

Connecting Your Town to Your Residents



JUNE 2021 VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6

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General Meeting Schedule 2021-2022

Sept. 29- TBD Presentation – Varto Oct. 27- TBD **Presentation-TBA** Dec. 1- TBD **Presentation-TBA** Jan. 26, 2022- TBD REORGANIZATION **Presentation-TBA** Feb. 23- TBD **Presentation-TelVue** Mar. 31- TBD Presentation- DeSisti Apr. 28- Virtual Presentation- RUSHWORKS May 27- Virtual No Presentation Jun. 29- Virtual No Presentation



President's Message Bob Duthaler It's A Wrap.... EVE 2021 Is In The Books!

Jersey Access Group

In any year, pulling off a successful conference is no easy feat, but

during so during a pandemic while doing something that we never did before is just outstanding! I am so happy to announce to our membership what a great event we were able to pull off virtually for three days, but I think they already know that since they attended. So let me break this down with a quick recap and some thank you mentions along the way.

No conference would be successful without the support of our partners and sponsors. I am so proud to say that many of our organizational members stepped up and made this event possible. I would like to thank our Conference Partners who did some heaving lifting not only financially, but they were "All In" on this event. Both TelVue Corporation and Cablecast took on that role and pledged their support. They understood it was not only the conference they were supporting... but JAG. For that our membership is greatly appreciative. In addition, TelVue Corporation sponsored the JAG Awards (more on that later).







The generous support did not stop there. Our tried-and-true organizational member Varto Technologies was once again there to support our organization and cause. Helping behind the scenes, financially and with workshop sessions they showed JAG members that they are here for us.

We were also lucky to have the financial and online support of other organizational members of JAG such as Rushworks,



Municipal Captioning and DeSisti. They participated in panel discussions, demonstrations and much more. Finally, we were thankful to have additional support from Planet Networks who

sponsored our Day Three Keynote Lunch and Broadband Session; Didja TV who introduced us to alternate methods of getting our content out; and DNS Media Group for production and website support and hosting. All of the above is what allowed us to give EVE 2021 participants a great three day event.





These six presentation have been posted to the members only section of JAG's website.





The heart of our conference was our master control room in Piscataway. This was the hub for our Zoom oversight. With Doug Seidel at the helm as our technical producer, he monitored all the zoom feeds, started and ended sessions, helped bring panelists and moderators into the sessions and kept it all running smoothly on the web via our website. This truly was the heart of our operation for the three days (and even more with prep) during our conference. Doug was logged in to every laptop and computer he could get his hands on to monitor feeds and zoom accounts.





I was operating out of the WBMA-TV studios to do the live virtual stage, interview guests, panelists and vendors. Stephen Kwiecien, who cut the show in Bloomfield and took in the live zoom feeds, was ready to go live every day at 8:30 am. We spent the next eight hours each day doing a live show with interviews, video roll-ins and more.

The heart of the conference never stopped beating even when sessions were over. The master control room became the main production center for the live JAG Awards Show. This was a combination of live in-studio and remote zoom feeds. George Fairfield, the mastermind behind the show, paid homage to the JAG Awards shows of the past that included entertainment, comedy,

presenters and more. This year's show included a Red Carpet Event hosted by Simon Mandal which featured comedy and magic! Simon continued to entertain the audience and nominees of the JAG Awards throughout the whole evening. The combination of Simon's magic and interactive experience with the audience, the tremendous entries for this year's JAG Awards, along with the comedic stylings of George Fairfield and Samantha Urash as the studio hosts, made for a fun evening. The creative juices were running, both while preparing for such a big event and during it as well. The staff and crew at Piscataway TV who undertook this with George and Doug

are recognized for their hard work and dedication. You can watch the JAG Awards on our YouTube Page or website VOD Player.

Simon Mandal did a yeoman's job not only hosting the JAG Awards Red Carpet and the JAG Awards, but earlier that day as our Keynote Speaker during the EVE 2021 Keynote Lunch. It was there that Simon gave us a unique perspective of his career journey that included being an inventor, playwright, song writer, magician and more. Along the way he taught us magic tricks and provided tips to get our own creative juices flowing and ways in which to step up our game a notch or two. The combination of storytelling, interactive magic and life lessons made for an extraordinary Keynote address....one which left us with tips and tricks for our productions

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and everyday life. If you missed this or just want to see it again, it is available on the Members Only section of the JAG website.

Finally, I want to thank the Conference Committee for all their hard work. I have a great co-chair in Geoffrey Belinfante and Vice-Chair George Fairfield. We were blessed to have a great committee working together to put on such a great event. The committee included Linda Besink, our Treasurer, along with committee members Stephanie Gibbons, Dave Garb, Dave Ambrosy, Anthony Pagliuco, Lee Beckerman, Jeff Arban and J. Robertson. We were lucky enough to have the guidance, wisdom and support of our Managing Director Rich Desimone who kept us on course during this whole project. And I want to especially thank the person I made a phone call to months before all this started and asked if he would work with me to pull this off and could we do this.... thankfully he said yes, but we both had no idea of what we were getting in to. Again, Doug Seidel was the heart of the conference between updating the website and technically producing 53 zoom events spread out across 3 days. A big THANK YOU TO ALL!





P.O. Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840 Web Site: www.jagonline.org + E-mail: JAGinfo@jagonline.org NJ Chapter of NATOA & Affiliate of the NJ League of Municipalities

GENERAL REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA – 12:12pm Start Time

Wednesday, June 30th, 2021

Join the online meeting: To be sent to members

12:12-12:20p.m. *Welcome*

- > Call to Order & Additions to Agenda [Chair or vice chair if chair not available].
- > Approve minutes of May 2021 meeting [JAG Secretary or as designated by the president].
- Member Introductions [Roll-Call by Chair]
- ➢ Welcome new members [Membership Chair].

12:20p.m.- 12:50p.m. *Discussion*- That's a Wrap and Ideas for next year.

Future Topic Ideas

12:50-1:40pm *Committee Reports* Attached

- Committee Reports
- o <u>Standing Committee Reports</u>
 - Executive [Bob Duthaler Chair, Dave Garb Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - Finance [Linda Besink Chair, Jeff Arban Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - Production [Lee Beckerman Chair, Anthony Pagliuco, Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - External Relations [Geoffrey Belinfante Chair, Dustin Dumas Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions

- Ad Hoc Committee Reports
 - Membership [Stephanie Gibbons Chair, Darryl Love Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - Legislative [Dave Garb Chair, Linda Besink Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - JAG Awards [George Fairfield Chair Bob Nicholson Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - Leadership Development [Dave Garb Chair, Doug Seidel Vice Chair]
 - Report Highlights and Questions
 - Conference [Bob Duthaler & Geoffrey Belinfante Co-Chairs, George Fairfield Vice Chair,]
 - Report Highlights and Questions

1:40pm-1:50pm *Continuing Business*

1:50p.m.-2:10p.m. *New Business*

- Discussion & Assistance: Who needs help?
- Other New Business

2:10p.m. *Announcements/next meeting.... Adjournment*

Register for the JAG website by sending an email to <u>bduthaler@jagonline.org</u>

Look For Webinars and Ongoing Virtual Social Hang/Happy Hour Sessions throughout the year. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 29th. Details can be found in upcoming JAG Newsletter.

JAG's Virtual Conference By Cindy Hahn, Executive Director, C-NET, State College, PA

I have to confess.....I didn't know if it would work.

I had been a member of the JAG Conference Committee for many years, working for months on the annual Eastern Video Expo. The conference is a tremendous amount of work – finding vendors for the trade show, creating workshops, arranging for speakers, coordinating with the hotel, booking entertainment, designing the registration process, facilitating the necessary technology and a hundred other details.

The annual conference, of course, had to be cancelled in 2020, and I was very excited to learn that a virtual conference was being planned for 2021. But while a virtual conference eliminates many planning elements, it adds others. Holding a virtual conference was uncharted territory for JAG, but the brave folks on the conference committee answered the challenge.

> different members of the staff to attend different workshops according to their interest and applicability to their work at C-NET. We naturally left plenty of time for staff to explore the Trade Show, speaking in-depth with vendors who were offering products we are considering purchasing later this year and in 2022.

I registered myself and three additional staff members for this year's conference. We looked over the workshop schedule and assigned

What a terrific experience! The workshops were well done, the panelists were great, and the technology worked seamlessly. I enjoyed a workshop on the recent developments at the FCC and in the courts from Nancy Werner and Ken Fellman. Local municipal staff tend to look toward the PEG station to be a resource on legislation affecting PEG and franchises, and I appreciated the concise update offered at this workshop. Nancy and Ken are always well informed and insightful.

Members of my staff attended workshops on storytelling, editing, social media marketing, closed captioning, and product workshops offered by Telvue, Rushworks and Varto Technologies. The value of speaking one-onone with vendors cannot be overestimated, and the C-NET staff was able to obtain specific product information that will affect our purchasing decisions.

And how much fun were the JAG Awards!?! Kudos to George Fairfield and the JAG Awards Committee for putting together a really fun show. The performances by the magnificent Simon Mandel were fun and mind-blowing! Seriously, like how many oranges could that man fit in his hands? My entire staff attended, enjoying wine and Baileys at home!

There is no substitute for getting together in person, and I am already greatly looking forward to a 2022 conference. But the virtual conference this year was so well done - my compliments to the entire conference committee. You really delivered with a new format and provided a great experience.

Hope to see you all in 2022!!









Feature

JAG Awards Production By Rich Desimone, Managing Director, JAG with input from Doug Seidel & George Fairfield, PCTV

What an amazing JAG Awards program produced and distributed by PCTV, Piscataway Township, NJ! The program went off without a hitch, and we want to take a look at how George Fairfield, Station Manager and staff Doug Seidel and Brian Belzer dealt with the obstacles in doing a live show in a virtual environment.



In the beginning, the JAG Awards show was a live event with two co-hosts. There were video "roll ins" for each category and winners were invited on stage to receive their awards. In more recent years, JAG has added entertainment and guest presenters. The idea of recording them was not ever considered. But, of course, this time the JAG Awards needed to be a live recorded virtual event! This meant producing the show from one location. Most towns are currently recording some kind of interview show, and Piscataway is one of the few that produces a live production "call-in" show. This made

Piscataway a great location for a Zoom production of the JAG Awards as part of JAG's Eastern Video Expo.

Piscataway is thought to be the home of the Jersey Access Group. It was in their studio 22 years earlier that Debbe Gist, then Station Manager, invited the personnel of 10 local community TV stations to a meeting to see if there might be some value in uniting to provide assistance to each other. Woodbridge, Metuchen, and East Brunswick attended that first meeting and would become part of the 12 stations that would constitute The Jersey Assess Group.



So it is not surprising that Piscataway would once again take the lead in producing a more challenging event than had ever been attempted. The basic elements of the show would be like any other awards show. We would need a host, title graphic, a script, and video roll-ins of the nominated content. There would need to be remoted pieces added, the entertainment, the audience, and cut-a-ways to the winners. More to test.....more to go wrong.

The production personnel included a script writer, set designer, graphic developer, two hosts, 2 camera operators, floor manager, technical director, teleprompter operator, and a zoom meeting director. Piscataway only has three staff members but they also have one of the most active volunteer groups in the state.





George Fairfield co-hosted the show with Sam Urash, a volunteer. Brian

Belzer served as the director of the show that PCTV was feeding out to Zoom from the studio. Longtime volunteer and Piscataway Councilman Jim Bullard and Ken Morgan operated cameras. Elio Selvaggio ran the

teleprompter, and one of our youngest volunteers and JAG Award committee member Ronni Garret ran audio. Video roll ins, the script, and most preproduction was done by George Fairfield with assistance from the JAG awards committee. Doug Seidel and Simon Mandal shared turns spotlighting what the audience on Zoom would see.



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Along with preparing for the show Piscataway served as master control for the Eastern Video Expo and on day 1 managed 20 Zoom events using five computers and one staff member sliding between them. Day one went well so there was a confidence going into day 2 that things would be as successful. On Day 2, however, the day of the show began with a power outage. The backup generators started as expected and the station's system all rebooted without difficulty. Though there was some concern about managing the 17 events scheduled

for the day while on backup generator, the production crew was unaware of a production issue which was growing.

A well managed production always has a backup plan. The backup plan for the Expo was created when Anthony Pagliuco, Senior Producer with East Brunswick TV, offered their station if needed. The question was at what time we should make the decision to stay or move the location? Shortly before making the decision, PCTV's power was restored and all was right again. Or was it?,....Remember the "growing issue" that was referred to earlier? The best that can be determined is that with the power going on and off and the electrical storms around, static electricity was building up in some of the equipment. Thirty minutes before the JAG Awards Red Carpet, the PCTV control room lost the ability to feed the studio to Zoom. This was the moment that many decided that they hated doing (yet secretly loved) LIVE events. With no time to spare, the crew jumped in to critical mode and the problem is tracked to the HD capture card. It is quickly replaced and George calls, "Show Time". And the rest, as we are happy to say, is history. You can watch the red carpet and awards show on YouTube at <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7KiPKzGrYM</u>.

When it was all over, I asked George what it was that made it all work. He said "the volunteers.....without their energy and desire, an event like the JAG Awards Show would never have worked. We owe all those that volunteer in support of community our thanks."



JAG Awards 2021 By George Fairfield, JAG Awards Committee Chair

We hope you all enjoyed this year's Jag Awards and the magic of Simon Mandel. It truly was a magical evening. As I know you are aware there is a lot of magic needed to make a live show work. It would not have been possible without the assistance of Piscataway's staff and team of volunteers. But most importantly this production would not have been possible without those members that entered some of their best work to the JAG Awards 2021 during the most difficult time in our history. Congratulations to this year's winners.

101. Documentary:

Award of Excellence - There You Go: Asbury Park Two Days of Protests – Asbury TV, Asbury Park, NJ Award of Distinction - 2020 Quarantine Special – Township of Manalapan, NJ Award of Recognition - ESTC Gardens of Asbury Park – Asbury TV, Asbury Park, NJ

201. Instructional & Training:

Award of Excellence - Saturday Morning Cartooning: George Jetson – WBTV, Woodbridge, NJ Award of Distinction - How to Properly Plan and Enjoy Your Retirement: Damian Sylvia – VRR Media Productions Award of Recognition (Tie) - Lucy's Big Beautiful World of Painting: A Dutch Windmill – EBTV, East Brunswick, NJ Award of Recognition (Tie) - COVID Back To Work Safety – WBMA-TV, Bloomfield, NJ

301. News & Magazine:

Award of Excellence - This Week in East Brunswick – EBTV, East Brunswick, NJ Award of Distinction - Summit Community Comes Together to Protest and March in Peace – HTTV, Summit, NJ Award of Recognition - The Bridge: Distance Learning – Woodbridge Schools, Woodbridge, NJ

401. PSAs & Promos / One-off:

Award of Excellence- Happy Holidays From The Township of Montclair – Montclair TV Award of Distinction - Nittany Valley Charter School PSA – C-NET, State College, PA Award of Recognition – Piscataway Senior Center Services – PCTV, Piscataway, NJ

501. PSAs & Promos / Series:

Award of Excellence - Election 2020 – Get Out The Vote PSA Series – SOMATV, South Orange/Maplewood, NJ Award of Distinction - Bloomfield BOE COVID Updates 2020 – WBMA-TV, , Bloomfield, NJ

701. Sports Programming / Multi-Camera:

Award of Excellence- High School Football: Colonia vs JFK - WBTV, Woodbridge, NJ Award of Distinction- State College High School Varsity Football – C-NET, State College, PA Award of Recognition - EBHS Sports: Boys Basketball, EB vs Piscataway – EBTV, East Brunswick, NJ

801. Talk Show:

Award of Excellence (Tie) --Classic Movies with Ron MacCloskey Award of Excellence (Tie) -- Old Ways in NJ: The History of Diners in NJ - EBTV, East Brunswick, NJ Award of Distinction- Free Flowing Conversations with Mark Dilonno – HTTV, Summit, NJ Award of Recognition - Viv & Ron: Redefining Addition Recovery: Jyud Allbright – VRR Media Productions

901. Public Meetings:

Award of Excellence- Bloomfield Township Council Swearing-In/Re-Org Meeting – WBMA-TV, Bloomfield, NJ Award of Distinction- Scotch Plains Candidates Night 2020 – SPTV, Scotch Plains, NJ Award of Recognition - Complicated Death Complicated Grief – MendhamTV, Mendham, NJ

1000. Ceremonies and Parades

Award of Excellence- Memorial Day Ceremony in EB - EBTV, East Brunswick, NJ Award of Distinction- Fiesta Latina 2020 – WBMA-TV, Bloomfield, NJ Award of Recognition - Perth Amboy High School & Adult Virtual Graduation 2020 – PATV, Perth Amboy, NJ

1200. Concerts /Multiple Camera:

Award of Excellence- Barron's Art's Center Virtual Concert: Diane Perry – WBTV, Woodbridge, NJ Award of Distinction- Summit's Hot Summer Nights Concerts: Brian & The Jirks - HTTV, Summit, NJ Award of Recognition - Scotch Plains Summer Concert 2929 – SPTV, Scotch Plains, NJ

1300. Community Development Events:

Award of Excellence- Bloomfield Recreation Inclusive Playground - WBMA, Bloomfield, NJ Award of Distinction- Rose Checcio Memorial Dedication – SPTV, Scotch Plains, NJ Award of Recognition - Mendham Borough Fall Photo contest - MendhamTV, Mendham, NJ

1400. Talent/Awards/Performance:

Award of Excellence- PCTV Presents the Theremin – PCTV, Piscataway, NJ

1400A. Judges Special Award

"Rising Star" Award - The Immortals – Woodbridge Schools, Woodbridge, NJ



The Magic of EVE 2021

By Jesse Lerman, President and CEO, TelVue Corporation

Congratulations to JAG for wrapping up a fantastic virtual conference for the Eastern Video Expo 2021!

It is never easy to conduct full conferences with a trade show component in a virtual environment, and while the JAG EVE conferences are always a big hit, this year's was notable. JAG pours its heart and soul into the event to make sure it is well-organized, well-attended by a community that looks out for one another, loaded with great sessions and exhibitors, topped off with creative and fun activities. From live bands, to comedians, magicians, and costume parties, the conference is always full of surprises. You know

the JAG conference is on another level if it can get me out of my shell to perform a Hamilton-style rap for Rich's retirement celebration in his honor. (Retirement you say? I was right when I crooned, "You'll Be Back".).

We all wondered, how would JAG pull off a virtual conference with the same level of engagement, collaboration, and fun, especially when we are all fairly Zoomed out anticipating three more days of wall-to-wall Zooms? Could it work? Would it work? Would everyone Zoom in?

From my own and TelVue's perspective as a vendor member, event sponsor, speaker and exhibitor, the answer is yes! Attendance at scheduled sessions and presentations was even stronger than what we typically see in an in-person conference, when there are often more parallel activity options. Engagement was also strong with many participants sharing questions through chat. I think multiparticipant vs. webinar style Zooms might have worked better to try to foster more open dialogue, but the chat worked surprisingly well. One reason why EVE 2021 worked so well as a virtual conference is

because of how tightly knit the JAG community is, and how JAG welcomes and includes members and vendors alike to collaborate. Since everyone knows each other so well, virtual collaboration is much easier and everyone is more likely to engage with one another.

It was great to see virtually all of the familiar JAG station members, as well as special guests like J Robertson who always flies in from Hawaii for the conference. This would have ordinarily been a much easier virtual trip for J, had it not been for the 4:30am session time slot! (Bob owes you big time, J!)

Announcing the launch of a new product at a conference is always exciting for a vendor. Showcasing the release of TelVue SmartCaption[™] LIVE, for ultra-affordable, fully-automated, live captioning of PEG channels in a virtual presentation slot was different, but still worked well for us, especially because of how well-attended the presentations were.

In theory, 3 days of Virtual Exhibits was a nice idea, but probably did not need to be so long. My feet still wound up hurting somehow. The tradeshow floor experience is much harder to emulate over Zoom, but it was still great to be able to catch up with many of you during those times.



The JAG Awards was a memorable celebration of local producer's fantastic and creative work that empowers your communities. Congratulations again to all of the nominees and winners, and to Doug Seidel for his well-deserved JAG Recognition Award.

Congrats also go out to the winners of the TelVue give-aways and door prizes. CNET's Cindy Hahn and EBTV's Connor Cheung both won iPads. J Robertson and Stephanie Yeager won TelVue CloudCast iOS Mobile Video Apps for their stations to get their

channels and programming in the App Store, and Anthony Pagliuco and Michelle Kaufman each won 100 hours of TelVue SmartCaption[™] automatic, multi-language closed captioning to make their programing accessible and add caption transcript search to their meetings.

I hope everyone had a great conference, learned a lot, and left with more than a few new tricks up your sleeves! We can't wait for EVE 2022. Just as hybrid meetings are likely here to stay, we wonder, will EVE 2022 become hybrid too, combining the best of both virtual and in-person experiences? We know if anyone can pull a rabbit out of a hat, it is JAG!





Four Ridiculously Simple Things That Will Increase the Production Quality of Virtual Shows By Dustin Dumas

As we slowly return to in-person studio shoots, there will still be many who may not be able to return to the studio and some who will prefer the flexibility of filming outside of the studio. That's great but what elements are important in virtual video production. In this column I will discuss network connectivity, camera phones, clothing, B-roll and images.

Network – Keeping It Connected

Producing a show outside of the studio has its own unique set of challenges but when taping a show via a web conferencing tool, there are additional challenges, especially when striving to create a product comparable to one taped in the studio. One way to get the highest quality product is ensuring your network is operating at maximum capacity. While having Wi-Fi is nice and very convenient, when shooting a show virtually, the stability of your Internet is extremely important to the overall production quality. It is best to be connected "straight into the wall" as opposed to using Wi-Fi. Some of the issues with Wi-Fi are that during taping, the frame may freeze, the video and audio may become unsynchronized or the connection may drop altogether. These are not things you want to have happen during your taping, especially if this can be prevented by connecting your cable directly into the wall to your device. You may still have issues with direct connectivity, but your chances are significantly reduced compared to relying solely on Wi-Fi. There are so many other things to worry about when taping virtually, your connectivity should not be one of them.

On the other hand, if you have to use Wi-Fi because you are unable to connect a cable to your device, disable all other unnecessary devices connected to your Wi-Fi while taping. If you are familiar with your router and it has an app, many will allow you to prioritize devices. This is useful when disconnecting other devices is unavailable to you. By prioritizing the device (Computer, iPad, iPhone, etc.) you will be using to tape, this will allow that device to have the strongest connectivity. However, ideally, disconnecting other devices that will be competing for the same bandwidth is ideal.

Regardless of whether you are using Wi-Fi or are plugged into the wall, do a test run before your actual taping to ensure everything is set up as you want. Things may still not go as planned but with a little preliminary work, you can, at the very least, prevent a major mishap.

Camera Phones – Use What You Have

Portrait

Independent producers continue to have to use resources outside of the studio and many times that means using the camera that they have. And in many cases that means their phones. If you had told me five years ago that producers would be relying on the device that they had in their pockets as a means of producing a show, I would have wrinkled my brow and thought that it did not seem feasible. My thinking would have been that phone camera videos are a novelty where you can shoot a low-resolution clip of an event and send it to on to a friend but would have nowhere near the quality of an in-studio production. Well, here we are in 2021 and not only have circumstances prevented us from using the perfectly good equipment in the studio for the last year but the camera phones available today are excellent! My phone has 4K capabilities and there is already a next generation phone after it! If you

will be using your phone for taping, there are a few things to consider. Storage is one. 4K videos are huge and if you do not have enough storage on your phone, it does not matter if you use 4k if you can only store 5 minutes on your phone. Determine if the highest resolution available is the best solution for you, otherwise, use a resolution that is compatible with the storage capacity of your phone **and** the requirements of airing on television, such as high definition (HD).

The other consideration is the orientation of your phone. Unless you are going for an artsy look and want to have black bars on either side of your footage when it airs on television, turn your camera so that it is in landscape mode, not portrait. That simple 180 degree rotation turns your footage from one a concertgoer may have taken to footage that may be indistinguishable from something shot in a television studio. Shooting in landscape mode increases the overall production quality of your end product and makes it look more professional. I have used footage from my phone in HD and 4K on television and no one knew it was shot on the phone due to the quality of the footage. However, there are other

things to consider, such as audio and lighting, which I have covered in a previous column. The bottom line is you can shoot great footage with the camera you have as long as it meets the specifications for where it will air.







Clothing – What Not To Wear

Virtual taping is new to many of us and one thing we may not be used to is the head and shoulder shot that is inherent in taping with virtual web conferencing tools. As a consequence, be aware of clothing that may have unintended consequences. In a taping that I did early on, after we had decided to tape shows virtually, I wore a blouse with thin shoulder straps. The unintended effect of having my hair over the straps was that it looked as though I was topless. Seeing the obvious faux pas early in the taping, I was able to correct it, but it reminded me that even clothing choices had to be thought out carefully to ensure that the production quality stayed the same. My choice of clothing would not have been a problem with our traditional studio shot but because our shots were all head and shoulder shots, my clothing choices had to be approached differently.



In addition to making sure your clothing choices do not make you look nude, if you choose to use a green screen, be aware that your clothing choices will make parts of you disappear depending on if there is green in your outfit. This has always been the case but because you don't need an actual green screen on some of these web conference tools, people have forgotten that they cannot wear green. Choosing your clothing for a virtual taping has to be intentional due to the restricted frame space and color limitations if you choose to use a green screen. One thing that people have been taking advantage of is that you do not have to wear the accompanying skirt or pants when wearing a suit jacket so that is even more of an incentive to make sure that everything in the camera frame looks great since you do not have to worry about the bottom.

B-Roll and Images

Unlike being in a studio where you can have performers and multi-camera shots to create movement and visual energy to a show, taping shows virtually usually becomes talking heads talking straight on in square boxes. Unless the people are famous, charismatic or have a huge fan base, you are going to have to keep the attention of the audience. The number one way is to tell a great story and have a compelling discussion; however, there are a few ways to enhance the story that only take a few more minutes of preparation.

The first way is inserting images. For example, let's say the show is about a new electric car that is coming to the market. The people discussing the car may talk about the specifications of the car such as the time it takes to get from 0-60, the horsepower, the green footprint of the car and more. These are all nice things to verbally describe the car but when an image is inserted at the very instance when the car is being described, the audience not only hears about the car but they are now able to see the car. This impact on the viewers takes the car from a theoretical concept to an actual physical car. They now have an image that allows them to see the size of the car, the shape and even the color of the car. Now your audience is more accurately able to understand this specific car and, thus, become more engaged in the story that you are telling.

Now let's take it one step further and talk about B-Roll. B-Roll is additional footage that complements the current discussion. Using the example above where there is a new electric car coming to market and it is being described beautifully, now, instead of inserting an image, you insert a video clip of the same electric vehicle in motion. Now, as the car is being described, you audience gets to see the size of the car, the color and the shape. However, they also get to see just how fast the car is, as it speeds away, along with the screeching of the tires with smoking rising, if audio is included. The viewers are treated to being able to see the movement of the car and the sounds of the car. The B-Roll footage provides additional information to the audience that complements the discussion and makes for a fuller, more engaging story to keep your viewers engaged, interested and excited. This is what you want as a storyteller!

Inserting images and B-Roll can be as simple as inserting an author's book image when she is saying the title of her book or inserting a few seconds of B-Roll from the author's book signing. The reason to insert B-Roll and images is to keep your viewers engaged, connected and enhance the story you are telling.

As independent producers, understanding how network connectivity, camera phones, clothing, B-Roll and images can produce a high-quality product that will keep your audience engaged is important. All of these pieces working in concert, can assist in telling a wonderful and powerful story.

Dustin Dumas is the host and producer of *Dustin's Kaleidoscope* and *What's Up Around Town. She* is the station manager of South Orange Maplewood Television (SOMAtv) and serves as Vice Chair on the Jersey Access Group, External Relations Committee. She has been part of community television stations in Illinois, California and New Jersey and enjoys helping people tell their stories.

Meet MendhamTV By Michael Merritt, Mendham Township, Treasurer

As I suspect is true of many New Jersey municipal cable access stations, MendhamTV was formed in 2009 by a small group of Mendham Borough and Mendham Township volunteers. They were inspired and motivated by the financial support available as a consequence of the Comcast franchise contracts with both communities. In what has turned out to be an unusual instance, the town councils saw the advantage of setting up a single station to serve both communities.

With the enthusiastic support of Steve Mountain, the Township Manager at the time, the basement of the Old Ralston Firehouse on Rt 24 was made available to house the station's (TelVue) equipment and a small studio, connected there to the Verizon and Comcast networks. Initially the station finances were managed by the Township in a sub-account, with an initial infusion of significant funds coming from Comcast to the Borough and Township. Prospective donors in the community wanted to support the station through tax advantaged donations, so a non-profit was established, "The Friends of Mendham Television, Inc". This created some confusion, as the Borough and Township were appointing members to run the station as subcommittees, while the non-profit had its own legal structure and board. A station manager, Doug Black, was hired, and he helped establish the early programming and produced many shows, especially local sports. Cash flow was supported by small annual grants from the two governments (constituting about 2.5% of the annual Comcast fees paid to

them), and sponsorships from community residents and businesses. In addition to sports programming, shows featured local parades and documentaries about local historical sites.

As is often the case with non-profits, many of the initial volunteers lost interest or moved away, and Steve Mountain moved to Randolph. A lot of institutional memory was lost. A new team came on board in 2016, revived a then-dormant non-profit Friends corporation, and the Township transferred all funds sub-account to be managed (and reported) by the corporate board. Since the tragic early death of our station manager, all program production and station management has been supported by volunteers. (An exception is that a generous anonymous donor has allowed us to make small financial awards to high-

school and college interns who produce content or help with station management.) Current programming includes interviews with community leaders about the re-opening post-pandemic, and Mendham Township Library lectures.

which MendhamTV then aired and hosted for VoD. Eventually new members of the Committee (some of whom benefited from the new transparency) were more enthusiastic and invested in a camera and recording equipment to produce the meeting videos. This is a striking contrast to the Borough, which made their Zoom recordings of their meetings. (Interestingly, the Borough insists on receiving an OPRA request for every Zoom meeting meeting when the Temperature and PRA request for every Zoom meeting to an an an and the temperature and t

Since it' founding, MendhamTV has broadcast recordings of the Mendham Township Committee meetings. In 2009, Township Committee members were unenthusiastic about this, but could not stop a local volunteer group from filming the meetings,

recordings of their meetings. (Interestingly, the Borough insists on receiving an OPRA request for every Zoom meeting recording, deeming this as obviously essential, where the Township has been providing recordings for years without such overhead.)

A final note...with the migration from tape to digital format, our station hard drive quickly filled up with our original programming. To avoid the expense and hassle of buying more hardware, we set up an archive account on Amazon's AWS platform. We have more than half a terabyte of shows stored there...and pay \$2.16 a month. It amazes us that Amazon can afford to invoice us for that little! It is paid automatically from the station debit card.

Our next big project is to figure out how to convince Comcast and Verizon to upgrade our SD channels to HD, and to upgrade our TelVue platform to support that. We will be looking for advice and support from the JAG community as we undertake that change!







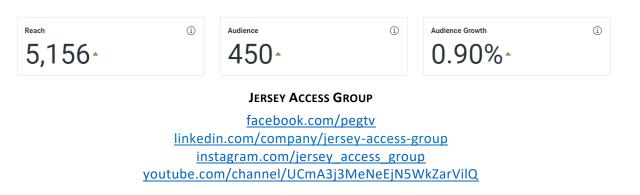
Spotlight

Social Media Stats: *Based on Last 30 Days* Doug Seidel, Social Media Manager, External Relations Committee

Thank you everyone for making the Eastern Video Expo a success! We did reach a large audience with our social campaign and facebook advertisement, however we did not gain many new followers. Our ad did not bring many attendees to the expo, but sharing information about the expo in various facebook groups did bring in a lot of attendees. This shows how successful social media can be to help increase attendance.

Project Update

If you notice our social media has been quiet since the Expo, that is just because I am playing catch up after the expo. July will start picking up again on social media as we start to announce the expo recordings as they go up on our website.

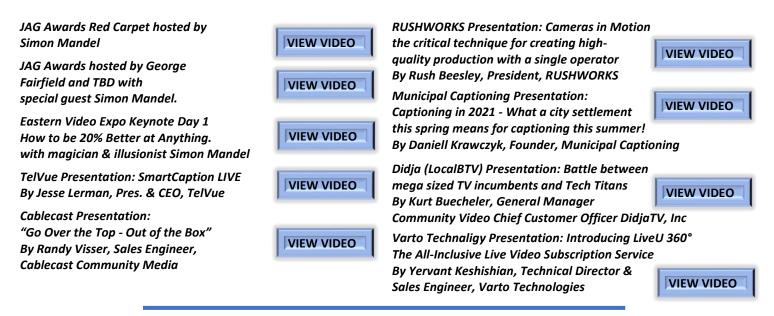


EASTERN VIDEO EXPO

facebook.com/Easternvideoexpo instagram.com/easternvideox/

Do not forget to check out our YouTube channel. We have successfully been able to keep adding new programing to the channel each week since launch. Have something you want on our YouTube channel? Send a link to dseidel@piscatawaynj.org for review. New Content: https://youtu.be/dohezeLzTBc

NEW CONTENT ON WEBSITE- Over the next 3 months we will be posting all of the Eastern Video Expo events to the members only section of our website. *To view the video content links below, you need a members only password. Email <u>lbesink@gmail.com</u> for the password.*



Share the value of Jag's newsletter with your elected officials, cable committee, station volunteers, associates, and friends. Send this invitation: <u>https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/B7EMU1R/JAGnewsletter</u>

Volunteerism

Committees

Rich Desimone, Managing Director

Well, the Conference Committee and the JAG Awards Committee can both take a deep breath. They will be winding down in the coming weeks and suspending their operation for a much needed rest. If you thought their events this month were fantastic think about joining this amazing group when they reconvene.



Executive 2021 (as of 1.13.21)	Production 2021 (as of 3.8.21)	External Relations 2021 (as of 2.5.21)
Meeting second Wednesday 12:00PM	Meeting first Monday 11AM	Meeting first Thursday 12:30pm
Bob Duthaler, President 2021-2024	Lee Beckerman (Chair) 2021-2023	Geoffrey Belinfante (Chair) 2021-2023
Dave Garb, Vice-President-2019-2021	Anthony Pagliuco (Vice Chair) 2020-2022	Dustin Dumas (Vice Chair) 2020-2022
Linda Besink, Treasurer-2021-2024	Dave Ambrosy: (Secretary) 2021-2023	Stephanie Gibbons (Co-Secretary) 2021-2023
Dave Ambrosy, Secretary-2019-2021	Nick Besink	Dustin Dumas (Co-Secretary) 2021-2023
Stephanie Gibbons, Corresponding Sec 2021-	Dave Garb	Doug Seidel-Social Media
2023		
Anthony Pagliuco, Trustee 2021-2023	Robert Horvath	Bob Duthaler: NJLOM Join Session, JAG Session, Booth Staffing and rooms, Web Site
Jeff Arban, Trustee 2019-2021	Geoffrey Belinfante: Access NJ	Rich Desimone: JAG Newsletter Editor
Darryl Love, Trustee 2019-2021	Doug Seidel: YouTube Channel	Dave Garb
George Fairfield, Trustee 2021-2023	Bob Duthaler	George Bumiller
Lee Beckerman, Production Chair 2021-2023		Robert Horvath—Web design and Social Media
Geoffrey Belinfante, External Relations Chair 2021-2023		
Rich Desimone: Managing Director	Legislation 2021 (as of 2.5.21)	Conference 2021 (as of 3.8.21)
Action Plan/Policies & Procedures/Bylaws	Meeting first Tuesday 11AM	Meeting second Monday 2PM
Finance 2020 (as of 2.9.21)	Dave Garb (Chair) 2020-2022	Bob Duthaler (Co-Chair) 2020-2022
Meeting second Tuesday 11AM		
	Linds Design (Miss Chain) 2000 2000	Conffrence Delite foresta (Con Charis) and a second
Linda Besink: (Chair) APPOINTED	Linda Besink (Vice Chair) 2020-2022	Geoffrey Belinfante (Co-Chair) 2020-2022
Jeff Arban (Vice Chair) 2020-2022	Linda Besink (Secretary) 2020-2022	George Fairfield (Vice-Chair) 2020-2022
Geoffrey Belinfante (Secretary) 2021-2023	Bob Duthaler: NJLM	Doug Seidel (Secretary) 2020-2022
Bob Duthaler: President	Ada Erik: NJ Legislation	Linda Besink: (Treasurer) APPOINTED
Dave Garb: Vice President	Nick Besink	Anthony Pagliuco
Lee Beckerman, Production Chair	Jeff Arban	Dave Ambrosy
		Stephanie Gibbons
		Lee Beckerman
	JAG Awards (as of 2.12.21)	Dave Garb
	Meeting first Monday 11am	
Leadership Development 2020 (as of 10.12.20) Meeting second Monday 11AM	George Fairfield (Chair) 2020-2022	Jeff Arban
Dave Garb (Chair) Legislative Rep APPOINTED	OPEN (Vice Chair) 2020-2022	
Doug Seidel: (Vice Chair) 2020-2022	Valerie Stevens: (Secretary) 2020-2022	
Linda Besink: Finance Rep (Secretary) 2020-2022	Dave Garb	
Stephanie Gibbons: Membership Rep	Ronni Garrett	
Anthony Pagliuco: Production Rep		
Dustin Dumas: External Relations Rep		
George Fairfield: JAG Awards Rep	Membership 2021 (as of 1.7.21)	
	Meeting first Tuesday 1PM	
Geoffrey Belinfante: Conference Rep	Stephanie Gibbons (Chair) ELECTED 2021-2023	
	Darryl Love (Vice Chairs) 2020-2022	
	Linda Besink: (Secretary) Data Management ELECTED 2021-2023	
	Bob Duthaler: List Serve	
	Dave Garb	
	George Fairfield	
	Geoffrey Belinfante	
	George Bumiller	

Bits & Bytes JAG Committee Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, June 30, 12:10pm General Meeting via virtual video service
 - Topic for Discussion: That's a Wrap and Ideas for next year.
- Thursday, July 1, 11am JAG Awards Committee Meeting via conference call
 - Post Mortem
- Thursday, July 1, 12:30pm External Relations Committee Meeting via virtual video service
 - Vendor Presentation: Planning September–December 2021.
 - Organizational Members: Searching for new members
 - Website updates: Posting conference videos-Vendor Presentations and JAG Webinars.
 - Newsletter Development & Management: June-Sept. Focus on conference
 - Social Media Management: Drive JAG YouTube Channel subscribers and content submissions.
- Tuesday, July 6, 11am Finance Committee Meeting via conference call
 - Financial Reports
 - Billing 2021 follow-ups
- Tuesday, July 6, 1pm Membership Committee Meeting via virtual video service
 - Delinquent Membership follow-up
 - Member Outreach Survey: Evaluating results
 - Managing Membership Benefits
- Monday, July 12, 11am Production Committee Meeting via conference call
 - League booth video: Gather content from members
 - JAG You Tube Channel Management: Reviewing submissions requests.
 - Conference videos: Branding for distribution
- Tuesday, July 13, 2pm Conference Committee via virtual video service
 - Post Mortem: Evaluate the operation of the conference
- Wednesday, July 14, 12pm Executive Board Meeting via virtual video service
 - Action Plan Committee Reports
 - Webinars & Virtual Hangs
 - Discussion Topics
 - Marketing Campaign: Newsletter circulation
- Monday, July 19, 11am Leadership Development Meeting via virtual video service
 - Marketing Plan: Developing strategy for increasing awareness and membership
 - Tool Box Development: Establish list of all related material from P&P and recommend update to Ex. Board
 - Membership Development: Review all form letters and send updates to Ex. Board.
 - Committee Assistance: Supporting interaction of committees.

Congratulations: Legislator of the Year, Congressman Donald Payne and Doug Seidel, JAG Recognition Award

Welcome New Members

Kenilworth TV and Fanwood TV and Independent Producer Patricia Dunn



COMMITTEES CORNER

Standing Committee Reports

Committee Updates

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Bob Duthaler (Chairs), Dave Garb (Vice Chair)

The meeting consisted of reports by all the committee chairs with a focus on the JAG Awards and the Eastern Video Expo. Other items discussed were establishing an annual date to change the members only password and establishing a special membership discount rate for those that attended the conference. Both were approved. The Managing Director presented a Conference Marketing Plan that would spread out distribution of content about the conference across the next three months. Each month a different component would be explored and include a variety of conference articles for our newsletter combined with the release of a specific group of videos of conference events. The board unanimously agreed. This will begin in JAG's June Newsletter that will come out at the end of the month and continue in July, August, and September.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Geoffrey Belinfante (Chair), Dustin Dumas (Vice Chair)

Since much of our newsletter this month will cover the success of our virtual Eastern Video Expo, I thought I would report on the ongoing struggles we on the External Relations Committee have experienced trying to understand how we can best use social media to increase awareness of JAG and by extension increase membership. We see increases in website traffic, and hits on our YouTube page, but we haven't seen any great increase in membership. Right now, the same seems to be true with ads that we purchased on Facebook to promote the Conference. We have seen little evidence that those ads have generated registrations. It's a little like the used car salesman who does the pitch but can't seem to close the deal. We know these things take time, and certainly there can be no doubt that the social media presence is worthwhile, but ultimately there is no better substitute for a person-to-person recommendation. If you know of an organization, independent producer, or even a supplier who might benefit from membership. Please let me know. Geoff Belinfante External Relations Chair. geoffbel512@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda Besink (Chairs), Jeff Arban (Vice Chair)

Thanks to all members who have paid their dues for 2021. Please consider joining the Finance Committee. We do important work with a minimal time commitment – one meeting per month for about a half hour. We can always use another set of eyes. For more info email lbesink@gmail.com.

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: Lee Beckerman (Chair), Anthony Pagliuco (Vice Chair)

The Production Committee met on June 15th. We discussed video testimonials for the website and have determined we are good with them for the time being, but that we may consider seeking out some limited higher profile ones in the fall at the League of Municipalities Conference. Lee distributed a rough draft of the first script in a series on how to shoot an interview titled "How to choose a location". The Committee will review the script and submit notes. The videos from the Conference were discussed and the committee will work to edit and brand the sessions and distribute them in concert with other marketing efforts by the JAG leadership. We are also working to create a new JAG highlights/sizzle reel for the League of Municipalities floor booth to replace the current one which is over 5 years old.



THE JAG AWARDS: A Virtual Celebration

COMMITTEES CORNER

Committee Updates

AD HOC Committees Reports

Legislation Committee: Dave Garb (Chair), Linda Besink (Vice Chair)

The 621 Order Update: 6th District Court made a decision on this order. The good news is that they ruled to knock down the value calculation of what your station "X" amount will be. The FCC is not going to be dealing with this for now, but they left the door open to revisit it in the future. They are still trying to figure out the Mixed Used Rule, since we are not just cable anymore. And PEG Channel Capacity is also status quo, for now.

Now the bad news. They did impose the fee on information services. The court has decided that In-Kind Benefits could be treated as franchise fees. This is basically equivalent to a tax! However, if these benefits are to be deducted from the franchise fees, it has to be done so at cost, not fair market value & the company cannot profit from its obligations. This also precludes possible derivation of revenue from Broadband that the cable industry provides. More will be coming on how to deal with this in future articles. As we had heard during the video expo, Closed Captioning is beginning to rise to the forefront once again. Now don't start to freak

out, but we must start to plan for it. The bottom line about this is that currently the FCC doesn't require us to carry it, however, if someone with disabilities from your township demands it, we need to provide it through the ADA requirements. Otherwise, lawsuits could occur and it could be costly.

You need to find out what the civic structure of your municipality is and access the needs of your citizens. Even down to the individual. While doing so, try to keep in mind, how do we pass our obligations on to them?

The Legislative Committee is in constant need of your eyes, ears, thoughts and contacts in order to keep PEG informed and fresh in the minds of all of our lawmakers. For further information on our work, or if you would like to join our committee, please contact me.

Membership Committee: Stephanie Gibbons (Chair), Darryl Love (Vice Chair)

First I would like to welcome three new members: the towns of Kenilworth and Fanwood and Independent Producer Patricia Dunn. The committee will be reviewing member suggestions and requests that came from the results of the survey and present its recommendations to the Executive board. The committee has been working with the Finance and External Relations committees along with the JAG's Managing Director and its President to make sure members are receiving information through all the avenues of communication: the listserv, newsletter, access to the member's only section of the website and access to the Connect server for sharing content. If you believe you are not receiving any of these items please contact me at: Stgibbons@verizon.net. The committee continues its efforts in reaching out to members who have not yet renewed their membership this year. Please consider joining the membership committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for Jul. 6 <u>Stgibbons@verizon.net</u>.

Leadership Development Committee: Dave Garb (Chair), Doug Seidel (Vice Chair)

One of our continuing objectives in the Leadership Committee is to reach out to all of our members to discuss the importance of joining one of our other committees. Doing so will add your skills to the effort of assisting JAG to grow and continue to be the voice of the New Jersey PEG community. This LDC Committee focuses on the development and promotion of JAG by reinventing our marketing strategies and social media platforms. We also aid and work with all of JAG's other committees to help them achieve their individual goals.

At our recent Eastern Video Expo, we reinstated the Recognition Award to honor an outstanding member who has contributed to JAG's success. This year's recipient is Doug Seidel. Doug was voted to receive this honor which recognizes his overwhelming involvement by serving on a number of our very active committees. His creative ideas and technical expertise has moved JAG in a new and professional direction. The work Doug has done, especially in making this year's video expo succeed, shows that he is truly one of our future leaders.

We are also going over our Policy and Procedure documents and updating its-different sections as needed. Chairs and/or Vice Chairs from their respective committees make up the Leadership Development Committee (LDC), as well as those individuals that are skilled and knowledgeable in areas that are needed to make this committee shine.

JAG Awards Committee: George Fairfield (Chairs), Bob Nicholson (Vice Chair)

The JAG Awards committee thanks everyone who attended the Awards Presentation. You all made it a big success. Congratulations to all the winners. Your award certificate(s) are on their way to you. The winners will have the option to purchase a trophy with your specific award on it. The information is to follow soon. If you have any questions, please email <u>gfairfield@piscatawaynj.org</u>.

Conference Committee: Bob Duthaler/ Geoffrey Belinfante (Co-Chair) George Fairfield (Vice Chair)

In the final month prior to the Eastern Video Expo the committee met weekly. During this time the final details were put in place and those last minute fires were put out. We reached out to all our sponsors and panelists to ensure their involvement would go smoothly and addressed any final questions. Just prior to the expo we spent time working with Zoom technical support to build the 53 different events that would happen over the three days on the conference. We also spent time instructing the 9 moderators, 5 virtual trade show booth hosts, 6 infinity table hosts, and 12 Vendor presentation hosts on the operation of their events. That may seem like a lot of people but surprisingly it was done with nine committee members. Eight months of preparation was complete and we were ready to "Go Where JAG Had Never Gone Before". Over the next three months there will be many articles written and videos posted that will tell the story of JAG's Virtual Eastern Video Expo 2021. We hope we succeeded in fulfilling our obligation to the membership.