

# WATOA NEWS



## Message from Jill Novik, Chapter President:

June 12 Annual Meeting and Workshop in Tacoma

Registration is running well and we are looking forward to seeing many of you in Tacoma. As we will have hand-outs from our expert presenters, to ensure that there is a copy for you (not to mention lunch), we strongly encourage you to get your registration in to treasurer Ann Suter by June 6. The morning session will be a crash course in the political and legislative arena, featuring Tim Lay, legal expert extraordinaire and one of the two main attorneys working on the FCC order. The afternoon will focus on PEG and will feature Ross Davis, Seattle Community College TV, one of the largest educational content distributors in the country. We will also be voting on by-laws changes, which are attached. A flyer with registration details is also 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!

## Legislative Issues

**FCC: Order on Local Cable Franchising:** On behalf of cities, the Local Government Lawyers' Roundtable will file an amicus brief challenging the Order, with a due date of June 27. If your jurisdiction/organization is interested in supporting the brief, donations of \$750 would be gratefully appreciated. At this point, we are waiting for the Order to clear the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements, and we understand that the FCC intends to implement the order after that, despite pending legal action. If you are able to contribute to the legal fund, please contact Laini Williams at [laini@lgl-roundtable.com](mailto:laini@lgl-roundtable.com).

**Internet Tax Moratorium Extension:** As you may know, on May 23, Senators Carper and Alexander introduced in the U.S. Senate a bill on behalf of state and local governments to extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act for 4 years and clarify the definition of Internet access. The Carper-Alexander bill alters the definition of tax-free "Internet access" to ensure that a consumer's connection to the Internet, including email and instant messaging, remains tax-free. At the same time, the bill closes a loophole in the original 1998 moratorium that could allow an Internet Service Provider to bundle Internet access with other services and make them all tax-free. Among this legislation's supporters are the National Governors Association, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties. At the June 12 meeting, we will discuss WATOA asking Sens. Cantwell and Murray to support this legislation. For a brief summary and press on the bill, please go to <http://carper.senate.gov/test/release.cfm?type=press&id=274926>.

May 2007

**Board Secretary Needed:** We are happy for Marie Stake moving on to a great new job in Kirkland, but, unfortunately, she will no longer be in the cable/telecom world and has resigned from the Board. As a result, the Board is looking for someone willing to take notes at the meetings. The only commitment is a telephone conference call once a month for the rest of 2007, with a summary of the meeting emailed to Board members afterwards. It's really that simple. The current Board is a great group of people, and if you've been looking for a way to get more involved and up to date on our issues, here's a great opportunity.

**NATOA Conference in Portland:** The early bird registration ends August 10 and since the conference is so late, we're able to extend the **Brian Wilson Scholarship** application deadline for free registration for another month. To apply for this \$600 scholarship for small cities (under 5000 subscribers), please check our website at [www.watoa.org](http://www.watoa.org) or contact Chas Hilton (see below). This is a great opportunity to attend the NATOA conference for just the cost of the hotel.

## NATOA NEWS

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

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