

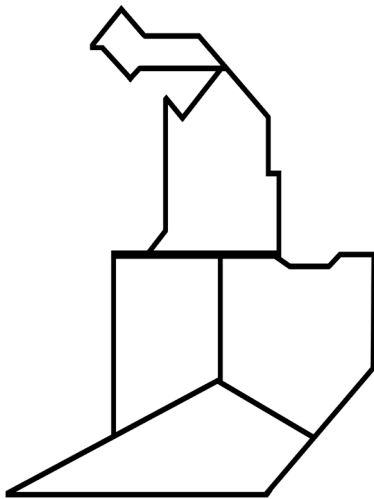


**Alliance for Community Media
Central States Region**

KEYLIGHT

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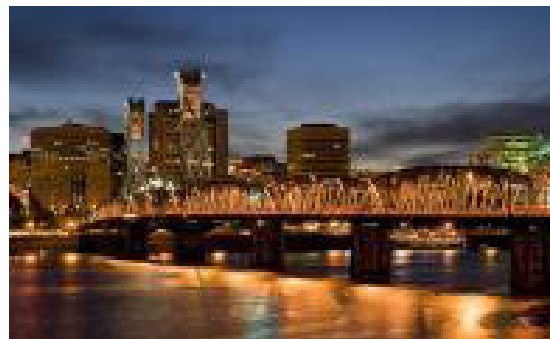


Crossroads in Community Media



**National Conference in
Portland, Oregon
July 15th- 18th**

**In this
edition...**
• Chair Chat
• Special recognition to
Steve Fortriede
• Note from Grassroots



www.csregionacm.org



Following a tidal wave of state cable television franchising legislation in 2007, many of the most vulnerable community media centers in the Central States Region of the ACM have either been shuttered or are facing imminent closure. In Michigan, we have challenging situations in Flint, Saginaw, Owosso, Traverse City, and Holland. In Indiana, we have South Bend/Mishawaka and Muncie slipping into the abyss.

Its time to perform triage on this situation and identify those PEG centers and communities that stand a fighting chance to pull themselves out of the quicksand trap laid by AT&T's cable legislation.

I recently spent an afternoon and evening meeting with some wonderful people in Owosso, Michigan. They have two community access channels, with electronic bulletin board announcements on one channel and a heavy dose of church programming on the other. The City would like to move these channels forward with a sound operating structure, some new technology, and maybe some human resources (oh my!). As is expected of this position, I have willingly offered CSACM consultative services to this community. We may need to provide technical expertise, or even some of our older but still functional equipment to help this community re-launch their channels. The investment would be well worth it.

Sitting at Owosso City Hall while community media advocates brainstormed about all the programming they might create, I couldn't

help but feel I was in a flashback to 1984 or so...when I first stepped into the world of community media. It was powerfully surreal! I realized that after managing large, well funded PEG centers for the last 20 years, I have lost touch with the "make it happen" spirit I came into this business with. It was good to reconnect with this, because I believe it's "crunch time".

I'd like to see the CSACM and our strongest PEG centers commit staff time and other resources (e.g. old equipment racks, cables, decks, cameras, routers etc.) to crafting an operating plan for at-risk PEG centers, then engage in a "station-building" effort in Muncie, South Bend, Owosso, and any other community we identify as having the potential to "make it". I think we have a short window of opportunity to leverage modern playback technology and our expertise to "save" several PEG centers from the scrapheap. Within days, I plan on putting the Chapter Chairs together on a conference call to form an action plan on this idea.

As much as I feel compelled to focus on my own community media center, I know others are looking for a life-line. I can't turn away and not try to help them. I hope others with resources, or simply elbow-grease, will jump in with me.

Hap Haasch, Chair, CS Region, ACM



Recognition for Steve Fortriede by Norm Compton

I recently had the opportunity to give recognition to a person who has been a mentor to me. I had the pleasure of nominating Steve Fortriede for The Roxie L. Cole Leadership Award, sponsored by Central States Region of the Alliance for Community Media. The Roxie Cole award recognizes those who give back to their communities and carry on Roxie's vision of keeping community media a vital and integral part of our society. Steve retired in March as the Associate Director of ACPL after 41 years of service at the Allen County Public Library. Steve was instrumental in negotiating public access into Fort Wayne's cable franchise, and providing for the library's operation of "Channel 10" starting in 1981. For 28 years Steve has been a huge part of the growth of AFW. Many of those years he has also been very active in the Alliance for Community Media serving on regional and national boards and committees.



Pictured, Norm and Steve

I first met Steve in 1987 when I was hired as Manager of Defiance Community TV and Steve was providing consulting services for them. From Defiance I worked with Steve on regional activities for the Central States for many years. He helped me develop leadership and board skills. Steve had also worked with Roxie Cole in activities of the Alliance and that adds to the meaning of this recognition.

When I applied for the position here at Access Fort Wayne, Steve interviewed me and liked what I had been able to do in Defiance. Steve became my supervisor and the mentoring continued. I remember on my second day on the job in 1999 being asked by Steve if the proposed plans for the renovation of the Main library would be alright for future growth for AFW. He said it with a grin, and as time went on I learned about Steve and what his grinning usually meant.

Steve is a true leader, passionate for what he believes, inspiring and touching the lives of so many. It has been great to work with him, knowing he would support AFW and the Alliance. I consider him a three star General among leaders. He does not want to grab the limelight, but he has vision and knows how to get things done.

Since his retirement from ACPL, Steve has shifted gears but is not slowing down. Within the library, Steve's position has not been filled, but duties have been reorganized. AFW is now under the supervision of Communications Manager Cheryl Ferverda. This is going to be a good move consolidating the print shop, TV and radio aspects of the library. Cheryl has many years of experience as a Senior Manager at ACPL. The transition has been smooth and the future looks bright!

Greetings from Grassroots by Sara Mahle

The 2009 Roxie L. Cole Leadership Award
On April 24th, at the Community Media Summit in Richmond, IN, the 2009 Roxie L. Cole Leadership Award was presented to Mr. Steve Fortriede. Nominated by Norm Compton of Access Fort Wayne, Steve has been a member of the Alliance for decades and has served on both the Regional and National boards of the ACM. He was instrumental in negotiating Public Access into Fort Wayne's cable franchises back in 1979, leading to the start of what is now Access Fort Wayne. A true leader that has inspired and touched the lives of so many people, Steve has been an advocate, a mentor and a Senior Statesman for the Alliance and its leadership. Steve personally knew Roxie Cole and worked with her in the activities that shaped the current organization of the ACM as we know it. As a recent retiree from the Allen County Public Library after over 41 years of service, we congratulate Steve on winning the Roxie Cole Award and for all of his amazing accomplishments.

Scholarship Funds Really Make A Difference!
In these rocky economic times, we all want to make sure our money is well spent. For those who have contributed to the "Grassroots Jug" in the past, here is your proof that the money was put to VERY good use! These funds helped four individuals attend the Community Media Summit this past April. Here's what they had to say:

"I was very excited as a scholarship winner to get the opportunity to travel to Richmond and meet more members of the Alliance and discuss issues regarding community television. I feel that the conference was a great event for me to take part in, and I left Richmond with a renewed passion for access TV and a strong desire to improve the way we operate at Access Fort Wayne."

-Jennifer Hancock, Production Assistant, Access Fort Wayne

"The conference was of great value to me-- as a VISTA, I was new to community media and many of the issues surrounding it when I started working at Media Bridges, and the conferences have probably been the single most helpful thing to me in terms of learning what community media is all about."

-Elizabeth Gousettis, VISTA, Media Bridges

"The Grassroots scholarship gave me the opportunity to attend my first Alliance for Community Media Conference. It was a both a fun and educational experience. At the time I had only been working at a PEG center for a few months and the conference allowed me to network with professionals from other centers and gave me invaluable insight into the broader picture of community media."

-Katie Finnigan, VISTA, Media Bridges

"I had been considering getting more involved with ACM. Attending the Central States Conference helped me get to know some of the members and determine the best way I can be supportive to ACM's mission."

-Angela Siefer, Founder, ShinyDoor, newly appointed ACM National Board Member

These and other scholarships awarded by the Central States region would NOT be possible if it wasn't for the generosity of our membership. Thank you all!!!



Pictured with Sara Mahle,
Scholarship Recipients

**Are making
the trip to
Portland?
Be sure to
attend the
Regional
meeting.**

**Congratulations to
Sara Mahle, who
was married last
month!**



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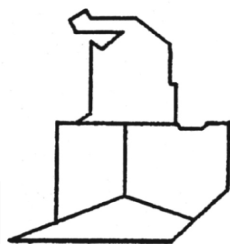
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CENTRAL STATES ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA
FALL 2009 CONFERENCE



Alliance For
Community Media



October 15-17

Strongsville, Ohio

Holiday Inn

15471 Royalton Rd.,
Strongsville, OH, 44136

(877) 408-4913

Reserved under "Alliance For Community Media"



Hosted by Brunswick Area Television

Speaking of Changes....

The Central States Website is in the process of being rebuilt. Look for a completely redesigned and updated site in August.

Central States Region Rocks!



IDEA Seminar in Ft. Wayne, IN



OKI Chapter



Hap with Dave at the Summit



Workshop at the Summit

