The Central States Board held their annual meeting Jan. 14-15 in Indianapolis and visited the Radisson Hotel -- the site of the next Central States regional conference. Johanna Perrino handled the details with hotel staff (left, top), Frank Clark and Tom Shubert surveyed the ballroom where the keynote luncheon will take place (left), and the whole Board struck a pose (below).

You must register by February 28
See page 6 for more information

Register today!
It’s Christmas Eve day, and here I am in my office searching for inspiration for this installment of CHAIR CHAT. I’d like to express warm, fuzzy feelings for a happy holiday season and a prosperous (however you define it) New Year, but two Alliance issues keep coming to my mind that I feel compelled to comment on. The issues on my mind are the recent selection of new leadership for the Alliance National Office and the importance of the ACM establishing strategic partnerships with other organizations with similar goals and interests.

By now, many of you have heard that the Alliance National Board of Directors recently completed a search process for the position of Executive Director, and has selected Mr. Anthony (Tony) Riddle for the position. Tony has extensive experience in many facets of community-based media, and his intelligence and charisma will undoubtedly prove to be an asset in both his work on Capital Hill and in funding development.

Tony and the national board face many challenges, not the least of which is keeping the Alliance for Community financially solvent. Other challenges include reorganizing the administrative office for improved service delivery to the membership, getting the Alliance in an effective position to advocate for sensible telecommunication legislation at the federal and state levels, and yes, developing relationships with other organizations.

I’m excited by the skills and vision that Tony brings to the Alliance national office, and I’m ready to help him in any way I can. In fact, I’m thrilled that the Central States Board of Directors unanimously agreed that we should bring Tony to our Spring 2005 Regional Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana (March 31 – April 2, be there!).

The other topic I’d like to comment on – partnerships with other similarly focused organizations – is something that has slowly gained momentum in the Central States leadership, and the Alliance in general. Former CS-ACM Chair Tom Bishop started to introduce the idea of partnerships into our board strategic planning meetings several years ago. His wisdom in doing this is now apparent to me – the Alliance must grow, innovate, and cross-pollinate to remain a viable organization. When the CS-ACM Board meets in Indianapolis in January, I will be encouraging the group to think strategically and identify partnership and relationship opportunities to pursue.

Now, for the warm fuzzies! I’ve mentioned many times how relationships in the ACM feel like “family”, and I really, truly, and sincerely wish you and your families the very best for this holiday season and the coming New Year.

See you in Indy!

Hap Haasch
Cable Administrator, City of Ann Arbor, MI
Chair – ACM Central States Region
The National Board of Directors of the Alliance for Community Media met the first week of December to take care of many pressing matters including the hiring of a new executive director for the Alliance for Community Media.

The board spent considerable hours reviewing the applications of four finalists for the position, interviewing those finalists and deliberating over the final selection of a candidate. The finalists were both from within and outside of the community media profession and demonstrated skills that would benefit our organization. After many long hours of thoughtful discussion on the organization’s needs in relation to the qualifications of the candidates, the board decided to offer the position to Anthony Riddle, a long-time member of the Alliance for Community Media and community media professional.

Mr. Riddle has been the executive director of access organizations in various regions in the country, has served the organization as chair of the national board, has public policy experience, and most recently has been engaged in the fund development arena with his recent work with the Ford Foundation. Tony’s public speaking skills and passion for community media will undoubtedly help inspire many community media professionals. I encourage you to attend the Spring Conference in Indianapolis to meet and welcome our new executive director.

The board of directors also seated the new members and elected their officers. Congratulations to former Central States Chair Tom Bishop on his election to Chair of the Alliance for Community Media Board of Directors, and Ruth Mills on her election to the position of Secretary of the board.

The board reviewed and approved an operating budget for 2005. The full conference registration fees for the 2005 national conference will be increased by $10 to help cover increasing food costs. Conference rates for a national conference have not been raised for a number of years. The board directed the executive director and finance committee to review conference rates and structures to present a plan at the November 2005 meeting.

The board of directors has a large amount of work ahead for 2005. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me.

Matt Schuster
Central States Vice-Chair & Region Representative to National Board
Greetings from Grassroots

by Felicia Jamison,
Central States Grassroots Chair

Time to put the fruitcake down and get back into the swing of things… sure, every blast of artic air makes it seem like spring is at least a few lifetimes away. Don’t be fooled by the ridiculously cold weather: the Central States Region Spring Conference in Indianapolis is just around the corner – and we want to see you there! If you, or someone you know, would like to attend the conference, but is unable to do so due to monetary issues, please take a moment to visit the CS Region website at www.csregionacm.org and check out the information about the Grassroots Scholarship. Deadline is February 8th.

I’d like to also remind you about the Roxie L. Cole Leadership Award that will be presented at the Spring Conference. The Central States Region Board is looking for nominations for the award, which honors an individual (producer, staff, board member or community activist) who exemplifies the spirit of access television in the community. To find out how to nominate someone, check out the CS region website. Deadline for nominations: February 8th.

If you have any questions about the Grassroots Scholarship, or the Roxie L. Cole Leadership Award, feel free to contact me at fejamieson@hartlandaccess.org.

Stay Warm!

Central States Region Board members

Hap Haasch, Chair
Community Television Network
Ann Arbor Michigan
734-994-1833 hhaasch@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

Frank Clark, Equal Opportunity Chair
Office of Cable Communications
Cincinnati, Ohio
513-352-5307 frank.clark@cincinnati-oh.gov

Norm Compton, Treasurer, Finance Chair
Access Fort Wayne
Fort Wayne, IN
260-421-1246 ncompton@acpl.lib.in.us

Felicia Jamison, Grassroots Chair
Hartland Community TV
Hartland, MI
810-632-3148 fejamieson@hartlandaccess.org

Ruth Mills, Indiana Chapter Chair
Executive Director
Whitewater Community Television
Richmond, IN rumills@indiana.edu

Mark F. Monk, Michigan Chapter Chair
Community Access Center
Kalamazoo, MI
(269) 343-2211 MFMonk@Net-Link.Net

Jen Otten, Secretary
Community Program Center
Covington, KY
859-261-1300 Ext. #106 jotten@tbnk.org

Suzanne Patzer, Information Services Chair, OK Chapter Chair
Learning Network of Central Ohio
Columbus OH
614-287-5748 spatzer@cscc.edu

Johanna Perrino, Conference Planning Chair, At-Large
Wadsworth Community TV
Wadsworth, OH
330-336-7919 jperino@wadsworth.k12.oh.us

Matt Schuster, Vice Chair, Public Policy Chair
Louisville MetroTV Channel Manager
Louisville, KY
502-574-1904 matt.schuster@loukymetro.org

Tom Shubert, Organizational Development Chair
Solon Community Television
Solon, OH
440-349-6262 solontv@en.com

Rod Swartz, Education Committee Chair
Princeton Institutional TV Network
Cincinnati, OH
513-552-8275 rswartz@princeton.k12.oh.us

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ATTENTION: Philo winners & finalists

All duplicate plaques and certificates were mailed the last week in December, so everyone should have their originals and any ordered duplicates. The Central States Board thanks everyone that entered and congratulates all the winners & finalists. Just a reminder, the deadline for the 2005 national Hometown awards is February 11th. Hometown entry forms this year can also be filled out on line at http://www.tctv.net/hometown/ Entry forms for the 2005 Philo T. Farnsworth video awards will be posted for copying on line by the beginning of March at http://www.csregionacm.org/video_comp.php

Good luck to all the entrants!
Philo Committee
Go to:
www.csregionacm.org/regional_conferences.php
to register!

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