



TATO A Update

9th Annual Conference A Great Success!

TATO A's 9th Annual Conference—Converging Technologies in Big D got off to a great start with the Mayor of Farmers Branch declaring August 5-6 TATO A Days in Farmers Branch. 39 speakers from across Texas and the Nation brought current information to the attendees.

The 3rd Annual Programming Awards luncheon had laughter, bloopers, and high-tech. The competition had 116 entries this year. Mattie Roberts of TXCN's "Morning's with Mattie", was the Emcee of the luncheon. DVDs of the luncheon are available to attendees.

Check out page 3 for more recap information from the Conference.



Farmers Branch Mayor Bob Phelps proclaiming August 5-6 TATO A Days in Farmers Branch

2005 Site Committee

Victoria LaFollette is chair of the 2005 Conference Site Committee. If your city would like to host the 10th Annual Conference or has suggestions please contact her at vlafollett@ci.nacogdoches.tx.us.

Pat Nicks Resigns

Pat Nicks, Community Affairs Director for the City of Irving and TATO A Vice President announced that she is resigning from the Board. Pat has been on the board since TATO A's inception serving as Treasurer 1996-1998, North Regional Representative 1998-2000, Secretary 2000-2001 and finally as Vice President since 2001.

Pat has been a valuable member of the board and will be missed. Pat received an appreciation plaque at the Awards Luncheon during the Conference.

Bylaw Election

At the business meeting held during the annual conference this year, Keith Reeves, City of Denton proposed that a new position be added to the board that would represent the government access programmers.

With the success of the programming track this year, a board position dedicated to programmers could be beneficial in expanding the programming track of TATO A. Currently, the board does not have representation from the programmers. *continued on page 2*

Inside this issue:	
President's Message	2
Bylaw Election (continued)	2
Conference Recap	3
NATO A News	4
Reeves wins Scholarship	4

BALLOTS IN MAIL

Please check your mail for your officer and bylaw ballots. Ballots are due September 17, 2004.

For more information on the Bylaw election please see page 2.

President's Message

The Ninth Annual TATO A Conference is behind us now, and we can all be proud of what a success it was. The "Converging Technologies in Big D" theme was well-represented in a number of the sessions, rounded out by other workshops on such staple topics as regulatory and legal issues. This year's conference continues the fine track-record for providing the best in timely information, discussion, and networking for TATO A members.

The highlight of the event was, without a doubt, the Third Annual Programming Awards luncheon. The quality and number of entries just keep growing every year. Emcee for the proceedings was the charming and funny Mattie Roberts, assisted by some brilliant video clips produced for the occasion by Paul Wahlstrom and the crew at Irving Community Television Network. Kudos to Paul and company for those, as well as for the souvenir DVD of the occasion. This year's awards program showed that once again, our members have raised the bar for quality and creativity in government access programming.

On the subject of conferences, the NATO A 2004 Annual Conference is scheduled for September 15-18 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Finalists for the 2004 Government Programming Awards have been announced, and the judging results are now available online at www.natoa.org and go to the Awards page under Conference/Events. The 2003 GPA Banquet program, Discovery Communications vignette and the en-

tries from the first place winners of the Impact and Overall Excellence Categories can all be seen there.

There is also a call for more Committee members, so if you're interested in becoming more involved, visit the Committees page under Members Only to sign up. Also, information about recent developments and NATO A's position on specific issues such as rights-of-way and cable modems can be found on the Policy/Advocacy page.

There is some important TATO A business coming up next month, with the TATO A board elections. The terms of the current Board Members/Regional Representatives will expire September 30th, 2004. Mailed ballots were sent out the end of August.

All current members are running again for their current positions, except for Pat Nicks, who has served on the Board since TATO A began. We really appreciate her hard work and commitment to the organization over the years. Margaret Somereve will run for Vice President, Janet Mastronardi will run for Secretary which leaves a vacancy for North Regional Representative. Please note that anyone eligible can run for any position, vacancy or not

For more information, including eligibility requirements, please refer to TATO A By-laws (Article 5) which are available on our website at www.tatoa.org in the Membership section.

Rondella Hawkins
City of Austin

Bylaw Election

continued from pg 1

Adding this position would require a change to the by-laws. The ballots for officers will include the following language to allow for an additional board member. The new language is included in bold italics:

ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS

SECTION I. Board of Directors

The officers of the TATO A Board of Directors shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The membership shall elect four (4) Regional Representatives and ***one (1) Government Access Programming Representative*** to the Board of Directors and all Directors shall be full voting members.

SECTION XII: Government Access Programming Representative

The Government Access Programming Representative shall assist in matters related to programmers, PEG programming and other government access channel issues. To be eligible for this position, the member must be currently serving as a staff member of a gov-

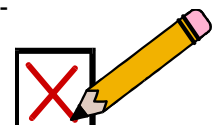
ernment access channel.

Section XI is proposed for a bylaw amendment also to clear up the inconsistency between this section and Section I related to election vs. appointment. ***SECTION XI: Regional Representatives***

In order to ensure diversity of geographic representation, ~~***the Board may appoint additional members of the Board to Regional Representatives***~~ shall assist in matters related to regional matters, including, but not limited to, membership recruitment and communications ***as well as all other board matters. Regional Representatives shall represent North, South, East and West Texas.***

Please be sure to return you ballots for the bylaw election as well as the officer elections.

For a copy of the TATO A's by-laws please go to www.tatoa.org.



CONFERENCE RECAP

Regulatory Track Recap

The 9th Annual Conference, held at the Wyndham Dallas North by the Galleria, focused on converging technologies. Coralie Wilson, NATOA President gave an update on the issues at the FCC while Clarence West discuss the issues at the Texas Public Utility Commission. Both discussed the voice over internet protocol (VOIP) facing both agencies. Kathy Grant from the Texas Cable & Telecom-



Gerry Lederer, Kathy Grant, Joseph Cosgrove VOIP Panel

munications Association, Joseph Cosgrove from SBC and Gerry Lederer from Miller and Van Eaton discussed the pros and cons of VOIP for consumers and cities.

A lively discussion took place on whether or not cities should regulate/audit cable rates during the Cable Rates panel while another panel with representation from SBC Communications focused on fee audits from both the cable side as well as the telephone side. Cable issues were continued in a panel on customer service issues with a focus on the consortium of North Texas Charter Cable Cities

Representatives from Airespace, Sprint and T-Mobile explained new WiFi technologies and what it will mean to consumers.

Finally broadband service providers (overbuilders) were discussed by representatives of Grande Communication and the City of Denton, currently facing cable overbuilding.

For more information and to see many of the presentations please check out www.tatoa.org.

Programming Track Recap

The programming tracks at this year's TATOA conference proved to be the most successful ever with higher attendance and more sessions than previous years. Programmers from all over Texas showed up to get tips on programming, legal, and technical topics from industry professionals as well as their peers. Special thanks to the moderators and speakers for their time and wisdom.

The programming awards luncheon was exciting this year with the Irving Community Television Network producing the event. Mattie Roberts was the emcee for the ceremony that awarded trophies in 24 different categories. More entries than ever were submitted this year from a record 17 different cities. Special thanks to Mattie and the entire ICTN crew for making this a memorable experience. A limited number of DVD copies of the ceremony are available from TATOA for playback on your government access channel.

If you are interested in helping with the programming awards or coordinating the programmer's sessions at next year's conference, please call Keith Reeves at (940) 349-7272 or keith.reeves@cityofdenton.com.

Remember to budget for next year's conference and programming awards competition now so you are able to join us and/or participate next year!



Mattie Roberts announcing the winners (photo from awards ceremony dvd)

COMING NEXT MONTH

Election Results

Verizon Telephone offering Cable

And Much more!

TATOA

*Texas Association of Telecommunication
Officers and Advisors*

c/o City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

We're on the Web!
www.tatoa.org

NATOA Conference

This year's 24th Annual Conference, Opening the Golden Gate: Crossing Bridges, will be held September 15—18, 2004 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA.

Highlighted at the conference will be IP—Internet Protocol, a revolution in the telecommunications technology. The goal of this year's conference is to help provide the bridge from the current regulatory scheme to the uncharted future, to give us the knowledge and understanding to make that future work for us, our organizations and our communities.

The 19th annual government programming awards gala will be held on Friday evening. Discovery Networks is sponsoring the event. The cities of Irving, Plano, San Antonio, Richardson and Allen are finalists for awards this year.

For more information on registration, please go to www.natoa.org.

Reeves Wins Scholarship

In connection with the 24th Annual NATOA conference, Discovery Network awarded two conference scholarships. Keith Reeves, Video Producer for the City of Denton received one of the two scholarships.

Keith had to submit a short essay that explained why he thought his attendance at NATOA's conference would be valuable to them as government access staff.

Winning essays were selected on several factors including the need expressed and what they would do with their opportunity.

This is the first time that NATOA has offered an opportunity such as this to its members, and it was only made possible through the generous donation of Discovery Networks, which also sponsors the Government Programming Awards Gala.

TATOA congratulates Keith and wishes him well at the Conference in September.