

**Trustees 2014-15**

Lee Beckerman-2015  
 Nick Besink-2015  
 Bob Duthaler-2014  
 Dave Garb-2015  
 Stephanie Gibbons-2014  
 Debbe Gist-2015  
 Open Seat 2014

*Your Municipal Communication Resource*

**Connecting Your Town to Your Residents**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Your Executive Board did not take the summer off! In fact, we met during August on an all day retreat. The board met to help shape the future of our organization. During the upcoming months we will report out on our meetings and provide you with information as we reshape JAG for the years ahead.



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The 2015 Conference Committee is already meeting and preparing for what should be our best conference and trade-show to date. Look for some exciting changes in the upcoming months as the committee prepares for our annual event and the website begins to take shape. You can always find out the latest information by visiting the conference website at

[www.powerofpartners.org](http://www.powerofpartners.org)

**Meeting Schedule**

- Sept. 24-** Bloomfield  
Presentation-Broadcast  
Pix
- Oct. 29-** Metuchen  
Presentation -Rushworks
- Nov. 26-** Montclair  
Presentation- Castus
- Dec. 10-** Annual Meeting  
& JAM Awards Dinner at  
Spain Inn, Piscataway
- Jan. 28-** TBA  
Presentation-TBA
- Feb. 25-** TBA  
Presentation-TBA
- Mar. 25-** TBA  
Presentation-TBA
- Apr. 30-** TBA  
Presentation-TBA
- May 28-** TBA

JAG will also soon be announcing the “organizational membership” opportunity, as voted on by the membership in 2014. This unique form of membership allows Manufacturers, Integrators and Vendors to be part of the JAG organization, giving them insight into how we operate in order to better serve our needs. JAG hopes to increase membership numbers and dues, while expanding our educational mandates with special presentations from organizational members and future articles in upcoming newsletters.

Finally, a few things for members to keep in mind during the next few weeks. JAG Trustee Nominations will soon be accepted. If you have any interest in becoming a Trustee and part of the Executive Board please feel free to reach out to me. Join us for our next General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> in Bloomfield. Broadcast Pix will be on hand showing off their latest switchers and software updates – perhaps their slow-motion replay machine as well. See you then!

Bob Duthaler  
 President, Jersey Access Group  
[bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org)

## **JAG's Website: A Value to the Membership**

**Dave Garb, Vice President**

Well summer has come to an end, and JAG is back in action. Your Executive board never really went on hiatus, but has instead been busy gearing up for our upcoming membership meetings.

That being said, I still need your help! The JAG website, is in great need of membership assistance! I have been attempting to update the \*Members Only\* database section with your municipal information. To date, only a very (VERY!) few have replied.

I need a copy of your town's franchise agreement! With these readily available materials, members will have the facts at their finger-tips when their municipalities enter the refranchising window.

I also need your station's policies and procedures for our members who may need guidelines when creating their own set of operations/rules for their access television station.

Please remember that your opinions on the current site are welcomed! Membership input is vital! I and the Executive board would like to hear from you on what information you would like to see presented on it. Please help to make our website a success. Please forward to me your thoughts and information to the e-mail address listed below.

Thank you.

*David Garb*

Vice President, JAG-The Jersey Access Group

[davegarb@paps.net](mailto:davegarb@paps.net)

(732) 376-6030 Ext. 23538

**We are looking for members to staff our booth at the NJ League of Municipalities Annual Conference in Atlantic City (*three hour blocks*)**  
***Tuesday, Nov. 18, 10:00AM-1:00PM and 1:00PM-4:00PM***  
***Wednesday, Nov. 19, 10:00AM-1:00PM and 1:00PM-4:00PM***  
***Thursday, Nov 20, 9:00AM-1:00PM***  
**Contact Rich Desimone at [rjdesimone@verizon.net](mailto:rjdesimone@verizon.net)**

## Bits & Bytes

- Next meeting will be September 24 with a presentation by Broadcast Pix
- NATOA “eNATOAs” webinars can be seen by members at METV. Reservations are required due to limited space. Details: <https://www.natoa.org/events/enatoa.html> . Upcoming eNATOAs webinars will include:

November 3, 2014, 2pm — ***E-rate 2.0 and Funding for Local Communities to Close the Digital Divide.*** According to the FCC, more than 80% of schools report that their broadband connections do not fully meet their current educational needs, with slow internet connections being the primary culprit. This session will provide an update on the status of e-Rate 2.0 and how municipalities can utilize e-rate funds to bring modern levels of broadband speeds to their schools and libraries, while keeping these revenues local.

December 1, 2014, 2pm — ***The Courts, The Hill and The FCC - A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2015.*** Our panel of experts will assess how 2014 affected policy and practice on key communications issues and will provide their views of what may be coming in 2015 - and how local governments can prepare.

- Executive board next meeting is scheduled for September 17. The Executive board will be focusing on continuing the work began at the board retreat: working on our mission statement, changes to our policies and procedures, and possible amendments to the bylaws.
- JAG will open membership to vendors in September.
- JAM Video Awards submissions will close on Oct 3.
- You are invited to run for the JAG Board of Trustees. Nominations for Trustees (Three Positions available) will be accepted at the Oct 29 general meeting or by mail prior to the meeting if you cannot attend. You may nominate yourself. Brief resume required that will be circulated with election ballot.
- Presentation of the 2015 budget at Oct 29 general meeting
- Election of Trustees will be held on November 26.
- JAM Awards Dinner and JAG Annual meeting will be held December 10.
- Sessions confirmed for the 2014 NJLOM conference in Atlantic City:  
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 @ 2:00pm - *Cable Franchise Renewals in an Era of Changing Technology &*  
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 @2:00 PM - *Local Government Communications in a Digital World.*
- JAG is conducting a survey regarding all communication in your town. This information will help in the development of our NJ League sessions. We ask all members to consult with town officials to provide the information requested. Sadly only one member has responded thus far.

**PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY NOW**

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e9fhpm2jhwc4y61p/start>

## COMMITTEES CORNER

### NATOA 2014 Annual Conference

Sept. 29-Oct. 2



St. Paul, MN

<https://www.natoa.org/event/s/annual-conference/2014/>

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES: *Rich Desimone, Chair***

The responsibilities of this committee have grown in scope as a result of direction given by the Executive board at last month's retreat. Responsibilities now include the scheduling of vendor presentations and guest speakers at meetings, development of the election voting ballots, development and management of surveys, development of the NJLOM conference sessions, coordination of articles for NJLOM magazine, publication of the JAG e-newsletter, development and management of relationships with vendors and other like organizations, and the coordination of participation in other conferences. This means a lot of time on the phone, sending emails and lots of follow up, and we need help. We will have monthly conference calls and possible meetings before or after JAG's monthly general meetings. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at [rjdesimone@verizon.net](mailto:rjdesimone@verizon.net)

### MassAccess Annual Conference

Nov. 7



[www.massaccess.org](http://www.massaccess.org)

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

#### **Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair***

The Membership Committee is looking for new members. In the next few months we are looking to survey the membership on current JAG services and needs. We will also be reaching out to potential members. Please join us by contacting Stephanie Gibbons at [stgibbons@verizon.net](mailto:stgibbons@verizon.net) or 732-603-9750.

#### **JAM Awards Committee: *Lee Beckerman, Chair***

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It's hard to believe, but the deadline for the JAM Video Awards is just a month away. I know you're all just gearing up for your busy fall schedules, but you should take just a little time to enter your best work and get a little recognition for what you do best!

We will have a gala awards ceremony in December that you do not want to miss! The best place to experience it is from the winners circle!

The JAM Awards are New Jersey's premiere Excellence in Video festival.

All videos must be received by October 3rd. Entries must have been produced between January 2013 and September 30, 2014. Nominees will be announced December 1, 2014.

Take a moment now to check out the categories and enter your best work!

To register for the JAM awards click on the link below.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5izl8xcab&oeidk=a07e9tlfao621be6df7>

### **NJ League of Municipalities** **Conference**



Nov. 18-20

Set up Nov.17

#### **Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair***

The conference committee had its first meeting Sept. 11 & 12 at the Hyatt Morristown which will be the site of our conference next year. We welcome Dave Ambrosy, Gary Steele, Peter Neman, and Debbe Gist to the committee. They will be joining committee members Bob Duthaler, Stephanie Gibbons, George Strimel, Cindy Hahn, J Robertson, and Dave Garb.

If you have a staff member or volunteer that you think would be a great addition to the committee, please let me know. We are looking for members that are creative with strong organizational skills and new ideas that will assist in the continued growth and development of the conference as a valuable component to the membership. Tasks include workshop track leaders, workshop moderators, social media management, municipal outreach, student symposium development, event supervisors, and marketing and attendee development.

The committee will meet via conference call once a month for the next 7 months. To join contact Rich Desimone at [rjdesimone@verizon.net](mailto:rjdesimone@verizon.net)

### JAM Awards

Call for entrees NOW OPEN

Closes Oct 3, 2014



Awards Dinner

Dec. 10, 2014

Jersey Access Group, PO Box 772, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

732-877-8581

[www.jagonline.org](http://www.jagonline.org)

[info@jagonline.org](mailto:info@jagonline.org)

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

Editor Rich Desimone