LOOKING AHEAD
Karen Hayden, ACM-NE Region Chair

The National conference is coming up this August 6-8 in Philadelphia. This city's rich history includes overseeing the writing of our nation's constitution founded on revolutionary principles. After some amendments, this included the idea that people had the right to speak freely, without fear that their government would imprison them. In 1776, this was a groundbreaking idea.

Two hundred years later, Congress passed the landmark Copyright Act of 1976, which endeavored to set precedent for the future technologies with which humans would communicate. Barbara Ringer (1925–2009), the first woman to serve as the Register of Copyrights in the United States Copyright Office, was one of the lead architects of the 1976 Copyright Act. She wanted the law to truly protect the individual’s right to his or her own work, no matter how it was created.

One of the biggest challenges we often face in this age of the internet is that people think that anything they find there can be used in their access television programs. Words, images, videos and especially music are often inserted in shows—illegally. Anytime we do not educate the public about copyright or look the other way, we are doing our producers a disservice. The law protects all of us, including our volunteers who create their own original works. Some producers may think that using someone else’s work is a compliment, but in truth, unless they have asked permission, it is form of disrespect. It is the rule of law that promotes the ultimate respect of the individual’s rights, allowing us to speak freely and be who we are. That is why Barbara Ringer worked so hard to get the Copyright Act passed.

On another note, I have been thinking that Public, Educational and Government Access is a little like a Philly cheese steak. If you ask anyone in the city how to make a cheese steak or where to find the best one, there are as many answers as there are people. It is this same kind of individuality that makes access media meaningful and relevant. It is individuality that makes our communication human. It is a waste to take the easy way out and use what someone else has created instead of taking the time to make our own. That’s the message we can always share as stewards of community media.

See you in Philadelphia. Please pass the cheese steak!

Join us for the ACM & NAMAC National Conference -
State & Main: Intersecting Networks, Communities, Generations!

A wide cross-section of the independent media sector will convene in Philadelphia for NAMAC and ACM’s first-ever Joint National Conference, August 6-8, 2014. This conference will bring together creators, thinkers, policy makers, administrators, and funders to hear the most current thinking about the field’s future opportunities, to create a national platform for the media arts, and to strengthen our networks. Structured around one or more key theme areas, each day allows all who attend an opportunity to hear, to participate, and to chart our future together.

We look forward to seeing you all in Philly for 3 days of workshops, parties, tours, the 2014 Hometown Media Awards celebration and convenings of some of the greatest minds in the fields of media, art, and film! Be sure to visit the official conference website for more information regarding the conference and hotel reservations.

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Maine-ly Access
Sally Hebert, CTAM Representative from Maine

Adapted from the Spring 2014 issue of CTAM Messenger, as found on the website of the Community Television Association of Maine, together with news from our Maine representative, Sally Ann Hebert.

CTAM held their 2014 Annual Meeting on June 24 in Belfast. This meeting featured a presentation by Northeast Historic Film on “Archiving in the Digital Age.” Congratulations to Sally Ann Hebert, who was re-elected as Chair of their Board of Directors. Also re-elected were JP Fortier (secretary-treasurer), Ned Lightner (membership/outreach) and Brian Knoblock (meetings/projects coordinator). Tony Vigue stepped down for Legislative Review, and Steve Galvin was elected to the board.

For the April membership meeting at Lincoln County TV in Newcastle, the featured speaker was Chris Morgan of EZStream. Online viewing with 24/7 live streaming and improvement of online storage capacity are among the services offered by this company. EZ Stream has offered to provide CTAM a streaming page for the website where CTAM members who stream their programming could provide a link. An update was anticipated at the next meeting.

In the area of public policy, Tony Vigue was in touch with Maine legislators regarding the CAP Act and the Comcast / Time Warner Cable merger. If the merger is approved, individual towns whose franchise requires approval by municipal officials will need to sign off on transferring the Franchise Agreement to Comcast. Towns may be able to delay the approval by their town government if they have a documented outstanding franchise compliance issue with TWC that has not been addressed. The issue could be related to customer service, financial issues or operation problems. CTAM members were told to check for a written record of unresolved issues with TWC and to make sure their town government is aware of the problems so that they can be raised – and hopefully resolved – before their town votes to approve the franchise transfer. Once the transfer is approved the outstanding issues are moot.

Access stations were also warned to keep a close eye on developments relating to Net Neutrality. The outcome of those policy discussions could impact those stations that either stream their signal and/or provide video on demand. If priority (paid) access to bandwidth is permitted, the remaining available bandwidth might be insufficient for stations to provide a quality streaming/VOD signal. More information can be found at Common Cause.

ACM-NE Region Board of Directors 2014

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Treasurer, Barbara Chisholm, WACA TV Ashland Cable Access (MA)
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Sally Ann Hebert, WGLT TV 7 Greene Local Access Channel (ME)
Patrick Cody, Ludlow/Plymouth/Cavendish Television (VT)
Southeastern Connecticut Television Opens Its Doors

Just over ten years ago, Frank Facchini found himself at a fork in the road. Comcast made a business decision to stop operating public access studios and announced a plan to subcontract with a third party to manage community access. As a Comcast employee, Frank believed that creating a non-profit with a Board of Directors representative of each town in the territory was a better option. He started talking with local stakeholders about his vision for community television by and for the people.

In 2005, Southeastern Connecticut Television (SEC-TV) applied to the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (later, Public Utility Regulatory Authority or PURA) to be named the designated Connecticut Access Provider (CAP) for the towns of Groton, Ledyard, Stonington, North Stonington and Voluntown. It was a long road with many twists and turns. In November of 2013, SEC-TV received the final PURA decision, giving them official CAP status subject to signing a lease in an approved location.

Frank and his board began the process of locating and financing a space prior to receiving any funding. They settled on 80 Plaza Court, Groton, CT and started renovations. On June 18, 2014, Frank was joined by state Senator Andrew Maynard and SEC-TV Vice Chair Liz Viering to cut the ribbon in front of a packed house at the grand opening ceremony of the new studios. The location offers 3,000 square feet, doubling the size of the old studio, and features a three-camera production environment with separate control room. There are also edit suites for linear and non-linear post-production. "We're excited to be in this new space with some new equipment," he said. "We couldn't be happier."

The Connecticut chapter of ACM welcomes Southeastern Connecticut Television as the newest member of the national Alliance for Community Media. We are so pleased to celebrate the opening of a new media center in Connecticut. Frank and his courageous board have work toward this day for a long time. We thank them for their commitment to local media created by and for the people for the public good. We can’t wait to see the how their vision grows.

CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority Hearing on Frontier Communications and AT&T

AT&T Connecticut’s proposed change of control to Frontier Communications was the subject of a three-day hearing at the end of June before PURA. Fifteen community media centers had filed correspondence previous to the hearing, listing concerns regarding technical and contractual matters. Frontier Communications filed a reply stating that they will honor the current AT&T interconnection agreements and were willing to pay the per subscriber funds required by law. They suggested that a technical meeting be held with each municipality to discuss outstanding issues. Frontier also announced they will move their national office from Stamford to New Haven and pledged to invest across their network. During the hearing, they did not specify the allocations for broadband, telephone or U Verse video.

VAN on the Move

Tidbits gleaned from the Vermont Access Network website.

At their May 22 meeting, VAN elected the following officers:
• Lisa Byer, President
• Kevin Christopher, Vice President
• Seth Mobley, Treasurer
• Elizabeth Malone, Secretary

They discussed making improvements to their website, using their grant from ACM[-NE] to pay necessary expenses. This resource provides information on how the VT Public Service Board works and how VAN members function with it and changing tele-communi-cations in the state—educational for those both inside and outside Vermont.

VAN was scheduled to hold their annual Board Retreat on June 26.
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Wish ACM Northeast success in all its endeavors

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The firm’s principals represent many non-profit public access centers in cable license, regulatory, corporate, governance, tax exemption and related matters. Peter Epstein and Bill August look forward to working closely with and advocating for the public access community.
Integrated Solutions Group is proud to support Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region in its mission.

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**True Value?**

When I think of TV, I think of Tony Vigue - true value to the local access television community of Maine.

The man who gives all to local access and CTAM Observes the world around him
Never ending keeping up to date on what is happening in the local access world
Years of serving on CTAM as member and Board

Vision for local access Inspirational Go getter
Unique handles all Public Policy for CTAM while being manager of SPTV and on the board of SRTV and CTN not to mention father, grandfather, husband
Everyone a friend to all in local access world

Tony, I could not let tonight’s meeting go without saying a few words to you. You have been a friend, mentor, and comrade to local access television with everyone in this room. We all wish you the best of luck in the next few months. We will all be thinking and praying for you. If you need anything, you know how to get ahold of us.
What is Net Neutrality? Why should I care?
by Erica Jones
SCATV – Somerville MA

As a community media center, SCATV understands the importance of having low-cost, fast Internet access. We use the Internet for a variety of marketing and communications efforts as well as video archiving, data storage and online streaming. We rely on fast Internet speeds to upload and download video content and to stream local basketball games, government meetings and festivals. Additionally, our members are producing high quality programs such as news shows, investigative documentaries, arts and cultural event coverage—programs which can reach beyond our town’s borders and compete with other local news outfits as well as keeping a strong online public presence along with other arts organizations because fair treatment on the Internet lets users find and view our programming.

We can express our First Amendment right to free speech and our creative innovation largely because of an Open and Free Internet, one that does not discriminate based on pay-to-play tiers like the cable television model. We want to continue to compete and be heard with everyone else. Money shouldn’t be an issue, but unfortunately we are surrounded by money-hungry media corporations who want to get more bang for their buck.

If you are new to this conversation, have heard the buzz words floating around the web, or heard news media talking about Net Neutrality, then consider the following: Maintaining a free and open Internet is one of the most important Freedom of Speech issues of our time.

What does the future hold for an Open Internet? According to Free Press—a nonpartisan organization advocating for universal and affordable Internet access, diverse media ownership, vibrant public media and quality journalism—companies like “Verizon [and Comcast] can now block or slow down any website, application or service they like. And they’ll be able to create tiered pricing structures with fast lanes for those who can afford the tolls—and slow lanes for everyone else.”

Does this sound like the Internet as we know it? I don’t believe so. With the alarming series of media consolidations among cable and internet providers and without the assurance of true Net Neutrality, a Pandora’s Box has been opened. For example, if Netflix pays more “rent” to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to use the Internet highways, so will we. Consumers always pay more to cover increased costs to those content providers eventually. Deals between businesses and ISPs will increase dramatically as those businesses also try reach to their programmers.

Is there any good news? What can we do? Some good news is that on June 23, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution calling for genuine Net Neutrality. The resolution asserts the importance of including “comprehensive nondiscrimination as a key principle for any FCC rulemaking.”

It is important to find out where your elected officials stand on this issue and reach out to them. Schedule a meeting and let them know you care. As Free Press keeps pushing, the main objective is to establish a solid nondiscrimination rule. The most elegant solution is for the FCC to reclassify ISPs as common carriers. This would give the FCC more ability to regulate ISPs, to avoid any outright discrimination and absurdly high service costs.

It is important to utilize the connections and resources that our stations offer for public awareness and education. Reach out to other local techie geeks, grassroots organizations, public libraries, educators and anyone else in your community who can collaborate on raising that awareness.

Somerville Community Access Television organized a panel discussion last March on the topic of Net Neutrality in collaboration with the Massachusetts Pirate Party, Cambridge Community TV, Arlington Community Media, Inc., and Boston Neighborhood News Network. Local university professors and other media gurus convened to have a lively conversation about how this will impact many Internet users, far and wide. Another event is scheduled for Saturday, July 12 for a follow up conversation about this and the impact of media mergers. Other media centers like PhillyCam in Philadelphia have organized similar community dialogues.

If you are interested in coordinating something like this, please reach out to me at programming@scatsomerserville.org. I am happy to help give any insight or guidance.

In the meantime, let’s all keep up the good fight and remind ourselves why we are here, doing this important work for the community.

This Summer at the Conference ...
Check out the list of panel titles and descriptions.

Key Public Policy Issues: Our Perspectives
This panel will provide an in-depth focus on the federal agenda for community media centers, including captioning standards, AT&T U-verse, electronic program guides, funding streams, federal PEG priorities, HD conversion standards, Franchising, the Telecom Act, and Community Access Preservation Act.

The Future of Net Neutrality or: Fear and Loathing in the Digital Commons
The FCC’s ongoing rulemaking regarding net neutrality has raised many issues that are of great concern. What does the future hold for Open Internet in the United States? And what are its implications for a media center or access channel? How does net neutrality or the loss of net neutrality affect your practice as it relates to organization and distribution? And more broadly, how might it threaten free discourse, democracy and the digital commons? This workshop provides an in-depth discussion regarding these and many other related issues that evolve from the net neutrality debate.

Media Mergers: Fall Out or Rally Cry
This workshop will provide an in-depth discussion of the issues that arise from the Time Warner/Comcast merger, and other major media mergers on the horizon. What is the latest update on the status of the merger at the Department of Justice and FCC? Are conditions being proposed and if so what are they? What about the local level of approvals of the merger? What are the implications for broadband and media diversity? Hear from those in the trenches at the federal and local level.

Continued on Page 9
EXPAND YOUR AUDIENCE
with the LEIGHTRONIX IncodeX One™ Point-to-Point Solution

Holland, MI—Tulip Time, the annual Holland tulip festival, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to the West Michigan city with parades, tours, Dutch dance performances, and over six million tulips. In addition to all those who attend the outdoor events each year, there are still those who prefer to watch the events indoors or are unable to be outside all day due to age, illness, time constraints, or other circumstances creating the need for Holland’s community television station (HCTV) to provide a live Point-to-Point broadcast.

Location 1 - Parade
HCTV had numerous cameras stationed throughout the parade route on W. 8th street, which fed into a production switcher. This switcher then provided a high-definition video feed to the IncodeX One video encoder. The IncodeX One encoded the video as high quality H.264 video and delivered a high-definition video feed over the city’s network to a high quality decoder at the civic center. The result was a live Point-to-Point HD broadcast that displayed the feed on a large screen for citizens to watch indoors at the civic center.

Location 2 - Civic Center

Read the full story and watch a video overview of this event at leightronix.com/tuliptime

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View from the Hill
Community Media and Media Arts Organizations must pay attention to the variety of legislative and regulatory actions at both the state and federal level. Issues such as the IP transition, broadband deployment, PEG support, rewrite of the Communication Act, copyright/fair use issues in our new paradigm, and the loss of local control to state and federal level are on the front burner. Hear from experts advocating for our concerns on these issues and become better informed to address them.

Non-Profit Boards: I’ve looked at Boards from Both Sides Now
This interactive workshop offers insight into trends in non-profit governance, keys to an effective Board-Staff partnership, and practical tips for attracting and retaining effective board members. Executive Directors, other Staff Leaders, and Board Members are encouraged to participate. We will look at Board Governance from “both sides” to bring the perspectives of board members and staff leaders into the room for co-learning.

Beyond the Collective: Building New Partnerships and a New Generation of Media Arts Communities
In an era when cameras are affordable, editing systems can run off home computers, search engines and social media keep us connected, why do media makers still want to be a part of institutional communities? Formal and informal networks and organizations can be essential to the sanity, support, and success of every artist/maker. Successful organizations provide essential lifelines for media makers on both a regional and global scale. Find out how they sustain community (and their own existence) and adapt to the needs of the communities they serve. Learn how Community Media and Media Arts Centers can collaborate, share best practices, extend their reach with strategic partnerships and funding initiatives, and engage communities in new ways.

Committing to Accessibility and Inclusion
Learn about approaches to building inclusive cultures within an organization. On-the-ground-staff from community media and media arts organizations will share information about how to develop, implement, and evaluate methodologies that can improve the quality of an organization’s inclusive values and practices. Capacity building tools and information about funding to support inclusive community outreach work will be provided in this session.

Measuring Impact: Output or Outcome?
Is impact a matter of output or outcome? For many media access and community media centers, successful impact may be a matter of how many on-air hours, how many guests, how many constituents actually saw the program, as opposed to ‘what happened’. For filmmakers in the not too distant past, impact may have been a matter of box office numbers, broadcast slots, or awards and nominations. But today, particularly for the independent media artist, impact implies a matter of affecting social change through engagement strategies. How do we evaluate the impact on the community from the work that we do? How do we specifically measure the effects of our work, particularly when it comes to social impact? What are the latest tools and trends to assist with this kind of assessment?

New Business Paradigms
Silos are out. Shared services, partnership, mergers, and joint ventures are leading the way to new programming, audiences, revenue, and relevance. What are the latest models and most effective hybrid approaches to help build these collaborations? What new forms of organizational leadership and social entrepreneurship are worth highlighting across the non-profit sector? Come hear from those who have successfully launched new business model as we develop case studies for new community media and media arts center opportunities.

Into the Great Wide Open: New Ideas Built on Open Source Solutions
The core of non-commercial communication is open source culture and applications. From resident operating systems to web applications, open source is the next generation of access to telecommunications networks. This panel will present best cases of open source culture applied in the community media movement: from management systems to open networks, we’ll look at a variety of open source solutions. Panelists will explain what it takes to adopt and implement open source tools to support art and community change.
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**Media Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Legacy**

One of the greatest risks our global media community faces today is the loss of significant media collections that document the art, culture and history of our diverse communities. As audio and video technologies change, and as old formats grow older and degenerate, we must find a way to preserve and digitize these precious works of media art and other cultural artifacts. But how to prioritize this mass body of work? What are the different types of approaches we might take towards this project? And who are the vendors and production houses doing great work in this arena?

**Current State of Affairs in Community Media and Media Arts**

**Fundraising: Meet the Funders (Speed Meetings)**

Confirmed Participants:
Mary Smith, Acting Director Media Arts, National Endowment for the Arts

**Innovative and Successful Models for Earned Income**

In a climate when even reality checks seem to be buffering, what are some innovative ways that our organizations have been able to develop earned revenue or new funding sources? We’ll hear from community media and media arts centers who have found successful funding models (i.e., service revenues, contract models) by exploring relationships in their communities.

**Small Donors, Big Impact: The Power of Community Giving**

This panel will explore the evolution of individual giving and look at various micro-grant and crowd-funding methodologies that have successfully (or in some cases, unsuccessfully) employed online digital tools to leverage individual and community donations, and to expand community engagement. What does the world of small individual donors on-line look like? What are the various ways in which this world is being structured? What are the best practices for a successful crowdfunding campaign? Have our media access and media arts centers exploited crowdfunding and micro-giving to its fullest potential?

**Creating Compelling Content for Community Radio / LPFM**

As more and more applicants are granted construction permits by the FCC for their new LPFM facilities, it’s time to shift focus from the application process towards the creation of compelling radio programming, with a particular emphasis on how to collaborate with local organizations – especially arts organizations – on acquiring innovative content, as well as engaging the community for support. The panel will also be relevant to stations without LPFM licenses that might still want to incorporate Internet streaming radio or podcasting into their repertoire.

**Leading Edge in Hyper-Local and Citizen Journalism**

Hear from those who are using media tools to empower the voices of those who are seldom heard in mainstream media, or offering alternative modes of access to information beyond that provided by dominant media outlets. Whether it’s a hyper local geographic story or an issue of global significance, everyday citizens now have the ability to tell their own stories and transmit information worldwide. This panel will bring together an exciting cross-section of community media and media arts center organizers to share their experiences.

**Multiple Platform Social Media Strategies**

(a.k.a. If a Tree Falls: How to Be Heard in the Social Media Forest)

How can nonprofits use social media more effectively? How can it be used to achieve your marketing and communication goals?

Should you Tweet or Pinterest? Where should you focus your energies? And will anyone listen? This panel will focus on how non-profits can use different platforms to engage audiences, build community engagement, and use online storytelling in effective ways. Learn from the experts about the key elements of social media strategy, organic growth tactics, and how to use planning tools to keep you on track.

**Rural, Regional, and Indigenous Media Projects**

How can our organizations support local producers in making content that speaks to their unique contexts? Community Access Centers outside of major metropolitan hubs, such as New York and Los Angeles, do not want to simply ‘import culture’ produced from these areas. There is a continuous need for local content creation, and a desire to produce one’s own culture. How do smaller community access channels and media arts organizations sustain local production, distribution and exhibition in an ever-increasing global economy?

**Game On: Gaming for Engagement**

Why should media access and media arts centers pay attention to games? How does community media capture the hearts and minds of youth who are so engaged in an interactive, gaming world? How might we use interactive technology to connect and educate, and to build self-determination and expression? How do we begin to conceive of a mission in this space? Is there indeed a mission in this space? For media access and media arts centers, what is the entry point? Can you leverage program elements that you currently have into a different realm? And what is, if any, the value proposition? This panel will explore the status of public purpose gaming, its potential for future engagement, and how media access / arts centers might integrate it into their activities to expand audiences, revenue, and connect with new generations.

**Media Arts Organizations in the Roaring 2020’s**

What new technologies are developers and engineers working on that will soon be taken up by pioneering artists and media arts centers? What does tomorrow look like? How are media arts organizations responding to the proliferation of media production technologies and media distribution technologies (social media, expansion in documentaries and film festivals)? What do content producers need from their media access / media arts centers? What are interesting collaboration models that can increase the capacity, reach and impact of media arts centers? What could and should tomorrow’s media centers look like?

**Bridging the Gap: Workforce Development in the Youth Media Field**

Youth media programs across the nation are realizing more and more that their students are in critical need of alternative advising, mentoring, and workforce development to bridge the gap between high school, college and a career. Navigating what can be a very complex pathway is extremely challenging for many young people, especially those lacking social or financial support and/or who are first generation, college-bound students. This moderated panel will identify the issue at hand, profile organizations offering formal “pathway” programs, and give insight into how other youth media programs can assist their students in transitioning from high school into today’s competitive universities and workforce.

**Tracking Alumni Success in Youth Media Organizations**

This moderated panel discussion will focus on the importance of maintaining strong relationships with youth media program alumni in order to better understand the impact that participating in those programs have had on their life’s journey. It will profile a recent
Then stick around for the

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