LACATech Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2003

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:30am on October 15, 2003. The following members were present: Denny Souder (Granville), Michelle Berry (Heath), Jesse Lyon (LCJVS), Lesa McGarity (Licking Heights), Sondra Wilson (Newark), Larry Smith (North Fork), James Hagan (Southwest Licking), Mark Goodall (Tri-Valley), Kevin Snyder (West Muskingum), Shawn Wharton (Johnstown), Dave Calloway (Licking County ESC) and Sandra Mercer (LACA). Others attending included Chad Carson (LACA), Jon Bowers(LACA), Joey Alexander (LACA), Jill Merry (St. Francis), Chris Parkinson (Newark Catholic), Carol VanDeest (SchoolNet) and Rachael Granatir (SchoolNet),

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

04-003 It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Sondra Wilson to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2002 meeting. A vote of approval was taken.

Introduction of New Members

Mark Goodall was welcomed as the new Technology Coordinator for Tri-Valley Local Schools. Rachael Granatir was welcomed as the new Schoolnet Regional Faculty for Muskingum County.

SchoolNet Update

A Schoolnet Update document was handed out and presented by Carol Vandeest and Rachael Granatir. Please contact Carol at vandeest@osn.state.oh.us or Rachael at Rachael.granatir@osn.state.oh.us with any questions about the Schoolnet Update.

E-Rate Update

Data Collection forms were passed out. They should be completed and faxed back to LACA by November 15, 2003. The LACA consortium received a total of $248,026.40 for Fiscal Year 03 E-rate. The money will flow to the districts, and the districts will be invoiced for the money to be flowed back to the LACA Network Pool. Currently the Network Pool pays $82,000 for WAN connections to all buildings. Interest in LACA hosting a 470/471 workshop near the end of November / beginning of December was discussed. Sandy will e-mail a date to the group.

INFOhio Resources

If districts plan to put links to INFOhio technical resources on their websites, there is a procedure that must be followed in order to do the IP-based authentication to the resources. The instructions for doing so can be found at http://www.infohio.org/Educator/webmasterhelp.html Equipment specification for the new Unicorn product that will be coming within the next 18 months can be found at http://www.infohio.org/librarystaff/transition/transequipment.html. Be aware that profiles and workstation lockdown software can hinder the updates needed for the librarians to work with the new system, and provisions will need to be made in the future to have more flexible security on librarian workstations. This may be a problem with other application areas, if software requires a certain version of Adobe Reader, but the teacher/staff member cannot update to the required version due to machine policy or lockdown software.

WAN Updates

Cisco LAN switch maintenance has been turned in. Districts will be billed for any switches they opted to have covered. Remember that LACA charges our standard hourly rate to troubleshoot and repair any Cisco switches that are not covered by Smartnet, and the process could take 2

weeks to get replacements under Cisco's lifetime warranty.   Information about the 3rd Frontier Network, which has plans to run fiber to every DA-Site, can be found at http://tfn.oar.net/. The Local Fiber Steering Committee is meeting after the LACATech meeting to make decisions about local fiber runs from LACA to member districts. The committee is charged with determining if it is wise to spend the money for a fiber study, and identifying compelling reasons for running fiber.   LACA's Network Restructure is continuing, and we will be getting a new UPS and backup generator over the next few weeks. Downtime will be necessary when the power is cut to the computer room. LACA will be doing internal work on our Windows 2000 domain as well over the next few weeks. Notices will be sent out and work will be done at times that insure minimal interruption of services.   Discussion took place on a new content-filtering appliance called the R3000 by 8e6 Technologies, as a replacement for Websense. The R3000 is more cost-effective and has features that allow a district to add/delete URLs from their own filtering policies. It was

04-004 moved by Dave Calloway and seconded by James Hagan to replace Websense with the R3000 content filter. A unanimous vote of approval was take by all members present.   A date has been set following the December 3rd LACATech meeting for the CIPA Review Committee to update policy based on the change of product.   DS-3 Bandwidth usage at LACA routinely reaches our 10mb limit. ONENet will pay for up to 15mb of bandwidth. LACA's Packeteer Packetshaper only

04-005 has a 10mb license and would need to be upgraded, at a cost of about $2,700. It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Shawn Wharton to approve an increase in bandwidth from 10 mb/second to 15 mb/sec on LACA's DS-3 to the state, using Network Pool funds to cover the costs to upgrade Packeteer Packetshaper. A vote of approval was taken.

Technical Services Update
LACATech members were reminded once again that LACA will have a blanket site-wide license in place on September 1, 2004 for Sophos Anti-Virus. All computers in the LACA consortium will be licensed to run Sophos. LACA will look into a way to centralize distribution of updates to the districts from LACA before this date. Status was given on the CA Helpdesk required to be in operation by all DA-Sites, and the Tech-Up grants using the Track-It helpdesk. The increase in Spam e-mail was discussed, and Chad Carson let everyone know that the basic filtering methods being used previously were no longer effective, and that LACA would like to implement

04-006 MailMarshal, which other DA-Sites have had success with. It was moved by Larry Smith and seconded by Denny Souder to approve spending an annual license fee not to exceed $3,000 for the MailMarshal spam filter, pending a successful evaluation by LACA. A unanimous vote of approval was taken. GaggleNet accounts have been set up for each participating district, and usernames/passwords have been distributed to the responsible people. LACA can assist with account importing if desired.   Dave Calloway asked if there was interest in doing the hardware recycling again this year. The recycling must be done 24 palettes at a time. You can get 9 monitors or 27 computers on a palette. The cost was 450 per truckload (24 palettes). Please let Dave Calloway know if there is interest and how many palettes you estimate your district will contribute.

Other Discussion
IVDL updates were presented by Jon Bowers. TSI will be doing the DA-Site and district upgrades and certifications. TSI shipping the hardware upgrades, and LACA doing the installation. LACA is not certified yet at the core.   VTEL equipment is not under maintenance now, since it's being swapped out. New equipment maintenance will be about 1/8th the cost of the old equipment maintenance.   Progressbook updates were presented. LACA is still working with Software Answers to fix a few bugs in the software. Twelve districts will be piloting the Special Education module in November. The technology coordinators will be added to the progressbook_users@laca.org distribution list to keep them informed, and accounts will be created for each technology coordinator to have access to Progressbook to help with troubleshooting if necessary.

Unfinished Business
There was no unfinished business.

New Business
LACA will be posting the Network Coordinator's position on October 19, 2003.

Election of Officers for the LACATech committee took place. The floor was opened for nominations. Dave Calloway nominated Michelle Berry for Chairperson, Jesse Lyon nominated Dave Calloway for Vice-Chairperson, and Larry Smith nominated Kevin Snyder to remain the

04-007 LACATech Governing Board representative. It was moved by Denny Souder and seconded by
04-008 Kevin Snyder to close the floor for nominations. It was moved by Dave Calloway and seconded by Larry Smith to elect Michelle Berry for Chairperson, Dave Calloway for Vice-Chairperson, and Kevin Snyder for Governing Board Representative. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

The next LACATech meeting date will be December 3, 2003, at 8:30am.

04-009 It was moved by Dave Calloway and seconded by Larry Smith to adjourn the meeting at 10:30am. A vote of approval was taken.