

## THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NATOA

### Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2008

Andiamo Restaurant

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In attendance: Leslie Helwig, Kristin Kolb, Mike Ager, Bill Irving, Bill Mathewson, Jon Kruecher, Caren Collins Fifer, JoAnne Gurley, Lisa Hawkins, Linda Badamo, Ralph Salmeron, Diane Griffiths, Evelyn Goudreau, Paul Dingeman, Lynn Meikle, Cathy White, Lisa Wondrash, Jeannine Finegan

- 1) Caren Collins Fifer opened the meeting, welcomes those present and asked for introductions. She reminded those present that it's time for 2008 membership renewals. This year, the board would like to encourage volunteers to step up from the membership, specifically for website updates, the NATOA Pro Group and other tasks, either ongoing or for a specific period of time.
- 2) Jon Kreucher, attorney with Howard & Howard, presented the "Strategic Plan" to address Michigan's Public Act 480 of 2006. The NATOA board had previously reviewed it and voted to accept the plan as a springboard for possible future action as problems present themselves. Jon further gave a synopsis of the Comcast PEG Channel move to digital and their plan to do away with PEG analog channels, so that customers without digital TV's or digital cable converter set-top boxes would no longer be able to view PEG channels. Jon further discussed the meeting with Comcast and the NATOA board at his law office in December. Also in attendance were Southfield city attorney Sue Ward, Joanne Gurley and the supervisor of Shelby Township Ralph Maccarone.
- 3) Lynn Meikle from HOM-TV (Meridian Township) spoke to the group asking for communities to consider donations to help offset the litigation costs toward Comcast. Meridian Township would be grateful for \$500 and up pledges. They have received many so far, but if all communities that would benefit from this action could assist, the burden would not have to be born entirely by one community that happened to step up in a way that will likely benefit all PEG access facilities and cable subscribers in Michigan to keep PEG channels readily available. Court action at this time appears to be the only way to stop Comcast from moving the channels on January 15, 2008.
- 4) Linda Badamo stated what she had heard in communication with Macomb County state lawmakers who were intending to assist PEG channels by proposing a resolution opposing the Comcast move. That action was to have occurred as the NATOA meeting was taking place, which was the first day back in Lansing for many lawmakers, after the holiday break. The Alliance for Community Media's Hap Haasch was in Lansing the same day as the NATOA meeting and had spoken with Linda about his plans to meet with representatives face-to-face. Bill Mathewson also shared information regarding this topic. It is unknown how far the legislature can go to assist, but it was good to see that 60 Representatives were co-sponsoring the Resolution and the Senate was considering passage of a concurrent resolution stating same.
- 5) Treasurer's Report: Michael Ager gave the balances available in the checking and savings account, as well as total assets for the Michigan NATOA chapter.

The meeting concluded at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Badamo, MI-NATOA Secretary