

MICHIGAN NATOA CHAPTER
Thursday, May 12, 2005
SWOCC Studios, Farmington Hills
Pending approval

Meeting called to order by President Kathy Sherman at 1:00 PM, following lunch.

Attendance

Mike Ager, Canton Township; Janet Christian, Waterford; Caren Collins, SWOCC; Paul Dingeman, St. Clair; Ron Fredrick Birmingham Area Cable Board; Jim Gillis, Macomb Township; Evelyn Goudreau, Livonia; Diane Griffith, Lake Orion; Leslie Helwig, Bloomfield Township; Bill Irving, Dearborn; Shelli McDermott, Detroit; Kathy Sherman, Southfield; Olympio Varsogea, Monroe; Jay Wiencko, Jr., Community Media Network.

Guest: Mike Watza, legal counsel, PROTEC

Action Item

Leslie Helwig moved that MI NATOA contribute \$500 to the Grand Rapids Media Center in memory of Dirk Koenig. Caren Collins seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Matter for Consideration

Kathy Sherman distributed proposed guidelines for a tape exchange program drafted by Paula Gentius Harris of the Detroit Cable Communications Commission. Kathy asked members to review it and forward any questions, suggestions or comments directly to Paula.

Discussion

Mike Watza, legal counsel for the Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights-of-Way (PROTEC) updated members on the status of ROW issues in the both State of Michigan and the United States Congress. Key Points:

- The Metro Authority is now established, but its ability to audit is unfunded.
- Michigan's Telecom Act expires by the end of the year. PROTEC, along with the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Township Association are actively talking to State legislators and asking them to extend the sunset clause until after the federal government acts. If the State goes ahead with the re-write, we can expect a major impact on local governments.
- If pending federal legislation is enacted, SBC and Verizon would be allowed to roll out video over phone lines without first obtaining local franchises. This would nullify most existing local cable franchises which have "most favored nation" clauses. Not only would local governments lose local control over their ROWs, funding for PEG channels would disappear.

We considered the possibility of writing a position statement which would state the benefits of local franchises.

Treasurer's report by Mike Ager

\$ 7,336.23	Checking Account, NBD
<u>1,694.61</u>	Savings Account, NBD
\$9,030.84	TOTAL ASSETS

Mike asked for ideas to fund special projects, meetings or speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM