Midwest Internet Coop Exchange UG 47 Minutes

Meeting called to order Wednesday, March 12th 2025 at 15:02pm CDT
The University of Minnesota Information Technology building: 2218 University Ave SE, Minneapolis

Roll Call
Number of Voting Members in Attendance: 15 of 149
Number of Non-Voting Participants in Attendance: 0
Number of Pending Connections in Attendance: 0
Number of Guests in Attendance: 2 - Arista and Cogent
At least ten members in attendance, quorum attained.

UG46 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 46 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report
Current Cash Assets:
$ 53,559.55 in Old National Bank Account
$ 429,441.50 in Fidelity Money Market Account

2025 port fee billing is complete, we still have $273,267.82 in Accounts Receivable but expect that to come down quickly as members pay their 2025 bills.   We have withdrawn $390K from our Fidelity accounts to pay for the new core switch and other expenses.   The board feels that we need to continue to keep enough cash on hand to be in a position to quickly grow and change as the market and member needs evolve.

2024 Financial Notes:
Income for 2024 totaled $307,046.83 which was made up of 100G port fees $249,945.18 - 10G port fees $21,113.01 and interest/dividends of $35,988.64

Expenses for 2024 totaled $75,543.93 - notable items were $9800 in accounting/bookkeeping, $53,446.57 in hardware and maintenance, $2702.63 in fees, $3373 in insurance, and $6000 in bad debt write offs.

At the end of 2024 the organization had $965,856.17 in total assets (hardware, cash, equivalents) and members had $298,569.74 in capital credits.   OneNeck IT Solutions capital credits were added into TDS' credits in November because of their merger.

Member Adds/Removes/Pendings
New Members Added:
- Ausra (AS400818)
- Intrepid Fiber/BIFIV (394056)

Members Disconnected:
- Acentek Michigan [AS11904]
- Coloplast [AS25111]
- Evolve IP (fka Advanced Integrated Tech / AI Tech) [AS13746]

- ipHouse [AS7753]

New Members Pending: Pudu, Gateway Fiber, Chia, AllWorldIT, MIDnet, INCX

Reports/Discussion

Jeremy Lumby reported on his progress implementing our new Arista 7804 core switch.   He's been moving about 30 links each week - which is the upper limit of what Cologix wants to do given the large amount of time and effort needed on their part to cross connect members from various parts of the building into our new rack.   The last move this past week involved relocating the older Arista 7504 core switch to the new rack so everyone is landed in our new rack now. Additionally the 7504 got its software upgraded as it was moved. The last maintenance period will involve moving everyone from the two temp switches to their final 7804 core switch ports.   The group thanked MNVoIP for letting us borrow the two temporary switches and Jeremy for his efforts - every community should be lucky enough to have someone with his dedication and expertise.

Our Ridgeview link is topping out at about 100G of 400G link capacity, there are 7 direct participants plus about 12 via the SouthFront Remote that connects in Ridgeview.   The group discussed what our options would be if we had a request for 400G member ports there, the consensus being that a chassis would be expensive given the number of members there - but we could consider a pizza box style switch if the math worked.

There was discussion of 400G optic options: MICE has standardized on FR4 optics to limit the number of spares we need to keep, but the market is evolving and we may need to add other options as people's transport options change.

Several members have asked to pay their annual port fees with credit cards. There was a brief discussion of fees and potential chargeback situations.   Anthony will see what our bookkeeper and accountants recommend.

There have also been several potential members who have wanted MICE to use various payment portals as part of their onboarding procedures.   We have always been resistant to such things because of their built-in click-throughs and other complicated T&C/NDA documents. Other IXs have also been resistant to such things and the group consensus was that our default position should be to reject such nonsense, although the board may still decide to jump through these steps on a case by case basis.

There will be a board election at the UG48 meeting this fall - Richard's seat will be up for election. There was a brief discussion of board make-up and it was noted that we could expand the board from 3 positions to 5 positions if there was enough interest.

Upcoming Events

The Midwest Peering Summit will be July 15th-16th 2025 at DoubleTree in downtown Saint Paul. Jay reported that space is limited so anyone interested should register soon.

The meeting date for MICE Users Group meeting 48 was set for 3:00pm October 8th 2025 at the University of Minnesota Information Technology building (with Zoom option available).

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 16:37pm CDT