

So What Is The Clapper Award?

By Kate Feeks

The television station, WCTV (Wadsworth Community Television), has been owned and operated by the City of Wadsworth since 1983. It has provided many years of assistance, helping interested local citizens become television producers.

The City of Wadsworth offers a studio and services to residents of Wadsworth for the purpose of producing their own television shows. WCTV operates four channels including: public, educational, governmental and advertising (PEG). This year it is estimated that 1600 programs will be produced by community volunteers. Those interested can use the television studio, camcorders, lights, microphones, editing systems and more, all free of charge.

Johanna Perrino, on staff at the station, provides assistance and training to those interested in learning how to produce their own show(s). Each year Johanna organizes the WCTV Clapper Awards Ceremony which is one of the more exciting events offered by the studio. The WCTV Clapper Awards are presented to Wadsworth's local television producers recognizing them for the best programming throughout the year. The Clapper Awards Ceremony recognizes winners in fourteen categories with honorable mention, runner up and the clapper award winner.

The Celebrezze/Zanghi Community Legal Education Project, Inc. (CZ CLEP) produces the television show Law Talk. Hosted by Attorney John Celebrezze, the show has taken home a Clapper Award two years in a row.

In 2009 Law Talk was presented a Clapper award for Best Talk Show with guest Judge James Kimbler on the topic of Foreclosures. In 2010 Law Talk was awarded Best Talk Show Runner Up with guest Judge Christopher Collier on his Drug Court.

Each of the categories is voted on by the community, known as the popularity vote. The quality vote is by a media group outside of the community that judges the categories for media quality. "I have a big excel spreadsheet that I punch all the numbers into that decides which one is first, second and third place" Perrino explained.

Nominations for the programs are accepted at the beginning of August through mid September. Some community members call in to vote for their favorite shows. There is also a ballot available on the city website at www.wadsworthcity.com. Hard copy ballots can be found at the Wadsworth Library, City Hall, Senior Center and the WCTV studio too.

The Clapper Award Ceremony, along with all the programs produced at the studio, is available to watch online at www.my.pegcentral.com.