Midwest Internet Coop Exchange UG 46 Minutes

Meeting called to order Wednesday, October 9th 2024 at 15:00pm CDT
The University of Minnesota Information Technology building: 2218 University Ave SE, Minneapolis

Roll Call
Number of Voting Members in Attendance: 20 of 150
Number of Non-Voting Participants in Attendance: 0
Number of Pending Connections in Attendance: 0
Number of Guests in Attendance: 2
At least ten members in attendance, quorum attained.

Member Adds/Removes/Pendings
New Members Added:
- Cisco Umbrella (AS36692)
- SpaceX (AS14593)
- Fort Dodge Fiber (AS400405)
- Honeycomb Internet Services (AS25720)
- HOOP7NETWORK (AS216440)
- HYEHOST (AS47272)
- InServer Networks (AS26329)
- LOGIS – Local Government Information Systems (AS398846)
- Rozint (AS21738)
- Society of Young Enterprise Engineers – SYEE (AS25944)
- SRT (AS14543)
- Starwire Technologies (AS16614)
- Triplebit (AS401332)
- Tritan Internet (AS393577)
- Voipster (AS32030)
- X6CNET (AS46733)

Members Disconnected:
- Google (206.108.255.141, 2001:504:27::3b41:0:1, 206.108.255.167, 2001:504:27::3b41:0:2)
- Mark Twain Rural Telephone (206.108.255.225, 2001:504:27::29fe:0:1)
- StackPath (206.108.255.189, 2001:504:27:0:0:829E::1, 206.108.255.190, 2001:504:27:0:0:829E::2)
- Stealth Broadband (206.108.255.69, 2001:504:27:0:6:07BA::1)

New Members Pending:
- AllWorldIT
- Ausra
- Data Stream
- FiLabs
- INCX Global
- MIDnet
- Pudu

UG45 Minutes

A motion was made by Jeremy Lumby (MNVoIP) and seconded by Jay Hanke (SouthFront Networks) to approve the minutes as presented from our UG 45 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Current Assets:
$ 37,339.48 in Old National Bank Accounts
$ 805,542.82 in Fidelity Money Market Account
$ 7,337.68 in port fees outstanding (A/R)

2024 Income has been from Port Fees: $270,994.50 and Investment/Interest: $26,927.66

Expenses so far this year have been $65,673.79 of which $50,431.47 was switch maintenance, $3550 in accounting fees, $2097.59 in bank and business fees, and $221.73 in other smaller items.
Additionally we have written off $6000 in port fees that we are unlikely to collect from StackPath after their Bankruptcy.

Our main outstanding/upcoming expense will be our new Arista core switch, expected in January or February of 2025.

Capital Credits

MICE was retroactively approved as a 501(c)(12), so there has been a longstanding open issue of how to deal with the capital credits from the years that MICE was not expecting to be a cooperative. Prior to MICE having real accountants, Richard made the decision to lump all of the early years together, as if it was one year, and calculate capital credits on that basis. In part, this was because some of the years had expenses, but zero income. The accountanting firm did not like this treatment and said things had to be done differently, with losses carried over in some way. They were going to give us a memo outlining the appropriate treatment and then calculate the capital credits accordingly. This had not happened. We finally got them to do this. Upon a second look, their answer was different. They treated the early years differently, not allocating capital credits to anyone. That just become equity on the books.

It was also noted that OneNeck's recent merger with TDS means that OneNeck is now considered a non-voting participant. The merger might result in them earning capital credits as if they were still two entities since they still have two connections/fees. We've asked for advice from our accountants on these issues.

Additionally, the University of Wisconsin System is a non-member participant, due to Wisconsin state law not allowing them to be a member. The capital credit allocations need to be adjusted appropriately.

Reports/Discussion

The new parent company of IP House will be shutting some operations, including the services they provide for MICE today - including email services and IP transit used for managing MICE hardware at the 511 building. Email list services will be converted to

mailman3.com at a cost of $160/year. Anthony and Reid are reviewing the proposals we've received for transit and will be making plans for that conversion in the next few weeks.

The group briefly discussed Google's disconnection, its implications and how traffic has shifted as a result.

New 511 Building Core Switch

As noted above the new Arista core switch for the 511 building is expected to arrive in January at the earliest so shouldn't be affected by any Holiday maintenance freezes. Once it arrives and migrations start we'd like to complete the work as soon as possible since Cologix is letting us occupy two racks free of charge.   As in the past Jeremy is planning to migrate groups of members/ports during daytime maintenance windows, and will advise members of each window via the email groups.   If members want to migrate during alternate times that can be arranged as well via the Cologix remote-hands service - with the member paying that additional cost.

There was also discussion of the new 400G port options that will be possible after the new core switch is online. Our current plan is for 400G ports to cost $6000/year (twice the current 100G port cost). Jeremy Lumby (MNVoIP) mentioned that some members may want to use 4x100G on a 400G port for transport purposes, and that there are QSFPDD-400G-LR4-SO options that should work for that purpose.   From MICE's perspective the port cost would be the same as any 400G port but the participant would need to cover the higher optic costs.

Director Election

Motion was made by Jeremy Lumby (MNVoIP) and seconded by Tom Krenn (Hennepin County) to reelect Reid Fishler to the open director term ending in 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Jay reported that the 2025 Midwest Peering Summit will likely be in Minneapolis sometime in July, and that they hope to have 2 session tracks again.

The meeting date for MICE Users Group meeting 47 was set for 3:00pm March 12th 2025 at the University of Minnesota Information Technology building (with Zoom).

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 16:02pm CDT