

UPCOMING

May 12: The WICT Network's [Signature Awards Luncheon](#), NYC

May 17-20: [Fiber Connect](#), Kissimmee, FL

May 19-20: [ANGA.COM 2026](#), Cologne, Germany

May 20: Senate Commerce hearing "[No Sure Bets: Protecting Sports Integrity in America](#)"

PITCHER READY TO PLAY BALL AS WICT CEO

Tracy Pitcher built part of her leadership foundation with the help of **The WICT Network**. Now she's responsible for shaping what that experience looks like for the next generation, at a time when leadership expectations across media, entertainment and technology are shifting to keep pace with the constant consolidation, convergence and technology change.

"I am a product of this organization," Pitcher told **CFX**, pointing to her time in the Betsy Magness Leadership Institute and WICT Network's other executive programs. "Those experiences have candidly shaped how I lead. They've shaped how I make decisions, how I think about developing others... I'm genuinely energized by this opportunity and the opportunity presented before me."

Pitcher steps into the CEO role following *Maria Brennan's* 16-year tenure. Brennan has been part of the organization's efforts to expand internationally and increase membership levels since she took over the reins in 2009, helping guide WICT through multiple phases of industry evolution in addition to investing more in STEM efforts and research through the PAR Initiative, an advocacy program that spotlights pay equity and other practices to foster stronger diversity metrics in the industry.

Rather than signaling an overhaul, Pitcher is framing her leadership as a continuation of Brennan's legacy. "It isn't about replacing her legacy at all. It's about honoring it while helping to write the next chapter and to do it with the same commitment to relevance, the commitment to inclusivity and the commitment to leadership development that has defined WICT for decades," she said.

The next chapter starts with listening. Pitcher has spent the last month settling into her new gig by traveling and meeting with members, chapter leaders, sponsors and board members to better understand where the association is delivering and where it could evolve. Pitcher said she's felt the passion and energy from stakeholders to carry out The WICT Network's mission, giving her more reassurance "that I made the right decision coming to this organization to be a part of something bigger than myself."

However, Pitcher comes from the corporate side of the industry. She spent time as SVP of **Comcast Business'** Central, Northeast and Greater Boston Divisions and previously held leadership roles at **Charter, AT&T** and **Time Warner**. That career experience shapes her focus on execution, accountability and delivering outcomes for WICT's base of nearly 10,000 members and 24 chapters. Those focus points, along with people and culture, are what Pitcher thinks make up a successful organization.

They also mold the trajectory Pitcher wants to take for WICT. One theme she wants to pursue is better conveying the ROI WICT offers, both for individuals advancing their careers and for companies investing in leadership development. During her self-described

listening tour, which is currently in its fourth week, Pitcher has been gathering data for a variety of WICT's experiences, development programs and other offerings.

Another theme centers on the changing nature of the connectivity industry and the evolving leadership requirements that come with it. "The bottom line is that leadership development can't be static," Pitcher said. "But we've got to make sure that the programming continues to challenge our members."

There won't be wholesale changes, but there will be tweaks throughout WICT to better position it. "For me, early impact is going to feel like we've got clarity on where WICT is heading, that we've got great momentum, that we're ensuring WICT remains relevant, and doing that while simultaneously not introducing disruption for disruption's sake... but rather to make those minor pivots, or things that need to happen to ensure we have the clarity, the momentum and the relevance for the organization and our members."

The industry will get to see WICT's new chief in action at next week's Signature Awards Luncheon in NYC. The event will honor the [2026 Women of the Year](#) and Women to Watch recipients, and it'll be Pitcher's debut helming a global WICT event. If it's up to her, the event—and the many that will follow—will be one folks won't want to miss.

"I want there to be a little bit of FOMO. Like if I'm not a member of WICT, if I'm not a sponsor of WICT, if I'm not a company deeply engaged in WICT, then I'm missing out," Pitcher said.

SCRIPPS TALKS COMCAST, MUM ON SINCLAIR

On its 1Q26 earnings call Friday, **Scripps** briefly touched on its recent carriage dispute with **Comcast**, which saw the broadcaster's nets go dark from March 31 to May 5. Scripps CFO *Jason Combs* said the company expects gross distro rev in 2Q to be impacted by the impasse. "While it creates a short-term blip in Q2 financials, we are pleased with what that deal means in the midterm and long-term for us," Combs said. He talked up the progress on the company's transformation strategy, including in its Local Media business, which saw an almost 5% YOY gain to \$342 million, boosted by ad rev growth of 6%. Combs said this was driven by Scripps' live sports portfolio, particularly its **NHL** telecasts, and a midterm election cycle that's heating up. Total quarterly rev was \$517 million, a 1% YOY drop. Surprisingly, no one asked President/CEO *Adam Symson* about Sinclair during the Q&A portion of the call, especially after **Sinclair** President/CEO *Chris Ripley* suggested last week that Scripps remained an M&A target. And while Scripps has commented on **Nexstar-Tegna** and broadcast consolidation in general on past calls, it didn't talk about either on this occasion. One analyst did ask for the execs' thoughts on the pending **Charter-Cox** merger and whether it was a factor in its gross distribution guidance for 2H26. "We don't generally talk about specific contracts, but we feel good about that guide," Combs responded. Scripps expects FY gross distribution rev to grow in the low single digits.

DISNEY SAYS FCC THREATENS 'PROTECTED SPEECH'

Disney said in a filing Friday that recent actions taken by the **FCC** threaten to "chill critical protected speech," including the agency's investigation into whether a seg-

CFX Daily (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC.
cablefax.com

EDITORIAL

Editor

Noah Ziegler, 301.354.1704,
nziegler@accessintel.com

Senior Editor

John Saavedra, 908.477.1758
jsaavedra@accessintel.com

Editorial Director

Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760,
amaclean@accessintel.com

Editorial Director, Ad Tech & Convergent Media

Sarah Sluis, 212.621.4706,
ssluis@accessintel.com

SVP Media Group

Dave Colford, 631.786.9796,
dcolford@accessintel.com

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

Divisional President, Chief Marketer Network

Kerry Smith,
ksmith@accessintel.com

Advertising and Sponsorship

Vernesa Merdanovic,
vmerdanovic@accessintel.com

MARKETING

Senior Marketing Director

Jessica Dombrowski,
jdombrowski@accessintel.com

PRODUCTION/CLIENT SERVICES

Sr Production Manager: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com

Group Subs: Vernesa Merdanovic, vmerdanovic@accessintel.com

Subscription Questions:

Client Services: 301.354.2101,
clientservices@accessintel.com |
Annual subscription price:
\$1,999.00/yr

Access Intelligence, LLC,
9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor,
Rockville, MD 20850

ment on ABC's "The View" featuring Texas U.S. Senate candidate *James Talarico* violated the equal-time rule. The filing was made on behalf of Houston ABC affiliate KTRK after the station was ordered by the FCC Media Bureau in March to file a Petition for Declaratory Ruling regarding the status of The View's bona fide news exemption under the equal time rule. It also follows last week's Media Bureau request for ABC to file its broadcast license renewals early. Disney argued that these moves suggest the FCC is "implementing major shifts and policy and practice," including how it applies equal opportunity requirements. "Such an abrupt and substantial change in long-established policy requires the action of the full Commission and the oversight of the courts," the company wrote. Disney noted that it received a Declaratory Ruling in 2002 that The View qualifies as a bona fide news interview program and is thus exempt from the Section 315 requirement to offer equal opportunities to all legally qualified candidates for public office if a broadcaster has allowed any other legally qualified candidate for the same office to use their station. The agency has "taken no action over the last two decades to modify or overturn" the ruling and "there is no basis for doing so now," Disney said. Highlighting the fact that The View has featured "hundreds of political candidates across the political spectrum" over the past two decades, Disney questioned why the FCC hasn't scrutinized other programs or formats, like conservative radio shows supportive of the Trump administration. "It is noteworthy that many stations in KTRK's market aired interviews with select candidates prior to the recent primary election without provoking any apparent interest or inquiries from the Commission," Disney said. While FCC Chair *Brendan Carr* didn't respond to the filing by our deadline, sole Dem Commissioner *Anna Gomez* [wrote](#) on X that "the days of the FCC as a paper tiger are numbered. What the public will remember is who complied in advance and who fought back. I'm glad Disney is choosing courage over capitulation."

AMCGM NIXES STREAMING SUB REPORTING

AMC Global Media is joining the growing group of programmers that no longer report streaming subscriber numbers on a quarterly basis. "While the quality and size of our streaming subscriber base remains important to us, over the past few years, we have focused on free cash flow in lieu of subscriber targets. Because of this, we will no longer report streaming subscribers quarterly, although we will provide meaningful updates from time to time," AMCGM CEO *Kristin Dolan* said during a Friday earnings call. Streaming subs declined by 1% YOY to 10.1 million in 1Q26. But that number doesn't include the 1.8 million hard bundle activations accrued since MVPDs such as **Charter** and **Philo** began offering ad-tier **AMC+** with cable packages. **DirectTV** will also bundle AMC+ with its packages later this year. "We expect this universe to continue to grow as streaming and linear distribution converges and consumer awareness of this additional value rises," Dolan said. AMCGM is also full speed ahead on FAST, with plans to launch 12 new channels in the coming months, in addition to the 40 it already operates across platforms. The CEO also highlighted "strong initial growth" for its newest streaming service, All Reality. Streaming rev was \$174 million, up 11% YOY, reflecting price increases across its streamers. That said, subscription rev was down 3% YOY, with streaming growth offset by a 16% decline in affiliate revenue due to continued sub declines. AMC expects those declines to ease in 2H26 as new agreements and contractual changes take effect. The programmer recently inked a new long-term agreement with **Dish** and **Sling TV**, for example. Total quarterly revenue was \$542 million, a 2% YOY decline. Worse, the company missed Wall Street's EPS expectations of \$0.23 by a significant amount, reporting an EPS of \$0.08.

GCI SHARES SLIDE ON EARNINGS REPORT

GCI Liberty hit a new 52-week low Friday, a day after it posted 1Q26 financials that show revenue declining 4% to \$256 million and operating income dropping 48% to \$30 million. Residential high-speed data was down 3% YOY to 150,500, while wireless lines increased 2% to 207,700. It's clear GCI Liberty is looking to expand its business, having recently acquired a 6% interest in **Liberty Latin America** (LLA) from **Searchlight Capital Partners** for \$107 million, and it's looking for more. The company is currently in discussions with LLA Chairman *John Malone* for the potential acquisition of his equity interest, including certain high-vote shares, in exchange for newly issued GCI Liberty Series C shares. Last month, the operator announced plans to [acquire](#) Alaskan fiber infrastructure provider **Quintillion** from private equity firm **Grain Management** in a transaction valued at \$310 million. In keeping with those broader ambitions, its public parent company will be renamed **Liberty Capital Corporation**. No changes will be made to the tickers as a result of the name change and its Alaska subsidiary will continue to operate under the GCI name and brand.