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Volume 7, Issue 6

***Newsletter***

June 2020

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**General Meeting**

**Schedule 2020**

**Jun. 24- Video Conferencing**

Presentation- Comrex

**Sept. 30- TBD**

Presentation Varto

**Oct. 28- TBD**

Presentations- TBD

**Dec. 2- TBD**

Presentation- TBD

**Jan. 27, 2021- TBD**

REORGANIZATION

Presentation- TBD

**Feb. 24- TBD**

Presentation- TelVue

**Mar. 31- TBD**

Presentation- TBD

**Apr. 28- TBD**

Presentation- TBD

**May 27- TBD**

Presentation- RUSHWORKS

**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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**Staying Active With JAG All Summer Long**

JAG understands the importance of keeping its members active, up to date and constantly informed. Although we do not have regularly scheduled membership meetings during the months of July and August, we will continue of have Webinars and Virtual Hangs. We are looking for September to be our first in person meeting, or perhaps a hybrid version of in person and virtual. JAG as an organization will continue to help you be one of those stations that thrives and becomes essential for both the municipality/school and the community and we will do it in a manner that is safe for our members and under the guidelines set forth by health officials and the state.

Join us Wednesday, June 17th for our webinar where we will discuss the Legislative/FCC landscape with NATOA General Council Nancy Werner and JAG General Council Ken Fellman. Not even the COVID crisis can stop action on the hill. This is a must attend webinar for all members. An invite has already gone out. Please check your email for more details. In addition, I continue to hold impromptu, informal online sessions, including one on Friday, June 12th at 4 pm. The purpose of these is sometimes to talk about a particular subject matter, find out how stations are operating in these new times or just to gather, talk and perhaps have a little social “happy hour” to break things up. These sessions are like our discussion and assistance session at our meetings on steroids. Please check your email for invites, they may pop up on short notice. So far we have held two successful sessions that have been well attended. Please join us for our next one.

We are continuing with our new streamlined meetings, moving the order of discussion items and trying to make this a more enjoyable session for our members. All committee reports will be sent out with the Agenda prior to the meetings, giving members a chance to read up on committees and ask specific questions to committee chairs. In addition, each meeting has a special discussion topic, allowing all members to engage each other on this specific topic. This month our topic will be “Transitioning Back To Live Meetings.”

Hopefully June will be JAG’s last all virtual meeting. Hopefully we will have a combination virtual and onsite meeting depending completely on health restrictions and what is best for the safety of all our members. Until that time, we ask that all members be on the lookout for the online meeting agenda, participate online preferably and as a last resort, call in. Should you ever have difficulty trying to get in, please send me an email at bduthaler@jagonline.org or text me at (973) 476-5747. I will do my best to help you get connected. Please understand this is a new situation for all of us, there could be some bumps in the road, but we will do our best to get on track and work through it.

Finally, as I mention each month in my article, JAG as an organization is a very social group. Face to face interaction at this point continues to not be possible but there are work arounds. I encourage you to take part in these events, impromptu online gatherings and perhaps an online happy hour! Stay Home, Stay Safe and make the most of this time with your family and loved ones.

Bob Duthaler

President, Jersey Access Group

**Executive Committees General Meeting Agenda**

**Bob Duthaler, President**



**P.O. Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840**

**Web Site: www.jagonline.org  E-mail: JAGinfo@jagonline.org**

**NJ Chapter of NATOA & Affiliate of the NJ League of Municipalities**

**GENERAL MEETING AGENDA – 12:12pm Start Time**

***Wednesday, June 24, 2020***

12:12-12:20 p.m. *\*Welcome\**

* Call to Order & Additions to Agenda [Chair or vice chair if chair not available].
* Approve minutes of May 2020 meeting [JAG Secretary or as designated by the president].
* Member Introductions [Roll-Call by Chair]
* Welcome new members [Membership Chair]

12:20p.m.- 12:50 p.m. \*Discussion\*

* Discussion Topic:  **Transitioning Back to Live Meetings**
* Future Topic Ideas

12:50-1:50pm \*Presentation\*

* **Comrex, Paul Cintolo, Tech Support Manager**

1:50pm-2:00pm \*Committee Reports\* Attached

* Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Participation/Members Update – Report from Vice President
  + Standing Committee Reports
    - Executive [Bob Duthaler - Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
    - Finance [Linda Besink - Treasurer]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
    - Production [Lee Beckerman - Committee Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
    - External Relations [Geoffrey Belinfante - Committee Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
  + Ad Hoc Committee Reports
    - Membership [Darryl Love/Stephanie Gibbons Co-Committee Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
    - Legislative [Dave Garb - Committee Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*
    - Conference [TBD]
      * CLOSED
    - JAG Awards [George Fairfield – Committee Chair]
      * *Report Highlights and Questions*

2:00p.m.-2:15 p.m. *\*New Business\**

* Discussion & Assistance: Who needs help?
* Other New Business

2:15 p.m. *\*Announcements/next meeting…. Adjournment\*.*

**Stay Safe! Stay Home!**

Register for the JAG website by sending an email to [bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org)

***The next Meeting is Wednesday, Sept 30th @ Online***

***details to be found in JAG Newsletter.***

**NATOA UPDATE Feature**

**Nancy Werner, General Counsel, NATOA**



It’s been another year full of action by the Federal Communications Commission aimed at altering long-standing structures and practices that significantly undermines local governments’ management of public property and impacts public, education and government media facilities. I hope you can join me on June 17th for a webinar highlighting several of these FCC actions as well as federal legislation that could impact JAG members.

The webinar will provide an update on the FCC’s 2019 order that allows cable operators to deduct from franchise fees the fair market value of cable franchise requirements, including many PEG-related requirements, and largely preempts states and local governments from regulating the non-cable services and equipment of franchised cable operators. NATOA and many local governments and local government organizations are fighting the order in federal court. The webinar will include a discussion of the status of the litigation.

The webinar will also address the FCC’s most recent actions impacting local governments. On June 9, 2020, the FCC plans to vote on a Declaratory Ruling that purports to clarify the Commission’s existing rules regarding the types of wireless siting applications local governments may not deny, and must approve within 60 days or the permit will be deemed granted. The item also includes a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would seek comment on wireless industry proposals to expand the rules to allow must-approve placement of wireless facilities in locations that have never been reviewed or approved for wireless deployments.

Several bills have been introduced in Congress that impact these FCC actions, either by reinforcing the action or seeking to undo them. I hope you can join the webinar to hear more about this legislation.



**Special Event for Members**

**A JAG WEBINAR**

**FCC Preparing to Vote**

**June 17, 2020 @ 2pm**

**Special Guest: Nancy Werner, General Council**

**National Association of Telecommunications Offices and Advisors**

**And**

**Ken Fellman, JAG Council, Kissinger & Fellman, P.C.**

***Access information will be sent to the membership prior to the event.***

**Managing Studio Calls Feature**

**Paul Cintolo, Tech Support Manager, Comrex Corporation**



Does your "in-studio" host want to take a live call? Many organizations want to correctly route a phone call with the rest of their audio chain, but don't have the ability. Comrex manufactures many different devices, such as the VH2 and Opal, that are suited to manage studio calls whether it be a general caller through a telephone line, or a VIP caller through a smartphone application that utilizes high audio bandwidth. Join Paul Cintolo, of Comrex (Devens, MA), where he will cover many of the current options commonly used, including analog telephone lines, VoIP circuits, the SIP protocol, as well as “best practices” to help avoid the common pitfalls when managing caller audio. Gaining a better understanding of how calls can be managed will make your host happy and allow your community audience to engage with your studio in a compelling fashion.



**VH2**

Any studio that processes phone calls needs hardware to interface with phone lines. This device, traditionally called a Hybrid, filters, separates and provides gain adjustment and call control to more easily allow for recording or broadcasting “phoners”. As telephone companies are shifting from traditional phone lines to Voice-over-IP (VoIP) systems, the devices that performed this job in the past are becoming outmoded. Broadcasters need a VoIP hybrid to ensure on-air and recorded phone calls sound as good as possible. VH2 connects two VoIP lines to a studio for individual broadcast or flawless conferencing. VH2 can automatically adjust caller audio to a uniform level, leaving you with a result that’s clean and clear. Plus, VH2 uses only VoIP phone lines, saving you money and increasing functionality. VH2 can even connect to many VoIP PBX systems.

**Opal**

Expert guests (like entertainers, political pundits, athletes, and others) don’t always have access to engineers. They need something as simple to use and familiar as a phone call. But that doesn’t mean a radio program should settle for phone quality audio. Opal is an IP audio gateway that enables guests to connect to the studio by simply clicking a link. It provides HD quality audio from consumer-grade equipment, like a cellphone or a computer with a microphone. It’s easy enough to use without a technical background, and most importantly, it sounds great.

Comrex has designed and manufactured broadcast equipment since its incorporation in 1961. Since then, Comrex has consistently developed the most innovative technology to address the specific needs of broadcasters, and create products that enable broadcasters to produce live, local, imaginative remote programming. Comrex strives to provide a simple answer to a universal broadcast need - the transportation of high- quality media to the studio from virtually anywhere, economically, at a moment’s notice. As methods of audio and video transportation evolve, Comrex works to develop technology that will allow broadcasters to easily achieve creative and entertaining programming, from diverse and unique locations.

Paul Cintolo will be at the March 25 JAG Members General Meeting for a presentation of Comrex products. Comrex is an Organizational Members of JAG and a participant and sponsor on the Eastern Video Expo. Please attend this meeting and show your support.

**Committees Volunteerism**

**Rich Desimone, Managing Director**



JAG committees are all busy addressing the needs of our membership. All committees have established regular scheduled monthly meetings: First Monday- Production, First Tuesday- Membership & Finance, Second Tuesday- Legislative, Second Wednesday- Executive, and Third Monday- External Relations.

If one of these committee meeting schedules would fit into your schedule, please reach out to one of the chairs and offer your help.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Executive 2020  Meeting second Wednesday 11:30AM | Production 2020  Meeting first Monday 11AM | Membership 2020  Meeting first Monday 1PM |
| 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 | Dave Garb | Bruce Goldsmith |
| Jeff Arban, Trustee 2021 | Bob Duthaler | Dave Garb |
| Darryl Love, Trustee 2021 | Robert Horvath | OPEN-Membership Renewal Follow up |
| Lee Beckerman, Trustee 2020 | OPEN-Camera Operator/Editor | OPEN-Membership Renewal Follow up |
| Geoffrey Belinfante, External Relations | OPEN-Camera Operator | OPEN-Membership Renewal Follow up |
| Rich Desimone: Managing Director  Action Plan/Policies & Procedures/Bylaws | OPEN-Camera Operator | OPEN-Membership Renewal Follow up |
| Finance 2020  Meeting second Tuesday 11AM | Legislation 2020  Meeting second Tuesday | Conference 2021  Closed |
| Linda Besink: (Chair) | Dave Garb (Chair): | OPEN (Chair) |
| TBD: (Secretary) | Linda Besink: (Secretary) | OPEN (Secretary) |
| Bob Duthaler: Executive Chair | Bob Duthaler: NJLM | Linda Besink: Treasurer, Registration |
| Dave Garb | Ada Erik: NJ Legislation | OPEN- Registration Manager |
| Lee Beckerman Production Chair | Nick Besink | OPEN- Workshops |
| Jeff Arban | Dave Bandfield | OPEN- Affinity Lunch & topics |
| Geoffrey Belinfante External Relations Chair | Jeff Arban | OPEN- Marketing |
| OPEN | OPEN | OPEN- P&D, Tec Support |
| OPEN | OPEN | OPEN- Photographer |
| External Relations 2020  Meeting third Monday 11am | JAG Awards  No regular meeting time set | OPEN- Student Symposium |
| Geoffrey Belinfante (Chair) | George Fairfield (Chair) | OPEN- Power |
| TBD (Secretary) | various members: (Secretary) | OPEN- Social media |
| Stephanie Gibbons: Members | Dave Garb | OPEN- Video Production |
| Bob Duthaler: NJLOM Join Session, JAG Session, Booth Staffing and rooms, Web Site | Lee Beckerman | OPEN- AV Support |
| Cindy Hahn: JAG Newsletter, Writer/Editor | Bob Duthaler | OPEN- Student Management |
| George Burmiller | Bob Nicholson | OPEN- Trade Show Set Up/AV Support |
| Dave Garb | Dave Bandfield | OPEN- Trade Show Set Up/AV Support |
| Bruce Goldsmith: Spotlight |  | Rich Desimone: Managing Director  Conference Coordinator |
| Dustin Weeks |  | Outside Contract: Web Site, Program, Fliers |
| Jeff Arban |  | Outside Contract: Audio Support |
| OPEN- Social Media |  |  |
| Rich Desimone: Managing Director  JAG Newsletter Editor |  |  |
| Outside Contract: JAG web site |  |  |

**Bits & Bytes**

**JAG meeting schedule**

**•June 12, 4pm ― JAG Virtual Social Hang/Happy Hour hosted by Bob Duthaler, President JAG**

* **A casual conversation on our current work conditions**

•June 15, 11am ― External Relations Committee Meeting via Virtual Video Services

* Vendor Presentation/Website updates/Newsletter

**•June 17, 2pm ― JAG Webinar via Virtual Video Services**

* **Nancy Werner, General Council, NATOA and Ken Fellman, JAG Council, Kissinger & Fellman, P.C.**

•June 24, 12:12pm – 2:15pm ― General Meeting via Virtual Video Services

* **Topic for Discussion: Transitioning Back to Live Meetings**
* **Presentations: Comrex, Paul Cintolo, Tech Support Manager**
* Committee Reports Q&A

•July 6, 11am ― Production Committee Meeting via Conference call

* NJLM videos/Testimonials/JAG Promo

•July 7, 11am ― Finance Committee Meeting via Conference call

* Updating Database

•July 7, 1pm ― Membership Committee Meeting via Conference call

* Delinquent Membership outreach

•July 14, 11am ― Legislative Committee Meeting via Conference call

* Protecting Access Television Act support

•July 15, 11:30am – 1pm ― Executive Board meeting via Virtual Video Services

* Committee Reports: Updating Action Plan
* NJOM Sessions
* Board Retreat

•July 20, 11am ― External Relations Committee Meeting via Virtual Video Services

* Vendor Presentation/Website updates/Newsletter

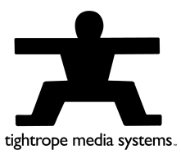
**JAG Spotlight:**

**Local Access takes on Covid-19: Dave Ambrosy, Station Manager, EBTV**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, EBTV, like many stations, experienced challenges in the way we work. With buildings shut down, productions canceled indefinitely, and limited staff, we had to find new ways to produce content and get information out to our residents. Our bulletin board emergency announcements are updated daily with the ever-changing information on the virus. The township’s home page was redesigned to direct residents to all of the department’s latest updates. Regular updates from our mayor are recorded and placed in a playlist on the web site, as well as broadcast on our channel and on Facebook. The county health department utilized our station to produce informational segments, in English and Spanish, that were distributed on the TelVue Media Exchange for other stations in the county. As the shutdown continues, other departments, such as our Department on Aging and our Recreation Department, see the need to keep people active and involved. Virtual exercise programs and local trivia games are produced via Zoom. For residents that cannot participate online, the sessions are recorded and scheduled for playback on the station’s cable channel and placed in an On Demand playlist. The business of the town needs to continue, so Town Council, Board of Education, and Planning Board meetings are all scheduled to take place virtually. Meetings need to be open to the public, so call in numbers are provided so the public can comment during the public portions of the meetings. The meetings are broadcast live on our channel, streamed to our web site and on Facebook in an effort to make them available to everyone. It is also important to our administration to support the local businesses in town that are taking a big hit from the pandemic. Many short business spotlights are being recorded and blasted out on social media to let the public know what services are being offered and how to contact them. We are all hoping that in the coming months our business gets back to normal, but in some ways our business has always evolved due to the challenges presented. The JAG Production Committee would like to hear about what your station has been doing during these times. We hope to put together a short video highlighting JAG members’ efforts during these times. Please contact the production chair, Lee Beckerman at lee.beckerman@twp.woodbridge.nj.us. Stay healthy and safe!



**Organizational Members**







**COMMITTEES CORNER**

**Update for all JAG Committees**

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

Despite protest and general unrest in the country, it does appear that things are slowly returning to normal, but there are very real questions as to what that new normal will look like. We on the JAG external relations committee have to face this new reality, and we need your help. There are a number of issues we need to confront. For example, has social media become more or less important to the organization during the health crisis; will virtual meetings make more sense for us in the future; if our meetings are virtual, do our corporate partners still pay a fee to address our members; what new benefits can we add to our corporate memberships that will have meaning to our suppliers; and last but not least, what effect does the world of the virtual meetings have on the role of PEG stations in the future—is it a good or a bad thing? All food for thought as we enter the next phase of re-opening. We too need some new and innovative thinking to move forward and grow the organization. Please join your fellow JAG members and help us out on the external relations committee. We need some new, fresh thoughts. Contact me if you’d like to help—[**geoffbel512@gmail.com**](mailto:geoffbel512@gmail.com).

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

While most of us have been social distancing, for JAG's Finance Committee it has been business as usual. Did you know that you can now pay membership dues online at our website jagonline.org? That's just one item we've put in place for our members. Why not join the Finance Committee? Our meetings are always monthly call-ins so it's very easy to attend. If you'd like to be a part of proper Board transparency, please contact JAG Treasurer Linda Besink at 201-650-0116 or [**lbesink@gmail.com**](mailto:lbesink@gmail.com) .

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

The Production Committee met virtually on June 1st. Video testimonials are complete and are being added to the JAG Website. Testimonials produced for the JAG Conference will be set aside for use in next year’s conference. Currently four short videos produced for the New Jersey League of Municipalities have been finalized and the final two are in the process of being revised.

We are waiting for the finalization of the JAG Mission statement, which we anticipate being completed at the next Board Meeting, to begin the process of creating a JAG elevator speech which we will in turn use to create a “Why Join JAG” video.

Further work on re-creating the Access New Jersey show are on hold until the state opens up more and we can meet with Montclair University, which we hope to have partner with us on the project.

The committee discussed a possible video to promote what stations have been doing during the Covid-19 pandemic and how stations have adapted to produce content for their towns. The chair has sent out a request to members to send the committee some examples of innovative ways they have used their stations to reach out to residents.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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

Social Distancing and the New Jersey Members of Congress: The Legislative Committee has been working in earnest to begin a second-phase, all-out contact blitz to reach out to our legislators in Trenton, even while we are in quarantine. This is our opportunity to remind elected officials of the importance of Access Television, and how, for a very long time, we have been the main hyperlocal communications source in getting vital information out to our residents quickly and efficiently.

Additionally, we want to ask our legislators once again to support the “Protecting Community Television Acts” that are circulating in the House and Senate. Remember, your eyes, ears, thoughts and contacts are greatly needed in keeping PEG fresh in the minds of our federal lawmakers. If you are interested in joining the Legislative Committee, please contact me at 732-376-6030 ext. 23538 or [**davegarb@paps.net**](mailto:davegarb@paps.net) .

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

The committee is reaching out to members who have not renewed. If there is an issue of renewing your membership due to the pandemic or if you have not seen your invoice please contact us.

The next meeting of the membership committee is July. 2. Please consider joining the membership committee. If you are interested please contact Stephanie Gibbons at [**Stgibbons@verizon.net**](mailto:Stgibbons@verizon.net) or Darryl Love at [**DFLove@aol.com**](mailto:DFLove@aol.com) .

**JAG Awards Committee: *George Fairfield, Chairs***

There will be an organizational meeting on June 29, 2020 at 11:20am. If you would like to be part of the 2021 JAG Awards Committee, please email George at [**gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org**](mailto:gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org) to receive the meeting notice.

