

**MICHIGAN NATOA CHAPTER**  
**Friday, September 23, 2005**  
**Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill**  
**Washington D.C.**  
*Pending approval*

Meeting called to order by President Kathy Sherman at 5:30 PM.

**Attendance**

Dave Albery, West Bloomfield; Caren Collins, SWOCC; Diane Griffiths, Lake Orion; Leslie Helwig, Bloomfield Township; Bill Irving, Dearborn; Tom Hanson, Birmingham Area Cable Board; Leslie Helwig, Bloomfield Township; Jon Kreucher, legal counsel, Kreucher, PLC; Tim Lundgren, legal counsel, Varnum Riddering; Harold Patrick, West Bloomfield; John Pestle, legal counsel, Varnum, Riddering; Kathy Sherman, Southfield; Jo Ann Van Tassel, Lake Orion; Mike Watz, legal counsel, PROTEC;

**Treasurer's Report**

Mike Ager, Canton Township, submitted a financial report dated July 2005. He also submitted a proposed budget for the fiscal year October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. Caren Collins moved that they be accepted and Tom Hanson seconded the motion. Kathy Sherman explained that the only significant change from last year was the inclusion of \$4,800 in expenses for the Les Rose workshop, which should be largely recovered by registration fees. The financial statement and the budget passed unanimously. Please see attachment.

**President's Report**

Kathy Sherman submitted a report covering Membership dues, benefits, and chapter meetings for the 2004 – 2005 year. It was unanimously accepted. Please see attachment.

**Election of Officers**

Kathy Sherman stated that all current officers had agreed to run for another one-year term. She asked for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Jon Kruecher moved that the slate be accepted and Dave Albery seconded the motion. The slate was passed unanimously. Officers are: Kathy Sherman, President; Caren Collins, Vice President; Mike Ager, Treasurer; Leslie Helwig, Secretary.

**Discussion**

Legal Updates:

John Pestle reviewed recent Texas legislation, SB 5, which was passed overwhelmingly by legislators and signed by the governor. (There was one SBC lobbyist for every 1.5 legislator.) The bill shifted franchises to the state level. Franchises for incumbent cable operators are unchanged and overbuilders can opt in. New video providers (especially phone companies) have no build-out requirements (red-lining is not prohibited). The definition of gross revenue is favorable to municipalities. I-net provisions continue through 2008; after that municipalities will have to pay incremental costs. Pestle's summary is that the cities came out okay and that the end bill was better than the 1<sup>st</sup> draft.

Mike Watz reported that the Michigan class action suit was resolved satisfactorily for municipalities. The most influential point was that the statute of limitations had expired. Municipalities hoped that the tax/fee argument would have been given more consideration.

He also said that MI Rep. Nofs is drafting a bill that would wipe out municipalities' wireless services. It has not yet been introduced.

Congressional/Senate visit summaries:

MI NATOA members visited the following offices on Thursday and Friday, September 22 & 23: Reps. Rogers, Knollenberger, Dingell, Stupac, Levin, Upton. Sens. Stabenow & Levin. At each visit, we stressed the importance of local control of franchises for the purposes of revenue, preservation of universal services, and protection of public rights of way. We discussed the various responses from the elected officials or their staff members. John Pestle volunteered to write a summary and distribute it to MI NATOA members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.