

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday December 9, 2015, Piscataway, NJ

Meeting took place at the Annual JAM Awards & JAG Recognition Ceremony at the Spain Inn.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

Bob suggested that a motion could be made that would skip member introductions this month in order to save time. Edwin made the motion and Ada seconded it.

A motion was made by Ada to approve both the October and November General Meeting minutes. Dave A. seconded the motion.

**Executive Committee Report: Bob Duthaler**

This was a great year for JAG. We kicked off our Organizational Members program and it has helped us to reach out highest membership numbers in JAG’s history. We also had a very successful conference. JAG is financially sound.

**Finance Committee Report: Debbie Gist**

JAG ended the year with 59 paid members and 8 Organizational members. Account totals at this time:

Main checking - $ 9,305.33, Conference savings - $28,513.94, JAM savings - $700.10, Conference checking - $4.420.31, JAM checking - $4,728.15 = Grand Total - $47,667.83.

The suggested 2016 budgets for the Production, Finance, Executive and External Relations Committees were submitted earlier today at an Executive Board phone meeting.

**Production Committee Report: Peter Namen**

Access New Jersey is going into retirements. The Committee will focus on helping members know what programming is available on the Connect server.

**External Relations Report: Rich Desimone**

The Committee is working with our Organizational Members to come out to meetings and update JAG on new technology.

**Membership Committee Report: Stephanie Gibbons**

There are 59 Members and 8 Organizational Members. We received 37 responses to our survey. We have 25 leads from this past League Conference to follow up on. And we are looking for members to join the Membership Committee.

**Legislative Committee Report: Dave Garb**

There were four major events this year. First off we received a letter from the ACM explaining that a couple of US Congressmen were looking into the Communications Act and asking why PEG needs to exist. PEG stations from around the county overwhelmingly responded including JAG. NATOA and ACM are joining forces to send a formal response.

Next up, Assemblyman Michael Carroll from District 25 has been pushing the President to force cable companies to go ala cart. Of course we need to know how this will affect PEG stations.

Then the FCC proposed a new ruling “Promoting Innovation & Competition in the Provision of Multichannel Video Programming Distribution Services”. This stated that incumbent cable systems would have to make it very plain that they intend to use new transmission standards permitting cable systems to deliver video via IP. Again we need to know how this will affect PEG stations.

Finally there were the new FCC rules for Closed Captioning. Will this affect PEG stations and how will we pay for it? Especially since there are no immediate software or other services that can easily put titles on our programs. On Nov. 10th, the FCC and NATOA streamed a seminar to help explain the importance of captioning. This was the first time that the FCC has addressed the PEG community.

**Marketing Committee Report: Victoria Timpanaro**

The new website will launch in 2016. We have also worked this year on increasing our presence on social media by re-launching our Facebook and Twitter pages.

**Conference Committee Report: Rich Desimone**

We are looking at new topics for workshops for the upcoming conference. Both members and vendors agreed that this year’s conference was the most exiting one yet.

**JAM Awards Committee Report: Victoria Timpanaro**

We are all here for tonight’s event!

**New Business:**

The new budget for 2016 has been proposed and will be made available for everyone to see before our next meeting.

Rich made a motion to not open the floor for general discussion at this meeting and Ada seconded it.

The upcoming Newsletter will include the location for the January meeting.

Edwin made a motion to close the meeting and Ada seconded it.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 6:53pm.

**The meeting was followed by dinner, the Recognition program and the JAM Awards.**