

**Alliance for Community Media
Michigan Chapter
General Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 1, 2014

Location: Spring Conference, Dayton, OH

1. National-ACM Changes

MI-ACM is in the process of getting NPO status and we will be an affiliate to the National Alliance for Community Media- as they decided in recent discussions.

2. Upcoming Events

- A. The Fall event is the pre-kick off of the Philo festival on the 10th, which will be a PEG Crawl/station tours in Michigan. All Central States Region members are invited to attend as well.
- B. The MI-ACM Spring conference will be the second week of March, in Lansing 2015 and we will partner with NATOA with either a kick off before or right after MAB.

4. AT&T Audit

- A. Background: AT&T claimed they overpaid access centers in Michigan more franchise fees than they were supposed to, so AT&T gave themselves money back and less to the centers. When proof was asked for AT&T to show their calculations, they were denied. So Meridian Township with the help of 12 other communities filed for an Audit to be conducted for AT&T.
- B. Reason: Overall, the 13 communities involved want to know if they calculated correctly, and if the centers are due back any money.
- C. Resolution: A non-disclosure document has been signed stating that the process used to conduct the audit cannot be shared to the public, but only the findings can be shared after the audit has been conducted. It is expected to be done sometime in June, and it was filed in January.
- D. Cost: It is costing approx. \$85,000 to do the audit. Deborah Guthrie from Meridian Township is spearheading the audit communications for the 13 communities. Also, Meridian Township is picking up any extra fees that are coming with the audit process.
- E. Contact: Contact Deb Guthrie if you or your center would like to help with additional fees or if you would like more information. (guthrie@meridian.mi.us)

5. AT&T Engineering Study

The National-ACM is conducting an engineering study with AT&T and their delivery system. This study is to address AT&T's poor delivery to at home customers- incorrect aspect ratio, audio issues, etc. ACM is trying to prove that there is a better way to show the access product in a better resolution with the hardware they already have. More information on this study will be coming soon. They will be trying to get money for this project and some possible fundraising events will be coming up. For more information contact the National-ACM at this time.

6. CAP Act

This act is to change federal language stating how PEG franchise fees can be used. Current language says only for brick and mortar items. This would help centers be able to spend franchise money on equipment, etc. The CAP Act was passed in CA. MI added that they can't charge transmission fees to the CAP Act language. Get involved! This will be coming up in MI soon, so now is a good time to talk to your local officials so they know about the CAP Act and its importance!

7. MI-ACM Contacts

Find us on the Web now at miacm.wordpress.org and soon at miacm.org. Make sure you are on our email list! Email MI-ACM President, Alysha Schlundt-Bodien at (ASchlundt-Bodien@a2gov.org) to get on that list. And always remind fellow colleagues and volunteers on how they can get involved!

8. Executive Board Meeting

After the general meeting concluded the Executive Board met. In attendance was: Alysha Schlundt-Bodien, Deborah Guthrie, Ashley Berens, and Beth Mitchell.

- A. Alysha made a motion to approve \$100 to spend on dinner at the conference before the Dayton Dragons game to help the Ohio Chapter. The \$100 was contingent upon the Ohio Chapter going over their \$500 budget. The motion was approved 4 to 0.
- B. Alysha made a motion to approve the URL on the MI-ACM Wordpress Website to www.michiganacm.org. The motion was approved 4 to 0.

/MI-ACM Secretary: Beth Mitchell