is a rare opportunity to attend the NATOA conference (from October 1-6 in Portland) without having to pay airfare, most of your costs would be covered. For information on the Brian Wilson Scholarship, please check the website at [www.watoa.org](http://www.watoa.org) or contact Chas Hilton

## NATOA NEWS

Please complete the survey at [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org) on the irreparable harm that the FCC order will do to your jurisdiction and get comments on the FNPRM to [franchiseinfo@natoa.org](mailto:franchiseinfo@natoa.org). Please note that you do not have to finish either the survey or comments at one time, but can come back into then with more information as you have time.

NATOA Annual Conference October 1-6, 2007  
Portland, Oregon!

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