

WAPC



Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels

Serving the needs of public, education, and government cable access television stations since 1998.

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WAPC honors five state legislators with the Friend of Access Award; Oshkosh's Urben Inducted into the Hall of Fame

The Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels (WAPC) is honoring five state legislators with its annual Friend of Access Award at its Spring Conference on April 30 at the Ho-Chunk Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. The five legislators are Representatives Terese Berceau (D – Madison), Garey Bies (R – Sturgeon Bay), Gary Hebl (D – Sun Prairie), Mary Hubler (D – Rice Lake), and Mike Sheridan (D – Janesville). Former Oshkosh Community Media Services Director, Jon Urben, is being inducted into the WAPC Hall of Fame.

“These five legislators epitomize the idea of public service. They are in touch with their constituents and recognize the importance of community access television in their districts. They know the 2007 Video Competition Act put these stations in great jeopardy, and they are using the tools available to them to make sure the people of Wisconsin can keep watching and using these channels,” said Mary Cardona, Executive Director.

Rep. Gary Hebl is the co-author of the Cable Consumer Repair bill (AB606) and the Save Our Community Television bill (AB721) and is working tirelessly for passage of both. These measures would save locally-controlled public, education, and government (PEG) access channels by undoing the worst harm done by the Video Competition Act. The 2008 law excuses video providers from the public interest obligations that made community television stations financially feasible for large and small communities.

Rep. Garey Bies was the first Republican legislator to voice enthusiastic support for the measures. Rep. Mary Hubler is using her office to strongly advocate for the bills among her colleagues. Rep. Mike Sheridan, Speaker of the Assembly, gave community television a second chance in the Assembly by referring the Save Our Community Television bill to a committee that is moving the measure forward. Rep. Terese Berceau, Chair of the Urban and Public Affairs Committee, is now moving the repair bill for community television through her committee.

Mr. Jon Urben, the WAPC Hall of Fame inductee, is the former Director of Oshkosh Community Media Services. Mr. Urben co-founded WAPC in 1998 and served as its first president. “Community television in Wisconsin owes a huge debt of gratitude to Jon, whose strong leadership and amazing organizational skills set the standard for everyone who came after him,” said Cardona. It was during his last term as president in 2006 that Mr. Urben took WAPC to the next level with the hiring of an executive director.

For more information about obtaining tickets to the recognition events, please go to www.wapconline.com or call Mary Cardona, Executive Director at 608-215-5594. The events are open to the public.