rrgPa

Volume 7, Issue 3

***Newsletter***

march 2020

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**General Meeting**

**Schedule 2020**

**Apr. 1- Video Conferencing**

No Presentation

**Apr. 29- Video Conferencing**

No Presentation

**May 27- Video Conferencing**

Presentation- TBD

**Jun. 10- Video Conferencing**

Presentation- TBD

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

Presentation-by Varto

**Oct. 28- OPEN**

Presentations Tightrope

**Dec. 2- TBD**

Presentation- TBD

**Jan. 27, 2021- TBD**

Presentation- TBA

**Feb. 24- TBD**

Presentation- TelVue

**Mar. 31- TBD**

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

**Your Municipal Communication Resource**

**Connecting Your Town to Your Residents**

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Social Distancing for Sociable People

I’m sure we have all had our fill of COVID-19, social distancing and self-isolation. These extreme times have called for extreme measures. Along with that have come a new way to conduct business, interact with people and continue to operate as normal as possible. So not unlike you, JAG too has had to make changes in the way the organization operates.

So let’s get through a few things that by now I am sure you are aware of. First the JAG Awards and Ceremony planned during the May Conference have been canceled. In addition to the Awards, so too has the Eastern Video Expo 2020 canceled for this year. Both of these were not easy decisions for all committee and board members. Both of these events mean so much to our organization, but more importantly the health and safety of our members are paramount.

In an effort to try and keep some normalcy about this situation, JAG will continue to hold monthly meetings virtually. Just like a lot of our kids are doing with their home schooling, so too will JAG meetings take in the cyber world. An upcoming important meeting for our voting membership will take place on Wednesday, April 1st (That Is No Joke). Please check your email for voting ballot on the budget and meeting Agenda on how to join us both online and via phone. For this first meeting, we request that voting members only attend as we test this new system out.

In keeping with the thought of virtual gatherings, one of them took place this past week. I held an informal discussion of station operations during this time period. This was a great way for stations to discuss how we are operating during this period, how we go about covering meetings, going live and a lot more. This was like a discussion and assistance session at our meetings on steroids. We had over 20 people join us. I will plan to host more of these in the upcoming weeks. Please check your email for invite, they may pop up on short notice.

The board and I continue to work on an upcoming Webinar Schedule and Sessions. We are speaking with our vendors as well and have recommended they hold some sessions for JAG members too. In addition, I have been in contact with NATOA National and are working with them on Federal Information Sessions to keep us abreast of FCC orders and Updates. Even during these times, FCC rules and orders continue to be enforced, while companies are looking to bypass some of these during this emergency period. It is important to be kept informed and that is exactly what our national organization is doing. Please look for continued updates.

Finally, as an organization we are a very social group. Face to face interaction at this point is not possible but there are work arounds. I encourage you to take part in these events, impromptu online gatherings and perhaps we will even host an online happy hour! Stay Safe and make the most of this time with your family and loved one.

Bob Duthaler

President, Jersey Access Group

 **Committees Volunteerism**

 **Rich Desimone, Managing Director**



The Conference Committee held its final meeting to deal with the ramifications of the cancellation of this year’s expo due to the health hazes it present to our membership. Cindy Hahn and Stephanie Gibbons will not be returning as co-chair of this committee. We thank them for their many years of service.

The JAG Awards Committee is looking at moving the awards program to later this year.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | Robert Horvath | 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): | OPEN (Chair) |
| TBD: (Secretary) | Linda Besink: (Secretary) | OPEN (Secretary) |
| 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 | Brian Belzer: Workshops/AV Support |
| 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 | Bob Duthaler | Outside Contract: Web Site, Program, Fliers |
| OPEN- Social Media | Bob Nicholson |  |
| OPEN | Dave Bandfield |  |
| OPEN |  |  |
| Rich Desimone: Managing DirectorRep. to NJLOM and NATOA, JAG Newsletter Editor |  |  |
| Outside Contract: JAG web site |  |  |

 **Bits & Bytes**

***On March 19th, NATOA General Counsel Nancy Werner, reported that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has released its order denying local governments’ their request to stay the FCC’s cable franchise order during the litigation challenging the order. As Nancy explained "this outcome is disappointing but it is not unexpected as stay requests are very hard to win."***

***So where does this leave all of us? I will let you know what the next steps will be as they start to unfold.***

***In the meantime, if you hear anything from your local cable operators trying to modify your cable franchise or take extraordinary steps based on their perceptions of the FCC’s order, please let your local officials know immediately.***

***But also, please let me know, so that the Legislative Committee, can plan accordingly to help build our case against this order. In this way JAG will be able to fight it for you, along with the great help provided by our national partners.***

•April 1, 12:15 – 2pm ― General Meeting, via Virtual Video Services

* Vote on the 2020 budget
* Committee Reports
* No Presentations

•April 8, 12 noon-2pm ― Executive Board meeting

* Committee Reports: Updating Action Plan
* NJOM Sessions
* Review delinquent members
* Marketing

•April 29, 12 noon – 2pm ― General Meeting, via Virtual Video Services

* Committee Reports
* No Presentations

**JAG Spotlight:**

George Fairfield has just been installed as the new Station Manager at Piscataway Community TV a position that he admits he will grow into aware of the administrative challenges required at this level.

George’s early training at the Junior College Level in video production and his 10 years starting as a stage hand then a 4 man video production company specializing in Theater will surely serve him well towards his growth into this position.

Following his departure and move to New Jersey George found a great position working for the Piscataway School System involving video production and support to the teaching staff and curriculum development.

Early on I was producing support content first as a videographer, camera operator for our department heads and various teachers, enhancing the curriculum and creatively using puppets and maps for early learners to help navigate our town and for early language development.

George has since had over 15 plus years of experience working within the Piscataway School System since he started in 1999. My school position developed in many ways from Digital Videographer and Producer to getting my teaching certification and starting video editing classes in my school, which was a favorite for me.

Finally George moved from teaching to PCTV, ironically it was his weekly content submissions that exposed him to the staff at PCTV and Like many in the PEG access world there are influencers who cultivate those working around them and for George JAG member Peter Namen provided that connection.

We congratulate George Fairfield as the new station manager at Piscataway TV and Peter for help us with our new member.



![Varto_Logo_Twitter[1]]()

**Organizational Members**





**COMMITTEES CORNER**

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

JAG, like many other organizations, can only be strong and effective if its member’s participate. Part of our job on the External Relations Committee is to make sure JAG is perceived as a relevant, active and vibrant organization to both our members and those on the outside that may turn to us to ask questions, seek guidance or need our support. It is vitally important to the success of the organization that our members help us achieve our goals. Towards that end, we on the External Relations Committee are looking for members to help us promote the organization to members, municipalities, and production professionals throughout the state. As I have said before in this newsletter and at our meetings, we need your help particularly with our website, our social media marketing and even with outreach to new vendors who have products that might be valuable to our members. The more minds we have thinking about JAG, the more people we will have at our monthly meetings, the more people who will attend our conference and the stronger the organization will become. Help us grow JAG by joining the External Relations Committee. For mor information just e-mail me at **geoffbel512@gmail.com**. Geoff Belinfante External Relations Chair.

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

If you aren’t sure of your JAG membership status, email **lbesink@gmail.com** and JAG Treasurer Linda Besink will let you know. As always, if you’d like to be a part of the Finance Committee, email Linda for that as well. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 11am for a short review of current items. It’s quite rewarding to assist with JAG’s commitment to transparency and best practices.

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

The production committee completed the first 2 of 6 videos for the New Jersey League of Municipalities including the longer overall view of the league conference and the first of the social media hits on the power of exhibiting. We have submitted the first draft of a second hit on the league magazine and will continue to work on the final 3. Our meeting with Monclair University concerning the Access New Jersey program has been postponed due to the Caronavirus. We will reschedule when possible. The JAG executive board has postponed our meeting to work on the JAG mission statement which we intend to use as a basis for a “why to join JAG” video, so this project is also currently on hold.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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

Members Still Being Sought-The Legislative Committee is looking to our members to join this ever active team. Many issues affecting community television is creeping up on us, such as the proposed cap on “PEG franchise fees”. Your eyes, hears and contacts will be greatly needed in keeping up with these matters. If interested, please contact me at, davegarb@paps.net. or call 732-376-6030 x23538.

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

The membership committee would like to welcome the Borough of Somerdale to the JAG family who is our newest member. We currently have 42 paid members. If you have not seen your invoice please contact us to receive another one. REMINDER if we do not have your dues by the end of April your JAG benefits of the listserv, this newsletter and your access to the Connect server will be suspended. The next meeting of the membership committee is Apr. 7. 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 Banquet has been canceled. Even though this news is disappointing, the safety and health of everyone must be paramount. I thank my committee members for their time and support. As a fellow creator, I know the joy and satisfaction of having your work validated by your peers and the forever optimist in me says don’t give up. The committee will meet to discuss the possibility of conducting the JAG Awards Competition all on line. Any input is welcome. Please email me at **gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org**

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

We regret to inform you that the Conference Committee Co-Chairs and the JAG Executive Board have cancelled the Eastern Video Expo 2020. We regard the health and safety of our members, the vendors, attendees and the hotel staff during this COVID-19 crisis to be the utmost importance at this time. We are disappointed that this has to happen but believe it to be necessary to be a responsible organization. It is too soon to know what the outcome of this crisis will be and how it will affect any possible future events. We wish safety for you and your families. If you have any questions please contact Stephanie at stgibbons@verizon.net.