



Message from Jill Novik, Chapter President:

June Workshop and General Meeting

Over 40 people attended our workshop and general meeting in Tacoma on June 12. In the morning, we listened to very informative presentations on the changing regulatory and legal landscape. WATOA's thanks to presenters Tillman (Tim) Lay, Chris Bacha, and Victoria Lincoln. The afternoon session presented an extensive variety of interesting resources on PEG programming. Thanks to Ross Davis and Marc Pease for a session that was stimulating even to those of us who are not programmers.

The membership also voted to accept by laws changes to clarify how and when elections will occur, and establish a procedure for Board replacements.

Legislative Issues

FCC Order on National Video Franchising Update

National organizations, including NATOA, have filed for a stay of the Order and is awaiting court action, as is the suit that the FCC has exceeded authority. The deadline was June 22 for submitting comments to OMB (but you can still file if you wish) on FCC's submittal on the Paperwork Reduction Act. As many of you know from an earlier email week, the FCC has asserted, among other things, that LFA's should be able to review a franchise application in four hours. If you still want to comment, please see my email from June 19 with the relevant information. Stay tuned.

State Franchising and Competition

Recently, a cable representative relayed a comment that NATOA was telling LFA's to "cut deals" with telephone companies on statewide franchising bills, specifically, Washington state. I can assure you that we have received no such direction, and, as you know from our intensive efforts in Olympia this February, national and state policy is to oppose any such bills. As you also know, we were successful this year in defeating a statewide bill.

And on a similar subject, on June 27 the WA Utilities and Transportation Commission held a stakeholder workshop to gather information about the state of telecommunications competition in WA. Thanks to Board treasurer Ann Suter, for getting the UTC to invite WATOA and LFA's to the otherwise all industry group. Fellow WATOA members Marc Pease, Rainier Cable Commission; Chas Hilton, Tacoma; and Tony Perez, Seattle also attended. This first meeting was devoted to telephone services, but provided a good introduction to all the players.

June 2007

Brian Wilson Scholarship

For those of you who enjoyed the sessions in Tacoma, they are but a taste of what you'll learn at the NATOA conference in Portland, OR. Several WATOA members will be presenters or moderators, so please come support us, learn a lot, and have fun. Early bird registration ends August 10. You can also sign up for just a couple of days. As a reminder, the Brian Wilson Scholarship, which covers conference registration, is extended to July 15 because of the lateness of the conference this year. If your jurisdiction is under 5000 subscribers, you qualify. For additional information or to submit your application please contact Chas Hilton.

WATOA JUNE 2007 WORKSHOP



NATOA NEWS

NATOA Conference in Portland: The early bird registration ends August 10th. Please remember WATOA will hold a Chapter meeting at the conference. The Who, What, Where, When, and Why will be announced soon.

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

www.natoa.org

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