

OK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Ohio-Kentucky Chapter Meeting and Elections

The next OK Chapter meeting and annual elections will happen at the TAKE A DIP IN THE BIT STREAM--streaming seminar and membership meeting. It is April 23-24 at DATV in Dayton, Ohio. This seminar will focus on "Digital Capture & Delivery Of Your Content," and will be presented by Don Davis of D & R Networking. If you were at the Akron conference, you are sure to have attended one of Don's informative workshops.

The OK Chapter will be electing the Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Also, the positions of Ohio Public Policy representative, Kentucky Public Policy representative, Information Services, Conference Planning and At-large. All OK Chapter members are entitled to vote.

We are sorry to be losing our Vice Chair, Melissa Mills of DATV. She has been involved with the OK Chapter, Central States regional Board, and the National ACM Board. She worked as Grassroots Chair for many years. We will miss her on the Board, but sure we will see her at conferences.

Anyone involved in PEG access including staff, producers, volunteers and Board members are eligible to be nominated for the OK Chapter Board. To nominate someone or yourself, you may email Suzanne Patzer, OK Chapter Chair at spatzer@cscs.edu and nominations will be taken on the floor at the meeting.

The streaming seminar begins April 23 at 1pm, followed by the Central States regional members

meeting. The last portion of that meeting will be state chapter meetings, so if you are interested in running for the Board, voting, or joining the OK Chapter, please don't miss it!

Registration for the workshop are limited to 50 people, so REGISTER TODAY!

Overnight accommodations may be made at the Holiday Inn Dayton North. Mention you are with the Alliance For Community Media for a special rate of \$72 per night. Call 1-937-278-4871 for reservations.

For more information and registration forms, visit the Central States website at www.csregionacm.org/regional_conferences.

Hope to see you there!



TAKE A DIP IN THE BIT STREAM



The Alliance For Community Media
Central States Region
Spring 2004

STREAMING SEMINAR & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"Digital Capture & Delivery Of Your Content"
Presented by Don Davis of D & R Networking

APRIL 23-24

Dayton, Ohio

See insert for registration



Philo Award competition coming your way soon

The Alliance for Community Media Central States Region honors the memory of Philo T.

Farnsworth, inventor of the first receiving tube for television transmission, by recognizing the efforts of modern day pioneers who work to further develop the use of this technology and promote the use of television in our communities. The "PHILO" is awarded as recognition of excellence in cable programming.

Any non-commercial program cablecast on a PEG access channel from the ACM Central States region (ACM members and non-members) which includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, is eligible. Central States will also accept programming from access centers and producers from Illinois. There are other categories for other forms of multimedia communication too, and access center compilation categories. Entries may be from professionals, nonprofessionals or students. The awards presentation will be held at the 2004 ACM Central States Regional Fall Conference in Troy, Michigan. For up-to-date details, see www.csregionacm.org for details.



Columbus Enters a New Era in PEG Access

After a shake-up in the system of awarding contracts for educational and public access at the City of Columbus, PEG access is now experiencing a tentative renewal. In 2000, City of Columbus officials pulled the contract from its public access organization, Community21. GTC-3, the government access organization run out of City Hall, began operating the channel.

For a few years, an outside entity accepted tape submissions and prepared tapes for playback. But, for the last two years, public access has been a text-only community calendar/bulletin board. In the meantime, a community task force analyzed public access centers in other cities similar in size to Columbus and offered recommendations to the City, should it continue funding sometime in the future.

The City issued an RFI, which was answered by a newly formed community media center, "The Neighborhood Network," and approved by the City for a \$41,000 contract to operate public access. As of April 2004, there has been no more progress and no funds released to The Neighborhood Network.

In March 2003, the City also pulled the contract from Educable TV25, Columbus' educational access organization, and formed a partnership with Columbus State Community College (CSCC) to operate the channel. Both CSCC and the City put in \$60,000 the first year, but decisions are pending as to whether the new "Learning Network of Central Ohio" will continue to receive City franchise funds. The government channel, GTC-3 continues usual operations.

Media Democracy Conference

May 14 & 15, 2004

Hosted by:

Grand Rapids Community Media Center

Keynote Speaker:

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now

To register:

Call GRCCM at 616-459-4788

Access in Trouble in Kentucky

by Jason Dudas

The Kentucky Governor's current budget proposal (*KY HB 395*) contains a section (*KY HB 662*) creating a new excise tax on all telecommunications services throughout the commonwealth. This proposal threatens the ability of the local authorities to collect *franchise fees* and may threaten their ability to negotiate and maintain current agreements for in-kind services (*already in place with local cable providers.*) Proposed is the creation of a new level of state bureaucracy that would collect a 7.5% excise tax from all telecommunications companies statewide. This new tax would replace the local 5% franchise fee and remove the collection responsibility from the local level. We have been active at both the state and local level to ensure protections of the distribution of the state-collected franchise fees to the local cities. To date, the state budget appears to be D.O.A., but the Governor has promised to insist on a special legislative session, perhaps this summer, in order to have the state budget adopted.

Northern Kentucky has historically sent far more dollars to other parts of the commonwealth than

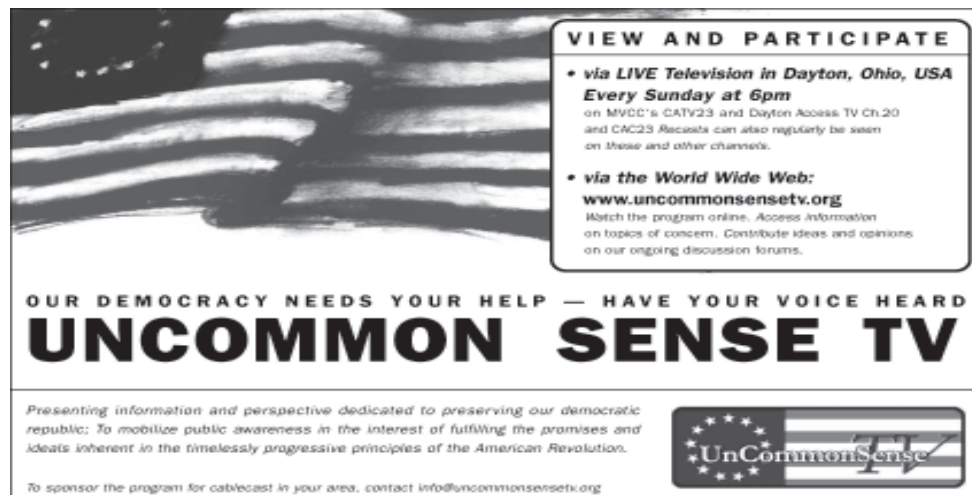
have been returned back, in areas such as transportation and education, and we do not want to see franchise fees added to that list. Sending the franchise fees to a central government "clearing-house" could threaten our ability to serve our communities and call into question the validity of the remaining years in cable franchises in many areas.

Past attempts to initiate similar state-run telecommunications excise taxes have sought to prohibit local franchise authorities' ability to negotiate *in-kind* services. In Northern Kentucky, this would have eliminated an already existing "Institutional Network" that is used daily by our local governments to air live video of their local city meetings and fiscal courts, keeping our citizens informed. Under the current proposal, this I-Net IS PROTECTED. This would be at least one major victory for access should this budget eventually be passed.

Alas the waters still remain murky in regards to the PEG funding fee and we are trying to clarify some of the bill's content with its author at this time. Under

current franchises, the cable company has agreed to provide financial support in lieu of providing PEG facilities and staffing through the cable company as an *in-kind* service, which was, again, committed to in the LOCAL franchise. The elimination of these *in-kind* services would cost our local PEG facility almost half of its public access budget. Past attempts to establish this state-run excise tax have sometimes made vague promises of holding local authorities whole, but have totally ignored the *in-kind* services problem.

If these state excise taxes are ever to become a reality, it is imperative that local protection comes along as well. If our local communities are to even consider the idea of supporting a state-run telecommunications excise tax, it must include an indefinite "*grand fathering*" of the local cable franchise agreements and the infrastructures created within, or a permanent separation of the enforcement and collection of non-cable state telecommunications excise taxes from that of the local cable franchise fees. The fight continues.




VIEW AND PARTICIPATE

- via **LIVE Television in Dayton, Ohio, USA**
Every Sunday at 6pm
on MVDC's CATV23 and Dayton Access TV Ch.20
and CAC23. Repeats can also regularly be seen
on these and other channels.
- via the **World Wide Web:**
www.uncommonsensetv.org
Watch the program online. Access information
on topics of concern. Contribute ideas and opinions
on our ongoing discussion forums.

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Join

THE OK ALLIANCE!

Or renew your membership

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

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Stay current on PEG access happenings in Ohio and Kentucky, network with other access folks and support the Alliance for Community Media. Check out the website: www.waycross.org/okalliance



**Alliance for Community Media
2004 International Conference and Tradeshow
July 7 – 10, 2004
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina**

OK Chapter
1240 Bryden Rd.
Columbus, OH 43205