

NSCC

NetWorks

a publication of the North Suburban Communications Commission

March/April 2006

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Greg Opstad (intern) and Ian Cobb prepare the cyan edit suite for upgrades.

CTAC alternate needed

CTV is looking to fill an alternate position for the Community Television Advisory Committee (CTAC). Applications are now available for public access producers and volunteers who are interested in serving as an alternate on the committee. This position will fill in for absent representatives of the Public Access side. Currently, the public access representatives are **Dave Greer, Robert Schultz** and **Brian Brady**.

The purpose of the committee is to provide input to the Board of Directors for the North Suburban Access Corporation/CTV and to staff on policies and procedures, equipment purchases and strategic planning. CTAC meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the

third Thursday of the month, approximately every other month.

The CTAC membership is composed of three persons representing public access, three representing educational access and three representing government access. Public access representatives on the committee must be current residents of one of the member cities and must be a currently certified volunteer and/or community producer.

Applications for the positions are available from the receptionists at our Roseville facility and on the web site (www.ctv15.org). The deadline for submitting an application is May 16, 2006.

CTV fun fact

On what date did CTV go on-air? Answer on page 3.

**The next NSCC/
NSAC meeting is
Thursday, April
6, at 7 pm at CTV
Roseville. Regular
meetings are held
the first Thursday of
each month**



A report from the trenches

And the beat goes on: The North Suburban Communications Commission, along with several other commissions and cities that are clients of Bradley & Guzzetta, LLC, on February 13 submitted comments on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Video Franchising. The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by **Senator Ted Stevens** (R-AK), held a hearing on local cable franchising on February 15. Proponents of local authority: 3; opponents of local authority: 5. More state legislatures, including Virginia, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Tennessee, are considering or have passed bills that preempt local authority to grant and manage franchises.

Many of the state bills are based on the Texas legislation that was passed last summer during the third or fourth special session that the governor had called so that legislators could deal with school funding. The bill that was approved moved virtually eliminated local franchising and created a state licensing procedure for competitive companies to provide voice, video and high speed internet services. The testimony below was provided by **Sharon King**, Dallas Community Television, on behalf of the Alliance for Community Media at a special meeting held by the FCC in Keller, TX, on February 10. Read it and weep. (By the way, the Texas legislature never did adopt a school funding bill.)

Although we probably don't have to worry about such sweeping changes in the Minnesota state law this legislative session, all bets are off for the 2007 session. One of the candidates for governor is **State Senator Steve Kelley**, who was the author of proposed legislation in previous sessions that would have moved video franchising to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

- *Coralie Wilson*

Testimony of Sharon King, Alliance for Community Media before the Federal Communications Commission

Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition for the Delivery of Video Programming
MB Docket No. 05-255

February 10, 2006
Keller, Texas

My name is Sharon S. King. I am the President and CEO of Dallas Community Television, the public access facility in Dallas, TX. I also serve as the Southwest Regional Chair on the National Board of the Alliance for Community Media. I want to thank Chairman Martin for inviting me to testify today on behalf of the Alliance, a national membership organization representing 3,000 public, educational and governmental (PEG) cable television access centers across the nation. Those centers include 1.2 million volunteers and 250,000 community organizations that provide PEG Access television programming in local communities across the United States. Local PEG programmers produce 20,000 hours of new programs per week – that's more new programming than all of the broadcast networks combined.

The Alliance for Community Media recognizes that there is a potential community value in encouraging competition in the delivery of video services. Operating in Texas, we have first hand experience in one of the first national experiments in elimination of local franchising authority. We feel that our experience here may offer some insight into what to expect - and not to expect - from changes enacted in hopes of speeding competitive entry.

Under existing law, there are many PEG success stories. Founded in 1972 by college students, Austin Community Television has been instrumental in the recognition of Austin as the live music capital of the nation. Tejano music was little known outside the small Latin clubs in Austin until producers Isidoro Lopez and Jerry Avala began their public access television show. Lopez is 67 years old and disabled, but full of energy. His show fully involves the Hispanic community, including bands, local businesses and volunteers. Isidoro says, "Without the public access Channels, no one would have known about this kind of music. The public greatly enjoys this service and wouldn't find it anywhere else."

Recently, large numbers of Hurricane Katrina survivors have poured into Austin - homeless, voiceless, alone. Many have found help and their own their voices on ACTV - and they believe they may have found a new home.

At Dallas Community Television, we offer direct service to more than 400 organizations per year. At least 40 of them are non-profit, service-based, client-directed organizations which provide end-user services to the community. DCTV produces a technically polished program for each, promoting their available services to

See franchising page 3...

franchising from page 2...

more than 225,000 homes. Each show represents about \$2,000 worth of in-kind services. We are building capacity for these organizations across metro-Dallas. The groups served are both emerging and established, including:

- Women's Haven Outreach, a shelter for battered women;
- New Hope, New Life, a program which helps women escape prostitution;
- Girls Incorporated, a national organization empowering low-income girls and women;
- Jonathan's House, a safe haven for abused children.

Following the Texas legislation, the Dallas City Manager called us in to discuss the implications. We were told that if she is not able to quickly access local franchise dollars, we will be gone. There is no way she can replace that funding out of Dallas general fund. Fifty percent of our operating budget is from local cable franchise fees. In the atmosphere surrounding the legislation, our budget was cut by 22% for FY 2006. The other 50% comes from membership fees, training fees, special events, grants, fundraising and garage sales.

Time Warner was in renegotiation with San Antonio at the end of last year, when their existing franchise expired. Time Warner broke negotiations, and applied for and received a state-wide franchise. They announced with little warning that they would no longer provide the studio, staffing or other support for public access that had been required under the local franchise, but which was not required under the new state-wide franchise. This had the immediate result of diminishing the resources of the people who owned the PROW. However, its effects, unintended by the statute's authors, went much further. In the few days between the announcement of the change and its implementation by Time Warner, the City was unable to acquire equipment, allocate funding and put the equipment in place. The channel went dark. Time Warner then invoked fallow time provisions which allowed them to take

the channel back for their own programming use. The City of San Antonio and its citizens are forced to patch together enough production resources to program the minimum number of hours required under the state franchise law to regain the channel they had operated for years.

The law was intended to keep existing PEG resources whole. It was intended to allow those without PEG resources a reasonable process to secure them. Its very first implementation led to a loss of existing resources, both financial and channel capacity.

The Alliance is in favor of competition. But the FCC must be extraordinarily careful in changing rules which have successfully provided the tools of democracy to our communities. We want to see competition add active new participants in PEG Access. Competition should not merely carve up an existing pool of video watchers. Competition should not be for the hope of saving a few dollars per year on a cable bill at the expense of priceless community involvement in expression, education or personal engagement in government.

Competition should not be used as an excuse to lower or escape existing and reasonable public obligations. PEG channel capacity should grow and change as the technology changes and community-need increases. PEG funding should be secured at reasonable levels over and above the 5% franchise fees.

We want competition, which allows the community to retain communications capacity. We believe competition can flourish in a system which respects a community's right to determine how best to use that capacity. We believe that the people who own the PROW deserve to collect fair payment from companies gaining huge fortunes through their use.

I want to thank the Members of the Commission for inviting us and thanks to your staff for their kind help. I will be happy to answer your questions - or help to find the answers for you at any time.

Answer to CTV fun fact

CTV began cablecasting on May 28, 1991.



More changes at CTV

As you no doubt remember from my last article (January/February 2006), CTV has started 2006 without **David Ensteness** and **Patrick Toth**. CTV always looks at departures as a way of tweaking current staff job duties. This is what we have done. CTV welcomes **Terri Schultz** as our Technical Services Administrator, **Pat Cook** as our Senior Project Manager, **Ian Cobb** as our IT Specialist and **Dave Schulte** as our Municipal Production Coordinator. Folks!

With those staff changes and additions, I think we have one of our strongest crews ever. I see a very dedicated group working together like a well-oiled machine to carry the CTV story. CTV has some very talented people in place to handle the new look coming to CTV in its anniversary year (15 years old!) and beyond.

The changes represent a

new approach to our engineering department. They are now listed as the Technical Services Department. This title change better describes how technology has affected this department. As CTV continues to provide the latest in production techniques and opportunities, we find ourselves heading into the world of computer and digital technologies. This new technology means more computer interaction and less traditional production techniques such as tape decks and tape as a mastering format. Yeah, I know some of you remember 3/4" tape! Well, soon we will be saying goodbye to 1/2" (VHS)! Don't panic, I'm not talking about this year. Hmm... perhaps in 2007?

For 2006, look for staff getting used to their new roles and see how far we can go as a public access facility!

- *Tim Domke*



Municipal productions

For those of you who may not know already, I have taken over as the new Municipal Production Coordinator. **Patrick Toth**, the previous Municipal Producer, has found greener pastures (literally) and moved to Tennessee with his wife and daughter. He will be missed!

I have been at CTV for just over a year and a half as the Channel 14 Programmer/MCO and have definitely enjoyed my time here. I am looking forward to starting my new position and helping to provide unique and important programming for our ten-city area!

As we look ahead to the next couple of months, CTV will be airing *Shoreview Today's* first show

of the year. The newest topics for this magazine-style show include Shoreview's communication tools, their new sports conditioning program and a highlight on the Slice of Shoreview committee. Once again, **Mayor Sandy Martin** hosts.

The Shoreview Community Center hosted a meth forum on the physical, mental and social effects of meth drug use and addiction. The event took place on February 22 and was open to the public. CTV cameras were rolling to document this timely event. Look for it to air on either channel 15 or Shoreview's channel 16 or both.

- *Dave Schulte*

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Must "C" TV

Channel 14

Channel 15

I would like to introduce myself. I am **Terri Schultz**, the new Channel 14 programmer. I began this new position in January and am still getting acclimated to the channel.

Dave Schulte has been excellent (and very patient) in showing me the ropes of the channel and, if you have observed anything out of the ordinary, that would be me. I have found we have an interesting mix of shows.

I would like to mention the method to submit shows to the channel. Channel 14 is our outside production channel. Essentially, that means the shows are produced without our help, facility or staff. They are shows produced elsewhere, and the producer would like them shown on our channel. The one important ingredient for submission is the need for a sponsor who resides within our ten-city area. We are always interested in ideas and suggestions to improve our schedule and encourage new shows.

Another thing I would like to briefly mention is the method that shows are submitted. We have had a couple of producers who want to submit shows and have a sponsor, but the shows are on mini DV. Unfortunately, that is not a format we accept. The show has to be transferred to a different format, which involves a lot of time. Our preferred format is an MPEG file on a DVD.

So, let's have a good year and do not hesitate to call me with any questions or ideas you have for the channel.

- *Terri Schultz*

I have a few reminders for CTV producers. CTV is not a storage facility. CTV holds tapes for 3 months. If you have turned in your own tape and would like it back, please make sure to pick it up within the 3-month time frame. CTV may recycle the tapes after this time period.

This is also a good time to remind producers to make sure that you have a copy of your program before you turn it in. This is not a perfect world, so if something would happen, wouldn't it be nice to know that you have a backup?

- *Staci Skoog-Bownik*

Birthday update

Happy birthday to us. Happy birthday to us. Happy birthday, CTV. Happy birthday to us. CTV is continuing its yearlong celebration with many exciting events.

March brings "March Madness." Turn in a short that is exactly 15 seconds long for double the points that you usually receive! There is a limit of 15 shorts per person. The deadline for the shorts is March 31st. How creative can you get in 15 seconds? Watch for the shorts to appear on a channel near you! (Channel 15, of course!)

April brings our Volunteer Banquet! This is the highlight of our year. We want to show our appreciation to everyone who has helped at CTV. CTV would not exist if it were not for people like you.

May is a time to reminisce about the past 15 years. Be sure to stop by CTV and check out our bulletin board. If there are any memories that you would like to share, feel free to do so. We would enjoy the history and the "remember whens".

Continue to watch the newsletter, web and channel for other exciting birthday promotions throughout the year! Enjoy your time volunteering for CTV and happy birthday to all of us!

- *Staci Skoog-Bownik*

Upcoming 15th birthday events

March: March Madness - 15 second short contest

April: Volunteer Banquet - 15 year video premiere

May: Remember When - old pictures and favorite stories displayed at CTV

June: Community Open House - public is invited to CTV for birthday cake and tour

www.ctv15.org

Volunteer Networking

CTV's annual Volunteer Banquet is just around the corner. This is our chance to recognize our talented volunteers for their extraordinary efforts. All volunteers and producers who earned one point or more in 2005 will be invited. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

This year's banquet will include a special segment - a compilation of show clips taken from the past 15 years. We hope you can join us on Thursday, April 27, for a fun evening!

- Lori Pulkrabek

Mixer on digital program submission

Do you have a computer of your own and have finished editing a program at home? Are you a student and have been using the school's computer to finish a program for CTV? Are you now wondering how to get it from your computer to ours for CTV to play on our channel? Now in the digital age, a program can be turned in to CTV without putting it on tape. Join CTV for a mixer on how to put digital files on a DVD-R to play on the channel.

The fun begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at CTV for a mixer on how to submit a digital program. Special guest volunteers will provide tips using your Mac or PC. Come to CTV for an afternoon of fun, food and an education to boot. Best of all, it's free! See you there.

Call CTV at 651-792-7515 for questions or to reserve a spot. RSVP's are appreciated, but not necessary.

- Staci Skoog-Bownik

Help CTV help some good causes

For those that don't already know, *Neighbor to Neighbor* is an interview program featuring nonprofit organizations that serve CTV's member cities.

We provide a studio space, crew, and production expertise to local nonprofit organizations, as well as a chance to appear on our cable channel and website.

This is a great opportunity for new volunteers to shadow a staff person or an experienced volunteer. Everyone who volunteers the whole day will get a chance to try a variety of studio positions. Remember the shadow program? For those that don't, here it is again:

Shadow. shad-ow (n) somebody who learns a job by following and observing somebody else who knows or regularly does the job. Shadow a staff member or a fellow volunteer for a day to see the many different aspects of CTV. You'll be able to collect volunteer time and see what a truck shoot is like or experience a studio program. You may even get to shadow for on-location camera work or shadow a host of one of our many programs.

Interested? Then mark your calendars. *Neighbor*

to Neighbor will take place during the day (somewhere between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.) on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 11
- Friday, May 12
- Thursday, June 15
- Friday, June 16

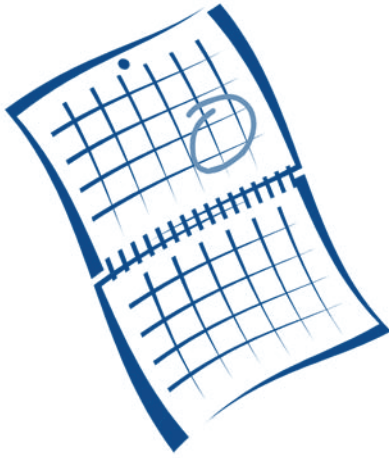
Last summer we featured fourteen different nonprofit groups after a mere four days of production! They included: Auriton Solutions, Better Business Bureau, National Institute on Media & the Family, MN Alternative to Violence, Caring Bridge, Access for All, Comonbond, Jewish Community Relations Council, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, Kiwanis International, Minnesota Literacy Council, The Salvation Army, MN State Fair Foundation.

As always, I am open to suggestions for groups to feature on this program. If you have suggestions for nonprofit groups that should be featured, please let me know.

- Kyrsten Thompson

Volunteer Hours for Programs Submitted in January & February

Christ the King	(9 Shows)	James Hart	(52 Hours)	Jerry Otto	(71.5 Hours)
Andrew Albing	(7.5 Hours)	Arleigh Heeren	(3 Hours)	Wilford Parnell	(2.5 Shows, 13 Hours)
Dennis Alm	(9 Hours)	Cindy Heitman	(5.5 Hours)	John Pearson	(9 Hours)
Colin Anderson	(18.5 Hours)	Mike Hermes	(5 Hours)	Nicholas Peterson	(19 Hours)
Ellen Anderson	(3 Hours)	Linda Hildebrant	(4 Hours)	Chiquita Plowman	(3.5 Hours)
Harold Anderson	(3 Hours)	Paul Hoffman	(2 Hours)	Wayne Powers	(20 Shows, 1 Short)
Jessie Anderson	(89.5 Hours)	Layton Hoof	(6 Hours)	Nathan Prouty	(4.5 Hours)
Maureen Anderson	(1 Show, 9 Hours)	Mark Hughes	(2.5 Shows)	Jim Radford	(4 Shows)
Ted Aspnes	(30.5 Hours)	Douglas Isiminger	(13 Hours)	Lynn Redlinger	(4 Shows, 24 Hrs, 1 Short)
M. John Azar	(22 Shows, 65 Hours, 2.5 Shorts)	David Israel	(3 Hours)	Adam Reinardy	(9 Hours)
Jack Barlow	(22 Hours)	Al Jansen	(10 Hours)	Leslie Reindl	(.5 Show)
Andre Barte	(2 Hours)	Brian Jansen	(28.5 Hours)	Wilhelm Reindl	(.5 Show)
Steven Bentley	(44 Hours)	Eric Jenson	(4 Shorts)	Teresa Renneke	(4 Hours)
Priscilla Berg	(2 Hours)	Ken Kaffine	(5 Hours)	D.J. Rhode	(69.5 Hours)
Jarame Berneche	(175 Hours)	Mkamiti Kibayasi	(2 Hours)	Lucy Riethmiller	(3 Hours)
Dan Blageo	(32 Hours)	Jacci Krebsbach	(10 Hours)	Maryanne Riley	(81.5 Hours)
Neil Blageo	(84 Hours)	Mark Kroll	(2 Hours)	Duane Rivard	(3 Shows, 25.5 Hours)
Jim Blood	(8 Hours)	Ryan Kroll	(92 Hours)	Nate Rowekamp	(9.5 Hours)
Eric Bollensen	(1 Show, 86 Hours)	Brandon Kronwell	(3 Hours)	John Rusterholz	(1 Show, 91.5 Hours)
Maria Bollensen	(6 Hours)	Philip Kurth	(16 Hours)	Heather Rylander	(11 Hours)
Brian Brady	(7 Shows, 204 Hours)	Aaron Larson	(1 Hour)	Jason Schneider	(16 Hours)
Dennis Brady	(12 Hours)	Dave Larson	(2 Hours)	Randolph Schoonover	(6 Hours)
Kathy Brady	(7 Hours)	Rick Larson	(6 Shows)	Bob Schultz	(2 Shows, 12 Hours)
John Buenger	(91.5 Hours)	Alexandra Lawlor	(43.5 Hours)	Doug Setley	(1 Show)
Ashley Burton	(4 Hours)	Lue Lee	(3 Shows)	John Sommer	(8 Hours)
Chelsie Buske	(24 Hours)	John Leo	(5.5 Hours)	Jake Sorensen	(52.5 Hours)
Ian Cobb	(5 Hours)	Benjamin Lockett	(25 Hours)	Aria Steele	(17 Hours)
Patrick Cook	(18 Hours)	Ben Luedtke	(4 Hours)	Joey Stepnick	(93.5 Hours)
Krystal Cooper	(5 Hours)	Callen Magnuson	(1 Hour)	Deb Telschow	(44 Hours)
Eric Crosby	(39.5 Hours)	Ray Mandich	(3 Hours)	Kyrsten Thompson	(1 Show)
Dean Dahlen	(3 Hours)	Joe Mans	(31 Hours)	Tabitha Thurman	(2.5 Hours)
Solange Dias	(3 Hours)	Jason March	(34 Hours)	Roger Tobolt	(6 Hours)
Michael Dirnberger	(16 Hours)	Ruth Mason	(85.5 Hours)	Todd Tollefson	(26 Hours)
Nathan Dording	(2 Hours)	Matt McCrorey	(19 Hours)	Emily Tran	(9.5 Hours)
Michael Ducharme	(3 Hours)	Keith McGregor	(11 Hours)	Vanessa Van Alstine	(1 Show, 16 Hours)
Nick Eason	(37 Hours)	Liz McKimmy	(1 Show, 3.5 Hours)	Shawn Van Hamm	(12 Hours)
Mn Dept of Education	(2 Shows)	Joe McQuillen	(20.5 Hours)	Dave Verhasselt	(1 Show)
Dane Emmert	(35 Hours)	Heather Minter	(7 Hours)	Krista Wallace	(5 Hours)
Jo Ann Erbes	(.5 Show, 30 Hours)	Stephen Molina	(41 Hours)	LeAnn Wallace	(3 Hours)
Keith Flanagan	(1 Show, 20 Hours)	Larry Morrisette	(7 Hours)	Curt Wallisch	(14.5 Hours)
Kyle Foster	(9 Hours)	Daniel Morstad	(6 Shows)	Dean Ward	(3.5 Hours)
Joan Gerten	(59 Hours)	Joseph Mueller	(48.5 Hours)	Rex Warnsholtz	(27 Hours)
Dan Gillett	(39 Hours)	Elizabeth Mulligan	(5 Shows)	Eric Weisman	(4 Shows)
Sheldon Gitis	(2 Shows)	NB Dept of Public Safety	(1 Show, 1 Short)	Daniel West	(4 Hours)
Norm Good	(14 Hours)	Glen Newton	(15 Hours)	Marcus Weyhrauch	(4 Hours)
Brian Grant	(7 Hours)	Mark Nicklawske	(27 Hours)	Roxanne Williams	(1 Short)
Mary Gravelle	(8 Hours)	Ronald Nolby	(3 Hours)	Barbara Wills	(26 Hours)
Doug Gray	(4.5 Hours)	Dan Norrick	(48 Hours)	Tom Woods	(12 Hours)
Michael Haglund	(1 Short)	Michael O'Brien	(4 Shows)	Leni Zian	(12 Hours)
Jim Hanson	(1 Hour)	Dave Olsen	(8 Hours)	Robert Zuniga	(7 Hours)
Carol Ann Hart	(12 Shows, 107 Hours)	Zak Orcutt	(27.5 Hours)		



Mark your calendar!

Saturday, April 1 - Mixer at CTV

See page 6 for information

Thursday, April 27 - Volunteer Banquet

Watch for your invitation in the mail

Return Service Requested

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(CTV North Suburbs)
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North Suburban Access Corporation

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