

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**

Sept. 30- Varto
Presentation-by our host
Oct. 28- Montclair
Presentation-TBD
Nov. 24- Edison
Presentation- TBD
Dec. 9- Annual Meeting
JAM AWARDS
Spain Inn, Piscataway
Jan. 27- Reorganization
Meeting: TBD
Presentation by Castus
Feb. 24- TBD
Presentation-Telvue
Mar. 30- Shadowstone
Presentation-by our host
Apr. 27-TBD
Presentation- TBD

Your Municipal Communication Resource
Connecting Your Town to Your Residents

THE JAM AWARDS ARE A GO.

On July 8, 2015 the executive board held its monthly meeting. The major item on the agenda was what to do about the JAM Awards. Seven of the nine members were present and no one wanted to see the awards end. Participation in the JAM awards is one of the benefits of membership in JAG and a time to recognize JAG members and their staff and volunteers for their work and support of community media.



The discussion centered on the amount of work it would take produce this event. It was decided by everyone that the work would be divided up and knowing that Victoria Timpanaro volunteered to co-chair if Jeff Arban would agree to be the other co-chair. With Jeff's acceptance the JAM Awards were saved.

What happened next was a demonstration of why JAG was founded. Everyone at the table started to join the committee and volunteering to handle the many components. This was JAG at its best. In ten minutes a committee was formed, organized and began looking at how to improve the event. This included developing an electronic system to except submissions and distribute them to the judging sites.



Two other ideas are being discussed. We are looking for a way to invite college students to participate and we are looking to expand the judging sites to include as many of the membership as possible. There will be more about that in the coming month.

The JAM Award will be held on Dec. 9 as part of JAG Annual meeting which includes the president's report on the state of the organization and our goals for the coming year. The new 2016 JAG Executive board will be introduced to the membership. We invite all members to attend this event and join in celebrating another great year.

So start thinking about the shows you will enter, becoming a judging site, and attending this wonderful event.

Become an active part of JAG's future. Join the committee. Contact Victoria Timpanaro at vtimpana@essex.edu. Committee: Victoria Timpanaro, Jeff Arban, Dave Garb, Peter Namen, Stephanie Gibbons, Bob Duthaler, & Rich Desimone.

A View from Afar

By J Robertson

Many people have asked me, “What is so enticing about a Communication and Technology Conference 5,000 miles away?” Well the answer is pretty simple. The Annual Eastern Region Conference is a powerhouse of a gathering of industry professionals, managers and enthusiasts.



For three days I was able to connect with field technicians, innovative producers, management aficionados, public policy and legal experts, and some of the most knowledgeable equipment representatives on the planet. The intriguing depth of conversation was impressive and imaginative. The workshops and special sessions are above par compared to other events of this nature. Even more valuable was the opportunity to exchange ideas and practices with likeminded others during the all new Affinity Lunch. 12 distinct topics were fleshed out and shared among the participants and I am certain that many new opportunities were created as a result of sharing a lunch with a colleague.

The workshops are jam packed with useable information and hands on advice. I am not sure how the committee comes up with such an all-star list of panelists but they rival all other annual discussions. More impressive is the effort to stay a step ahead of the current trends while offering sage tips on best practices. I find it so refreshing to walk into a discussion thinking I know what I am talking about and leaving with the profound knowledge that there is so much more to learn. And, to know where to go in the days ahead to learn more. I only wish there was an archive of information post-conference to fetch the handouts and links that I missed or left behind.

It is extremely rare for anyone to visit my PEG station in Hawaii (go figure) so the chance to meet with and talk to 60 vendors is incredible. The Eastern Region Conference is by far and away the premier trade show in community access. I continue to be amazed at the technology, equipment, and the unique knowledge each of the presenters have with their products. My station has made several significant improvements based on my experiences at the conference.

In addition to this the special Users Group sessions are invaluable. There is no other arena to learn about the newest adaptations and developments while getting my day-to-day operational questions completely reviewed and answered. I am more convinced than ever about the value and support I get from our product suppliers. I leave home with \$50,000 in spending expectations and return with a wish list of \$100,000. I attend this conference if for no other reason than the Users Group presentations, they are a measurable benefit.

Perhaps the most alluring aspect of the Conference is the genuine warmth and friendliness of the participants. Everyone has such a grand time at all of the social engagements. I have always been so impressed with the hospitality and the effort from everyone going out of the way to make you feel welcome and appreciated. There are no cliques and no special groups – just real people with a zest and passion for what they do for their communities. Every single gathering from the Meet & Greet to the Vendor Passport giveaway is an opportunity to make new and lasting friends. The effort to make everyone feel special is truly amazing and very much appreciated.

The associations and connections that are regularly made available during the conference have enabled even more collaboration. One example is watching the development of the JAG Chapter within the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. By attending the conference I learned about the value and advantages of NATOA and met with Steve Traylor personally. Over the course of a short period of time JAG organized and joined the organization. Seeing how easy the process was and with strong encouragement from JAG leadership I was convinced it was a good project for the PEG centers throughout Hawaii. While we operated on Hawaiian Time (a slow but fun progression) and took two years to formally apply for affiliation we finally submitted the simple but necessary documents. It was quite a moment of pride to learn of our chapter’s acceptance by NATOA’s Board of Directors at the Eastern Region Conference. The concept started in New Jersey and we were notified of our inclusion in New Jersey. Without this conference I doubt we would have created our Hawaiian Chapter of NATOA.

My advice – Make your plans now on attending the 2016 Eastern Region Communication and Technology Conference. Carve out a small part of your budget to make sure you can participate in the best organized and produced communications conference in America. Be sure to tell your friends and associates. If you can’t bring your friends don’t worry....you’ll make plenty of new ones.

Tech Talk: Did You Say Free ?!?!?

By Steve McGrath, HB Communication

As post production professionals, it sometimes feels like everything and everyone is trying to get into your wallet. Everything seems to come with unexpected costs and it never seems to end. Sometimes you just make a poor purchasing decision and your investment you fought for just collects dust. Having a real world test of some new software or workflows you are integrating is the difference between a successful deployment or not. This month in the JAG Newsletter, we are going to look at some products that are free to use and learn. These softwares can help your workflow, solve a problem or just brush up your resume.

Nuke Studio by Foundry –Nuke Studio by Foundry is a single VFX, editing and finishing application. It is also a node-based compositing software. It differs from other compositing software like Adobe After Effects as Nuke Studio has the option to have you work node-based and not layer based. What that offers is a compositing workflow that has a feel more like a flow chart than working with layers. People who work in node-based softwares become evangelists of them quickly because it allows your workspace to be much more visual and you can find any aspect of your work quickly as opposed to digging through layers. Not ready for such a workflow change? Worry not, because Nuke Studio can have its user interface toggled to a more traditional editing workflow.

What else is Nuke? It's a visual effects software and not a motion graphics editor like After Effects. It is not a product that can just jazz up video that you have. It can help you create things that seem visually impossible. Last year, it was used in countless films, TV shows and commercials all over the globe. They have their NAB show reel on their website and its dazzling, quite impressive and worth watching. Nuke Studio achieves all this by allowing users to work the software in different modes. Modes such as Conforming, Editing, Reviewing, Compositing and more. All of these modes are just tabs in the software's user interface. That means if you a video editor who is trying to ramp up on compositing, you just need to click a tab to see how your editing work translates into compositing and also to try your hand at compositing.

What's the catch? Well there is a full paid version of Nuke Studio and with that paid version you get resolutions higher than HD such as 4K. You also cannot share projects between the free and commercial versions. There are a handful of other features disabled and you can check Foundry's website for more info, but the list of what is disabled is small. With what you are given, you can create projects end-to-end without watermarking. So why would Foundry hand out copies of their top-of-the-line flagship product? Because they are very motivated to get people comfortable with learning their software. It will take just about any exiting project from most major post production software companies, so you can import your existing projects and see how they perform. For the asking price, why not give it a try? There even also free tutorial on their website to help you get your feet wet.

DaVinci Resolve Lite –Does your non-linear editing software of choice underwhelm you with its color correction and color grading offerings? Have you ever dreamed of getting better at being a colorist, but afraid that you can't because you don't have the budget for a fancy control surface with trackballs? Of perhaps you have heard of DaVinci Resolve and assumed you needed one of those fancy control surfaces to use it? BlackMagic offers a free version of one of their industry standard products, DaVinci Resolve. Most important, you don't need any supplemental control surface hardware.

Using DaVinci Resolve is a breeze. You can edit in it natively, or you can import your timeline from your non-linear editing software of choice. Its preferred media formats are ProRez and DNxHD. Like Nuke, it is also a node-based compositing software.

The Resolve user interface may seem intimidating at first, but it's layout is broken down into 4 categories at the bottom of the user interface, Media, Edit, Color and Deliver. Each part should be familiar with anyone who edits, as you need to do each of them for each edit you do. Like Nuke Studio, the editing user interface is familiar enough that anyone who has edited before will feel right at home. The section that really makes Resolve special is the Color tab.

The Color tab is what makes Resolve special. You have color controls, motion tracking, color matching, full scopes, secondary correction, the list goes on and on. The color tab is so feature-rich that the best way to describe it is that has every color correction tool you have ever seen all in one software. It is also easy to pick up as well because there is a cornucopia of free training videos on Youtube.

Most people have heard of DaVinci Resolve and it has a bit of prestige with its name. So you may ask, "What aren't I getting in the free version that I would get in the paid version?" The answer is you limited to HD resolutions, no support for certain graphics cards, no control surface support, no support for multiple processors and no shared projects using a database server. If you upgrade to the full version, you can really take advantage of supplemental computer hardware to speed up your rendering and processing of files.

Bits & Bytes

- Aug. 3 — NATOA webinar-Building Your Cutting-Edge PEG Production Truck
Looking to upgrade your PEG Production Truck or build one from scratch? Join us for this informative session on new technologies in design, equipment, cost, signal output and even some do-it-yourself strategies.
- Aug. — Executive Board Annual Retreat: Five year plan.
- Sept. 2 — Executive Board meeting
- Sept. 9-11 — NATOA Annual Conference: Jag is planning to have representation at this event.
- Sept. 30 — General meeting to be held at Varto Technologies. We encourage members to attend. Varto Technologies is a system integrator and will be talking about a number of products.
- Oct. 5 — NATOA webinar-Right of Way Management Ordinances
With more interest by broadband providers in deploying new fiber optic networks or expanding existing networks, local governments should be concerned with their ROW management regulations. Proper ROW management regulations protect cities from future road maintenance expenses by establishing engineering standards for boring and excavation operations, a permitting process to keep track of providers working in the ROW at all times, and inspections to ensure compliance with engineering standards and construction practices prescribing traffic diversion standards. In this session you will learn about the key elements of an effective ROW ordinance.
- 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. 11-12 — CCW-(Content and Communications World) Javits Convention Center
- Dec. 7 — NATOA webinar-The Courts, The Hill and The FCC -- A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2015
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.



Organizational Members



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

COMMITTEES CORNER

NATOA 2015 Annual Conference

Sept. 9 - 11



San Diego, CA

2015 Annual Conference, Sept 9-11 at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego, CA

Registration Open

Hard Rock Hotel sold out

Residence Inn San Diego
Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter Hotel

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

We are working on getting a vendor to all of our general meetings. Varto Technologies will be hosting our September meeting. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

Members interested in joining this committee are requested to contact Debbe Gist at dgist@piscatawaynj.us or call 732-562-2305

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair*

Jersey Access Group Production Committee is always looking for new members. If you would like to be a member don't hesitate to reach out to us, we need you! We are in the process of revitalizing Access New Jersey and we need pieces. If you can produce a news magazine/story piece please let us know. For further info about how to go about it or to join the committee, contact me at pnamen@piscatawaynj.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Legislation Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

JAG will be presenting a join session at the NJLOM conference. Members are needed to serve on the committee. If interested please contact the chairperson: davegarb@paps.net

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

JAG works best when we all work together, so in that spirit I'm asking members to join the membership committee. What exactly does the membership committee do? Primarily we promote JAG to make our membership stronger. If you become a member of the committee what would you be asked to do? We need a lot of help in a lot of areas. If you like to talk to people, we call up potential members explaining who JAG is and what we do, we call or email our membership to update their contact information and find out if they have problems, questions or suggestions. If talking to people is not comfortable to you, we always need help looking on the internet to update contact information or contacting the municipal clerk for basic info about their station. If you don't want to join the committee you can still help by letting us know if there is a neighboring town or school that has a station or even is thinking about one, let us know so we can reach out. We can't invite people to become a member if we don't know who they are. Help us become a better organization for the benefit of everyone in JAG. If you are interested please let me know at stgibbons@verizon.net.

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

The committee will have one last meeting to evaluate the conference survey and produce a final report with recommendations to present to the executive board. Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

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

The committee has already begun its work. Entry fees and categories are being finalized. Registration to begin Sept. 1, 2015 for six weeks only.

We are looking for judging sites. Contact Victoria Timpanaro at vtimpana@essex.edu or Jeff Arban at jarban@rci.rutgers.edu

NJ League of Municipalities



Nov. 17-20, 2015

Atlantic City, NJ

Save the Date

Annual JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 9, 2015

6-10pm

Spain Inn

Piscataway, NJ

www.spaininn.net

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

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

Editor Rich Desimone