



OPERATING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

I. Statement of Purpose (approved 2024)

A. Okemo Valley TV is a 501-c3 non-profit corporation that was established to manage Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Access TV and provide associated services for its designated service area. It is regulated as an "Access Management Organization" through the State of Vermont Public Utility Commission's Rule 8.000. 1. As of 2024, the designated PEG Access Service area includes the Towns of Ludlow, Plymouth, Cavendish, Andover, Reading and Mount Holly. Residents of these Towns are hereby considered "community members". 2. Beyond PEG Access, Okemo Valley TV's services includes other forms of media and digital delivery platforms, which are available and deliver value to those in the wider region. B. Mission Statement: To provide the Okemo Valley region with equal access to multimedia technology for the purposes of education, civic engagement and media literacy. C. Vision Statement: We strive to be the primary source to provide the Okemo Valley region with quality media and communication services. D. The goals of Okemo Valley TV are:

1. to provide equipment and facilities for the production of media
2. to provide training and education in the use of media production equipment, software, & technique
3. to transmit community programming across multiple media platforms
4. to serve as an archive of non-commercial community-based media
5. to foster open communication and free speech
6. to provide resources in an equitable manner on a first come, first serve nondiscriminatory basis
7. to provide a variety of professional-level free & fee-based media services for the community

II . Corporate Structure (approved 2024)

A. In accordance with the By-Laws, the objectives of the organization are:

1. to enable, support and promote the production & distribution of PEG access television programs by and for
 - a. residents of or
 - b. educational, charitable, social service, religious, governmental, electoral or other non-profit organizations serving Ludlow, Plymouth, Cavendish, Andover, Reading or Mount Holly.
2. To distribute these programs on its PEG access cable television channel(s) and other publicly accessible telecommunications network or facilities, as it deems appropriate.
3. To provide for care and custody of equipment, facilities and programs owned or used by Okemo Valley TV .
4. To seek and receive donations and grants from public and private sources in order to meet the expenses of aforesaid purposes.
5. To exercise any other rights or responsibilities incidental to or associated with the aforesaid purposes and in accordance with applicable law.

B. Governance (last revised January 2010)

1. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the organization.
 - a) The Board is responsible for overseeing organizational and financial management, including long-term strategic planning.
 - b) The Board oversees the duties and activities of the Executive Director / Chief Operating Officer.

C. The Board holds all primary fiduciary responsibility for the organization by conducting the following:



1. Oversight of all bank accounts and investments, including the regular reconciliation of those accounts.
 2. All legal requirements associated with maintaining the organization's 501c3 tax-exempt status.
 3. Annual submission of financial records for filing of 990 / annual tax information return.
 4. Execution of all contracts and bidding.
 5. Regular bookkeeping / reporting of all expenses and income.
- D. Each member of the Board of Directors acts in accordance with an organizational Code of Ethics.
- E. The 's By-Laws serve as the primary governing document and are periodically reviewed and updated by the Board of Directors.
- F. Robert's Rules of Order serves as the guideline for parliamentary procedure of meetings. All official meetings among the Board of Directors shall be run in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

III. Membership (last revised September 2012; draft in progress 2025)

- A. Access to the TV channels is provided to all residents of the organization's designated service area (see above) on a first-come first-serve non discriminatory basis.
- B. Anyone utilizing equipment and/or other services must first become a member.
- C. Memberships are valid for one (1) full year and are subject to renewal upon annual expiration.
- D. There are two (2) categories of memberships:
1. Individual Membership
 - a. Offered to all community members for an annual contribution of support.
 - b. Each individual member must complete and sign a membership application or submit the membership web form electronically.
 - c. Individual members are entitled to all benefits of membership (see Membership Benefits*).
 - d. Members are held responsible to maintain compliance with all of these Policies & Procedures that pertain to use of the TV channel(s) and other media platforms, facilities, and equipment (see above).
 - e. Any individual member under the age of 18 must obtain permission from a legal guardian.
 1. Legal guardian's signature must accompany youth member's signature on the application form. Signature by legal guardian must be made in person.
 2. The legal guardian is responsible for all use of privileges that pertain to use of the TV channel(s) and other media platforms, facilities, and equipment (see above)
 2. Organizational Membership
 - a. Any organization in the service area is eligible for membership for an annual contribution of support.
 - b. The organization may appoint up to five (5) representatives who are eligible for benefits of membership.
- E. Membership Benefits
1. Training in all areas of media production and equipment use.
 2. Access to Okemo Valley TV equipment, studio, and distribution platforms, including TV channels and internet-based platforms.
 3. Technical assistance, support, and consultation from Okemo Valley TV staff.
 4. Publicity and promotion of programming produced through Okemo Valley TV.



F. Proof of Eligibility

1. Prospective members may be asked to provide proof of eligibility for membership.
2. Should there be a question of membership eligibility, OVTV may require members to provide proof of current residency status.
3. Proof of residency may be requested by OVTV.
 - a. This may include a passport, valid Vermont driver's license, valid Library card, school ID, military ID, utility bill, or any other document mailed to the individual to the address provided.
 - b. the acceptance of specific documentation is at the discretion of OVTV
4. An organization's proof of eligibility may be requested by OVTV.



IV. PROGRAMMING

A. Administration of PEG Access

1. It is the responsibility of Okemo Valley TV as a PEG (Public, Educational, & Government) Access Management Organization to administer the appropriate use of content on its channels (cable TV & internet-based streaming).
2. PEG Access is the primary use of any content produced and/or generated through Okemo Valley TV..
 - a. As such, all content distributed through Okemo Valley TV must first & foremost adhere to the PEG Access programming policies contained herein.
 - b. The exception to this is programming created as part of a fee-for-service production (See "Production Services for Hire" policy below), which might not be carried on the channels.
3. Programming is scheduled on a first-come, first-served non-discriminatory basis.
 - a. Any piece of non-commercial video content that is in compliance with the "Criteria for Playback" (see below) that is produced and/or provided by a community member
 - b. Programming is scheduled according to the order in which they are received and in agreement with the "Programming Priorities" (outlined below).
- c. A weekly program schedule is developed, maintained, and made publicly available.
 1. A regular weekly schedule is used as a guideline when scheduling the channel.
 2. Program schedules are distributed via the community bulletin board(s), website, and other available platforms.
 3. Producers and program providers have the opportunity to request specific time slots for their programming. An effort will be made to grant requested time slots to producers to the extent possible, in accordance with the aforementioned "first come, first served" policy. However, exact time slot are never guaranteed.

~~c. OVTV will only accommodate timeslot requests from members to the best of its ability and in accordance with its Programming Priorities;~~

5. Program Schedule

- a. An ongoing program grid of regularly scheduled programming and associated time slots will be maintained and made publicly available.
- b. The program grids are reviewed periodically and updated as needed. Changes are made as new programs are received, production schedules are altered, or as requests are fielded from Okemo Valley TV members and/or community members at large. Such requests will be taken into consideration and addressed in accordance with other policies contained herein.

B. Use of PEG Access

1. Public Access Use



a. Requests for use of TV channel time by members of the public shall be made in writing, through the completion of a form that shall be made publicly available. Forms are reviewed and considered in order of receipt.

b. All community members have access to TV channel time.

~~c. Community members' requests and the allocation of TV channel time are considered on a first come, first served nondiscriminatory basis.~~

c. Community members may provide content of their own, or sponsor content provided by another party, to Okemo Valley TV for playback & other distribution.

d. Okemo Valley TV may assign staff and/or volunteers to produce programming. This shall be under the guidelines of public access use contained herein.

2. Educational Access Use

a. Educators, students, and other staff of educational institutions within the service area may present programming on behalf of the institutions. These users have equal access to channel time on Okemo Valley TV's Educational Access channel.

b. Okemo Valley TV will provide coverage and distribute the recordings of local school board meetings, school events, and other school-based activities.

c. Educational institutions outside of the local service area but serving community members within the service area may also present programming. The carriage of such programming is at the discretion of Okemo Valley TV.

~~c. OVTV will collaborate with local schools to produce programming to present information on the schools, the school districts, and their programs, and will help publicize school events to the extent possible.~~

~~d. OVTV encourages the use of its equipment, facilities, and services by faculty and students to produce content for its channel(s).~~

~~e. OVTV will utilize outside sources of educational programming to playback when possible~~

3. Governmental Access Use

a. Municipal offices, state & federal government, governmental agencies, elected officials, and political candidates have equal access to channel time on a first come, first served nondiscriminatory basis.

b. Okemo Valley TV will ~~record videotape~~ and playback local municipal board meetings as often as possible.

c. Okemo Valley TV will collaborate with local municipalities to produce programming pertinent to the Towns and their residents.

d. Okemo Valley TV will utilize outside sources of government affairs programming to playback when possible.

e. Political Programming- Okemo Valley TV will provide programming featuring local and statewide elections, political candidates, and elected officials throughout the year.

1. In doing so, Okemo Valley TV will remain impartial and present the programming on a first come, first served basis.

2. Paid programming by any political candidate or elected official is strictly prohibited.

3. Okemo Valley TV will provide a fair, impartial forum for all local candidates during election seasons.

a. "Election season" shall be interpreted as beginning upon the deadline of candidate petitions and ending upon the closing of the polls.



- b. Opportunities for equal channel time will be made available for all candidates during election season.
- c. During general and town meeting election seasons, candidates may only appear on programs in the context of an election forum where all candidates have been invited or in coverage of a government meeting that is being recorded as part of OVTV's government access programming priorities.
- d. Okemo Valley TV practices a "Fairness Doctrine", whereby no political programming, other than election coverage programming, is to be shown within a 24-hour period prior to a vote.

C. Criteria for Playback and Distribution

1. Okemo Valley TV must verify that each program presented on the channel(s) meets the programming policies & guidelines as well as the technical standards. All content meeting such criteria will be scheduled for playback, in accordance programming priorities listed below.
2. Any content containing the following is restricted from playback on Okemo Valley TV channels and/or other distribution platforms:
 - a. Advertising or promotional material, containing any "call-to-action" of a service or product offered by a commercial or business entity.
 - b. The act of selling a product or service by a commercial or business entity.
 - b. Gambling, lotteries, or "pyramid schemes" that are outside of the parameters of Vermont law.
 - c. Libelous or slanderous material towards a person or entity.
 - d. Invasion of someone's privacy.
 - d. Illegal use of copyrighted materials.
 - e. Material that could be interpreted as "obscene" according to community standards.
 - f. The voice, image, or name of a minor in any setting without consent from a legal guardian.
 - g. The voice or image of any person that is captured on private property without their consent.
 - h. Content that jeopardizes public safety.
3. Producers must not financially profit from content produced using Okemo Valley TV equipment.
 - a. Producers may have up-front operational costs underwritten by a sponsor of their choice (see Underwriting Guidelines below)
 - b. Producers who receive financial sponsorship for content produced with on-loan equipment from Okemo Valley TV shall provide at least least 25% of the sponsorship funds to Okemo Valley TV.
4. Producers and / or local resident sponsors assume all responsibility for program content.
 - a. A "Playback Request & Release" form must be completed
 - b. Producers must complete and sign form, thereby relieving Okemo Valley TV, its staff, its Board of Directors, and the cable provider(s) of any responsibility.
 - c. The producers of programs own the content, and are held liable for the distribution of all content on Okemo Valley TV platforms.
 - d. When applicable, local resident sponsors share responsibility for program content and are held liable for the distribution of content across Okemo Valley TV's platforms.
5. Okemo Valley TV may refuse the distribution of content when evidence is presented that proves the content to be in violation of the above guidelines or that information on the "Playback Request & Release" form has been falsified.



D. Programming Conflicts: Complaint Procedure & Conflict Resolution

1. Okemo Valley TV does not pre-screen nor exercise any editorial control over submitted content.
 - a. Instead, all programming that is submitted must be accompanied by a signed "Playback Request & Release" form and / or materials otherwise approved by Okemo Valley TV staff
 - b. Okemo Valley TV does reserve the right to refuse the distribution of content if it is determined that the programming has violated the Criteria for Playback policy.
2. OVTV will investigate any complaint from a community member about content that is presented on OVTV's channel(s) or other media.
 - a. A complaint is valid if it is alleged that the content in question is in violation of any of OVTV's Criteria for Playback (see above).
 - b. OVTV staff will direct community members with complaints about specific content to the contents' producer(s) and sponsors.
 - c. If an allegation is made, the content in question may then be reviewed by the Executive Director and/or its Board of Directors.
 1. OVTV's Executive Director will consult with the producer and/or local resident sponsor of the content about any complaint.
 - a. The Executive Director will analyze the complaint against the producer or sponsor's evidence.
 - b. The Executive Director shall make a fair judgment and offer a solution.
 - c. If the solution is rejected by any of the parties involved, the situation will be brought to the OVTV Board of Directors for analysis.
 2. If it is determined that the allegation is accurate, the content and/or program may be discontinued from further cablecast / playback, at the discretion of OVTV.
 3. If there is question about its validity or accuracy, the determination shall be made, by consensus, by the OVTV Board of Directors.
 4. If consensus is not met, an independent non-partisan third-party will be brought in to intervene - if necessary, legal counsel will be consulted. (unclear to me....who/what is an independent non-partisan third party?)
3. OVTV staff will not pull any content from playback rotation and/or cease distribution without just cause or proof that the content in question is in violation of any "Programming Criteria" (above).
4. In the event OVTV staff or equipment fails to execute the playback and/or distribution of an independent producer's, or sponsor's content as requested, OVTV staff will notify him/her them and attempt to remedy the situation.
 - a. Any complaints from an independent producer or local resident sponsor should be put in writing and addressed to OVTV.
 - b. OVTV staff and/or its Board of Directors will address each complaint and make every effort to resolve each situation with the independent producer or local resident sponsor.

E. Technical Standards

While OVTV realizes that not all PEG access programming should be required to meet "broadcast quality" standards, it is expected that members will adhere to minimal picture and sound standards and submit their



content on suitable formats and/or clean tapes. OVTV staff will assist members in ensuring these quality standards are maintained throughout each project, by providing technical assistance, guidance, and support.

1. All content submitted for cablecast / playback must meet minimum audio and visual quality standards.
 - a. All pertinent sound must be clearly audible and without distortions, achieving minimum acceptable audio levels.
 1. For digital audio, the minimum acceptable level is a peak of -25 dB on the VU meter.
 2. For analog audio, the minimum acceptable level is a peak of -15 dB on the VU meter.
 3. Optimal audio is -12 dB for DV audio and 0 dB for analog audio.
 - b. Excessive over-modulation of audio signals must not be present.
 1. "Excessive" over-modulation for DV audio is consistent VU meter readings of +5 dB or higher.
 2. "Excessive" over-modulation of analog audio is consistent VU meter readings of +15dB or higher.
 - b. All video ~~is~~ was be free from excessive noise, and ~~achieves~~ achieve adequate enough exposure levels to be visible on television.
 - c. If a submitted program contains content that does not meet the minimum required technical standards, the program will not be scheduled for playback / cablecast and the producer or local resident sponsor will be contacted.
2. OVTV accepts the following ~~record~~videotape formats for submitted content: VHS, SVHS, DVD, DV, DVCAM, ¾".
3. Videotapes
 - a. Programs must be recorded in SP (define SP?) mode - only programs recorded in this mode will be accepted for playback / cablecast.
 - b. All programs submitted on ~~record~~videotape must contain a continuous control track, without any break, in order to be scheduled for playback / cablecast.
 - c. All submitted ~~record~~videotapes must begin with a minimum of 10 seconds of black before the first instance of video or audio, whichever is first and end with 10 seconds of black after the last instance of video or audio.
4. DVDs
 - a. Only DVD-R and DVD+R formatted discs are accepted for playback / cablecast.
 - b. Only programs that play after the initial "play" command will be accepted for playback /cablecast.
5. Production Value
 - a. OVTV encourages all Independent Producers to make an effort to achieve the best possible production value.
 - b. OVTV staff is available to assist Independent Producers with their productions in relation to achieving high production value.
- F. Other Program Requirements: Titles, Contact Information, & Affiliations with OVTV
 1. All programs must contain text with the program name, producer's name, and production date.
 - a. This may be text slates before the start of each program, or as titles within the contents of the program.
 - b. OVTV encourages the presentation of this - or equivalent - information at the start and at the end of each program.
 2. OVTV staff may insert basic titles, or text information, into programs where that information is absent, unless otherwise indicated by the producer.
 3. OVTV encourages Independent Producers to provide contact information within the contents of their programs.
 4. Independent Producers are prohibited from affiliating themselves or their productions with OVTV.



- a. Producers may not include text or voice indicating that their production is in any way, shape, or form associated with OVTV.
- b. ~~Instead,~~ producers may include text or voice acknowledging OVTV for the use of equipment and services. (can we request/require mention of OVTV in our studios/equipment are being used?)
- c. Producers may also include general information about OVTV and the services provided in their programs.
- 5. OVTV reserves the right to insert disclaimers prior to, and following, any program that is scheduled to playback / cablecast on the PEG Channel(s).

G. Programming Priorities

- 1. OVTV establishes and maintains priorities for programming. These priorities reflect the obligations OVTV has in order to best serve the community, in accordance with its mission.
- 2. Priority is always given to programming produced by OVTV members. Further, in consideration of scheduling, the following is a list of types of productions order of priority:
 - a. Live programming of local interest
 - b. Locally-originated programming of municipal or of community significance, produced by OVTV member
 - c. Programming produced by OVTV members, community members and/or of local interest
 - d. Any other programming produced by community members
 - e. Programming shared through VAN (Vermont Access Network)
 - f. All other "Imported" programming - programs from sources outside of the OVTV coverage area and not directly of statewide or regional significance.
 - 1. OVTV may select certain imported programming - this shall only include content that is offered via VAN (Vermont Access Network) or other Education or Government Access programming that has significance to the local community
 - 2. All other imported programming must be requested by a community member in order to be considered
 - 3. A producer and/or local resident sponsor may request a program to be presented
 - 4. OVTV may schedule any program up to six (6) times in total during any one-week, unless otherwise requested by a program's producer.
 - 5. "Gavel-to-Gavel" coverage of local government meetings are shown a minimum of four (4) times, unless it is determined by the Station Manager that there is just cause (see below for definition) to playback a meeting fewer times.
 - a. "Gavel-to Gavel" shall be interpreted as uninterrupted coverage from beginning to end; editing of any kind is prohibited.
 - b. Government meetings recorded with OVTV equipment will be shown no later than two (2) weeks after they are recorded.
 - c. All meetings will be given at least two (2) prime-time time slots.
 - d. "Just Cause" shall include: extreme length of meeting, which interferes with multiple "high priority" programming (see "Programming Priorities" outlined above), or technical problems with tape or taping of event
 - e. Under no circumstances will any municipal or school board meeting be shown fewer than four (4) times
- 6. OVTV reserves the right to compile its program schedules at its own discretion, in accordance with these policies.



H. Requests for Channel Time

1. All Independent Producers must complete a "Producer Playback Request & Release Form".
2. Any community member other than an Independent Producer who submits programming to OVTV is thereby referred to as the "local resident sponsor" of the program and is required to submit an accompanying ~~accompanying~~ must "Sponsor Playback Request + Release" form.
3. "Prime time" is considered to begin at 7:00 PM and end at 10:00 PM.
4. The producer of any program may request program time slots - one prime time request shall be granted per production, as long as the program(s) does not contain content with profanity, excessive violence, nudity, or sexually explicit material (hereby noted as "Advisory Material".
5. OVTV will present any program with content containing "Advisory Material" ~~between~~ ~~between~~ 10:00 PM ~~00PM~~ - 6:00 AM, and will refer to these hours as the "Safe Harbor Period", using FCC regulations as a guide.
6. OVTV will not cablecast and/or distribute by other means any content that has been identified by its producer(s) as containing content in violation of any the guidelines for playback and distribution (SEE ABOVE)
7. While OVTV may own the production equipment and / or acquisition devices, such as tapes, with or on which an independent producer uses to ~~produce a program~~ ~~produce program~~, it is the producer who owns the content and the material on the tape.
 - a. The producer assumes all responsibility for the content of his / her material
 - b. OVTV will not duplicate and/or distribute any programs to any parties without the consent of the producer.

I. Repeat Programming

1. OVTV guarantees one timeslot ("playback") for any program that is submitted according to policy, unless otherwise requested by a program's producer and at the discretion of OVTV staff.
2. The maximum number of timeslots permitted for any one program during the first week after ~~submissions~~ ~~submittal~~ is eight (8), and sixteen (16) for the first 2 weeks.
3. Program scheduling and all subsequent repeats are subject to the Programming Priorities.
4. Unless otherwise requested by the member, sponsor, or Independent Producer of a program, repeat scheduling is at the discretion of OVTV.

J. Series Programs

1. Series programs are those that are regularly produced by members / Independent Producers, or submitted by Sponsors on a regular basis, such as daily, weekly, monthly, or as otherwise indicated.
 - a. Those submitting requests for playback of series programs shall indicate in advance the regularity of episodes (i.e. daily, weekly, monthly...).
 - b. If episodes are not received by OVTV within the indicated timeframe, the series will be subject to withdrawal from the regular program schedule, until a new episode is received.
 - c. Repeated failure to submit episodes in to OVTV within the indicated ~~time frame~~ ~~timeframe~~ is subject to being "pulled" from regular rotation as a series; such programs will thereafter be treated as one-time productions and will be subject to individual "Playback Request & Release" forms.
2. Producers of series programs may submit 1 "Playback Request & Release" form for the duration of each series, or annually, whichever comes first.
3. Timeslot requests for series programs shall be maintained as closely as possible and in accordance with the Programming Priorities (see above).



4. OVTV will, to the best of its ability, assist producers of series programs with publicity, as a means to give further incentive for regularity of productions.

K. Resident Sponsorship of Imported Programming

1. Local residents may request programming - produced by someone else - to be presented on OVTV's PEG Channel(s).

a. Such programming may originate from outside the local service area.

b. The local resident sponsor is responsible for obtaining the material from the producer or original presenter and supplying OVTV with the best possible copy of that material for playback / cablecast.

2. Since such programming is allocated as a lower priority than other types of programming (see Program Priorities above), OVTV may re-schedule the sponsored program at its discretion.

a. If a conflict arises between local resident-sponsored programming and that of a higher priority, OVTV reserves the right to "pull" the sponsored program from playback rotation.

b. OVTV does not guarantee regular playback / cablecast of sponsored programming.

3. Such programming must meet Criteria for Playback (see above), and permission must be granted to the local resident sponsor.

a. If evidence is presented indicating a program is being "sponsored" without permission, that program may be immediately ceased from further playback / cablecast and/or other means of distribution.

b. The local resident sponsor is responsible for obtaining and maintaining documented permission from the producer of the program.

4. Local resident sponsors must complete, sign, and submit a Sponsor Request for Playback form before a program may be considered for scheduling on the PEG channel(s).

5. A local resident sponsor is not required for programming presented or produced by government agencies or educational institutions from outside the local service area.

a. Such programming may be presented on a channel devoted for Educational Access or Governmental Access, with or without solicitation from a local resident.

b. OVTV reserves the right to schedule programming presented or produced by government agencies and educational institutions at its discretion.

IV. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES USE

A. All members are eligible to use OVTV equipment and its facilities, for the purposes of creating content for OVTV distribution.

1. "Distribution" may include programming playback on OVTV's cable TV channel(s), and/or any other available electronic or print medium provided by OVTV.

2. Community members wishing to utilize equipment and facilities must first register as OVTV members.

3. Memberships must be current and valid prior to utilizing facilities and equipment. (See Membership Policies above).

B. Orientation.

1. Prior to utilizing facilities & equipment, all members must initially register for and complete an OVTV orientation.

2. Orientations are offered by OVTV staff to all new members, or those interested in becoming members

3. Orientations are free and open to the public



4. Dates and times of orientations are posted on the website, community bulletin board, and periodically in available print media.

C. Training Courses & Certification

1. All members are eligible to enroll in training courses offered by OVTV.
2. Training courses are used by OVTV to certify members as users of specific pieces of equipment.
3. Only members who have been certified by LCPTV staff are eligible to use on-loan equipment from OVTV.
4. Members may only sign out on-loan equipment on which they have been certified by OVTV.
5. Only OVTV staff may certify a member on any given piece of equipment.

D. Use of On-Loan Equipment

1. Equipment is available for use and/or on-loan sign-out on a first come, first served nondiscriminatory basis for the purposes of creating a project for use on OVTV's PEG channel(s) and, if applicable, other distribution systems.
2. "On-Loan" equipment refers to cameras, tripods, sound equipment, and lighting that members take out into the field with them.
3. OVTV requests that members reserve equipment in advance, preferably at least 2 days, by calling, emailing, or making an in-person request during regular operating hours.
4. Members are responsible for reserving equipment that is appropriate for their projects.
 - a. OVTV staff is always available to assist and advise members with project planning and determining what equipment to use.
 - b. Upon request for reservation, members must inform OVTV staff of their intent with the equipment and details of the project.
 - c. OVTV staff may request a written description of each project from members to better assist with project planning, equipment needs, and timeframes.
5. All requests for on-loan equipment are at the discretion of OVTV staff.
 - a. Equipment must be picked up at OVTV on the pre-specified date, during normal operating hours.
 - b. Equipment must be returned to OVTV by the pre-specified date, during normal operating hours.
 - c. Members may reserve on-loan equipment for periods of up to five (5) days maximum.
 - d. Requests for periods longer than five days may be submitted, and are subject to approval by OVTV staff.
6. It is an understanding between OVTV and members that on-loan equipment will be used for projects whose content will be used in some form for distribution as a program on the PEG C. channel(s).
7. On-loan equipment must be returned in the same condition as it was upon sign-out.
 - a. OVTV staff inspects equipment and documents condition upon signing out and upon return.
 - b. Members using on-loan equipment are liable for any damages sustained, or changes to the condition of the equipment, during their use.
 - c. Members will be held accountable and billed accordingly for any repairs made or replacement parts ordered as a result of damages sustained during their use.
8. Members are responsible for any equipment that is lost or stolen during their use.
 - a. If equipment is stolen during use, members are required to report the case to OVTV right away.
 - b. Members will be held accountable for any equipment that is lost during use, and billed accordingly for replacements.

**** add photo ID requirement for anyone using**



9. Line of demarcation

E. Studio Use

1. Studio is available on a ~~first-come, first served~~ ^{first-come, first served}, non-discriminatory basis by OVTV members for the purposes of creating content for cablecast / playback on the PEG Channel(s).
2. All productions must be made in accordance with OVTV's Programming Policies & Procedures.
3. Those requesting studio time are encouraged to make a reservation at least 1 week in advance.
4. Equal time shall be provided for anyone wishing to express contrary opinions.
5. OVTV staff may invite community members and others into the studio to discuss topics of community interest.
 - a. Studio guests are not required to be OVTV members
 - free use of studio: "live to tape" format, with 15 minutes of set up time allocated and technical support during recording. 1 hour or less. Anything more than that must be requested in advance and will be considered, in relation to availability of resources.

6. Line of demarcation

F. Independent Producer Responsibilities

1. Independent Producers are encouraged to staff their own studio productions (see above: "line of demarcation")
 - a. If / when crew cannot be provided by producers, OVTV staff may be available to provide technical assistance on studio productions where needed. (see above - define in # of hours and scope of pro bono work)
 - b. OVTV encourages Independent Producers to volunteer on each others' projects.
 1. OVTV may provide Independent Producers with volunteer contact information, when given permission by prospective volunteers to do so.
 2. Independent Producers are encouraged to maintain their own contact lists for prospective crew members.
 3. Independent Producers may choose to compensate crew members.
 - c. If OVTV staff is involved with the productions, Independent Producers are required to provide any necessary materials to staff at least 2 days in advance.

Such may include:

 1. ~~record~~videotape for playback, or "B Roll"
 2. written rundown sheets
 3. names and contact information of guests and crew members
 4. any other written information to be used for titles, subtitles, and graphics
 5. still images
 6. music, sound effects, or other audio for soundtrack
7. Independent Producers must never identify themselves as OVTV employees or OVTV volunteers.
 - a. Independent producers work independently of OVTV, even if they are using OVTV equipment in their productions; they are community members borrowing equipment from OVTV, not OVTV producers. Falsification of this affiliation is prohibited.
 - b. The exception to this is if the producers are volunteering for OVTV and are on an OVTV assigned volunteer project; it is then acceptable for the crew members to identify themselves as "OVTV volunteers".



G. Use of Editing Facilities

1. Editing facilities are available on a first come, first served non-discriminatory basis by OVTV members for the purposes of creating their own content for cablecast / playback on the PEG channel(s).
2. Members must be certified on OVTV editing equipment prior to use.
3. Members are encouraged to reserve editing facilities at least 1 week in advance.
4. Editing times shall be reserved in 2-hour blocks per use - requests for additional time are at the discretion of OVTV staff.
5. OVTV's non-linear editing systems
 - a. Storage of footage on OVTV hard drives is allotted a 1-month maximum.
 - b. Requests for additional time are at the discretion of OVTV staff.
6. No food or beverage is allowed at any of the editing suites.
7. Members are encouraged to label their own tapes.
8. Members are responsible for the maintenance of their tapes.
 1. Members are encouraged to not leave the tapes at OVTV for the duration of their projects
 2. Members are encouraged to monitor and log each tape prior to editing

H. Videotape and other Media Stock

1. Members are expected to provide either their own raw ~~record~~videotape or other media, or to purchase them from OVTV.
 - a. If using their own media, members shall ensure that the media is clean and free of harmful materials.
 - b. OVTV staff must approve media sources prior to use in OVTV equipment.
 - c. OVTV will provide raw media to members in the event they cannot provide their own.
 1. OVTV will sell new ~~record~~videotapes (and other media, when applicable) for a charge to members upon request.
 2. OVTV may provide used media to members on a short-term loan basis.
 - a. Members must return on-loan media upon project's completion.
 - b. Members are ultimately responsible for the content on the tapes.
 1. Members should take their own precautions when using and then returning on loan tapes.
 2. OVTV is not responsible for clearing contents (i.e. "blacking out") from ~~record~~videotapes before lending them to members.

I. Copyright & Content Ownership

1. Independent Producers retain ownership of the content of any program produced with OVTV equipment or facilities.
2. OVTV may retain ownership of the master tape of any program produced using OVTV equipment, unless other arrangements are made.
3. OVTV reserves the right to playback/cablecast any program, or otherwise distribute the content contained within, that is produced using its equipment and facilities any number of times on the PEG channel(s).
4. OVTV may also, at its discretion, erase a program in order to recycle a ~~record~~videotape or if the material is no longer timely.



5. Any Independent Producer may choose to purchase the master tapes, whereby s/he retains ownership of the tape(s).
6. Sponsors are responsible for determining the owner of the program(s) they submit and abiding by the requests of the copyright holder(s) and/or owners of the content.
 - a. Material that is provided by a local resident sponsor may be archived at OVTV unless otherwise indicated by that sponsor, or the programs' producers.
 - b. OVTV reserves the right to playback/cablecast any program, or otherwise distribute the content contained within, that is provided by a local resident sponsor, unless otherwise indicated by that sponsor.
 - c. Duplication and / or other distribution of material that is provided by a local resident sponsor is at the discretion of OVTV, unless otherwise indicated by that sponsor, or the programs' producers.

J. Use of Non-Standard and Grant-Funded Equipment (adopted 5/29/14)

1. All standard inventoried OVTV equipment is provided to qualified members and users of OVTV on a non-discriminatory basis.
2. In addition to standard inventoried equipment, OVTV reserves the right to own, house, or maintain equipment that is qualified as "non-standard".
3. Non-standard equipment may be subject to particular use and not necessarily available on a first come, first serve basis.
4. Non-standard equipment includes units of equipment that have been obtained from sources other than traditional PEG funding (i.e. cable subscriber revenue), such as grants, and that have been earmarked for specific purposes.
5. Priority of the use of non-standard equipment shall be at the discretion of OVTV and may be given to parties who are affiliated with projects that have been supplied with equipment intended for specific purposes.
6. A memorandum of understanding shall be signed between OVTV and the affiliated parties for all use of non-standard equipment.

V. Video Duplication and other Content Distribution

- A. OVTV may operate a video duplication service, providing content on-demand for a fee.
 1. The duplication fees shall be ~~set by set~~ and periodically reviewed by the OVTV Board of Directors.
 2. Duplication fees are intended to cover the costs of ~~record~~videotape / media stock, packaging materials, and duplication equipment usage ("wear & tear").
- B. OVTV may duplicate and distribute any content of which it is the owner - this may include meetings and events held by government bodies, and other community programming produced exclusively by, or in part by, OVTV staff members.
- C. OVTV may duplicate and distribute any content for which it has received written permission from its producer(s).
- D. Under no circumstances shall content be duplicated and distributed by other means before its initial cablecast / playback on its designated PEG Channel(s).



E. Producers using OVTV equipment & facilities are entitled to 1 free copy for each program they produce for distribution on the PEG channel(s).

1. All additional copies are subject to a duplication fee.

F. Discounts on video duplication shall be made available to OVTV members.

VI. Right of Refusal (adopted 3/10)

A. OVTV reserves the right to refuse services to any individual found in violation of OVTV's operational policies.

1. An individual found in violation of policies pertaining to use of facilities & equipment is subject to being banned from future use of those facilities and / or equipment.

2. Any individual who is found to be disrespectful of others in the facility is subject to having privileges removed by the Chief Operating Officer / Executive Director or the Board of Directors.

3. OVTV will never interfere with a community member's first amendment right of cablecasting public access programming on its TV channels. However, violations of OVTV's Operational Policies may result in loss of some operational privileges, at the discretion of the Chief Operating Officer / Executive Director or Board of Directors. These losses of privileges may include borrowing on-loan equipment, facility use, or participating in training classes /workshops.

B. Each violation of an OVTV Operational Policy will be reviewed on an individual basis. (this seems generous to the offender?)

1. A first violation of any policy is subject to a verbal reprimand from the Chief Operating Officer / Executive Director.

2. A second violation will result in a written reprimand from the Chief Operating Officer / Executive Director or Board President.

3. A third violation is subject to loss of privileges for up to six months.

4. Any individual committing more than three violations of OVTV's Operational Policies is subject to an indefinite loss of privileges.

VII. Community Bulletin Board (adopted 3/10)

A. Anyone wishing to communicate with cable subscribers for non-commercial purposes may submit a brief message with accompanying graphics to be shown on the community bulletin board, which is displayed on OVTV's TV channels as well as its website.

B. Users must submit their messages at least two weeks in advance. All messages must be accompanied by contact information for further information and the name of the sponsoring organization or individual.

1. At a minimum, the contact information must include a phone number.

2. Website and email addresses or other contact information are also encouraged.

3. Messages may be submitted via mail, fax, email, phone, or through OVTV's website.

C. Priority is given to events & information pertaining to the service area.

D. OVTV will display messages for events up until the day of the event.

E. If there is a specific date or time when the messages should be displayed, or not displayed, that information must accompany the message.



F. OVTV may also use the community bulletin board to promote its own services, its programming schedules, and as an alternate revenue stream through the enhancement of its own community-based fundraising initiatives.

G. Submissions must be non commercial and not contain any advertising messages. Specific pricing or financial information should be omitted from messages.

H Submissions may be edited by OVTV prior to distribution in order to control and maintain the broadcast appearance of graphics and text.

I. OVTV shall maintain a list of guidelines and make them available to community bulletin board users.

1. Here are some general guidelines and tips for bulletin board announcements:

- a. Use large serif fonts - those with more solid lines (tahoma, arial, etc.).
- b. Only include the most essential and general information (what, where, when, and contact info).
- c. Font size should be 30-point at a minimum.
- d. Use contrasting colors between background & foreground (i.e. light text over dark background or vice versa).
- e. Include a logo, photograph, other graphic, or a combination.

J. OVTV reserves the right to refuse any messages submitted that are in violation of the guidelines.

VIII. UNDERWRITING, SPONSORSHIPS, & FUNDRAISING (adopted 3/10)

A. OVTV accepts underwriting grants from businesses and individuals to help cover the operational costs associated with production, post-production, and programming.

B. All underwriting grants are in the form of cash or in-kind donations of materials or services.

C. Business and individual support will be recognized by OVTV in the following ways:

1. exposure on the bulletin board,
2. immediately before and after channel 8 programming,
3. on the website,
4. and in written media for mass distribution, such as newsletters and annual reports.

D. The extent to which underwriters and sponsors are given exposure corresponds to their levels of financial giving. There are three tiers of underwriting support:

1. "Friend of OVTV"
2. OVTV Sponsor
3. OVTV Patron

E. The amounts of the varying levels of giving shall be determined by OVTV's Board of Directors.

F. OVTV accepts underwriting grants on an ongoing basis.

G. Recognition for in-kind donations will be determined by the managing Director.

H. Underwriters will receive any newsletter or other written community outreach correspondence.

I. OVTV welcomes additional financial support through a "contributing members" campaign.

J. Acknowledgment of Program Sponsors - Producers may give credit to an individual, company, or organization that underwrites any of their production costs. This is meant to give underwriters credit, but not advertising time.

1. The following are examples of such acknowledgements that are permitted:

- a. A fifteen (15)-second voiceover (see examples below) and video display per underwriter at end of program



- b. Video title including name, address, website and/ or phone number of company or organization
- c. Corporate Logo that fills no more than one-quarter, or 25 percent, of the screen
- d. Video of symbols or images - but not products or services in action - that represents the sponsor.
 - 1. "Products" are any items sold by sponsor
 - 2. "Services" are activities that are offered, such as tax preparation, athletic lessons, repair work.
- e. Video of employees or the sponsor.
- f. Some audio ~~voice overs~~~~voiceovers~~ are permitted. Samples of these follow:
 - 1. "This program was made possible by a grant from xyz"
 - 2. "Local presentation of xyz was made possible by xyz"
 - 3. "This program has been brought to you by xyz"
 - 4. "We'd like to thank xyz for their contribution making this program possible"
- 2. The following are examples of program acknowledgements that are prohibited:
 - a. Video of a product, service in action, or packaged goods in or out of the container
 - b. Video of a service provided for a price by the organization
 - c. Calls to action such as "buy, try, consider, or call this or that"
 - d. Comparative statements, qualitative adjectives, or any subjective evaluations, such as "the best xyz", or "xyz is ahead of everyone else"
 - e. Segments less than fifteen minutes in length may only give a visual credit or thank you to sponsors in ending credits but may not give a 15-second underwriting announcement.

IX. Production Services for Hire (adopted 3/10)

OVTV offers field video production and editing services to individuals and non-profit organizations for a fee. This is a service that clients may opt to utilize when they wish to hire OVTV staff to perform production work for them, rather than do it themselves. The fees for such services are set by the Board of Directors and are subject to change. In order for a client to be eligible to utilize OVTV's production-for-hire services, the content in production must be intended for use on cable television channels operated by OVTV, unless other circumstances are arranged with the Executive Director prior to production. Examples of production services for hire include, but are not limited to: camera crew, interviewer, and editing.

X. Production Services (consider swapping placement with the above)

Provision of production services by Okemo Valley TV staff. This may include coverage of events held by schools, non profit organizations, or local government agencies. Simple, single camera coverage, with limited editing. "Spread the wealth". This is provided at no cost as a community service. Anything above and beyond may be considered for Production Service for Hire (see policy)