



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

For Immediate Release:
March 28, 2003

News Media Contact:
Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0511
e-mail: rkimball@fcc.gov

CHAIRMAN POWELL NAMES MEMBERS OF FCC'S CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AGENDA AND SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Washington, DC – FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has named the 35 members of the FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) and has named Shirley Rooker, President of Call For Action, to be the Chair. The first meeting will be April 25.

CAC's predecessor advisory committee was the Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee (C/DTAC) which had been operating for two years. The Committee was rechartered as the Consumer Advisory Committee to reflect the broader scope of its responsibilities.

During the CAC's two-year term, the Committee will address a number of topics including:

- Consumer protection and education (e.g., cramming, slamming, consumer friendly billing, detariffing, bundling of services, Lifeline/Linkup programs, customer service, privacy, telemarketing abuses, and outreach to underserved populations, such as American Indians and persons living in rural areas);
- Access by people with disabilities (e.g., telecommunications relay services, closed captioning, accessible billing, and access to telecommunications products and services);
- Impact upon consumers of new and emerging technologies (e.g., availability of broadband, digital television, cable, satellite, low power FM, and the convergence of these and emerging technologies); and
- Implementation of Commission rules and consumer participation in the FCC rulemaking process.

The Commission received more than 100 applications for membership on the Committee, from 28 states and the District of Columbia. After a careful review of these applications, 35 members were appointed to the Committee (30 organizational

members and five individual members). This group is representative of the FCC's many constituencies, and the expertise and diversity of those selected will provide a balanced point of view as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The members of the Committee are:

1. AARP, Jeff Kramer, Senior Legislative Representative;
2. Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians Economic Development Corp., Cheryl Johnson, Tribal Telephone Outreach Coordinator;
3. Alliance for Public Technology, Matthew D. Bennett, Public Policy Director;
4. American Council of the Blind, David Poehlman, Technology Access Consultant;
5. AT&T Corp., Michael F. del Casino, Regulatory Director;
6. BellSouth, Cindy Cox, Senior Director-Regulatory & External Affairs, Retail Markets;
7. Brugger Consulting, David Brugger, President & CEO;
8. Call For Action, Shirley L. Rooker, President (CAC Chair);
9. Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, Andrea Williams, Assistant General Counsel;
10. Cingular Wireless, Susan Palmer, Director, Federal Regulatory Affairs;
11. Consumer Policy Consulting, Debra Berlyn, President;
12. Consumers First, Inc., Jim Conran, President;
13. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Action Network, Claude Stout;
14. Mike Duke (representing interests of blind or visually impaired persons, licensed radio amateur operators, and management of audio information services for the blind);
15. Fight Back Foundation for Consumer Education, David Horowitz, Chairman;
16. Stephen Gregory (representing interests of persons with hearing loss and small business owners);
17. Hamilton Telephone Company, dba Hamilton Relay Service, Dixie Ziegler, Director of Relay;
18. Hometown Online, subsidiary of Warwick Valley Telephone Company, Donald Snoop, Managing Director;
19. Rebecca Ladew (representing the interests of users of speech-to-speech technology);
20. League for the Hard of Hearing, Joseph Gordon, Chair, Telecommunications Committee;
21. LTC Consulting/Teletruth, Thomas Allibone, President and Director of Auditing;
22. MCI, Annette Cleckner, Senior Manager, Consumer Affairs;
23. Media Access Group, WGBH, Larry Goldberg, Director;
24. National Association of Broadcasters, Karen Kirsch, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs;
25. National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, Ronald Mallard, Director, Fairfax County Department of Cable Communications & Consumer Protection;
26. National Association of State Relay Administration, Brenda Kelly-Frey, TRS Administrator-State of Maryland;

27. National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, Joy M. Ragsdale, Assistant People's Counsel, Washington, D.C.;
28. National Consumers League, Susan Grant, Vice President for Public Policy;
29. National Translator Association, Byron W. St. Clair, President;
30. National Urban League, Milton J. Little, Jr., Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer;
31. Mark Pranger, (representing the interests of academia and consumers concerned with telecommunication service in rural America);
32. San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility, Inc., Vernon R. James, General Manager;
33. Telecommunications Industry Association, Eugene Seagriff, Product Accessibility Manager, Product Safety & Compliance Division, Panasonic Technologies, Inc.;
34. Verizon Communications, Richard T. Ellis, Director, Federal Regulatory Advocacy; and
35. Linda West (representing the interests of the Native American community and other consumers concerned with telecommunication services in rural America).

The first meeting of the Committee will take place on Friday, April 25, 2003, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., at the Commission's Headquarters Building, Room TW-C305, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554. Future meetings of the Committee during calendar year 2003 will take place on Friday, July 11, and Thursday, November 20, at the same time and location.

At its April 25, 2003 meeting, the Committee will address matters of internal business and organization, including the establishment of working groups, and will consider various consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Meetings are open to the public.

The Committee is organized under, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2 (1988). Minutes of meetings are available for public inspection at the FCC and are posted on the Commission's website at www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac. Meetings are broadcast on the Internet in Real Audio/Real Video format with captioning at www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac. Meetings are sign language interpreted with real-time transcription and assistive listening devices available. Meeting agendas and handout materials are provided in accessible formats. The meeting site is accessible to people with disabilities.

Members of the public may address the Committee or may send written comments to Scott Marshall, Designated Federal Officer of the Committee.

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CGB Contact: Scott Marshall 202-418-2809 (voice) or 202-418-0179 (TTY);
e-mail: smarshal@fcc.gov .

