**General Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday September 27, 2017

Varto Technologies – East Rutherford, NJ

Meeting attended by: Asbury Park; Ed Salvas, Bloomfield-Bob Duthaler, Edison Twp.- Ed Cologna, Essex Cty College - Victoria Timpanaro, Metuchen- Rich Desimone, Stephanie Gibbons, Montclair-Rick Gearhart, OPTV - Nick Besink, Linda Besink, Perth Amboy -Dave Garb, Piscataway Twp.-Peter Namen, Ramsey- George Bumiller, Roselle – Bob Duthaler, Rutgers - Jeff Arban, Scotch Plains-Bob Duthaler, West Milford - Bob Nicholson, Nathan Bedford, Edwin Gonzalez, Woodbridge Twp.- Lee Beckerman.

Organizational Members: 4 Wall- Paul Distefano, Telvue Corp- Jesse Lerman, Varto Technologies- Varto Kaspersian & Yervant Kaspersian.

Independent Members: Vivian Gaspar, Ron Rossnick, Allison Morano-Stop My Crisis

Miriam Rosenberg- Sing Along Fun w. Miss Miriam

**Call to order** by Dave Garb at 12:07pm

**Approval of minutes** from 6/14/17: motioned by Bob Nicholson and seconded by Jeff Arban, passed.

**New Members**: Stephanie introduced Miriam Rosenberg, an independent producer who does her children’s show “Sing Along Fun with Miss Miriam” from Summit HomeTowne TV.

**Committee Reports**:

**Executive Committee**: Dave G. gave a brief update regarding the Executive Board August Retreat, wherein changes and updates to JAG Policies & Procedures were effected. The Bylaws have also been changed and updated and will be voted upon in October.

**Finance**: Dave G. reported that Debbe has been out of commission due to a medical issue since June, and will not be returning as JAG Treasurer. New Trustee Linda Besink is now Acting Treasurer and there are still operational issues to work out to get her up to speed.

**Production**: Peter reported that the Production Committee will provide technical training to whoever needs it. Production is working on a re-group of the Committee.

**External Relations**: Rich reported that he’s working on vendors for upcoming meeting presentations. He attended the September NATOA Conference. He asked that everyone please read the newsletters. The October newsletter will feature an article on the upcoming JAG Awards and Paul Andrews from TelVue wrote an article on technology. Rich asked for members to submit articles for the newsletter. JAG can always use volunteers for this year’s League of Municipalities conference in November.

**Membership**: Stephanie reported that the meeting sign-in sheet has been tweaked by Linda, and it has been passed around for this meeting. Also, Princeton TV invited the Membership Committee to attend their September meeting, where Stephanie and Linda outlined benefits of JAG membership particularly for independent producers. The reception was good.

**Legislative**: Dave G. reported that the issue of Closed Captioning could be coming up in the near future.

Rich attended NATOA’s conference in September, and moderated a panel on drones. The bottom line is that there is a lot that has changed regarding legal issues for drones; currently local municipalities are trying to control drone use through local noise and nuisance ordinances.

**Conference Committee**: Rich reported that the Conference Committee will be organized within the next 30 days.

**JAG Awards**: Bob D. has written an article about the upcoming JAG Awards which will be in the October newsletter. The article will talk about a new location and date. Bob will be looking for people to be a part of the committee.

**Grants/Scholarships** (new item): Ed Cologna is looking into grant funding and he said it would be possible to have a grant writer as presenter at the November meeting in Edison, if he can arrange it.

**Continuing Business**: nothing to discuss.

**New Business**: Dave G. went over locations for meetings in the first half of 2018.

One item that was decided at the Board Retreat was that Committee Chairs will write up a description of what each of their committees does. This should help inform membership and hopefully garner some additional members for the committees.

The League of Municipalities conference will be November 14-16. Anyone who can help at the JAG booth is welcome!

**Discussion & Assistance:** Victoria said that South Orange uses several independent producers. She will reach out to some of those with whom she currently works to gauge the interest in JAG membership.

Nick has two municipalities that he’s reached out to for membership: Montvale and Washington Township (Bergen), and Bob N. would like to reach out to Pompton Plains. Potential membership info, including benefits of membership, can be found on the JAG website.

**Motion to adjourn** by Bob N., seconded by Nick. Passed at 2:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Besink*