

Cable Views

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association

Issue Three 2011

Lights, Camera, Tax Credit!

It's no secret to Ohioans that our state has great variety in geography, urban and rural settings, architecture and environments. For filmmakers scouting locations – from major studios to cable networks to independent producers – Ohio has much to offer. And Ohio has an additional incentive for anyone considering a production in Ohio, one that's becoming increasingly popular as the word gets out.

The **Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit** provides a refundable tax credit that equals 25 percent off in-state spending and non-resident wages and 35 percent in Ohio resident wages on eligible productions. To be eligible, productions must spend a minimum of \$300,000 in the State of Ohio and may include: feature-length films and documentaries; interactive web sites, television and games; sound recordings and music videos; videogames, commercials and any format of digital media.

The program is directed by the Ohio Film Office, part of the Ohio Department of Development, and "is extremely



Akron served as the setting for 25 Hill, a movie filmed against the backdrop of the All American Soap Box Derby.

competitive," according to spokesperson Katie Sabatino.

"We have \$10 million available in tax credits for 2012 and \$12 million available for 2013. All of the 2012 funds are spoken for." Sabatino added that as the Ohio Film Office gets more attention on a national basis, the competition only grows.

An internal group within the DOD reviews applications and selects winning projects. "We're more apt to award the tax credit to a project that is fully funded at the time of application," explains Ohio Film Office Director Gail Mezey. "The more Ohio resident cast and crew used, the more anticipated spending in Ohio, the buzz on the project, the potential tax revenue, are all considered."

Not to mention the stars attached. Take *The Ides of March*, a film opened nationwide in October

that stars Ryan Gosling, Paul Giamatti, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Evan Rachel Wood and Marisa Tomei. And George Clooney, who also wrote the screenplay, directed and produced the movie – and applied for the tax

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WICT Boot Camp Covers the Basics

On September 15 in Akron, the Greater Ohio Chapter of Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) presented Cable Boot Camp 2011. The workshop, geared toward employees new to the industry and those wanting to sharpen their cable business knowledge, included seg-

ments on cable's history and technical evolution; commonly used cable terms; regulations and public policy issues; wireless operations, and the importance of understanding financial performance.

Boot Camp presenters included WICT Greater Ohio Chapter President Deidra Bartlett; TWC marketing manager Jeanie Warfield, TWC technical operations manager Dave Senger, Chapter VP Antoinette Johnson, account executive Janie Purvis, TWC Director of Finance Tom Law, and regional VP of Government Relations Ed Kozelek. (Not pictured – presenter Bill Jasso, VP of Communications for Time Warner Cable)



Interview with Representative Peter Stautberg

State Representative Peter Stautberg is currently serving his second term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 34th House District, which includes portions of eastern Hamilton County. He chairs the House Public Utilities Committee and also serves on Ways and Means and the Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development committees. In addition to his work in the Legislature, Representative Stautberg is a lawyer with Fifth Third Bank. He has been involved in many non-profit organizations, and is a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

Representative Stautberg earned his bachelor's degree from Kenyon College, his Master of Business Administration from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business

and Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Representative Stautberg lives in Anderson Township where he and his wife, Lee, are the proud parents of two daughters.

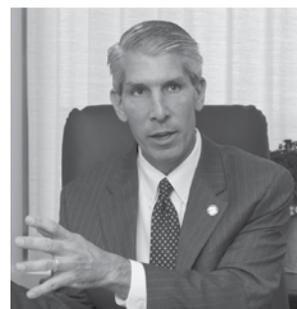
Fast Facts:

Favorite Cable Channel: Fox Sports Ohio

Currently Reading: Whatever I pick up – Karl Rove's book, *Courage and Consequence*, or *Crosley*, a book about famous Cincinnatians Powell and Lewis Crosley

Roots For: The St. Xavier Bombers on Fridays. The Buckeyes on Saturdays. Sunday, I'm still a diehard Bengals fan.

Political Heroes: Ronald Regan and Abraham Lincoln



Jonathon McGee: Tell us a little about your background growing up in Cincinnati.

Peter Stautberg: I was just a normal kid, playing baseball, growing up with four brothers and one sister. All but one of us still live in Cincinnati. We lived in a middle class area in the middle of what was then suburban Cincinnati, a place called Bond Hill. We walked to school, to church, to the baseball field, and rode our bikes everywhere else. When I was old enough, I started caddying at a nearby golf course and worked there probably for about ten years in the bag shop and the cart barn. I went to High School at St. Xavier High School.

JM: And from there you attended Kenyon College. What was that experience like?

PS: Kenyon was great – a comfortable, safe setting and a place where people were incredibly friendly to one another. There were a lot of East Coast people there for a Midwest school, but there were enough Buckeyes to make it fun. Even though I disagreed politically with the tilt of the administration, it was still a wonderful experience and a great place to go to school.

JM: What might the Stautberg family be found doing on a Saturday in the fall?

PS: We are either on the soccer field or watching a field hockey game. Depends on which daughter has that slotted time. Or, we're on the highway running around between both.

JM: How do you stay in touch with the needs of your constituents?

PS: I'm out and about a lot down there. I'm always at Kroger, or at the soccer fields for practices and games. To the extent that I can, I go to the township trustee meetings and community council meetings.

JM: Do you use any social media?

PS: I do not. I'm on Facebook, but, I don't do a lot of the posting and writing. I just try to keep up with what other people are doing.

JM: What prompted you to run for public office?

PS: It was an opportunity to serve. I've always had a driving need to give back more than we take away and when the seat came open (Tom Brinkman was term limited), I decided this would be a good opportunity to serve. I had the ability and family lifestyle that allowed me to run for office. I have a wife who works and we have two children and we all agreed that this was something that we could

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Capital Update

Legislative

Redistricting: After passage of the state budget and a couple of sessions in early July, the Ohio General Assembly recessed for the summer. They have now returned from the summer break and are working on several key issues, not the least of which has been congressional redistricting. Every ten years, based on the results of the federal decennial census, Ohio and federal legislative districts are redrawn to reflect population changes and to ensure that the constitutional requirement of "one man one vote" is met.

Lines for the Ohio General Assembly are drawn by the five-member Apportionment Board in a process known as "reapportionment." This Board, made up of two members of the General Assembly and the Governor, Auditor, and Secretary of State, completed its work by the October 5th deadline.

The General Assembly draws the lines for the federal Congressional districts. This year's efforts were made all the more difficult due to the fact that Ohio will lose two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, going from 18 to 16 seats. HB 319, which establishes the new districts, was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kasich. H.B. 319 contains an appropriation of \$2.75 million; bills containing appropriations go immediately into effect and are not subject to a referendum. However, the Ohio Democratic Party has questioned whether this appropriation precludes a referendum and has filed a lawsuit seeking a ruling that they can use to take this legislation to the ballot.

The new General Assembly Maps may be viewed at:
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/ReshapeOhio/GADistricts/adoptedMap.aspx>

The new Congressional map may be viewed at:
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/ReshapeOhio/Congressional/ProposedMap.aspx>

House Study Committees Created: House Republicans have created ad hoc study committees on tax policy, workforce development, and improving state government's use of technology. These committees will conduct hearings in the coming weeks to gather public input that could inspire legislation in the fall.

Of particular interest to the OCTA is the technology committee. Primarily, the House is interested in whether the state can be more efficient and save money in its use of technology. This committee is hearing presentations from several state agencies on their efforts to increase efficiencies through the use of technology. OCTA and Time Warner Cable staff have met with the Chair of the committee to ascertain what topics the study group will address. As the state's leading provider of broadband services, the cable industry is monitoring the group's proceedings and stands ready to assist the committee in its exploration of these topics. Members of the committee include: Reps. Craig Newbold (Columbiana), chair; Margaret Conditt (Hamilton), Andy Brenner (Powell), Mike Dovilla (Berea), Mike Henne (Clayton), Ted Celeste (Columbus), Michael Stinziano (Columbus), and Debbie Phillips (Athens).

Regulatory

The OCTA continues to actively participate in the **Access Reform**, **Century Link Tariff**, and **AEP Tariff** dockets at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Access Reform: PUCO staff has recommended that an "Access Reform Fund" be created for revenue replacement for eligible ILECs. Comments were filed in late 2010 and 2011. The OCTA worked with Benita Kahn at Vorys Law Firm and our consultant, Joe Gillan, to prepare the OCTA's comments. (To view the OCTA's comments, as well as other pleadings in this docket, please go to: <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=10-2387&x=10&y=12>). The PUCO staff is currently reviewing the comments to prepare an order. Recently, the PUCO staff prepared and filed comments at the FCC regarding access reform in which they continue to support the creation of an of access reform fund at the state level.

Century Link Tariff: United Telephone Co., dba Century Link, filed a tariff with the PUCO which makes changes to its pole attachment tariff. The OCTA intervened in this proceeding and filed comments. It is expected that the PUCO staff will schedule a meeting with interested parties in the near future to discuss disputed issues.

AEP Tariff: This year, AEP filed a tariff seeking increased pole rates for both Columbus Southern Power and Ohio Power,

among other changes. The OCTA moved to intervene. Additionally, AEP has an open proceeding at the PUCO requesting that Ohio Power and Columbus Southern Power be merged. We also moved to intervene in that docket so as to represent the cable industry's interests therein. Also, AEP has a rate case open for its generation costs in which a stipulation has been filed with the Commission where many of the parties settled. A hearing is currently taking place to take evidence on the Stipulation. As part of that settlement, the merger proceeding will also be settled in the Stipulation, so the hearing is covering both the generation case and the merger case. In the stipulation filed at the PUCO settling the generation case and the merger case, there is language making clear that the pole attachment rate and other pole issues will remain open in the AEP distribution rate case at the PUCO. Accordingly, the OCTA has continued to represent its members' interests regarding the pole tariff. The PUCO staff recently issued recommendations on the distribution tariff, including pole rates. While the pole attachment rate recommended by staff is less than what AEP is requesting, the OCTA believes that the rate is still too high. Accordingly, the OCTA will file objections to the staff report in the near future. To view the staff report and other filings, please go to: <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=11-351-EL-AIR&x=8&y=5>

credit based on filming a good portion of the movie in Cincinnati.

Mezey and Sabatino admit that the bigger projects are great fun. "When Scarlett Johansson comes into town, when they're blowing things up in Cleveland, it's exciting," said Sabatino, whose favorite tax-credit experience was the filming of *Unstoppable* with Denzel Washington. But smaller projects can carry big weight in the areas where they're filmed. "You look at a project like *Old Fashioned*, filming in Tuscarawas County, it means so much to the people of that area," said Mezey. And the OFO recently approved a tax credit for a videogame produced in Ohio.

Apart from the tax credit, the Ohio Film Office offers additional services: scouting for locations; finding cast, crew and equipment; working with local convention and visitors bureaus and regional film offices to build a database of resources. The **Ohio Production Directory**

is a database of local film professionals and vendors; the Ohio Film Office provides the listing service at no cost to Ohio's community of crew and support service companies. The database allows customized search by category, name, or company. The search can then be further refined by region and/or union affiliation. Ohio crew and vendors can register and create an online listing in the directory at http://oh.reel-scout.com/crew_login.aspx.

The **Ohio Film Jobs Hotline**, established by the Ohio Film Office, highlights job listings for cast, crew and staff positions, as well as internships for the Ohio film community. This page brings together local talent and the projects seeking them.

For more information, visit the Ohio Film Office web site at <http://www.ohiofilmoffice.com>.

Cable-PAC/PAT Participation

(January 1 – September 30, 2011)

Company	Amount Raised	Goal
Armstrong Cable	\$225	\$2,496
Buckeye CableSystem	\$6,092	\$10,972
Clear Picture	\$800	\$520
Comcast	\$3,170	\$1,430
Cox Communications	\$3,343	\$3,068
G.L.W. Broadband	\$50	\$400
Insight	\$140	\$5,252
Massillon Cable TV	\$12,200	\$2,750
Suddenlink	\$0	\$1,400
Total	\$26,020	\$28,288



Cable PAC/PAT Individual Contributions

(June 25 – September 30, 2011) **Armstrong**

Karen Troxell

Buckeye CableSystem

Mike Bilik
Laurie Cichy
Tom Dawson
Patrick Deville
John Ducat
Bonita Ehrhardt
Pamela Kkoontz
Daniel Penny
Jessica Pitzen
Sarah Riedeman
Charles Riley
James Wolsiffer

Cox Communications

David Butas
Charles Davis
Gloria DeMarco
Steve Heuser
Dan Jakubowski
Alex Petrofski
Mark Pigman
Mark Preston
Rajesh Rauniyar
Stacie Schafer
Allan Shockey
Craig Smith

OCTA

April Barrowman
Maryann Kafer
Jonathon McGee

Thank You!

do from a financial standpoint.

JM: What are the core beliefs that you bring with you to your role as a legislator?

PS: Probably the same as others have: efficiency in government; making the state business friendly; fiscal restraint, as far as government spending. And common sense; I underline that because I think that in anything that we do, we have to bring common sense to the table.

JM: How do you see your role as chairman of the House Public Utilities Committee?

PS: As Chair, I think it puts me in a unique position to lead a really sizeable committee and have good discussions on bills, and making good policy decisions where needed. It is challenging because there is a pull between trying to serve your constituents' needs or something that you may favor on a local level versus, as chair, looking at the outcomes for the entire state.

JM: What are some of the issues the committee is focusing on in the current session?

PS: We are going to start with oversight hearings about electric utilities and how those are regulated, with four or five hearings going through the month of October and maybe into November. We'll hear first from the staff of the Public Utilities Commission and then from various stakeholders. I understand that there are bills waiting to be dropped regarding various public utility issues, but, they are not yet filed with the clerk or with my committee, so I can't comment on what those are.

JM: Do you feel that technology is changing the role of public utilities committee?

PS: I do, especially with respect to areas that touch on cable and how satellite TV impacts Ohioans, and the impact of cell phones on landlines. A lot of people don't have landlines anymore and I think that will only increase as my generation gets older. The people getting out of college now may never have a landline. I think that's changing the way of the world, especially the telecommunications industry. A large part of the telecommunications industry is not regulated, which is different from ten or twenty years ago.

JM: Are you comfortable with the lines of communication between the House, Senate and public utilities commission?

PS: I am. Senator Daniels runs the Senate side of public utilities and I have a good relationship with him. Of course, we had a good relationship when he was over on the House side. And the current chair of the Public Utilities Commission, Todd Snitchler, is a good friend. He's still on my speed dial. It's good to be able to make those direct connections and communicate when needed.

JM: What would you particularly like to see accomplished in the 129th General Assembly?

PS: From the public utilities standpoint, I would like to see the committee consider and pass bills that make common

sense from a policy perspective, as well as for the good of the State of Ohio. Even though we are only in September of the first year, it is late in the general assembly from the standpoint of getting legislation completed. From an overall perspective, I think we have done a lot of good work already and the next month or so will be spent defending some of the good things that we have done. We have Senate Bill 5, which is now Issue 2, which we will be working to support. There may be a referendum on other legislation. I would like to see the legislation that we passed survive any attempts to overturn them.

JM: You have vowed to make efficiency in state government a priority. What changes would you like to see implemented toward achieving that goal?

PS: A big thing that we did was pass Senate Bill 4, introduced by Senator Schaffer, which is the counterpart of House Bill 4 that then-Representative Snitchler and I introduced. It has to do with subjecting the various state agencies to performance audits by the auditor's office. I hear from state Auditor Yost that they are moving full speed ahead with the planning and scheduling of those audits. The next step is to get them accomplished and then get changes implemented. We will look at how the state's agencies are delivering on their mission, how they are delivering services to their constituents, their customers. I think that we are going to be able to find efficiencies in those areas and I would like to see those implemented.

JM: Do you think term limits will ever be removed in Ohio? Should they be?

PS: I would say that at some point in time, term limits will be changed. I don't have any idea when. I know your follow-up question is "should they be" and I think the answer is yes. It's a double edge sword; I wouldn't be here except for term limits, so I favor them from the perspective that one person cannot hold onto a seat forever. Nevertheless, we do have situations with the turnover in offices where we lose a great deal of institutional knowledge. The Speaker, for example, brings to the table so much institutional knowledge, and he will be incredibly missed when he leaves here. There are a few other members who have been around for a long time, either coming back or coming over from the Senate, who bring with them a lot of background that is invaluable. When we are in caucus and in session, it's great that those more experienced members have that kind of background to inform us.

JM: What advice would you have for the cable industry as we work with the 129th General Assembly?

PS: Keep doing what you do best. You are always there as a valuable resource to us when we have questions, always available to answer questions and provide your perspective from an honest point of view. Honesty is incredibly important, allowing us to rely upon the information and advice that we understand will be given to us straightforward. That's incredibly valuable to us.



Cable Calendar

NARUC 123rd Annual Meeting

www.narucmeetings.org

When: November 13-16, 2011
Where: Renaissance Grand
St. Louis, MO

SCTE Cable-Tec Expo'11

www.scte.org

When: November 15-17, 2011
Where: Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA

NCSL Fall Forum

www.ncsl.org

When: November 30 – December 2, 2011
Where: Marriott Waterside
Tampa, FL

For all the latest news and events updates, OCTA members can sign up to receive our weekly broadcast email bulletin. Contact mkafer@octa.org to subscribe.