



KEYLIGHT

Summer 2006

Volume XXII No. 2

Access under attack!

Public, educational and governmental access centers are facing up to 50% reduction in funding because of drastic measures written into recent Congressional bills. This means a reduction in the free speech forums PEG provides for everyone. Help the Alliance for Community Media preserve access for all.

See page 10 for more details.



Access leaders “Raise their Voices!”

PEG access center members and volunteers gathered in Midland, Michigan for the Central States Region spring conference. They learned about threats to the future of access and were encouraged to raise their voices to save the community media centers that are so important in our society.

See page 8-9

CHAIR CHAT

with

Hap Haasch

What a wild, wacky, time it's been since our Spring 2006 Conference in Midland, Michigan!

Let me begin with a brief legislative update: Indiana has started implementing its state cable franchising law, and the Michigan House of Representatives has begun hearings on similar legislation. I must thank the PEG access leaders in Michigan who have stepped up to advocate on our issues: Jan Howard (Mt. Pleasant), Ron Beacom (Midland), Dale Geminder (Battle Creek), Lynn Meikle (Meridian Twp.), Jon Koeze and Laurie Cirivello (Grand Rapids), Bill LaVoy (Monroe), Mark Monk (Kalamazoo), Robin Torrey (Richmond), Caren Collins (Farmington Hills), and Kathy Sherman (Southfield). There is plenty of work still to be done, and we'll "do our best."

I must extend my thanks to Erik Mollberg for his work on the Central States ACM Board elections. When he "volunteered" to be our election official, I don't think he expected the assignment to be quite as complicated as it turned out to be.

There were (and continue to be) serious discrepancies with the CS-ACM membership database as compiled by the national office of the ACM. When Erik requested the CS-ACM membership list from the national office, we were stunned by how many people were



"missing" as paid members. However, Erik and I were in agreement that we had to use the national office data and not "fudge" it by adding in other names on our own. This resulted in the release of an unusually small number of ballots, and an even smaller number of returned ballots.

I have set aside time at the upcoming CS-ACM Board meeting to discuss how we'll address this problem. Without question we will do our own analysis of the national office membership list and suggest how we can correct it. [Note to Tom Bishop: yes...you warned us this could happen]

Despite the frustration with the membership database and its impact on our election, we will welcome a new CS-ACM Board to HOM-TV in Meridian Township, Michigan on August 4, 2006:

Chip Bergquist (Waycross, OH)
Sara Mahle (Cincinnati, OH)
Matt Schuster (Louisville, KY)
Frank Clark (Cincinnati, OH)
Rod Swartz (Cincinnati, OH)
Norm Compton (Fort Wayne, IN)
Jennifer Teipel (Covington, KY)
Tom Shubert (Solon, OH)

I look forward to working with you all!

Hap Haasch
Chair, CS-ACM

Editor's note: Steve Sobel and Mark Monk are also Central States region Board members as Chairs of the Ohio-Kentucky and Michigan Chapters, respectively.

2006 Alliance for Community Media Challenge

Let's step up to the Challenge!

Justicedesign.com

Last year Alliance members and friends pledged \$47,000 in Eleven Minutes. This year, we need to raise a grand total of \$75,000, so we've added two minutes for a lucky thirteen! Please join community media advocates across the country in funding our work.

Why we contribute. The Alliance is:

- Our **Voice** in Washington, with the US Senate, the House and the FCC
- Our **Connection** to media advocates in other communities across the U.S. and to our allies
- **Access** to information we need to be successful in our communities

What we can accomplish together

- Evolve and explore the changing technologies to better serve our communities across the nation
- Help un-served communities gain the Community-based media that everyone needs and deserves
- Develop a diverse set of leaders to ensure community media survives and thrives in the 21st century
- Build the Alliance's web capacity to ensure everyone's ability access local resources, analyze telecom issues and policy threats, and produce and distribute media with alternative viewpoints

How we can take action today!

- As an *individual*, make the Alliance one of the *top three organizations* for your donations
- As an *organization*, make the Alliance one of the *top resource* that you fund for services
- From our checkbooks, put the Alliance on the *top line* that says "Make your check payable to."

Yes, I'll help. I'll do it today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____

\$500 _____ \$1250 _____ \$2500 _____

(optional) I would like to allocate my contribution/pledge as follows:

Public Policy _____ Capacity Building _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

___ Cash ___ Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Return this form to the Alliance national office
666 11th St NW Suite 740 Washington DC 20001, Phone: (202) 393-2650 Fax: (202) 393-2653

Greetings from Grassroots

Grassroots Fund sends three to Midland Conference

by Sara Mahle

The successful Spring Conference in Midland, Michigan was enjoyed by many. Thanks to the Central States Grassroots Scholarship Fund, it was possible for three more happy attendees to partake in the festivities. Robbin Torrey of Richmond TV and Jamie Kinnison and Denise McLeod of Media Network of Waterford were the three proud recipients of these awards. They thank all the Central States Region for making this possible!

Testimonies from attendees:

"[Without]..the Grassroots Committee, I would have never been able to attend this conference and gain the new information, build the new relationships, and now have the opportunity to apply these new tools to my own center to make it an even better place to create and disseminate community media."

"I found that the organizers of this conference had created the perfect mix of serious topics, informational topics, practical application topics, group activities and a pair of excellent facilities to hold the conference."

"We were able to discuss the current issues at hand that may be a threat to the PEG channels in the near future and were given a better understanding of it than if we did not come to the conference at all."

"All in all, it was an awesome experience to take this knowledge home with us. We hope we can inspire those in our community the way you have inspired us. We hope to come to the Fall Conference East Lansing to gain a new breath of fresh air yet again!"

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Grassroots Fund. Your contributions DO make a difference!!

Central States Region Board members

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*Central States Region
Welcomes new Board members!*



Jennifer Teipel

I am the Media Director for the Campbell County Cable Board and Community Media Center in Northern Kentucky (C.C.C.M.). I run the day to day operations. I have been working in public access for twelve years. I have been with CCCM from its creation seven years ago, when the Board took over public access with just three access users and today are over 700. Working together with other centers in the area, I have been Co-Executive Producing the Blue Chip Cable Access Awards for the last four years.



Chip Bergquist

Chip Bergquist is the Executive Director at Waycross Community Media, the community media facility serving Forest Park, Greenhills, and Springfield Township, Ohio. A graduate of Indiana University, he has been involved with community access for 24 years, and on the Waycross staff since 1988. Chip directs the operations, programs, promotion, services, education and training, facilities, administrative, and regulatory functions at the center. Chip has also serves as the Treasurer of the ACM's Ohio-Kentucky Chapter.



Steve Sobel

Steve Sobel is the Administrative Specialist at CitiCable, government access for the city of Cincinnati. He has had a long career in cable television. Steve was recently coerced into serving as the Ohio-Kentucky Chapter Chairperson. Steve has become the unofficial photographer for Keylight as well.

Ohio Chapter Report

OK Chapter Meeting Minutes Friday 5/5/2006, Midland, Michigan

Present: Jeff Weinkam, Coleen Fulks, Chip Bergquist, Jason Grzegorek, Frank Clark, Tom Bishop, Rod Swartz, Tyler Meyer, Steve Sobel, Tom Shubert

Vice Chairman Steve Sobel opened the meeting and asked for approval of the agenda. Chip Bergquist moved to approve the agenda. Rod Swartz seconded.

Chip Bergquist reported on finances. Rod Swartz moved to accept the financial report. Frank Clark seconded.

Chip Bergquist reported on Information Services. Rod Swartz reported on Education.

Tom Bishop reported on Public Policy, once again asking each access center to do their part in contacting their local representatives and Congressmen. Frank Clark spoke about how we do not have the money for a lawsuit, that talking to our representatives is the only option.

Tom Bishop and Steve Sobel talked about the new ACM workshop format, that the chapters are going to be leading the workshops as early as 2007.

Steve spoke on New Business, about increasing the membership of the OK Chapter. He questioned the \$15 membership fee. Chip Bergquist argued that the fee was a good idea, and suggested keeping it in place. Tom Schubert volunteered to write a list of reasons why people should join the Chapter.

The OK Chapter thanked Suzanne Patzer for her years of hard work and dedication, and decided to elect a new Chair. Rod Swartz nominated Steve Sobel for Chairman. Chip Bergquist seconded. Elected by acclamation.

New Chairman Steve Sobel talked about the future of the OK Chapter. Rod Swartz talked about the lack of workshops, and how he'd like to see that number increase.

Frank Clark moved to adjourn. Tyler Meyer seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Central States Financial Report

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

by Norm Compton, Treasurer

As we approach the mid year, the Central States shows a total income of \$2,126 for the first half of the year. This reflects a wide variety of income and expenditures for member services and activities.

On the Income side: The very successful Spring Conference held by MCTV in Midland Michigan has netted over \$4,200 in profits from registrations and sponsors. A tip of the hat to Ron, his staff and the friendly people in Midland for a job well done! Fundraising for Public Policy has also brought in just over \$1,100 to help work toward a better access outcome from the legislative front. Tom Shubert is making it easy to support this important work with a selection of premiums available for donations.

On the Expense side: The Central States region has awarded five scholarships to people in our region to attend the national conference with grassroots scholarships. These people have had registration and up to \$350 covered for travel or lodging expenses. I know they had a great time in Boston and made many new friends.

In the second half we will see the influx of income from the Philo T. Farnsworth Video Competition being hosted this year by Media Bridges, followed by the Fall Conference to be held in November up in East Lansing. For financial planning we have a CD that matures in October so we will see that interest income before the end of the year. Overall the 2006 Central States Spending Plan is on track for another successful year.

National Board Report

New by-laws changes and membership challenge

by Matt Schuster

The 2006 International Conference and Trade Show was a successful event in Boston, MA. More details will follow in a future report.

The national membership meeting was held at the conference as well. If your membership is up to date, you will be receiving a ballot in the mail regarding three proposed by-laws amendments and elections for the National Board of Directors.

I ask for your support of the bylaws amendments on the ballot. The first bylaws amendment is to set a policy to define eligibility for voting in ACM membership elections/votes. The current bylaws need clarification to determine a date by which to establish the membership list for the elections. This bylaws amendment will meet that need.

The second bylaw amendment is to provide the Board of Directors with the ability to approve membership dues increases greater than 5% in a given year if necessary. The current bylaws require a vote of the full membership to increase dues by an amount greater than 5% in a given year. It currently

takes 18 months to institute a bylaws change – which does not allow the organization flexibility in its operation to meet needs. The 5% limit causes the organization to conduct a full membership vote, for any dues increase, since 5% increases often create odd or weird amounts for membership dues.

The third bylaw amendment creates new membership classes or levels for the organization. This amendment creates two higher classes of membership for those organizations which have the financial resources to contribute to the ACM's resources as part of their membership dues.

Please contact me at matt.schuster@louisvilleky.gov if you have any questions or would like more information on these proposed bylaws amendments.

The National Board kicked off the membership challenge fundraising campaign to help support the operations of the Alliance for Community Media. You can now make a donation to the ACM through the website at www.alliancecm.org. Please contribute to the organization, and help support the community media movement. The National Board has also started a more diverse fundraising campaign to further develop resources for the organization. The Board is focusing on raising funds for the main purposes of re-establishing a supportive public policy climate, organizational capacity building, and leadership development. See page 3.

You should have received a membership packet in the mail with a member ID card and information on the ACM. If you believe your membership is up to date and you did not receive a packet, please contact Denise Woodson in the national office at (202) 393-2650.



Don't forget to vote!

*raise your voice ** raise your voice ** raise your voice ** raise y*

Central States Spring Conference

by Ron Beacom

The theme of “Raise Your Voice” was reflected several times over the course of the three-day Spring Conference held in Midland, Michigan, May 4-6. At a Friday morning plenary session, we heard from Hap Haasch, Tom Bishop and attorney Michael Watza on the “Threats to our Future” focusing on legislation at the state and national level. At the keynote luncheon, Melissa Davert challenged us to “Raise Our Voice” to get lawmakers to listen. On Friday night, “The Resonators” percussion ensemble brought the symbol of the Alliance for Community Media, the drum, to life for an enjoyable start to our fun.

About 60 attendees traveled to Midland. Their evaluations of the conference spoke well of the planning, content, trade show, and hospitality events. Put November 16-18 on your calendars. That’s when HOM-TV in Meridian Township will host the Fall Conference in East Lansing, Michigan.

Thanks to our vendors for supporting our conference: Tightrope Media Systems, Compix Media, UniSet, City Animation, Duncan Video, Leightronix, Princeton Server Group, Pro Video, Roscor, Thalner Electronic Labs, and Full Compass.



Conference attendees tour Midland

Mark Monk relieved to be alive
on the “never ending /
will it make it around
the corner/
can this thing
go any faster bus tour”



Hands across The Tridge

The Tridge, located in the heart of downtown Midland, is a three way pedestrian footbridge. Built over the Tittabawassee and Chippewa rivers, The Tridge marks the spot where the two rivers meet. Built in 1981, The Tridge has become a meeting place for people of all ages.

“And over here in
our studio we plan....”
Ron Beacom conducts
a facility tour



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Fun on The Tridge

photos by Steve Sobel

Public Policy Report

COPE Act passes

More bills pending in Congress

by Matt Schuster

There is a lot of activity on the public policy front. The US House passed HR 5252, the *Communications, Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act* on Thursday, June 8 with a vote of 321-101, after significant lobbying from local government organizations, the ACM, and media reform organizations. The COPE legislation creates a national franchise system for cable services, and provides for cities to collect 5% franchise fees and a 1% franchise fee dedicated to PEG services. The language in this bill is harmful to many ACM member organizations.

The Senate Commerce Committee is passed Senate Bill 2686, the Communications, Consumers' Choice and Broadband Deployment. The National Governor's Association, National conference of State Legislatures, The Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and International City/County Management Association are urging the opposition and rejection of Senate Bill 2682 – now titled the Advanced Telecommunications and Opportunity Reform – Consumers' Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (H.R. 5252), based upon the issue of federal preemption. NATOA is working with these organizations.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, has indicated that Commerce Chairman needs to guarantee 60 votes for the measure to move to the floor, in order to prevent a possible filibuster of the bill.

The ACM National Office has been busy lobbying on our behalf in regards to this bill and has recently met with several Senate aides, including Republicans. The post-committee draft of the Stevesn Bill (HR 5252) has still not been released, so no one is exactly sure on the final wording of the bill coming out of committee. There is concern that that the bill is being "stripped down" to allow it easier passage. ACM Executive Director Tony Riddle has indicated that net neutrality is growing as an irreconcilable difference.

The bill will likely not reappear until September due to the August break. It is important that you meet with your Senators during this time in your home district, before deals are cut. Encourage your center's members and users to contact your Senators as well. Please contact the National ACM Office for information and support materials to use with your Senators.

**The situation in the legislature is changing daily -
please check the Alliance for Community Media website
for important updates**

www.alliancecm.org



Central States Public Policy Fund Drive



**Alliance For
Community Media**

Support the legislative advocacy work of the Alliance for Community Media! Choose a handy lunch bag, comfy baseball cap, attractive and professional portfolio or a roomy briefcase.

Premium Offer - Central States Public Policy Fund Drive



Premium Selections

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| Quantity | | |
| ___ \$20 | ACM Lunch Bag | |
| ___ \$30 | ACM Baseball Hat | |
| ___ \$50 | ACM Padfolio | |
| ___ \$100 | ACM Briefcase | |
| ___ \$200 | All of the above | |

Name _____

Address _____

Access Center _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Fax #s _____/_____

Email _____

ACM Member ___ Yes ___ No Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send check or money order to:

Tom Shubert
115 Wilbur Drive
Munroe Falls, OH 44262
Make checks out to: Central States ACM

Save the date!

NOVEMBER 16-18

That's when
HOM-TV in Meridian Township
will host the
Alliance for Community Media
Central States region
Fall Conference in East Lansing, Michigan

Don't miss the
Philo T. Farnsworth Video Ceremony
at the Fall Conference!

