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Volume 7, Issue 1

***Newsletter***

JANUARY 2020

**Your Municipal Communication Resource**

**Connecting Your Town to Your Residents**

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**General Meeting**

**Schedule 2020**

**Jan. 29- East Brunswick Library**

Presentation- JVC

**Feb. 26- Princeton**

Presentation- TelVue

**Mar. 25- Piscataway**

Presentation- TBD

**Apr. 29- Oradell**

Presentation- TBD

**May 20- New Brunswick**

JAG Reception, Welcome expo special guests

**Jun. 10- West Milford**

No Vendor Presentation

**Sept. 30- Varto Technologies** in East Rutherford

Presentation-by Varto

**Oct. 28- Bloomfield**

Presentations TBD

Presented by FM Valenti

**Dec. 2- Montclair**

Presentation- TBD

**Trustees 2020-2021**

Bob Duthaler Pres.- 2020

Dave Garb VP – 2021

Dave Ambrosy

Recording Sec.- 2021

Linda Besink Treasurer- 2020

Anthony Pagliuco Corresponding Sec. – 2020

Jeff Arban- 2021

Lee Beckerman- 2020

Stephanie Gibbons- 2020

Darryl Love- 2021

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**New Year….but not the same ole’ JAG**

I am happy to report that the JAG Board of Trustees had their annual meeting, setting the course for the future of the organization. This is made possible by the great input we received over the course of year from our members. Some of these comments are brought up at monthly meetings, input we receive during our annual conference or in emails we may receive. It is only through input and feedback from our members that the board can fully understand what is on the mind of our members and help this organization move forward. I encourage all members to continue to be involved, provide feedback and support the organization.

One of the first things I would like to report out on is the Board of Trustee Elections and Appointments at the annual Meeting:

 Executive Board

 President Bob Duthaler

 Vice-President Dave Garb

 Treasurer Linda Besink

 Recording Sec. Dave Ambrosy

 Corresponding Sec. Anthony Pagliuco

 Production Chair Lee Beckerman

 External Relations Chair Geoffrey Belinfante

 Trustees

 Jeff Arban

 Stephanie Gibbons

 Darryl Love

 Managing Director

 Rich Desimone

JAG also approved a new membership category allowing non-profit organizations to join the organization as well. The board had studied the possibility of bringing in religious organizations that create a lot of video content who are exploring ways to distribute that content and also explore ways to create that content as well. This gives these non-profit organizations an incentive to take advantage of JAG membership and our annual conference as well. These organizations go beyond recording church services and are creating content that the communities in which they serve would be interested in as well. Our membership committee is currently reaching out to these potential members.

JAG is also creating special incentives to bring in additional individual members. There are a lot of great content producers in the community and we are looking for ways to get them noticed, have their content available to our member stations and allow them to compete for recognition in the JAG Awards. I encourage you to reach out to any producers you know and let them see for themselves that now is a great time to join JAG and take advantage of the special offers we have for them in content sharing, JAG Awards and Conference Attendance.

Our board also explored ways to bring in more resources for our members as well. Currently most or our monthly meetings (the last Wednesday of the Month – see schedule in newsletter as well) will include vendor presentations to keep us updated on some of the latest gear, technology and operations techniques. JAG will also be hosting several online webinars for certain topics of interest and importance to our members. The executive board is currently working on bringing our first webinar to the organization in late February/early March. Look for upcoming information on this event in emails blasts. This event will be FREE to JAG members and our first one is a potential money saver/income recovery session for our member stations and the municipalities they serve.

Lastly, the JAG Executive Board and Committees are working hard on bringing new life into some of our ongoing annual events, such as the JAG Awards and Conference. These committees are committed to breathing new life into these events, as they are a staple of our organization. The JAG Awards committee has narrowed down the categories, created a way for all JAG members to get their first entry for free and planned an awards banquet during the annual conference. Please look to this newsletter for more information and the JAG website as well for rules and registration link. Good Luck to all those who enter. The conference committee has already been working for months to create what looks to be one of our best conferences. We are back again at the Hyatt in New Brunswick. Plans are already under way to create great sessions of importance to our members, find ways to make the most out of these sessions, and to provide a unique opportunity to network with other members. The tradeshow floor will be filled with vendors who understand how we operate and the nature of our budget constraints. In addition, the conference will be offering a special affinity lunch with a wide variety of topics of interest to inspire free flowing conversation, a keynote lunch with guests who are there to entertain and inform, and our banquet and JAG Awards Dinner. Mark your calendar for this year’s event on May 21 & 22nd. You can also visit the conference website at [www.easternvideoexpo.com](http://www.easternvideoexpo.com/). The site is currently being updated, and updates will continue as more and more conference details are released.

Bob Duthaler

President, Jersey Access Group

Member, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (EMMYS)

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

[**CLICK TO REGISTER**](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egpzfu5add672c4f&oseq=&c=&ch=)

***Special discount codes are available from JAG Treasurer***

******[**https://www.easternvideoexpo.com/**](https://www.easternvideoexpo.com/)

**JAG Awards Committee PROFILE**

**George Fairfield , Chair**

# ****The JAG Video Awards****

# ****Registration Opens February 2, 2020****

# RULES & APPLICATION

## ****9th Annual JAG Video Awards****

#### **Includes Free College Student Category**

#### **Submission deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

#### **First Entry FREE to all JAG Members**

The registration is open to members of the public and at a discount rate to members of the Jersey Access Group. Not a JAG member? Find out how to become one by visiting [jagonline.org](http://jagonline.org/).

For questions, contact: George Fairfield at gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org

**Click to register for the JAG Awards:** [**Register**](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egvcznbw163c14f7&oseq=&c=&ch=)

**Program Categories**

Note: Programs may be entered into more than one category but each category has to have a separate entry form and fee. Awards will be given to first place winners with other winners receiving certificates.

**101. Arts, Entertainment & Music** (Original Productions, non-event coverage): Spoken recital, video and movie wrap-a-round, sketch comedy, variety acts, along with movie and gaming reviews. Traditional or innovative musical/dance performance, creative or experimental music videos, dance, or music/dance artist profiles.

**201. Documentary**: Program that profiles true-to-life people, places, organizations, or program that examines true-to-life event(s), occurrences or issues and provides factual information without fictional elements.

**301. Instructional & Training**: Programming of a “how-to” nature… informational and skill-building feature (often hands-on) to help viewers accomplish a goal.

**401. Issues & Political Process**: Program that includes a monolog or opinion/interview-based discussion of an issue or idea in order to explore points of view, or that involves viewers in the political process, pre-election interviews or coverage of local election night results, commentary, debates, or forums…democracy in action.

**501. News & Magazine On-Going Series**: Entertainment, information, or variety show or series comprised of short, self- contained segments; or an edited series, or a program that offers reports on local topics and events around a town, city or school. (Long-Form 20min plus)

**601. News & Magazine Single Show/One-off**: Entertainment, information, or variety show comprised of short, self-contained segments or a program that offers reports on local topics and events around a town, city or school. Can include Short Form Programming (under 20min)

**701. PSAs & Promos**: Station IDs, show promos, informational piece about PEG, short scripted production, or a short public service announcement about a nonprofit organization. (Must be 2mins or Under)

**801. Sports Programming**: Coverage of a sporting event/Game and/or sports competition. (non-promo)

**901. Talk Show- Government**: Programs hosted or centered on a local politician or office. This could include shows featuring a town/city mayor, a local assemblyman, a freeholder, etc.

**1010. Talk Show- Interview Program**: Any subject or topic based program that includes opinion/interview-based discussion of a person or event to generate interest and educate the public.

**1100. Public Meetings**: Coverage of an open meeting for the community including town meetings, board of education, etc.

**1200. Local Events & Ceremonies- Full Coverage of Parades** (i.e.: Memorial Day), Ceremonies (i.e.: Veteran’s Day or Government Awards/Recognition)

**1300. Local Events- Fairs, Festivals & Car Shows, Arts & Crafts**: Coverage of events in your community like a county fair, street fair, car show, summer festivals, etc.

**1400. Local Events- Concerts**: Coverage of events in your community including summer concert series, jazz in the park, holiday concerts, etc. (Long Form – non-promo/segment)

**1500. Local Events- Community Development Events**: Coverage of ground breakings, grand openings and ribbon cutting ceremonies in your community.

**1600. Local Events- Talent/Awards/Performance**: Coverage of organizational programs or events such as libraries, theatre, fraternal organizations, religious groups, non-profits etc. (Long-Form: Live/Live To Tape, Non-Concert)

**Rules**

Judging is based on five basic criteria: Content, Creativity, Technical Elements - Audio, Technical Elements - Video, and Overall Reaction. There are a total of 16 competitive categories.

1. SUBMISSION OPENS: February 2, 2020
2. SUBMISSION FORMAT: all entries in MPEG-4 format only
3. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All registration forms must be received by 8pm EDT on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.
4. SUBMISSION FEES: ALL current JAG members can submit 1 entry for free. *Each additional entry: JAG member - $50 each; Non-JAG member - $75 each.* Payment or purchase order must be received by April 17, 2020 or the entry will be disqualified.

Pay online with PayPal at the registration site, a municipal purchase order, or by check. If you don’t know if you are a current Jersey Access Group member, please contact Linda Besink at: lbesink@gmail.com.

**Make checks payable to Jersey Access Group**

**Mail check or purchase order to:**

**Jersey Access Group, PO Box 164, Metuchen, NJ 08840**

1. SUBMISSION ELIGIBILITY - All programs must have aired between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.
2. Entries may be any length; however judges are only required to watch 15 minutes of each entry. You may submit any part of a program or programs: such as the beginning and end, or beginning and middle, etc. of a single program OR three to four segments from a series program, not exceeding 5 minutes for each segment (clearly delineate between each segment with a slate or fade). You must not re-edit the segments for the purpose of this contest; they must appear as they were originally produced and/or aired.
3. All entries must be accompanied by a 30 second highlight clip for use as part of the JAG Video Awards presentation.
4. Each category awards will be in the form of a video excellence statue for first place and certificates for Outstanding Videos.

**Submission Instructions**

* After March 31, 2020, you will receive instructions on how to upload your video
* Each entry must be uploaded separately.
* File name must include the category number, category name, entry title, and the name of your organization or station.
* Payments can be made by check, purchase order or PayPal with a credit card.
* You may not change or add to your registration form after you have submitted it.
* Maximum of 5 entries per registration form.
* Submission of this registration application certifies that you have the authority to submit this entry and have secured all necessary rights for the material presented in the program.
* I understand that by submitting this entry, I am giving the Jersey Access Group and local broadcast stations the rights for non-commercial use of clips of my winning entry for two years for promotional and/or broadcast of the JAG Video Awards show.

**All registration forms must be received no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

**Payment or purchase order must be received by April 17, 2020 or the entry will be disqualified.**

Awards will be presented at the Jersey Access Group JAG Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 21 at the Eastern Video Expo Conference at the Hyatt New Brunswick: Details to follow.

Indemnification and Rights

* All decisions made by the judging panels of the Jersey Access Group Video Awards Committee are final.
* To promote community media, the Jersey Access Group retains the right to use clips of all entries for promotional purposes, including broadcast of the JAG Awards show for a period of two (2) years.
* The producer of the work is responsible for obtaining all approvals, clearances, licenses, etc., for materials contained in the entry and will provide such clearances upon request.

For questions contact: George Fairfield at gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org



**PO Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey, 08840**

**201-261-0786** [**www.jagonline.org**](http://www.jagonline.org)**info@jagonline.org**

***New Jersey Chapter of NATOA and New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate***

Dear Congressman Pallone: January 17, 2020

I am David Garb, Vice President of JAG, the Jersey Access Group.

I am writing to you to request your leadership in co-sponsoring the Protecting Community Television Act 2020 legislation that will soon be introduced by both Senator Ed Markey (MA) and Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18).

This elegant legislation seeks to protect benefits consistent with the Cable Act and cable franchising principles since 1984 by amending the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee.

In 2019, the FCC issued an order empowering the cable industry to reduce the franchise fees owed to our community in an amount equivalent to the fair market value of “in-kind” cable-related obligations. The types of services subject to these FCC-mandated offsets include courtesy cable connections to schools, libraries and discounts we have negotiated for veterans, seniors or low income families. The FCC order breaks from 35 years of franchising practice and good faith negotiations between communities and the cable operators.

Since 1984, cable franchises include requirements designed to ensure that cable systems serve the needs and interests of the community. In addition, franchises require cable operators pay a (street) rent for use of public property in the form of a franchise fee of up to five (5%) percent of the cable operator’s gross revenues from providing cable services.

Congress made it very clear that franchise requirements “for the provision of services, facilities or equipment” should not be treated as franchise fees.

The Federal Communications Commission has overturned this longstanding practice and precedent, and declared that, with a few exceptions, localities must either eliminate their negotiated franchise requirements, or allow the operator to deduct the “fair market value” of the requirements from the franchise fee owed. For example, if an operator voluntarily agreed to a senior, or veteran’s or low income rate discount, the locality must either allow the operator to eliminate the discounts or pay the operator the value of the discount -- as defined by the operator. The same is true to long-required courtesy connections provided to school districts and libraries. New York City and the State of Hawaii have submitted sworn statements showing that the FCC ruling could have significant and immediate adverse impacts on public safety services.

Moreover, the FCC has stated that within the year it may extend the offset to include the channels that we need to broadcast our public, educational and governmental programming.

I’m confident that the legislation will clarify that franchise fees are, indeed, cash payments and thereby thwart efforts by the FCC to broaden the scope and definition and otherwise harm localities and Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) community media.

Our community/PEG media center has joined with hundreds of others to challenge this FCC order in Court.

Please support this legislation and contact Congresswoman Eshoo’s office, (Asad Ramzanali asad.ramzanali@mail.house.gov ) to add your name to this vitally important legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**David Garb**

***Vice President, JAG-The Jersey Access Group***

***Chair., Legislative Committee***

***davegarb@paps.net***

**(732) 376-6030  Ext. 23538**

**C: 201-401-7411**

 **Committees Volunteerism**

 **Rich Desimone, Managing Director**



All of the committees have been very active as you will see in their reports.

Committees are all looking for new members.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Executive 2019 | Production 2019 | Membership 2019 |
| Bob Duthaler, President 2020 | Lee Beckerman (Chair) | Darryl Love (Co-Chairs-Development) |
| Dave Garb, Vice-President-2021 | TBD: (Secretary) | Stephanie Gibbons (Co-Chairs-Reports) |
| Linda Besink, Treasurer-2020 | Dave Ambrosy: Producer | Linda Besink: (Secretary) Data Management |
| Dave Ambrosy, Secretary-2021 | Nick Besink | Bob Duthaler: List Serve |
| Anthony Pagliuco, Corresponding Sec.-2020 | Anthony Pagliuco: Editor/Camera | George Bumiller: Outreach |
| Stephanie Gibbons, Trustee 2020 | Peter Neman | Bruce Goldsmith |
| Jeff Arban, Trustee 2021 | Dave Grab | Dave Grab |
| Darryl Love, Trustee 2021 | Bob Duthaler | OPEN |
| Lee Beckerman, Production 2020 | OPEN | OPEN |
| Geoffrey Belinfante, External Relations | OPEN | OPEN |
| Rich Desimone: Managing DirectorAction Plan | OPEN | OPEN |
| Finance 2019 | Legislation 2019 | Conference 2020 |
| Linda Besink: (Chair)  | Dave Garb (Chair): | Stephanie Gibbons: (Co-chair)Registration, Municipal Outreach |
| TBD: (Secretary) | Linda Besink: (Secretary) | Cindy Hahn: (Co-chair/Secretary)Program, Marketing, Newsletter |
| Bob Duthaler: Budget Review | Bob Duthaler: NJLM | Linda Besink: Treasurer, Registration  |
| Dave Garb | Ada Erik: NJ Legislation | Geoffrey Belinfante: Workshops/Vendors |
| Lee Beckerman | Nick Besink | J Robertson: Affinity Lunch & topics |
| Jeff Arman | Dave Bandfield | Bob Duthaler: Marketing |
| Geoffery Belinfante | Jeff Arban | Anthony Pagliuco: P&D, Tec Support |
| OPEN | OPEN | Jeff Arban: Power, Photographer  |
| OPEN | OPEN | Dave Garb: Student Symposium |
| External Relations 2019 | JAG Awards 2019 | George Fairfield: Power, Student Symposium |
| Geoffrey Belinfante (Chair) | George Fairfield (Chair) | Doug Seidel-Social media |
| TBD (Secretary) | various members: (Secretary) | Ed Cologna- Video |
| Stephanie Gibbons: Members | Dave Garb | OPEN- Workshop Development |
| Bob Duthaler: NJLOM Join Session, JAG Session, Booth Staffing and rooms, Web Site | Lee Beckerman | OPEN- Student Management |
| Cindy Hahn: JAG Newsletter, Writer/Editor | Darryl Love | OPEN- Trade Show Set Up/AV Support |
| George Burmiller | Amanda Olsen | OPEN- Trade Show Set Up/AV Support |
| Dave Garb | Dave Ambrosy | Rich Desimone: Managing DirectorConference Coordinator |
| Bruce Goldsmith: Spotlight | OPEN | Outside Contract: Web Site, Program, Fliers |
| OPEN- Social Media | OPEN |  |
| OPEN |  |  |
| OPEN |  |  |
| Rich Desimone: Managing DirectorRep. to NJLOM and NATOA, JAG Newsletter Editor |  |  |
| Outside Contract: JAG web site |  |  |

 **Bits & Bytes**

•Jan. 20, ― Eastern Region Video Expo Registration Open

* Discount codes available to JAG Members (Contact Linda Besink emaillbesink@gmail.com , tel 201-650-0116)

•Jan. 29, 12 noon – 2pm ― General Meeting, East Brunswick

* Installation of Executive Board members
* Report from Trustees meeting
* Committee Reports
* Reaffirm Certified and Voting Members
* Call for Committee sign ups
* Introduce the 2020 budget
* Set meeting locations for 2020
* Presentations by JVC

•Feb. 2, ― JAG Awards Registration Open

* First entry FREE to JAG members
* Question: Contact George Fairfield @ gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org

•Feb. 3, 3pm ― Conference Committee meeting

* Workshop selection
* Affinity Table Topics

•Feb. 12, 12 noon-2pm ― Executive Board meeting

* Updating Action Plan
* Booth at NJLM 2020 Conference
* Marketing

• Feb. 26, 12 noon – 2pm ― General Meeting, Princeton

* Vote on the 2020 budget
* Committee Reports
* Presentations by TelVue

•March 11, 12 noon-2pm ― Executive Board meeting

* Updating Action Plan
* NJOM Sessions
* Review delinquent members
* Marketing

•March 25, 12 noon – 2pm ― General Meeting, Piscataway

* Committee Reports
* Presentations by TBA

• March 31, ― JAG Awards Registration Closes

* First entry FREE to JAG members
* Question: Contact George Fairfield @ gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org

•March 31, ― Eastern Region Video Expo Early Bird Ends

* Discount codes available to JAG Members (Contact Linda Besink emaillbesink@gmail.com , tel 201-650-0116)



![Varto_Logo_Twitter[1]]()

**Organizational Members**





**COMMITTEES CORNER**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** ***Geoffrey Belinfante, Chair***

With the New Year comes New Years resolutions and we have several for the External Relations Committee. First and foremost, we want to raise the profile of JAG in the municipal and production communities in New Jersey. Hopefully this will increase membership from both the independent production community and amongst vendors who service our stations and producers. Secondly, we need to review our JAG website and make it more user friendly by more prominently displaying important information about our meetings and vendor presentations. Finally, we resolve to increase participation in our monthly meetings and our annual conference by offering interesting presentations and informative workshops. In order to accomplish these ambitious goals, we need your help. No particular expertise is required, just a willingness to help. Please consider joining us on the External Relations Committee. Just let me know if you’re interested via e-mail at **geoffbel512@gmail.com** .

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:  *Linda Besink, Chair***

Happy New Year to all! A new year brings another budget process for JAG. It also brings membership renewals. Dues invoices were emailed in December, so if you haven’t seen yours please let the Treasurer know (email**lbesink@gmail.com** , tel 201-650-0116) and it will be re-sent to you immediately. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2020!

**PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Lee Beckerman, Chair***

The production committee is continuing post production work on a series of informational/promotional videos for the NJ League of Municipalities. We are currently reviewing footage and organizing interviews with the goal of a first rough cut of the longest video for the last week in January/first week in February. The testimonials for the Video Expo have been sent so they can be inserted into the conference web site. Waiting on the JAG testimonials to be inserted in the JAG web site. We hope to have a meeting of the production committee devoted to The Access New Jersey television show immediately after the JAG meeting in January to come up with an exploratory plan. The meeting scheduled for December had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Legislation Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair***

Letter (enclosed in this newsletter) was sent to congressional representatives asking for their support. Contact David Garb **davegarb@paps.net****.** or call 732-376-6030 x23538.

**Membership Committee: *Darryl Love and Stephanie Gibbons (Co-Chairs)***

The next Membership committee meeting is scheduled for Tues. Feb. 4th at 1pm. If you know a town, organization or religious group who you think would benefit from being member, let us know so we can reach out to them. If you enjoy being a member of JAG and want to help bring in more members, please consider joining the membership committee.If you are interested please contact Darryl Love at **DFLove@aol.com** or Stephanie Gibbons at **Stgibbons@verizon.net** .

**JAG Video Awards Committee: *George Fairfield, Chair***

The JAG Awards will officially open on February 2, 2020, close March 31, 2020, and the ceremony will be during the conference banquet. All of the necessary information has been updated and uploaded to the website and can be found at [JAG Awards Registration](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egvcznbw163c14f7&oseq=&c=&ch=). ALL JAG members, your first entry is FREE. The committee’s current action plan is to reach outside of JAG to find facilities willing to be judging facilitators. If you know of a site that would like to be a facilitator, please let a JAG award committee member know. If you have any questions, please contact me at **gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org**

**Conference Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons & Cindy Hahn, (Co-Chairs)***

Registration is open for the Eastern Video Expo May 21 & 22, 2020 at the Hyatt, New Brunswick. Register now for early bird discounts! Visit [**www.easternvideoexpo.com**](http://www.easternvideoexpo.com) . The Conference Committee is still taking workshop & Affinity ideas and panelist suggestions. If you are interested in joining the conference committee please contact Stephanie at **stgibbons@verizon.net**.

**Jersey Access Group, PO Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840**

[**www.jagonline.org**](http://www.jagonline.org)**info@jagonline.org**

**New Jersey Chapter of NATOA and New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate**

**Editor: Rich Desimone, Managing Director, Staff: Cindy Hahn, Stephanie Gibbons**