



2008 Policy & Legal Seminar

**April 2 – 4, 2008
Westin Gateway
Arlington, VA**

[On-Line Registration Open Now!](#)

(Form opens in a new window)

**CLE Accreditation is being sought for the Seminar, refer to complete details below,
including February 4, 2008 deadline.**

**There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities available for this Seminar.
Contact (703) 519-8034 or info@natoa.org for details.**

Who Should Attend

City and County Telecommunications Administrators
Elected Officials
City and County Managers
City and County Attorneys
Planning and Public Works Directors
Public Safety Communications Officials
Budget and Finance Directors
Government Programmers
Cable and Telecommunications Representatives
Policy and Legal Advisors to Local Government

Why You Should Attend

Local governments across the nation must anticipate a variety of challenges as changes take place in all levels of government and within the industry. Federal, state and local initiatives for the coming year will demand honing of existing skills, development of new skills and creativity in approach to meeting these challenges. In its continuing tradition of assisting local governments, the 2008 NATOA Policy & Legal Seminar will focus on those issues which are most prevalent and for which the outcome can have the most serious repercussions. We have focused this year's Seminar to provide the most up-to-date and useful information for your consideration.

We continue to host the Policy & Legal Seminar in the DC area, to permit and encourage the ability of our participants to visit with their members of Congress while they are in town. We have set aside an entire day for our attendees to ensure that they take advantage of this important opportunity. The Seminar is specifically designed to provide for a high degree of interaction with speakers, and amongst participants, to enhance the educational opportunity to all of our attendees. Join us at the 2008 Policy & Legal Seminar to learn, to share, and to take home with you the tools you'll need to ensure success for your community.

Preliminary Program

(Session Descriptions Subject to Change)

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. LOBBY DAY - VISIT YOUR FEDERAL OFFICIAL

Contact your congressional representative to set up an appointment. Visit the [NATOA Legislative Action Center](#); or www.senate.gov; and www.house.gov for contact information. (NATOA will not be at the Westin Arlington Gateway on this date. You are responsible for scheduling your own meetings and arranging for transportation to and from your meetings.)

** NATOA will host a Teleconference on lobbying your elected officials. Those Local Government attendees registered by March 1, 2008 will be provided complimentary access to the teleconference.

Thursday, April 3, 2008

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY BROADBAND UPDATE

The past year has seen a market in turmoil, with EarthLink and other providers pulling back from prior commitments, while, at the same time, some communities are developing their own fiber to the home (FTTH) and other broadband systems. This panel will explore how the community broadband market has shifted and where it is headed, with specific examples from localities where networks have been deployed, partially constructed, or authorized but not constructed. We'll also examine the legal arguments that have been used for and against issuing an RFP to develop community broadband networks. Market analysts, community broadband industry and municipal representatives to be invited.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. PUBLIC, EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) ACCESS UPDATE

A vital discussion on the impact of the FCC's Video Franchising orders and state franchising legislation on PEG and I-Nets. Among the topics addressed will be PEG channel placement and tiering issues, PEG signal quality and functionality issues (including those associated with AT&T's delivery of PEG over U-Verse), permissible means of PEG and I-Net funding and support over and above the franchise fee, and PEG and I-Net grandfathering issues. Cable industry and municipal representatives to be invited.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Keynote Luncheon

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. CONGRESSIONAL, REGULATORY AND LEGAL UPDATE: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2008?

Confused about the differences and application of the FCC First Order from the FCC Second Order? Unclear how the FCC ruling on multiple dwelling units (MDU's) will affect your jurisdiction? And what is the status of the law suits on these topics? How these and other decisions will impact your franchise, your revenues and your authority are critical topics to understand in 2008. Along with other updates on effective competition, pricing, and the state of competition, experts in this session will provide in-depth and up-to-date understanding of these topics.

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. THE STATE OF COMPETITION: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE UPDATE 2008

Has statewide franchising increased competition for consumers? Has head-to-head wire line competition lowered stand-alone cable rates and increased customer service for consumers? Has “cabining the discretion” of local governments to address cable regulatory issues made life better or worse for consumers? Municipal representatives and government advisors to be invited.

Friday, April 4, 2008

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Policy debate concerning public safety applications of communications technologies is hotter than ever. The authority of local governments to employ cable systems and I-Nets to deliver local emergency alert messages is under attack. The transition of public safety wireless communications to employ interference free spectrum and interconnection with a national broadband wireless network is well underway. Additionally, the WiFi hotspot your community offers now, or plans to offer, may have CALEA obligations. What are those? This panel will provide insights into each of these challenges and offer your community a checklist of action items.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. DTV TRANSITION UPDATE

Learn about public education campaigns associated with the DTV transition and what further steps localities should be taking to help educate consumers on the upcoming signal switch. How effective has the NTIA converter box coupon program been and are consumers having any problems obtaining converter boxes? Discussion on what additional policy actions should be taken by Congress to help ensure the interests of consumers are protected. DTV local consumer and municipal advocates, FCC and congressional staff to be invited.

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Keynote Luncheon

Adjournment

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. NATOA Policy & Legal Committee Meeting – State Tool-Kit presentation.

CLE Information

CLE Accreditation is being sought for those who register and request CLE accreditation in their state no later than February 4, 2008. Requests after February 4, 2008 will be considered “late filed” and will require a separate payment of \$25.00. Please note that some states may not approve late-filed CLE applications.

For Hotel/Travel Arrangements

For your convenience, NATOA has arranged for the entire seminar to take place at The Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Hotel is located a few short blocks from the Ballston Metro stop in Arlington, with metro access to National Airport, the Mall, the FCC, and Congressional offices.

NATOA has reserved a block of rooms at a special group rate \$199 per night, plus tax for the duration of the conference. Reservations can be made by calling The Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203, Phone 703-717-6200, fax 703-717-6204, www.westin.com/arlington.

You must tell the reservations assistant that you want the group rate for the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. The NATOA discounted rate will be available until Monday, February 25. Subject to room and rate availability, the NATOA group rate will also be available for three days before and after the seminar. However, we suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible as a limited number of rooms have been reserved, and additional rooms will not become available once the block has been filled. Rack rates at the Westin Gateway range from \$350- \$450, so it is important to make your reservations early and take advantage of the discounted rate.

Transportation & Parking

The Hotel is located a few blocks from the Ballston metro; nine stops from Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and is approximately \$2.00 (takes @24 minutes). Taxi service to the Hotel from Reagan Airport is approximately \$20.00 each way.

The Hotel is located approximately 35 miles from Dulles International Airport (IAD). Taxi service to the Hotel from the airport is approximately \$40 each way.

The Hotel is located approximately 50 miles from Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). Taxi service to the Hotel from the airport is approximately \$70 each way.

Valet Parking is available from the hotel for \$20 per day, with in and out privileges.

The Hotel is also accessible via Super Shuttle, Amtrak, and the Metro.

A Special Note to the Disabled

NATOA seeks to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently from other individuals because of the absence of an auxiliary aid or service. If any auxiliary aid or service identified with the Americans with Disabilities Act is required, please contact NATOA Headquarters at (703) 519-8035 to advise us of services needed.

Special Dietary Needs

If you have special dietary requirements, please contact NATOA Headquarters at (703) 519-8035 so necessary arrangements can be made.

Registration and Payment

Please visit www.natoa.org to register online using a credit card, or you may use the following form and fax your registration to 703-519-8036; or mail the form and payment to NATOA, P.O. Box 826127, Philadelphia, PA 19182-6127. Purchase Order does not constitute payment.



Special Offer to NATOA Policy & Legal Attendees to Register for F2C: Freedom to Connect!

Through special arrangement with the producer of the F2C: Freedom to Connect (F2C) conference being held March 31 & April 1, 2008, NATOA Policy & Legal Seminar Attendees can get a special \$125.00 discount off the published conference rate in effect at that time for attendance at the F2C Conference. For more information about the program, visit <http://freedom-to-connect.net/>. NATOA Policy & Legal Seminar Attendees must provide the promotional code 851841397 at the following registration URL: <http://tinyurl.com/2q1792> to obtain the discount. Similarly, those who attend the F2C conference can obtain a special discount to attend the NATOA Policy & Legal Seminar. F2C Attendees must use the NATOA online registration form and use the promotional code NPLS08. Email info@natoa.org for more information.

A limited number of **Sponsorships** are available for those interested in supporting NATOA's Policy & Legal Seminar. Contact info@natoa.org for more information.

NATOIA 2008 Policy and Legal Seminar Registration Form

Please visit www.natoia.org to register using a credit card

Registration Form: (Please use a separate form for each attendee.)

Registration forms must be received two weeks prior to the Seminar (March 19, 2008). Limited on-site registration will be available. Any cancellation prior to March 19 will be charged 50% of the total registration fee. No refunds/credits will be provided for any cancellation after March 19, 2008.

Full Name: _____

Nickname or Badge Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Department: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please check appropriate items:

Full Two-Day Registration:

- NATOIA/NLC Member \$425.00
- F2C Conference Attendee \$425.00 (enter Code Here _____)
- Non-member Gov't/Non-Profit \$475.00
- Non-member Private Sector \$550.00

One-Day Registration (please indicate Day) Thursday Friday

- NATOIA/NLC Member \$225.00
- Non-member Gov't/Non-Profit \$275.00
- Non-member Private Sector \$290.00

- Yes, I am seeking CLE for _____ (state); I understand there will be a processing fee of \$25 for requests received after February 4, 2008.

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed Credit Card (Visa/MasterCard/Amex)
- Government Purchase Order No*: _____
- Credit Card No. _____
- Cardholder Name: _____ Exp. Date _____
- Signature: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Mail checks to: NATOIA, P.O. Box 826127, Philadelphia, PA 19182-6127.

*Purchase Order does not constitute payment.