

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

TV-18/BETHLEHEM PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION POLICY

Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees September 5, 1997

Policy revised October 11, 2005

Policy revised September 10, 2007

HISTORY

TV-18/Bethlehem was established in 1982 as a result of an agreement between the local cable franchise provider and the Town of Bethlehem. The cable company, in accordance with Section 611 of the Communications Act, provided channels for PEG* (Public, Education and Government) access to compensate the community for the use of their public space. Bethlehem Public Library agreed to be part of the franchise agreement and to provide the public access programming for the community. Locally produced, independent and alternative video all find an outlet on the public access cable network.

MISSION STATEMENT

TV-18 is dedicated to providing the people of the Town of Bethlehem with a public access channel. It is available at no charge for non-commercial use by the public on an open and equitable basis.

PRODUCTION

TV-18 staff will provide training, production and editing expertise for programs intended for presentation on its channel. Staff will schedule and promote submitted programming.

Producers must agree to and sign the TV-18/Bethlehem User Agreement. Studio production resources are limited to residents of Albany County communities which do not offer public access facilities. Residents and organizations of the Town of Bethlehem are given preference in production scheduling.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Individuals, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations may submit non-commercial, non-partisan public service announcements for posting on TV-18. See the Community Bulletin Board and Public Service Announcements Guidelines for submission requirements. Residents and organizations of the Town of Bethlehem are given preference in bulletin board postings.

EQUIPMENT LOANS

Producers may borrow one camcorder for use outside of the studio. TV-18 staff cannot accompany them into the field. Procedures for borrowing equipment are outlined in Equipment Loans. Residents and organizations of the Town of Bethlehem are given preference in borrowing equipment.

PATRON CONDUCT

All users of TV-18 Bethlehem must adhere to the library's Patron Conduct Policy.

*"PEG access channels are often the video equivalent of the speaker's soap box or the electronic parallel to the printed leaflet. They provide groups and individuals who generally have not had access to the electronic media with the opportunity to become sources of information in the electronic marketplace of ideas." (from *City of Redmond, Washington website*)