



**Trustees 2017-18**

- Dave Ambrosy-2017
- Jeff Arban 2017
- Linda Besink 2018
- Ed Cologna 2018
- Bob Duthaler-2018
- Dave Garb-2017
- Stephanie Gibbons-2018
- Debbe Gist-2017
- Victoria Timpanaro 2018

*Your Municipal Communication Resource*

**Connecting Your Town to Your Residents**



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**General Meeting**

**Schedule 2017-18**

- Sept. 27-** Varto Technologies in East Rutherford  
*Presentation-by Varto*
- Oct. 25-** Scotch Plains  
*Presentation- TBD*
- Nov. 21, Tuesday-** Edison  
*Presentation- TBD*
- Dec. TBD**  
*JAG Awards*
- Jan. 31 TBD**  
*Presentation- TBD*
- Feb. 28 TBD**  
*Presentation- TelVue*
- Mar. 28-** 4Wall Entertainment in Moonachie  
*Presentation-by 4Wall*
- Apr. 25- TBD**  
*No Vendor Presentation*
- May TBD**  
*JAG Conference*  
*Hyatt, Morristown, NJ*
- Jun. 13- TBD**  
*No Vendor Presentation*

JAG recently held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Power of Partners Conference. The Vendors remarked on how they not only enjoyed talking to the attendees, but to the high school teachers and students, as well. Recognizing that the education establishments are becoming heavily invested in the media field, but have become an evolving market for them.

There was also a sense of excitement throughout the whole event. Everyone seemed to enjoy the networking opportunities, the discussion groups, and the testing out the newest equipment on our trade show floor.

At our Keynote Luncheon, Mayor Brian Wahler of Piscataway, a former Municipal Excellence Award Winner, announced the 2017 recipient, Councilman Jim Bullard, also of Piscataway. Our "Legislator of the Year" award presentation went to Union County Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, and we had a special visit by New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Director Michael Darcy.

Of course there was the Partner's Banquet! Where Conference Chairman Rich Desimone was roasted. This was Rich's last conference as chair, as Rich is planning to retire from Metuchen TV in a few months. I would like to thank Rich for all his hard work in making our conference a reality, and also for his excellent work leading the External Relations Committee. Please send Rich your thanks and well wishes when you see him.

Please also welcome aboard Linda Besink and Ed Cologna as our newly elected Trustees. Over the summer the Executive Board will be realigning the leadership in each of our standing and Ad-Hoc committees.

*David Garb*

*President, JAG-The Jersey Access Group*  
*davegarb@paps.net*  
*(732) 376-6030 Ext. 23538*

# CONFESSIONS OF A LONELY VOLUNTEER

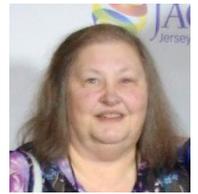
Feature

By Linda Besink, Newly elected JAG executive board member

Imagine being in a line of people, all standing across shoulder-to-shoulder. Everyone takes one step back, except for you. There you are, standing very much alone.

So, what do you do NOW?

Such is the popular idea of volunteering. You might also have missed a meeting and were “volunteered” for something that nobody else wanted to do. Well, I’m here to tell you, the word “volunteer” is not a bad one, and is actually a concept that should be embraced.



This year’s Power of Partners Conference was my sixth as a crew member at Oradell (NJ) Public TV, or OPTV. It was my first as a member of JAG’s Membership Committee. As such, I was asked to provide help at the registration desk for a good portion of the conference.

I must admit, at first and for a very short time I felt a tiny bit like that “lonely volunteer.” Suddenly, I was out in front of the line! However, any concern I had about being able to enjoy the conference while assisting at reception quickly

disappeared. More on that will follow.

I did walk the vendor floor on trade show day, speaking with various manufacturers and service providers. One vendor in particular was experiencing their first Power of Partners Conference. I was welcomed as a good friend and learned a bit about closed-captioning. It was also helpful to touch base with vendors that OPTV staff know well.

To a person, the vendors I spoke with were patient in explaining what they do and why their products were exceptional. And each was eager to keep in touch.

Friday workshops are always a good way to brainstorm and learn, and this year’s workshops did not disappoint. Networking with people who do what you do and have similar experiences helps to find solutions for everyone. Having vendors as panelists at the workshops provides unique opportunities to interact – and make new friends!

Regarding my “lonely volunteer” experience, I could not have had more fun speaking with conference attendees as they arrived at the Meet-and-Greet. That evening (and for the rest of the conference) I was able to put names to faces and vice-versa, as well as to have conversations with people with whom I might have been familiar from afar, but for some reason was never able to speak to in a meaningful way.



Another eye-opener was seeing, in a very definitive way, how each member of the Conference Committee contributes to the overall flow of the conference. I always knew they worked quite hard, but this year I saw first-hand by participating in that process. Watching the various coordinators and especially the registration staff, I was learning a lot!

It made me want to be a greater part of it.

Those that know me, know that I have a mantra when it comes to JAG and our members. That is: if you haven’t joined a committee, please consider doing so. Whether it’s the Conference Committee or one of JAG’s standing committees, I promise it will make you see how more vital a part you can be of what JAG does.

By the last day of the conference, I felt much more confident about answering questions and solving anything that might arise. I noticed that I was saying “I’ll have to ask Stephanie” less and less. Most important though, was the fact that I could see how my small part in this year’s conference made a positive difference. That was worth everything!

# My Life at the Conference

# Tec Talk

by Edward Cologna, Newly elected JAG executive board member

The Eastern Region and Technology Conference has come of age and every year it gets better. At the Meet and Greet I had the pleasure of interacting with seasoned veterans of the conference as well as new attendees. I always find it fascinating how many types of people run and work at local TV stations. Whether working as volunteers or paid staff, all are united by the objective of serving their respective communities. I was amazed at the support some of the TV



stations outside of New Jersey receive from their local governments and their cable TV carriers. When I hear of these positive stories, it motivates me to push the envelope with the cable TV providers as well as the Government entities that benefit from the hard work we strive to provide. It is a labor of love for practically all of us-if not, we wouldn't put up with the challenges we face for the not so great monetary rewards we receive.

The following morning at the trade show, I took the time to thank as many vendors as I could for being there. I know how important it is for people like me who attend the multivendor exhibit. Each exhibitor became a teacher for the attendees-much more than plain salesmen. Even seasoned veterans in the fields of media and communication always have something to learn at the conference and this was no exception. Even though I attend NAB almost every year, it never ceases to amaze me how many new things I absorb from this more intimate setting. I equate NAB to painting with a large brush and our conference as the fine brush where I get down to the details of equipment and technologies that relate to my career as a PEG operator.

The workshops the final day were so great I wished I could have cloned myself to be in each room simultaneously. The knowledge of drone operations and closed captioning opened new opportunities and ways to better serve the constituents I work for. One specific example was as soon as the event ended, I reached out to Verizon to have the closed captioning on the digital encoder enabled which is disabled by default. Because of what I learned at the conference, I knew the keywords to use to ensure my request would be taken seriously without being pedantic, yet with a positive outcome.



From a social perspective, I walked away with new forged relationships that may blossom into real partnerships. The conference and trade show served the attendees as well as the vendors. It was a balance that even professional dancers would appreciate. I look forward to attending our next conference in 2018.

A special thank you to Rich Desimone for everything he has done to make this endeavor possible yet again.

Sincerely,

Edward Cologna

PEG Operator since 1991



# **Eastern Region Communication and Technology Conference 2017**

## **Survey**

We need your help.

Please let us know what you thought about the conference.

What worked? What needs work? What should we change?

How do we continue to improve the value of this event?

Click on the link and tell us what you think.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ee8ukc0ej3jd1ro9/start>

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***Congratulations to Yervant Keshishian, Varto Technologies  
Serving Community Media Award 2017***



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*Thanks to Stephanie and all who played a part in a night I will never forget.*

*Believe me, I wish I could.*

*Rich*

# Thanks for the help!

Rich Desimone, Chair, External Relations

# Volunteerism

- Thanks to the 16 volunteers that made the conference possible.
- Bob Duthaler has volunteered to chair the JAG Awards. Looking for volunteers
- External Relations and Marketing Committees are still in need of chairs.
- Debbi will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of the year.
- Four JAG Trustee positions will be up at the end of this year. Please think about running.



<b>Executive- Meeting July 12</b>	<b>Production- No Meeting Scheduled</b>	<b>Membership- - No Meeting Scheduled</b>
Dave Garb, President	Peter Namen (Chair)	Stephanie Gibbons (Co-chair): Annual survey
Victoria Timpanaro, V.P.	TBD: (Secretary)	Cindy Hahn: (Co-chair): Outreach
Debbe Gist, Treasurer	Dave Ambrosy: Producer	Linda Besink: (Secretary) Data Management
Dave Ambrosy, Secretary	Nick Besink:	Debbe Gist: Member tracking
Jeff Arban, Corresponding Secretary	Lauren Watson:	Bob Duthaler: List Serve
Stephanie Gibbons, Trustee	Jeff Arban: Interviews	George Bumiller: Outreach
Bob Duthaler, Trustee	Brian Belzer: Editor/Camera	TBD: Managing Delinquent Accounts
Linda Besink, Trustee	Anthony Pagliuco: Editor/Camera	
Ed Cologna, Trustee		
Peter Namen, Production		
Rich Desimone, External Relations		
<b>Finance- No Meeting Scheduled</b>	<b>Legislation- No Meeting Scheduled</b>	<b>JAG Awards- Meeting begin in July</b>
Debbe Gist (Chair) <b>NEEDS CHAIR by Jan. 2018</b>	Dave Grab (Chair): NATOA	<b>Bob Duthaler (Chair):</b>
TBD: (Secretary)	TBD: (Secretary)	various members (Secretary)
Herbert Hall: Budget Review	Bob Duthaler: NJLOM	Dave Ambrosy: Judging Sites
Bob Duthaler: Budget Review	Ida Erik: NJ Legislation	Dave Garb: Program Development
Allan Rosen: Budget Review	Linda Besink:	Peter Namen: Production
Stephanie Gibbons: Budget Review		
Linda Besink: Budget Review		
Outside Contract: Bookkeeper w/QuickBooks		
<b>External Relations- Meeting June TBD</b>	<b>Sub Committee Marketing</b>	<b>Conference- Meeting July TBD</b>
Rich Desimone Chair <b>NEEDS NEW CHAIR by Jan. 2018</b>	<b>NEEDS CHAIR NOW</b>	Rich Desimone Chair <b>NEEDS NEW CHAIR by Sept. 2017</b>
Stephanie Gibbons (Secretary): Members	Dave Garb: JAG Web Site	Cindy Hahn (Co-secretary/Treasurer): Program, Workshops Manager, Marketing, Newsletter
Dave Garb: NJLOM Join Session, JAG Session, Booth Staffing and rooms	Rich Desimone: JAG Newsletter	Stephanie Gibbons (Co-secretary): Registration, Municipal Outreach
Cindy Hahn: Writer/Editor	Cindy Hahn: JAG Newsletter, Writer/Editor	Dave Garb: Student Symposium, Legislative Workshops
	Bob Duthaler: JAG Web Site	J Robertson: Affinity Lunch & topics
	Peter Namen: Videos	Jeff Arban: Interviews/SLRs/Meet and Greet
	Jeff Arban: Interviews/Graphics	Dave Ambrosy: Entertainment, Production
	Outside Contract: JAG Web Site	Bob Duthaler: Technology Workshops, Ads
		Ed Cologna: Trade Show Announcer
		Geoffrey Belinfante: Workshops
		Outside Contract: Web Site
		Outside Contract: Social Media

## Bits & Bytes

- Jul. 12 — Executive Board Meeting: New board member orientation.
- Jul. 17 — Conference Committee Meeting: Wrap up the work of the committee and review the survey results.
- Aug. 9 — Executive Board Meeting: Annual review of JAG Action Plan 2016-17 and set goals for 2017-18.
- Aug. 15 — JAG Award submissions scheduled to open
- Sept. 11-14 — NATOA Conference, JAG will be represented at both the NATOA Chapters Meeting and moderating the drone workshop.
- Sept. 27- Varto Technologies in East Rutherford. Presentation-by our host. A unique opportunity to learn about the latest technology that will impact TV stations workflow.
- Sept. 30 — JAG Award submissions closes. Participants will be sent instructions on how to upload their entries.

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## Member Spotlight

By Cindy Hahn, Membership Committee

Interviewer: Jeff Arban



Peter Namen, Production Manager for Piscataway Community Television, is no “newbee”. A native of Piscataway, Peter has been involved in television production for 30 years, after originally being a radio guy. Peter has been a long-time member of JAG and serves as the Chair of the JAG Production Committee.

You can find Peter performing many roles on classic PCTV shows such as “Eye on Piscataway”, “Spotlight on Middlesex County” and “Dialogue with Doris”. Along with television production, Peter has a love of pineapple upside down cake, gin martinis, and the holiday classic “A Christmas Story”. He would most like to meet Frank Lloyd Wright, and loves spring and techno music. Peter cites his most embarrassing moment as the time that water leaked onto a switcher, causing the delay of a live wrestling broadcast.

He once had three winners on the same night at the CTN awards and, in five or so years, would like to retire in Virginia.

When asked to name the person whom he most admires, Peter names his cousin, Bob, an architect and CEO for the company that has designed all of the new baseball stadiums that have been built in the past years.

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## Organizational Members



HELMER, CONLEY & KASSELMAN, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

The Power of Partners Conference 2017 Meet & Greet- *sponsored by Rushworks*

**A beautiful night for a barbeque: Great food and conversation.**



## COMMITTEES CORNER

### NATOA 2017 Annual Conference

Sept. 11 - 14



The Grand Hyatt  
Seattle, WA

<https://www.natoa.org/events/annual-conference/2017/>

Registration Open

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

Attended a 5G demo by Verizon. Have requested that JAG be involved in testing transmission over 5G. Four conference vendors expressed an interest in joining JAG. We will be sending representatives to attend NATOA conference. Ten people attended our drone certification program. Still looking for a chair to take over in 2018. Working on finalizing sessions and panelists for the NJLOM Conference. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at [rjdesimone@verizon.net](mailto:rjdesimone@verizon.net).

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair***

**NO REPORT** If you are interested in joining the Finance Committee, please contact me – [dgist@piscatawaynj.org](mailto:dgist@piscatawaynj.org) 732-562-2305.

### **PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair***

**NO REPORT** If you would like to help please contact me at [pnamen@jagonline.org](mailto:pnamen@jagonline.org).

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### NJ League of Municipalities



New Jersey State League  
of Municipalities

Nov. 14-16, 2017  
Atlantic City, NJ

**Save the Date**  
**Booth Staff Needed**

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

The Legislative Committee needs your eyes, ears and contacts in order to keep JAG up to date with the latest information coming out of our State and Federal Governments that could be of interest to the access community.

Please help us keep ahead these issues that may have a direct impact on you and your stations operations by joining the Legislative Committee. If interested, please contact me at: [davegarb@paps.net](mailto:davegarb@paps.net).

### **Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons & Cindy Hahn, Co-Chairs***

The Membership Committee will be resuming its meetings over the summer. We will be looking at the results of the last membership survey. If you are interested in joining this team please contact Stephanie Gibbons at [stgibbons@verizon.net](mailto:stgibbons@verizon.net)

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

The conference is in the history books. The work of the committee amazing. Was it the best ever? Our survey is out and we need your input to see how we did. There were new vendors, new events, and new workshops. Did they increase the value for you? Did you get what you needed? The committee will have its final meeting to discuss the survey results and observations from all members on their experiences. The committee is in need of a chair and will begin development of Power of Partners 2018 in Sept. 2017. This committee needs your help, your energy, and your ideas.

### The 2017 JAG Recognition Dinner and Video Awards



Details Coming Soon

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, Staff: Cindy Hahn, Stephanie Gibbons, Linda Besink--Marketing Committee