

Trustees 2016-17

Dave Ambrosy-2017
 Jeff Arban 2017
 Bob Duthaler-2016
 Dave Garb-2017
 Stephanie Gibbons-2016
 Debbie Gist-2017
 Victoria Timpanaro 2016

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General Meeting Schedule 2016

Feb. 24- Piscataway
 Presentation- Telvue
Mar. 24- Shadowstone
 Presentation-by our host
Apr. 27- TBD
 Presentation- HB
 Communications
Jun. 8- TBD
Sept. 28- TBD
 Presentation-
Oct. 26- TBD
 Presentation-
Nov. 30- TBD
 Presentation-
Dec. 7- Annual Meeting
 JAG Recognition Dinner
 Lago, North Brunswick
 JAM Awards
2017
Jan. 25- Reorganization
 Meeting: TBD
 Presentation- TBD

Your Municipal Communication Resource

Connecting Your Town to Your Residents

JAG is in the process of rebranding itself. Questions on, 'who is JAG' and 'what do we do' seem to always come up.

Our members know who we are and what we do. But to those not in our access world, we need to constantly explain ourselves and promote our efforts.

Well, one of the ways we will be starting this rebranding is by launching our new website. When it goes on-line, it will definitely be a wonderful tool to help spread the Jersey Access Group's name to the masses. The website is almost complete, but the marketing committee is waiting on you, our faithful members, to help in its new look.

On the home page we have the ability to add videos and photos showcasing what we do in a very positive way. We need your creations to make our website stand out. When people visit our site, we want them to know, "This is JAG" – This is what Jersey Access is all about. What a great way to showcase the importance of PEG television and help answer those questions while we roll out the rebranding of JAG.

"Brand is not a product, that's for sure; it's not one item. It's an idea, it's a theory, it's a meaning, it's how you carry yourself. It's aspirational, it's inspirational." - Kevin Plank

Whether it is in Trenton or Washington DC, or at the BPU or FCC, issues that affect JAG's interests pop up when you least expect them. Over the last few years, JAG has been actively in the forefront on paying close attention to the events that go on in our government that cause us concern.

Fortunately, JAG has been proactive when situations come up that need us to take action on behalf of our members. Two other groups that we are associated with, the ACM and NATOA, are also watching the political landscape with us.

The ACM – Alliance for Community Media, www.allcommunitymedia.org, represents over 3,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access organizations and community media centers throughout the country. They work to protect the interests of PEG, while helping to advance their causes through cable television and the Internet.

NATOA - The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, is the premier local government professional association that provides support to our members on the many local, state, and federal communications laws, administrative rulings, judicial decisions, and technology issues impacting the interests of local governments. This includes addressing emerging issues in areas such as: Local Government Communications and Internet Policy, Broadband Planning Best Practices, Cable Franchising, Operation of Public, Education and Government (PEG) Access Channels, Wireless Zoning, New Technology Initiatives and Advancements. JAG is the New Jersey Chapter of NATOA. You can find out more information about NATOA by visiting their website at www.natoa.org.



David Garb

President, JAG-The Jersey Access Group

The Issues in Washington for 2016

by Steve Traylor, Executive Director, NATOA

Feature



2016 is shaping up to be another busy year for communications issues that can – for better or worse – impact local governments and their residents. While the upcoming presidential election might throw a monkey wrench into whatever the politicians on the Hill or the bureaucrats at the FCC end up doing, it is pretty safe to say the following issues will be getting a lot of attention by NATOA and JAG members.

FirstNet

It's been nearly four years since Congress authorized the construction of an interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications and some are beginning to wonder if the network will ever be built. After all, only \$7 billion has been allocated for construction of the nationwide network that some observers believe could cost upwards of \$50 billion. But in January, the FirstNet board released the Request for Proposal (RFP) that seeks to create a public-private partnership to deploy the network that will provide priority access to America's first responders in urban and rural communities, but would permit secondary use by commercial entities.

Responses to the RFP are due April 29, with the anticipation that the final award will be made in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Closed captioning of PEG programming

Last year, NATOA took part in a joint workshop with the FCC and ACM on this issue and it continues to generate concerns that PEG programming – or, at the very least, government programming – may be subject to mandatory closed captioning under the Americans with Disabilities Act. In fact, NATOA hosted an eNATOA webinar addressing these concerns on January 8 and will again confront the issue with a session at our upcoming Annual Conference in Austin, TX, September 19-22. In addition, we plan to work with our state chapters to provide ongoing information about this issue, including tips on how some communities are providing closed captioning on a limited budget.

Over the top video

Competition and consumer demand for over the top (OTT) video services continue to grow. Even traditional cable providers are getting into the act, with Comcast's Stream TV being just one example. But how are these services – and consumers' changing viewing habits – affecting local government revenue streams? The FCC is looking at a couple proceedings that could affect local governments. One involves a proposal to extend to OTT providers many of the same regulatory benefits that traditional cable providers enjoy, such as programming access, but without the same regulatory *obligations*, such as PEG carriage. The other proceeding takes a look at opening cable and satellite set top boxes to greater competition, which could lead to faster consumer migration to OTT services.

Broadband siting

A perennial issue that local governments will again have to contend with this year is continuing efforts to preempt local authority over the public rights of way. Over the past several years we have seen both Congress and the FCC place hamstrings on local government staff when it comes to the deployment of cell towers, antennas, and other wireless broadband equipment. With the recent announcement that broadband is still not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely manner, be prepared to respond to renewed calls for faster access to street poles, more streamlined permitting processes, and lower rights of way fees.

These are just a few of the many issues that NATOA and JAG will be facing this year and why membership in our associations is so important. By sharing information, taking part in eNATOA webinars, and attending our conferences we develop the resources we need to better serve our communities and residents.

Live Production at Your Fingertips

by Jesse Lerman, CEO, Telvue

TEC TALK



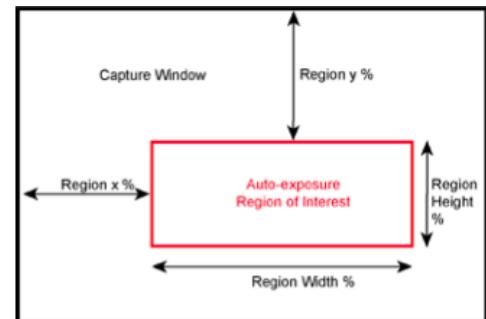
The production of live sports and meetings is in many cases the bread and butter of PEG programming. New technologies like IP video production and ultra high definition cameras have made it if you'll pardon the metaphor a whole new ball game.

How? Let's look at how evolving technologies affect the following key components to producing a typical government program the town meeting:

- Cameras
- Audio
- Production switcher
- Encoder
- Streaming platform

Perhaps nothing is changing as fast as the video camera. These once bulky, analog, expensive electronic eyes are light years from where they were a short ten years ago. Video cameras have become ever smaller, cheaper, more and more high definition and crystal clear. They can be remotely operated, including pan, tilt, and zoom. They can transmit a live signal as an IP stream, opening up new possibilities for digital video production techniques.

One of these possibilities is virtual IP production of live streams. An UltraHD picture is so high resolution that it is now possible to pan, tilt and zoom "virtually", even if the camera never moves. You can also define, with the proper software, just one portion of the picture and make that a full screen, broadcast quality image. You can move both video and audio over an Internet connection. Put these new features together, and it is now possible to produce an entire live broadcast from a software application installed on a laptop.



This new form of production gives you all the advantages of a digital workflow, including:

1. More efficient use of manpower: because a fixed camera now covers the whole field, you mounted IP or security camera, and select your shot with the push of a button.
2. Less expensive: significantly reduce field equipment costs. Virtual pan, tilt, zoom and virtual shots allows a single camera to emulate multiple cameras, so you can do more with less.
3. More portable: all the equipment you need to cover a live event can fit into a single, portable case. Cover more live events from more places, as long as there is an Internet connection.
4. Save it for later: If there is no Internet, capture the entire event as a high resolution, widescreen video that can be post produced later and streamed as VOD.
5. Software based production allows you to add graphics, images, videos, animated transitions, picture in picture effects (like speaker and listener), and even instant replay during the event.
6. Stream the output to a broadcast server, and to the Internet.

Notice that this new IP workflow no longer requires a physical production switcher, since switching between regions all happens in the software. Because the output is IP, you don't even need an encoder, if you're feeding this live signal to an IP broadcast server or to the Internet.

For a working example of the use of IP video production for the live streaming of athletic and other events, one need look no further than the Hun School of Princeton. Tom Monfiletto is the Communications Associate for Media Arts there, and his responsibilities include producing live streams for Hun's YouTube channel. As a boarding school, Hun needs to reach a geographically dispersed group of parents and alumnae. Hun's audience welcomes the live streaming of all kinds of events ranging in complexity from the more elaborate Convocation and Commencement ceremonies, to the more modest college preparatory panels for students and parents.

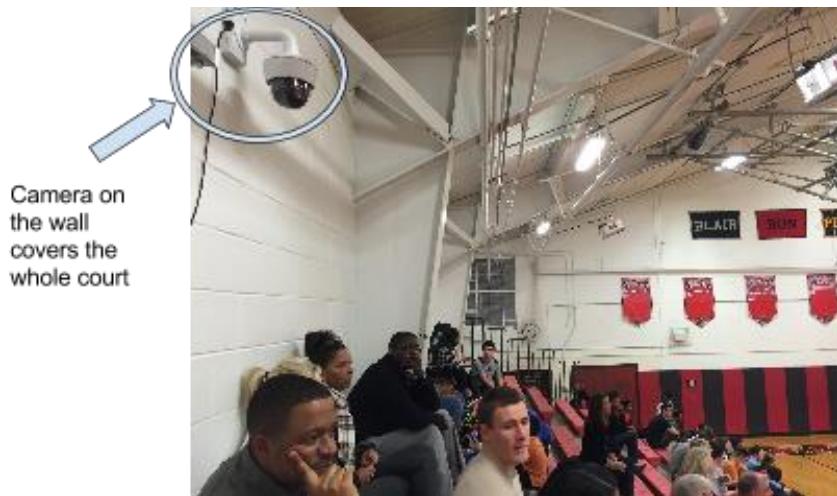
So at a recent basketball game, Monfiletto was clearly in his element. Not only did he narrate the action, he was also calling the camera shots, updating the scoring graphics, triggering the animated transitions, switching and describing the instant replay. He was TV director, producer, and sports commentator all rolled into one.

He and colleague Ryan Egan, Hun's Associate Director of Communications, were operating the TelVue GoToAir IP video production system, installed on two laptops: one for the switching and graphics, and the other for cueing up instant replays and capturing the game for postproduction.



Egan (L, on GoToAir Replay) and Monfiletto (R, on GoToAir Director)

In this case, Egan was also operating a mechanical PTZ camera mounted on a wall overlooking the entire basketball court.



Setting up the cameras, laptops, audio, and connections took less than an hour. Tearing down was even faster. Monfiletto broadcasts different sports from different locations so he packs laptops, camera and other gear into one hardshell case for convenient transport to all kinds of Hun School events. Go to their YouTube channel and you'll see swimming, ice hockey, even a fencing match. If the venue doesn't have a camera mount, he takes a tripod. If it doesn't have Internet, he records the entire event for later replay.

Monfiletto believes live IP video production can easily be taught to a new class of students every academic year. From high school students to pro broadcasters, this sort of technology will soon become second nature.

TelVue will be demonstrating the new GoToAir IP video production system, at the next JAG meeting: Feb 24 in Piscataway.

Bits & Bytes

- Feb. 24 — General meeting in Piscataway – Presentation by TelVue, www.telvue.com. TelVue will be rolling out a new product that could help you increase your production capability without the need for a large capital expense, the GoToAir IP video production system.
- Mar. 9 — Executive Board Meeting- Review JAG Policies & Procedures. Discuss joint session at the NJ League of Municipalities.
- Mar. 14 — Conference Committee Meeting conference call will be finalizing the workshop and affinity topics
- Mar. 24 — General meeting in Clifton @ Shadowstone – Presentation by Shadowstone, www.shadowstone.com. Shadowstone represents over 140 manufactures of lighting equipment and accessories. They will demonstrate some of the newest fixture technology.
- Apr. 4 — Conference Committee Meeting conference call focus on vendor presentations and marketing

Do you have a story to tell?

We are looking for articles for the newsletter from the membership.

Send to rjdesimone@verizon.net



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COMMITTEES CORNER

JAG Annual Conference



May 25-27, 2016

Hyatt Morristown, NJ

Save the Date

NATOA 2016

Annual Conference

Sept. 19 - 22



The Sheraton at the Capitol

Austin, TX

<https://www.natoa.org/events/annual-conference/2016/>
Registration Open

NJ League of Municipalities



Nov. 15-17, 2016

Atlantic City, NJ

Save the Date

JAG Recognition & Annual JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 7, 2016

6-10pm

LAGO

North Brunswick, NJ

www.lagonj.com

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

JAG organizational members are continuing to sign up for presentations at JAG's general meeting and are submitting articles for the newsletter. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at ridesimone@verizon.net.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

No report provided.

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair*

The Production Committee is on a mission. That mission is to promote not only JAG but your productions as well. In the coming weeks/months we are going to be reaching out to all of you to participate in this. We want a 30 second promo of whatever you have that you want to get out there. What do you have that you want to share with all of JAG and beyond? We all want to know! To join the committee, contact me at pnamen@piscatawaynj.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Legislation Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

I am eagerly seeking members to join the Legislative Committee. Our eyes and ears are needed to protect the interest of our PEG communities. If you are interested in being a watchdog, please contact David Garb at davegarb@paps.net.

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

The membership committee is looking for help in reaching out to current members and potential members. An idea for your 2016 New Year's resolution, get more involved with JAG and join a committee! Contact Stephanie Gibbons at stgibbons@verizon.net.

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

We are working with Varto, Shadowstone, and HB Communication on developing new elements of the conference. We have reservations for over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trade show floor. Workshops will be finalized at our March meeting. There is only one presentation space left. The committee meets monthly now through May 2016. If you are interested contact Rich Desimone at ridesimone@verizon.net

JAM Awards Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro & Jeff Arban, Co-Chairs*

If anyone would like to order an additional statue from this past JAM Awards, please return the request form to me either via email vtimpana@essex.edu or at the next meeting. You can also order a statue if you received an Outstanding Video certificate at the event.

Marketing Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro, Chair*

JAG is working on a new branding campaign. First up will be a series of promos to explain who we are. These promos will be used on our new website and social media as well as our booths at upcoming conventions. We would love some new members to join the committee and bring some fresh ideas! If you are interested, email me at vtimpana@essex.edu

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

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