

Report of the President
Board of Directors
Arlington Community Access Corporation
September 28, 2014

This has been a year of considerable accomplishment at AIM. We have over 500 members and membership training is expanding rapidly in terms of both numbers of people trained and revenue. We began broadcasting in high definition and we have made a number of important purchases for the studio, including new LED lighting, attractive new risers, an impressive news desk, and several studio monitors and control room equipment. New staff members have been brought on board who are providing outstanding service to our membership. A realignment of staff functions has been carried out. The Board would also like to welcome the staff's most recent employee, Patrick McCleary, who is the Content Coordinator. AIM now has a full complement of staff employees. We have a newly designed web site, far more informative, attractive and user-friendly than the previous site. The construction of a new Audio Room is well under way and should be completed and in use by year's end. Most significantly, our application for the construction of a low power FM station (LPFM) was approved by the FCC. Financially, we are in good shape: enlarged Operational and Capital Budgets were both approved by the Board and our varied revenue streams have expanded. Once again, AIM was named Best Community Access Facility of the Year by the Alliance for Community Media.

However, not is all well with the AIM Board and there are huge challenges to be overcome in the coming year. Five to seven of the twelve Board members will be newly elected tonight and there will be major changes in the leadership with the departure of Quin Paek (Vice President and Chair Facilities Committee), Austin Bragg (Member-At-Large), Vicki Yung (Chair External Communications Committee), Karen Akerson and myself. Most of the Board will be unfamiliar with and learning their new functions, including, no doubt, many of the remaining Board members. Patience is urged. It should be recognized that your present Board did an outstanding job of finding new and worthy candidates for the unusually large number of vacant positions.

A frequent topic of discussion among Board members and in our deliberations has been whether "community access" has outlived its usefulness as a rationale for AIM. Almost everyone now has access to the internet which provides nearly all the "access" one could ask for. However, all that access does not mean anyone is necessarily watching (an argument that can equally be directed at our TV programming). And, most importantly, individuals and the community may not have the tools or the expertise to utilize their access effectively and so they may not be able to "raise their voices". AIM can provide the knowledge and training to use all this available media effectively.

An exciting challenge for the coming year will be our new LPFM station (96.7 FM) which can only receive final approval of the FCC after we have completed the construction phase. In the meantime, there is much work to be done. The Executive Director has prepared a report (LPFM at Arlington Independent Media: Is AIM Ready for AIR?) which addresses many of the outstanding issues and proposes a “general framework” (page 10) for future action. Among the many management questions that the Board will have to face immediately are:

- 1) formal approval of the creation of an LPFM station by AIM;
- 2) determination of the location of a studio and broadcast antenna;
- 3) development of an operational and capital expense budget for the station;
- 4) the creation of separate and distinct accounting records for this activity;
- 5) the creation of an independent program advisory board; and
- 6) staff implications.

This evening, once there has been a formal approval for the creation of the station, the AIM Board will address a proposal to make permanent the ad-hoc LPFM Committee (which I strongly endorse and urge).

I would like to thank all of the members of the Board, as well as the AIM staff, who have been so supportive of our mutual efforts over the last three years that I have been privileged to serve on the Board. Much has been accomplished, although not always at the speed often desired. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Cameron L. Pippitt
President and Chairman of the Board
Arlington Community Access Corporation