

Trustees 2015-16

- Jeff Arban 2015
- Lee Beckerman-2015
- Bob Duthaler-2016
- Dave Garb-2015
- Stephanie Gibbons-2016
- Debbe Gist-2015
- Victoria Timpanaro 2016

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General Meeting Schedule

- Nov. 24- Edison
- Presentation- Tightrope
- Dec. 9- Annual Meeting Recognition and JAM AWARDS
- Location Spain Inn
- Jan. 27- Reorganization Meeting: TBD
- Presentation- Castus
- Feb. 24- TBD
- Presentation- Telvue
- Mar. 24- Shadowstone
- Presentation-by our host
- Apr. 27- TBD
- Presentation- HB Communications
- Sept. 28- TBD
- Presentation-
- Oct. 26- TBD
- Presentation-

Your Municipal Communication Resource
Connecting Your Town to Your Residents
The Jersey Access Group Recognition Dinner
and
5th Annual JAM Video Awards



Join us as we celebrate
Bob Duthaler
as president of the Jersey Access Group for 10 years.
2006-2015

Over the past 10 years the Jersey Access Group has gone through a number of changes as we transitioned from a group of stations sharing content, resources, and labor to positioning JAG as a key player representing New Jersey as a chapter of the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisers and as an Affiliate of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

On Dec. 9, 2015 we acknowledge the leadership of Bob Duthaler in making JAG an asset to local government and a vital component in both the state and national legislative activity.

You will not want to miss this evening that will be full of surprises as JAG recognizes the leadership, dedication, and outstanding support of its members.

We would like to invite our Organization Members: HB Communications, Telvue, Tightrope, Castus, Shadowstone, Rushworks, Varto Technologies, and JVC to attend and participate in the JAM awards presentation. Please contact Rich Desimone if you would like to participate at rjdesimone@verizon.net.

We ask all JAG members to join us at the Spain Inn in Piscataway from 6:00pm-10:00pm, cost \$45.00, as we honor the work of our peers.

Click the link below to order tickets:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5izl8xcab&oeidk=a07ebfcqckfc496efaf>



FCC TO HOLD A ROUNDTABLE EVENT TO DISCUSS CLOSED CAPTIONING OF PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS PROGRAMMING

****IMPORTANT EVENT****

We urge members to watch this webcast at

<http://www.fcc.gov/live>

The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will host a roundtable event to discuss closed captioning of public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access programming on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

1:00 - 1:05 PM

Welcoming Remarks

1:05 - 2:15 PM

Overview: Why Caption PEG Programming?

This session will review the benefits of captioning PEG programming, and will provide an overview of the current rules generally governing the provision of closed captions on video programming.

Facilitator: Suzy Rosen Singleton, Attorney-Advisor, Disability Rights Office (DRO), CGB, FCC

Contributors:

- Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief, DRO, CGB, FCC
- Amanda Maisels, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Claude Stout, Executive Dir., Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
- Mike Wassenaar, President, Alliance for Community Media

2:15 – 2:25 PM

Break

2:25 – 3:35 PM

Best Practices for Closed Captioning PEG Programming

This session will discuss captioning best practices and address technical and practical challenges in the PEG environment.

Facilitator: Rosaline Crawford, Attorney-Advisor, DRO, CGB, FCC

Contributors:

- Diane Burstein, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, National Cable & Telecommunications Association
- Tole Khesin, Vice President of Marketing, 3PlayMedia
- Carol Studenmund, President, LNS Captioning
- Christian Vogler, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Art, Communication and Theatre, and Director, Technology Access Program, Gallaudet University
- Heather York, Vice President of Marketing, VITAC

3:35 – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 - 4:55 PM

Closed Captioning Solutions for PEG Programming

This session will discuss budgeting for captioning costs, funding, and low-cost and free solutions to facilitate the provision of closed captioning on PEG programming.

Facilitator: Gregory Hlibok, Chief, DRO, CGB, FCC

Contributors:

- Jason Barnett, President/CEO, Flarean SBC, Volunteer Captioning Case Study: 2014 Minnesota Gubernatorial 30 Debates
- Steve Brunsberg, Operations and Production Manager, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network
- Donna Keating, Media Services Manager, Executive Producer, County Cable Montgomery
- Carl Richardson, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Massachusetts State House
- Steve Traylor, Executive Director, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

4:55 – 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks

Webcast: The Commission will provide captioned audio and video coverage of the event over the Internet from the FCC's Web page at <http://www.fcc.gov/live>.

Questions: The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. Those following the live stream will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the event via e-mail at livequestions@fcc.gov. Depending on the volume of questions and time constraints, session facilitators will work to respond to as many questions as possible during the event.

Website: Updates to the agenda, as well as presentation materials, will be available on the event webpage at <https://www.fcc.gov/events/roundtable-discussion-closed-captioning-public-access-and-governmental-programming>. Interested parties can also follow the event on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FCC>. To signify your participation in this event via Twitter, you can tweet your comment or question and include the hashtag #FCCLive. Then click refresh to view your tweet.

Disability Accommodations: Open captioning and sign language interpreters will be provided for this event. Other accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for such accommodations should be submitted via e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or by calling the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (TTY). Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. In addition, please include a way the FCC can contact you if it needs more information. Please allow as much advance notice as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill.

For more information, please contact Suzy Rosen Singleton at Suzanne.Singleton@fcc.gov or (202) 510-9446.

NJ League of Municipalities Convention

Hello JAG Members:

This month JAG will once again have a presence during this year's League of Municipalities Convention.

JAG happens to be an affiliate of this organization. The league looks at our group as a significant source of information means to for their communication library for their questions and concerns.

Being an affiliate has also made us an invaluable resource during the convention as well. This year, JAG has joined forces with the league to present a special joint-session on "FirstNet", Nov. 18th at 2:00pm.

Rich Desimone and I have been working hard on putting together this event and we have four very special guests, who will be relating to the attendees their wealth of knowledge on this subject.

- Steve Traylor, Executive Director, National Organization of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors
- Fred Scalera, Public Safety Broadband Program Manager, N J Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
- Captain D. Brady, Bureau Chief, Communications Bureau, New Jersey State Police
- David A. Cook, Consultation and Outreach Lead, Regions 2, First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), U.S. Department of Commerce

We will also be having again this year a booth on the trade show floor. I am asking all of our JAG members for your help staffing the JAG Booth. The times and dates are as follows:

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10:00AM-1:00PM and 1:00PM-4:00PM

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10:00AM-1:00PM and 1:00PM-4:00PM

Thursday, Nov19, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated and your involvement will demonstrate JAG's value to, not only the league, but to the all the municipalities. If you can help us out please reply to me at the e-mail below.

Thank you.

David Garb

Vice President, JAG-The Jersey Access Group

davegarb@paps.net

**Nominations for executive board 2015-2017 terms are
Dave Ambrosy, Jeff Arban, Dave Garb and Debbe Gist.**

Elections will be held at the general meeting on November 24, 2015.



Government VIDEO EXPO 2015
Walter E Washington Convention Center, Washington DC

**Save the Date
DEC. 1-3, 2015**

TOP EXHIBITORS | TARGETED TRAINING | KEYNOTE SPEAKERS | NETWORKING EVENTS | DAILY PRIZES

Why Does Tech Support Always Ask Me To Reboot My Computer?

by Steve Israelsky, VP Broadcast Solutions, Tightrape Media Systems

There has been a lot of discussion among access centers and in the trades lately about the broadcast transition to IP technology. There is a consensus that the broadcast world is moving in that direction. At this point you might be wondering what exactly does that mean, and how might this affect you.

IP stands for Internet Protocol. IP technology was built to deliver content in packets across the internet to your computer screens. The technology has evolved and improved over time and is now used for a host of other applications such as “Over the Top” or OTT transmission to a set-top appliance such as Roku or Apple TV. IP technology is also used to deliver VOD content, content to classrooms and cable boxes, and in many other applications. This is all classified as IP broadcast distribution or delivery. The need for IP technology in distribution is well established. Indeed, it is the only way to deliver content over the Internet. However, everything becomes a bit murky when integrating IP technology into the production process and into master control. The real question here is why anyone would want to do that in the first place.

There are valid reasons why any broadcaster, including a PEG channel, would want to transition to an all IP based workflow. An IP platform improves efficiency, reduces the quantity and variety of cabling required, and eliminates complexity. The cost of adding additional channels, among other things, lessens. The problem is we are far from that scenario, and in the interim a full transition to an IP based workflow is more expensive, more complex, and a lot harder to maintain.

The fact of the matter is that all of your production equipment is not IP based; it is still SDI based. Your camera outputs are not Ethernet connections; they are generally BNC connectors carrying SDI signals. These signals run into your production switcher that is also SDI based. The output of that production switcher is an SDI signal that goes into an SDI based encoder or routing switcher to be put on air. In order to utilize IP based video servers, encoders and switchers, everything needs to be converted to IP streams. Doing so requires additional hardware on the acquisition side, and in many cases, also on the distribution side since cable companies are still more comfortable taking a standard SDI or composite output from PEG channels. This conversion equipment is costly, and eventually, will be unnecessary.

According to TV Technology author James Careless, *“SDI-based switching remains the way that broadcasters produce live TV these days, even in a world of video-over-IP advances. This is because the two technologies are built upon fundamentally different architectures: SDI-based/switching and routing handle individual uncompressed video streams that are frame-synchronized to each other. Video-over-IP signals are packet-based, with many streams intermingled on a common pipeline. This makes standard A/B video switching impossible without some form of technical workaround; primarily because IP transport was never designed nor meant to be a real-time switchable signal format”*.

The vast majority of broadcasters have not made a transition to an all IP based workflow. In fact, a recent industry survey of 1,000 individuals at small, medium and large broadcast facilities and production houses indicates that more than two thirds of the respondents do not expect to have an all IP based workflow for at least another five years. At the last CCW Conference in New York, Turner Broadcast SVP of Technology Michael Koetter offered similar sentiments. He pointed out that he’d like the new CNN facility scheduled to open in 2018 to be completely IP based, but doesn’t think the technology will be proven by that time.

There are other concerns as well. Quality control and monitoring will require both a broadcast engineer running a waveform monitor as well as an IT expert running a packet analyzer. In addition to having a very solid video infrastructure, an equally solid IT infrastructure is needed, as a hiccup on your network will affect your on air playout. Also, IP can put the educational and government programmers in an awkward place politically as they are now officially part of the IT infrastructure.

Cost is perhaps the biggest factor. New technology and a change in workflow before that technology is adopted by the industry at large can be financially challenging. Perhaps a prudent move is to let the technology be perfected and completed by the for-profit broadcasters. On the other hand, IP technology is already what every manufacturer of PEG automation and video server hardware uses to send programming from master control to computer screens, OTT devices and mobile phones. So congratulations, you have probably already taken the most essential step in IP transmission. If you are curious about what Tightrape Media Systems is doing with IP Broadcast, check out www.tightly.tv, Tightrape’s own PEG channel and view the live streaming and VOD files from your computer, mobile phone or tablet.

Bits & Bytes

- Nov. 9 — NATOA webinar- How to be a Gig City -- What are the Options?
Communities are stepping up to the challenge of establishing local infrastructure that will ensure they remain economically competitive with the rest of the world, while protecting public health, safety, and educational opportunity in a knowledge-based future. This session will examine what options are available, and how to strategically plan, to be a Gig City. Does it mean having to build a fiber infrastructure yourself, or are there less risky alternatives but which may mean less control over this critical infrastructure.
- Nov. 10 — The FCC will hold a special forum to promote discussion about closed captioning of public access and governmental programming shown on television. The event will include discussions about the benefits of captioning such programming, the relevant captioning obligations of programmers and stations, and effective captioning solutions. The event will engage local government professionals, policy makers, captioning vendors, consumer groups, engineers, representatives from the programming industry, and others as appropriate. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding captioning of public access and governmental programming, and to ensure the accessibility of such programming for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as other individuals who may benefit from the availability of closed captions on this programming. **The event will be free and open to the public. Live, 1:00pm-5:00pm, captioned video of the event will be available at www.fcc.gov/live.**
- Nov. 11-12 — CCW-(Content and Communications World) Javits Convention Center, NYC
- Nov. 17-19 — NJ League of Municipalities Annual Convention, Atlantic City, NJ
- Nov. 18 — JAG joint session at 2pm on FirstNet
- Nov. 24 — General meeting to be held in Edison. **Election of 2016 JAG Board of Trustees.** Please note that this meeting will be on Tuesday Nov. 24 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. This will be the first time Edison will host a meeting giving members an opportunity to see their operation. Tightrope Media Systems will be providing a presentation.
- Dec. 1-3 — GV Expo, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
- Dec. 7 — NATOA webinar- The Courts, The Hill and The FCC -- A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2016
Our panel of experts will assess how 2015 affected policy and practice on key communications issues and will provide their views of what may be coming in 2016 - and how local governments can prepare.
- Dec. 9 — The Jersey Access Group Recognition Dinner and 5th Annual JAM Video Awards. **Click the link below to order tickets: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5izl8xcab&oeidk=a07ebfcqckfc496efaf>**



Organizational Members



COMMITTEES CORNER

NJ League of Municipalities



Nov. 17-20, 2015
Atlantic City, NJ
Save the Date

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

JAG organizational members are continuing to sign up for presentations and submitting articles for his newsletter. Tightrope will be doing a presentation at the November meeting in Edison. Attended the TATO (Texas Chapter of NATOA) conference and spoke at their board meeting and they would like begin relationship to assist each other in chapter development. Members of TATO board are planning to attend our conference in 2016. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

If you are interested in joining the Finance Committee please contact Debbe Gist: dgist@piscatawaynj.org, or call 732-562-2305.

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair*

Join the committee, contact me at pnamen@piscatawaynj.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Legislation Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

I am eagerly seeking members to join the Legislative Committee. With all the activity that is happening from the Federal Government on down. Our eyes and ears are needed to protect the interest of our PEG communities. If you are interested in being a watchdog, please contact David Garb at davegarb@paps.net.

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

This is a reminder to please fill out the JAG member survey. So far fourteen of our 66 members have responded: Asbury Park, Essex Cnty College, Franklin Twp., Jersey City, Long Branch, Long Hill, Metuchen, North Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Piscataway, Rutgers, South Orange, Ventnor City, and West Milford. Thank you for participating. This survey put together by the membership committee is an effort to find out what services members are using and find valuable. JAG wants to know what its members think. The information we gather will help us guide JAG's future. We also encourage all our new organizational members (vendors) to participate in this survey. We are looking for committee members. Please contact Stephanie at stgibbons@verizon.net

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

Steve Traylor and Ken Freeman have confirmed attendance and participation in conference planning. The Conference web site has been updated for 2016. We are looking for members that are looking for a way to get more involved with supporting JAG's mission. This event is JAG's major annual fundraiser and we need your help. The committee meets monthly Now – May 2016. Next meeting will be Nov. 9, 2015. If you are interested contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

JAM Awards Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro & Jeff Arban, Co-Chairs*

We had a great response to the JAM call for entries. Looks like it will be a good competition! Even if you don't have a video in the contest, please still come out on Dec. 9th to the Spain Inn and celebrate with us as we honor Bob and celebrate the end of another great year with JAG!

Marketing Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro, Chair*

Things are moving right along with our Facebook and Twitter presence, but the committee is looking for members that can really help us get the word out about JAG! If you would like to help with social media, graphics or designs please get in touch with me at vtimpana@essex.edu.

JAG Recognition & Annual JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 9, 2015
6-10pm
*Spain Inn
Piscataway, NJ*

JAG Annual Conference



May 25-27, 2016
Hyatt Morristown, NJ

Save the Date

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

732-877-8581

www.jagonline.org

info@jagonline.org

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

Editor Rich Desimone, Marketing Committee