



Trustees 2021

- Bob Duthaler Pres.- 2023
Dave Garb VP – 2021
Dave Ambrosy
Recording Sec.- 2021
Linda Besink Treasurer- 2023
Stephanie Gibbons
Corresponding Sec. – 2022
Anthony Pagliuco - 2022
Darryl Love- 2021
George Fairfield- 2022
Open Seat- 2021

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General Meeting Schedule 2022

- Jan. 26, 2022- Virtual REORGANIZATION Presentation-JVC
Feb. 23- Virtual Presentation- TelVue
Mar. 31- Virtual Presentation- Cablecast
Apr. 28- Virtual Presentation- RUSHWORKS
May 24-27- Hybrid JAG Conference
Jun. 24- Virtual No Presentation
Sept. 28- TBD Presentation –Varto Technologies
Oct. 27- TBD Presentation- DeSisti
Dec. 1- TBD Presentation- Municipal Captioning

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President’s Message

Bob Duthaler



Annual Holiday Wish List

It is now officially the start of the Holiday Season, with Thanksgiving just past us and the New Year just a few weeks away. Every year at my house, we get ready to celebrate Christmas as my wife starts working on the kids Christmas List! They are getting older, and it becomes more of a challenge, plus the gifts become more expensive. The same can be said for running your station.

What would be on your list this year for your station? There is no wrong answer in this situation. Each of our stations operates differently from others across the state and they vary greatly. But each has the same core principle, to inform the community in which they serve. When you make your wish list, keep in mind your community, their needs and how as a station you can serve them. You should think of your station as both a marketing arm of your township and a main source for information.

It’s no big secret that I am a tech head! I love new and exciting things that come along and can help our industry. I love to play around with these items, demo them, beta test and give valuable feedback on how they would fit in with my station operations and how to best serve my community. With that in mind, I am going to share with you some items that are on my wish list for this holiday season. Now these may not be your needs but let these act as a guide or talking point for your station.

Enhanced Live Broadcasts – Going live seemed to be the number one item on my list last year. Now we are challenged on ways to not only maintain the increased number of live broadcasts we are doing but enhance the quality as well. We have moved past the point of being able to go live from anywhere, thanks in no small part from the many vendors that support JAG like LiveU, TelVue, Cablecast, Rushworks, and JVC. We can already now do remote location meetings live (BOE, Zoning, Planning and Council to name a few) in addition to streaming them live on our website, the township website, and social media. Our goal now is to increase the quality of those broadcasts by using NDI Technology, creative graphics, and enhanced production techniques. New Tricaster switchers from Newtek help take the “Zoom Meeting” to the next level and make it a live broadcast production and not just another live computer meeting. NDI 5 (latest release) also allows computers on your network to become inputs into your production as well. This allows participants on these Zoom, Teams and other meeting platforms to become individual inputs into your production. It is like having an individual camera in each location by leveraging the computer’s camera. Now you can even send links via the public internet to invite people into your production, again by using the cameras on their computer, laptop or smartphone and the public internet.

OTT and High Definition – While cable continues to be the heart of our operation and broadcast source, we need to find ways to enhance our broadcast quality and, at the same time include those who may have cut the cable cord. Now is the time for our stations to focus on getting a high-definition channel on their cable system. You know from your own viewing habits, high definition is the number one way we watch television on cable and on demand. There is evidence over the years, and even more in 2020 and 2021, that people are not watching television in the same old linear format. People do not always tune in at 9pm to watch a particular program.

Our lives are busier now than they were years ago, running in different directions. We are now an “on-demand” society, wanting to consume video when we want, and how we want. Therefore, it is important to establish an online presence, have a video on demand source and be active in social media. People tend to turn to their mobile devices first, so you need to make sure you stay on their radar. Since viewing habits have changed, binge watching programs and sources have become the new norm. We must continue to be part of that source and get our station and programs out to those individuals. Over-The-Top (OTT) devices like ROKU, Apple TV and Fire Stick are some examples of those sources of content distribution. This is why we feel it is important to be part of that as well. We just recently launched Apple TV, ROKU and Amazon Fire Channels in Bloomfield. This allows our viewers on demand access to our content, while still having scheduled live events. If you have any of these devices, feel free to add our channel by searching WBMA-TV Bloomfield, and add our channel! We are currently working on getting both an iOS and Android App for the beginning of the new year. This will allow app viewing from a cellphone and tablet.

**Closed Captioning:** Have you been like me over these last few years and realized that closed captioning is important, but did not pay much attention to it? Reading more and more about closed captioning solutions, seeing what our vendors have to offer and evaluating what has been presented to our group during our meetings, this will become a focus for 2022. Discussions about closed captioning continue to pop-up in FCC discussions, on a federal level and even at state level. What about a local level? Does your community desire this ability? Studies have shown that is the case. Having video with closed captioning allows your videos to be more inclusive to a wider population. As technology gets better and demand increases, so does the quality of the closed captioning. Something to keep in mind is that there are several paths to take when looking at closed captioning. Do I buy equipment outright and pay a licensing fee? Is a cloud-based option right for me? How can I ease my way into this? These are all good questions and something you need to decide. You need to figure out your community’s needs, your operational and capital budget and the ease of operations that is right for you. Fortunately, you have access to many vendors like Municipal Captioning, Cablecast and TelVue who all have closed captioning solutions to meet your station’s needs. I would urge you to figure out what you want and can afford, speak with all the vendors and determine which solution works best for you. I am sure they all offer some sort of demo/trial you can explore to reach the solution that works for you community and station needs.

Let these items I mentioned be the start of your discussion at both your station and township level of things that will increase the quality and accessibility of your programming to your community. Some of you may want the same thing, some may want something different, and others may just be trying to find solutions within their budget. It does not matter what path you take next, the important thing is to have a plan in mind, get that information out to your viewers and keep engaging them as well. It will be at that point that you find that wishes do come true! I wish your station, your family and yourself all the best for this upcoming Holiday Season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you might have as I am always willing to share my thoughts and experiences: [bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org)

As we close out this year, I was thinking about how my wish list originally came out of the pandemic, but find it moving beyond that. Seems that every step we have taken as an organization has centered around how we would communicate to our community but, more importantly, how we communicate with each other. We continue our monthly meetings in a virtual environment. We continue with webinars and virtual hangout sessions. At some point in the new year, we need to explore how we start to get back together in person, while still offering the convenience of online gatherings. I think the beginning of this will be our Annual Conference (Eastern Video Expo) and our in-person trade show which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, along with our JAG Awards that evening. Plus our virtual conference sessions surrounding that event on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

I need to recognize the work of the Executive Board. I have been proud to be working with this dedicated group. As you know they are responsible for the direction of the organization. Many of them chair the committees of our organization. Each August they meet and evaluate JAG’s Policies & Procedures which includes JAG’s Mission, Goals, Objectives, Member Benefits and the responsibilities of all its committees. The newsletter will focus on one of these subjects each month to aid our membership in understanding JAG.

In each newsletter a page is devoted to a list of the members on each of JAG’s nine committees. If you look at the list, you will see a lot of names, but take a closer look -- many of the names repeat. There are only about 21 names. If you found all that JAG accomplished this year amazing, you now realize how few members were responsible. I would like to add one more item to my wish list. I wish each member of JAG would find a way to give JAG an hour a month to help us deal with the new normal.

Finally, as I mentioned each month in my article, JAG as an organization is a very social group. Face to face interaction at this point continues to not be possible but there are work arounds. I encourage you to take part in these events, webinars, monthly virtual meetings, impromptu online gatherings and perhaps an online happy hour! Stay Home, Stay Safe and make the most of this time with your family and loved ones during this holiday season.



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NJ Chapter of NATOA & Affiliate of the NJ League of Municipalities

## GENERAL REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA – 12:12pm Start Time

Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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 December 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\*- TBA

- Future Topic Ideas

12:50-1:40pm \*Presentation\*- JVC

- TBA

1:40pm-1:50pm \*Trustees Reports\*

1:50pm-2:00pm \*Committee Reports\* Attached

- Committee Reports

○ Standing Committee Reports

- Executive [Bob Duthaler Chair, Dave Garb Vice Chair]
  - *Report Highlights and Questions*
- Finance [Linda Besink Chair, TBA 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, George Fairfield Vice Chair]
  - *Report Highlights and Questions*
- Legislative [Dave Garb Chair, Linda Besink Vice Chair]
  - *Report Highlights and Questions*
- JAG Awards [George Fairfield Chair Ronni Garrett 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*

2:00pm-2:10pm \*Continuing Business\*

- TBA

2:10p.m.-2:30p.m. \*New Business\*

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

2:30p.m. \*Announcements/next meeting.... Adjournment\*

Register for the JAG website by sending an email to [bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org)

*Look For Webinars and Ongoing Virtual Social Hang/Happy Hour Sessions throughout the year.*

*The next meeting is Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Details can be found in upcoming JAG Newsletter.*



As an affiliate of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, JAG annually provides a session at the League's annual conference on communications related issues. JAG has had a history with the League of identifying and educating on relevant communications topics to New Jersey's local governments. In past years JAG sessions have addressed cable regulation, social media and wireless facilities deployment. This year, on November 17<sup>th</sup> we gathered in Atlantic City to discuss one of the most pressing issues to New Jersey municipalities – new funding for broadband networks.



At the start of the session, we had a video welcome and an introduction of the importance of broadband deployment to all New Jersey communities from Congressman Josh Gottheimer. Joining me on our panel was Christopher Mitchell from the Institute for Local Self Reliance and Robert Boyle, CEO of Planet Networks. Robert spoke about the work his company is doing to connect New Jersey communities to 21st century broadband, while Chris and I addressed the new programs coming from Washington, D.C. to promote broadband deployment and usage in hard to serve areas, and the once in a generation opportunity this provides New Jersey communities to take control of their broadband futures.

There are multiple federal programs underway and in the planning stages that will aid with both broadband network deployment and broadband adoption. Chris and I focused on two major pieces of legislation, the American Rescue Plan Act, passed on March 11, 2021, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was signed by President Biden two days before our session. Both will provide funding that New Jersey local governments can use to deploy new broadband networks and can have the effect of promoting better broadband availability and adoption throughout the entire state.

The funding from both bills require interaction between local government and the State. The American Rescue Plan Act funds require applications through the Division of Local Government Services. The Infrastructure Act will provide funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Each state will, at a minimum, receive \$100 million. Beyond that, additional state monies will depend upon the conditions within each state demonstrating the extent of unserved and underserved areas, and whether the state applies for digital equity grant funds that will be made available under the new law.

NTIA will be reviewing new broadband coverage maps from the FCC which will be available sometime in 2022. It is currently participating in listening sessions to get input as to how it should structure its grant programs to states. Once a state receives funding, it too *must* develop a process to funnel these funds to entities that will build the networks, including local governments. In fact, the law *requires* states to collaborate with local governments in developing their rules. How New Jersey does this is yet to be seen, and JAG has a role here in helping its local government members work with the state to ensure a fair process.

We received a wide range of questions from communities of all sizes at the session. Some were concerned with how they might work with companies like Planet Networks to bring broadband into underserved areas. Others expressed great interest in exploring the possible expansion of local broadband networks that might be possible with this new federal money, and how that might position their communities to develop partnerships with the private sector to bring more broadband availability and affordability to New Jersey. Clearly, this is an issue facing a wide variety of New Jersey jurisdictions. We had questions and interest about the new broadband funding from very small communities in Somerset and Cumberland Counties, suburban communities in Bergen County, larger communities in Ocean County, and even larger cities like Newark and Atlantic City. Our takeaway was that broadband deployment and adoption, and how these new federal programs might help improve it, is going to be a critically important issue in New Jersey over the next few years.

It is not clear which department of State government will take the lead on implementing the funding from the Infrastructure Bill. JAG members should note that on July 7, 2021, Governor Murphy signed legislation establishing a Broadband Access Study Commission. The Commission's role, in part, is to evaluate (i) impediments of access to broadband service in New Jersey and (ii) the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks in the State. We don't know yet whether this Commission may have a role in recommending how the new federal funding should be spent, but it may. JAG members will want to follow the Commission's progress and advocate for local interests, where appropriate.

Finally, JAG members should be speaking to others in your jurisdictions about what is being done to get ready for potential funding from the Infrastructure Act. Do you have unserved or underserved areas that can benefit from better broadband connectivity? Do you have segments of your community that need help with the cost of broadband? Note also that the Infrastructure Act includes money for broadband planning. If you haven't already begun, now is the time to be starting that work.

*If you would like additional info about broadband deployment contact Ken at [kenfellman@helmerlegal.com](mailto:kenfellman@helmerlegal.com).*

***This session is now available on YouTube: [Broadband Panel at NJLDM](#)***



Once again, the Jersey Access Group had the opportunity to participate at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City. JAG was on hand on the trade show floor with our booth, speaking to Mayors, Council Members and Administrators about our organization. Our purpose was to inform municipalities of the importance of effectively communicating with their citizens. Who better to let municipalities know how to do this than JAG members?... this is what we do!



I am sure that most of you (if not all) know that the Jersey Access Group is an affiliate member of the NJLM. So, what does that mean? What is the purpose? It means that the League turns to us for leadership and information on telecommunication issues. It looks to JAG to provide guidance through our resource as a member of NATOA for national legislation issues and more. The NJLM also looks to JAG to participate at their annual conference, not only on the trade show floor but in conference sessions as well. JAG held two conference sessions at this year's League Conference. Our first session was a joint session with the League of Municipalities in which I was lucky enough to be a panelist, along with a group of distinguished experts well versed on this topic. I urge you to read Ken Fellman's article in this very newsletter.



Our second session was an all JAG event. Geoffrey Belinfante, George Fairfield and myself presented to a group of fifty plus people comprised of Mayors, Informational Directors, Council members and others. Our session was entitled: "Post-Pandemic Tools That Can Help You Reach Your Citizens - Ways you can continue to reach your community after the lockdown and social distancing". The workshop addressed the question of "Now that you have given the public access to their local government meetings and other events in their homes can you go back to business as usual? Reaching your municipal community through a traditional cable channel is not the only game in town. We'll look at new ways to engage your residents with over-the-top (OTT) devices and applications like Roku, AppleTV, on the web, and mobile devices".

We explored everything that our stations did during the crisis, technology we discovered along the way, ideas for communicating moving forward and more. Interestingly, we also had an audience full of people who were interested in learning how to start their own access channel and we gave guidance on how to do that as well. I thought it would be nice to also share this session with our members as well.



We currently have this session (and the Broadband one too) available on the JAG website and YouTube page.

I urge you to share the links with your legislative body in your municipality. Let them know the power of our organization. Here is the video link to JAG session: <https://youtu.be/cu8hiNNCplo>



Arguably, one of the most important responsibilities of an independent producer is getting a great interview. It may mean that, you, as the producer are wearing several hats...perhaps being the interviewer yourself or assisting the interviewer in creating a great interview. Either way, there is definitely an art to getting the most from the interviewee. I have touched on interviewing techniques in a previous column but due to its importance I would like to focus on it in this column.



**Setting It up:** Let's start with the setting. The setting is important to a great interview because it shows your guest that you took time and thought about them before the interview. The setting is not only having the studio prepared when your guest arrives but, if you are not in a studio, having the on-location site ready is also important. For example, if you are shooting outside, the set up should be so that the sun is not in your guest's eyes, if there is rain, there should be umbrellas or tents available. If there is anything that you can do that will make your guest feel comfortable for a better interview, do it.

I vividly remember hosting a live outdoor festival and suddenly being asked to interview the person who had helped organize the event. The producer never informed her that she would be interviewed but asked her on live TV to "say a few words," just as she was passing the area set up for interviews. She had been running around taking care of issues that had arisen during the event, was sweaty, wearing a baseball cap that was covering her matted hair, which she pulled even lower when she was put on the spot, and was wearing shorts and a t-shirt. Besides catching her off guard by asking her to say a few words, she was extremely self-conscious of how she looked as she had been working. She graciously agreed to do the interview but when the producer told her to take off her hat because they could not see her face due to it being shaded by the sun, she refused. They compromised and she flipped the bill of the hat up, which looked ridiculous. It was one of the most awkward interviews I have ever done. The viewer was not able to learn of the great work she had done to create this event because she was embarrassed and gave monosyllabic answers so she could get out of the interviewee chair as quickly as possible.

Aside from not asking for an interview on the spot during a live segment, the producer could have prepared by having the chairs situated in a way so that she was not squinting into the sun, had a tent set up so that the sun was not an issue, had a mirror available and provided water for guests. All of these things could have helped this guest, and the ones who followed her, feel more comfortable. But the most important thing that producer could have done would have been to ask her, privately, if she was available to be interviewed later, which gets me to the next section -- preparing your guest.

**Prepare Your Guest:** I like speaking to people and interviewing them but not everyone likes to be a guest or be interviewed. Some may do it out of necessity and some may genuinely like talking about their subject matter. However, as the producer, it is your responsibility to ensure that an interview achieves the goals of both the interviewer and interviewee. One way of doing this is to let your guest get a feel for the questions you will ask by sending them potential questions. I do this with all of my guests because many have never been on television before and have no idea what to expect. Seeing the types of questions and being able to prepare helps guests feel comfortable. The more comfortable the guests are, the more candid and more conversational the interview will be. I always let my guests know that these questions are a starting point, that we will deviate and may not get to them all. The other great thing about sending questions in advance is that it gives your guests an opportunity to submit questions they would like to be asked. This goes back to making sure that the goals of the interviewer and interviewee are achieved. If you are worried about the guest being over prepared and having rote answers to questions, I have never found that to be the case. Part of being a good interviewer is being able to follow up answers with appropriate questions, and not simply following a list of prepared questions.

**Avoid Pre-Interview Conversations:** While I am adamant about sending questions to guests before an interview, I am just as adamant about not having pre-conversations with guests about the things I will cover during the interview. I am fine with speaking with them and allaying any fears they may have and answering general questions, but I have found that extensive pre-interview conversations definitely take the excitement and the candor out of the actual interview. Unfortunately, I know this from experience.

Years ago, I had a guest who wanted to talk about her memoir weeks before the show. Her story was compelling and I felt it would be both accessible and relatable to our audience. However, she was uncomfortable with being on television, as she felt she would not come across well. At first, she insisted that I come to her house and do a pre-interview and once I told her that would not be possible, we agreed upon a telephone call. During the telephone call, she wanted to go over each question and, basically wanted to conduct the interview over the phone. Fortunately, I was able to end the conversation before we went too far. Once she arrived at the station, the interview went well but it was not as powerful as it could have been. Some of the things that she shared over the phone were remarkable but were not mentioned during the actual interview, even with some subtle prodding. I have also seen this happen when the host and guest chat too much about the subject matter before the show starts and forget some of the pertinent things that would have been great to reveal on camera rather than before the cameras started rolling. These are some of the reasons that pre-interview conversations should be kept to a minimum and, ideally, should not cover the topics to be discussed.

Setting up the space, preparing your guests and avoiding pre-interview conversations are a few of the ways to make your guests feel comfortable and elicit the most candid and useful responses in an interview. Using the techniques above may garner that one response you were not expecting that made all of the preparation worth it.



## Producing a Show During Covid Miriam Rosenberg, Independent Producer

Spotlight

My name is Miriam Rosenberg and I am an independent producer, and the writer and host of *Sing-a-Long with Miss Miriam* which I produce in cooperation with the staff at HTTV in Summit. I have been producing and airing a children's show with HTTV for about 5 years now. I currently have 19 episodes on the JAG TelVue server, and 52 stations have picked up the shows.



The themes include: Caring for our Planet, Planets, Courage, Spring, Magic, Puppetry, Science, Positivity, Kindness, Sports, Living Your Dreams, Trying New Things, Teamwork, Learning Popular Songs with Acting a Part, Diversity, Therapy Horses, and a Mr. Rogers tribute. Each show has a unique theme, a featured craft, an interesting guest, an original song and story time. It's aimed at children from three to eight years old.

My shows are along the same line as Mr. Rogers, Romper Room, and Captain Kangaroo. They are very positive and uplifting. I feel that children today need positive role models so they can learn be kind to themselves and others.

I am also a pediatric Occupational Therapist, Yoga teacher, and a musician, and I try to incorporate my expertise into each and every show. This show is definitely a labor of love with a noble goal!

Making my children's shows a reality has taken a lot of fairy dust and hard work!!! Growing up, I always loved children's shows. I felt the characters were talking to me and I was right there with them having fun and learning something new. They were so much fun. I always liked romping around the room with Miss Nancy on Romper Room on my toy stick horse, or listening to Mr. Green Jeans, or Mr. Rogers. They were interactive and oh so simple. My goal is to bring that feeling back so today's children can experience it. The World is so complicated and there are so many negative images for children. I hope to bring back the purity and magic of childhood in every show.

I work with a great crew at HTTV, so we were able to navigate the pandemic storm together. This includes Amanda Olsen the station manager, and camera operator/editor John T. (Jay) McCann. In addition, there is often at least one intern on the crew as well.

During the last year and a half with Covid there were more challenges in the studio and off site than usual.

We had to follow the protocol of using masks, being 6 feet apart and sanitizing surfaces and equipment as they were used throughout the shoot.

During the taping of the Tribute to Mr. Rogers show, which was in the studio, we had to be very aware of social distancing, sanitizing the surfaces and our hands constantly especially when we touched any of the equipment.

When I had to perform by either speaking or singing, I had to take off my mask. Yes, we were at least 6 feet apart, and after each segment I put my mask back on. All three of the staff in the studio also had to wear their masks throughout the shoot.

The cameras and equipment used were: two 4K JVC cameras and wireless lavalier mics for the guest and host.



On location at the horse farm, we also used cameras on the horses to show their point of view.

Overall, the station manager and crew did a phenomenal job. We always put safety first -- even though it did take longer to shoot the episodes.

Another episode that I recently did with the crew was about Therapy horses. This was shot on site outdoors at a horse farm called Hope's Promise in Chester N.J. This was much easier since there was much more space to socially distance and we were in the fresh air. If we had to come closer for any reason, we would automatically put on our masks.

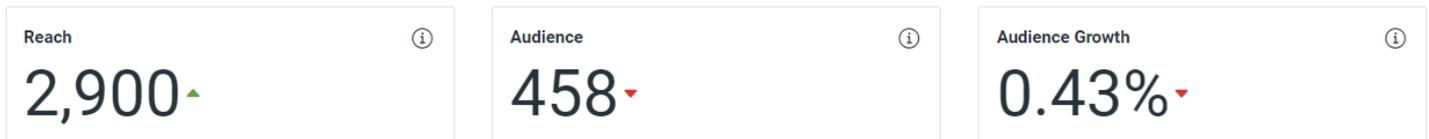
Funny, now it almost seems normal and automatic to do this rather than when we first had to follow the safety protocols at the start of the pandemic in the studio. As we all know, if there is a will there is always a way and the show must go on, and indeed it did thanks to the efforts of the crew at HTTV.

Please check out my show at [www.singalongandfunwithmissmiriam.com](http://www.singalongandfunwithmissmiriam.com)



As we get into the holiday season social media traffic seems to go down. Part of this is most likely due to people using their online time to shop instead of socializing. I tend to see a lot of people take a break from social media during the end of the year too. Always a good thing to keep in mind when planning out your social media strategy -- don't count on the social media boost around the holidays.

In other JAG news, a quick reminder to check out the website. There are two new videos on the website for all to see (they are also featured on our YouTube page) concerning broadband and over the top delivery for your content. These videos are not just in our members only section because they can help you sell the need for better broadband and over the top delivery to your town. Share these videos with anyone that could benefit from them.



**JERSEY ACCESS GROUP**

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Do not forget to check out our YouTube channel. Have something you want on our YouTube channel? Send a link to [dseidel@piscatawaynj.org](mailto:dseidel@piscatawaynj.org) for review.

**New Content on YouTube:** [Broadband Panel at NJLOM](#) – JAG [Holiday Extravaganza](#) - Woodbridge  
[Over the Top Panel at NJLOM](#) – JAG

**NEW CONTENT ON WEBSITE-** We have now posted 24 programs from 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 [lbesink@gmail.com](mailto:lbesink@gmail.com) for the password.

*JAG has recorded our two sessions at the NJ League of Municipalities and added them to the Members Only session of our website.*

**Broadband Deployment in the National Infrastructure Bill. A JAG Joint Session with the NJ League.**

*And*

**Post Pandemic Tools That Can Help You Reach Your Citizens**

**Share the value of Jag's newsletter with your elected officials, cable committee, station volunteers, associates, and friends. Send this invitation:**

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/B7EMU1R/JAGnewsletter>



## Committees

**Rich Desimone, Managing Director**

## Volunteerism

All committees presented their Year End Reports at the JAG Executive Board Retreat. Committees had a very successful year and have set their Action Plan for 2021-2022, and they will need help. The chairs will be reaching out to members to join their committees. At their January meetings all committees will be conducting elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.



Executive 2021 (as of 10.13.21) Meeting second Wednesday 12:00PM	Production 2021 (as of 3.8.21) Meeting first Monday 11AM	External Relations 2021 (as of 2.5.21) Meeting first Thursday 12:30pm
Bob Duthaler, President <b>2021-2024</b>	Lee Beckerman (Chair) <b>2021-2023</b>	Geoffrey Belinfante (Chair) <b>2021-2023</b>
Dave Garb, Vice-President- <b>2019-2021</b>	Anthony Pagliuco (Vice Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>	Dustin Dumas (Vice Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>
Linda Besink, Treasurer- <b>2021-2024</b>	Dave Ambrosy: (Secretary) <b>2021-2023</b>	Stephanie Gibbons (Co-Secretary) <b>2021-2023</b>
Dave Ambrosy, Secretary- <b>2019-2021</b> <b>Leaving the board</b>	Nick Besink	Dustin Dumas (Co-Secretary) <b>2021-2023</b>
Stephanie Gibbons, Corresponding Sec.- <b>2021-2023</b>	Dave Garb	Doug Seidel-Social Media
Anthony Pagliuco, Trustee <b>2021-2023</b>	Robert Horvath	Bob Duthaler: NJLOM Join Session, JAG Session, Booth Staffing and rooms, Web Site
Darryl Love, Trustee <b>2019-2021</b> <b>Leaving the board</b>	Geoffrey Belinfante: Access NJ	Rich Desimone: JAG Newsletter Editor
George Fairfield, Trustee <b>2021-2023</b>	Doug Seidel: YouTube Channel	Dave Garb
OPEN, Trustee <b>2019-2021</b> <b>Left the board</b>	Bob Duthaler	George Bumiller
Lee Beckerman, Production Chair <b>2021-2023</b>		Robert Horvath—Web design and Social Media
Geoffrey Belinfante, External Relations Chair <b>2021-2023</b>		
Rich Desimone: Managing Director Action Plan/Policies & Procedures/Bylaws		
Finance 2020 (as of 10.13.21) Meeting second Tuesday 11AM	Legislation 2021 (as of 2.5.21) Meeting first Tuesday 11AM	Conference 2021 (as of 10.18.21) Meeting second Monday 2PM
Linda Besink: (Chair) <b>APPOINTED</b>	Dave Garb (Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>	Bob Duthaler (Co-chair) <b>2021-2022</b>
OPEN (Vice Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>	Linda Besink (Vice Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>	Geoffrey Belinfante (Co-chair) <b>2021-2022</b>
Geoffrey Belinfante (Secretary) <b>2021-2023</b>	Linda Besink (Secretary) <b>2020-2022</b>	George Fairfield (Vice Chair) <b>2021-2022</b>
Bob Duthaler: President	Bob Duthaler: NJLM	Doug Seidel (Secretary) <b>2021-2022</b>
Dave Garb: Vice President	Ada Erik: NJ Legislation	Linda Besink: (Treasurer) <b>APPOINTED</b>
Lee Beckerman, Production Chair	Nick Besink	Rick Gearhart
		Anthony Pagliuco
		J Robertson
		Rich Desimone: Managing Director
Leadership Development 2020 (as of 10.12.20) Meeting second Monday 11AM	Membership 2021 (as of 1.7.21) Meeting first Tuesday 1PM	JAG Awards (as of 2.12.21) Meeting third Monday 11am
Dave Garb (Chair) Legislative Rep <b>APPOINTED</b>	Stephanie Gibbons (Chair) <b>ELECTED 2021-2023</b>	George Fairfield (Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>
Doug Seidel: (Vice Chair) <b>2020-2022</b>	George Fairfield (Vice Chairs) <b>2020-2022</b>	Ronni Garrett (Vice Chair) <b>2022</b>
Linda Besink: Finance Rep (Secretary) <b>2020-2022</b>	Linda Besink: (Secretary) Data Management <b>ELECTED 2021-2023</b>	Valerie Stevens: (Secretary) <b>2020-2022</b>
Stephanie Gibbons: Membership Rep	Bob Duthaler: List Serve	Dave Garb
Anthony Pagliuco: Production Rep	Dave Garb	
Dustin Dumas: External Relations Rep	George Fairfield	
George Fairfield: JAG Awards Rep	Geoffrey Belinfante	
Geoffrey Belinfante: Conference Rep	George Bumiller	



- Monday, January 3, 11am — Production Committee Meeting via conference call
  - Election of Officers
  - JAG You Tube Channel Management: Reviewing submissions requests.
- Tuesday, January 4, 11am — Finance Committee Meeting via conference call
  - Election of Officers
  - Managing Member List: Updating contact information
  - Financial Reports: Updates Accounts Payable/Receivables
- Tuesday, January 4, 1pm — Membership Committee Meeting via virtual video service
  - Election of Officers
  - Member Outreach Survey: Evaluating results
  - Managing Membership Benefits
- Thursday, January 6, 12:30pm — External Relations Committee Meeting via virtual video service
  - Election of Officers
  - Membership Library: Collecting and management of member documents
  - Vendor Presentation: Scheduling January–April 2022.
  - Organizational Members: Searching for new vendor to join
  - Website Management: Making monthly updates
  - Newsletter Development & Management: Scheduling articles.
  - Social Media Management: Drive JAG YouTube Channel subscribers and content submissions.
- Monday, January 10, 11am — Leadership Development Meeting via virtual video service
  - Election of Officers
  - 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: To be part of marketing plan.
  - Committee Assistance: Supporting interaction of committees.
- Monday, January 10, 2pm — Conference Committee Meeting via virtual video service
  - Structure: May 24-26, 2022 Hybrid: Trade Show Live, Workshops/User Groups Virtual
  - Trade Show location/Budget/Workshop ideas
- Tuesday, January 11, 11am — Legislative Committee Meeting via conference call
  - Election of Officers
  - Relationships with state and national legislators: Develop in-district schedule
  - Pandemic: Develop cover letter and push collection of content from members
  - Evaluating SD vs HD Issues
- Wednesday, January 12, 11am — Board of Trustees Meeting via virtual video service
  - Election of Officers
- Wednesday, January 12, 12noon — Executive Committee Meeting via virtual video service
  - Committee Action Plan review
  - Webinars/Social Hangs: Develop events and topics
- Thursday, January 17, 11am — JAG Awards Committee Meeting via virtual video service
  - Planning for 2022: To launch Jan. 1, 2022.
- Wednesday, January 26, 12:12pm — General Meeting via virtual video service
  - Topic for Discussion: TBA
  - Presentation: JVC

### Organizational Members



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HELMER, CONLEY & KASSELMAN, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Powering ideas.



cool technology for  
• PRODUCTION  
• PLAYBACK  
• STREAMING



COMMUNITY MEDIA



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: *Bob Duthaler (Chair) Dave Garb (Vice Chair)***

The board is taking a more proactive role in some key areas that JAG will be focusing on over the next year. This will include increasing JAG's relationships with state and national legislators, marketing strategy, membership, and value to our members. The work necessary will be the responsibility of all of JAG's committees and will need to be coordinated through the Leadership Development Committee. This is a large undertaking and is only possible because the committees have shown the ability to take on components of these projects. There is also a need for committees to work internally to increase membership involvement and cultivate leadership.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Linda Besink (Chair), TBA (Vice Chair)***

Dues renewal invoices for 2022 are currently going out to members. We will follow up in January to ensure they have been received. Thanks to all who renewed their membership in 2021. Enjoy the rest of the Holiday season! If you'd like to serve on the Finance Committee, please email Treasurer Linda Besink at [lbesink@gmail.com](mailto:lbesink@gmail.com).

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

*(No report provided)*

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

This month, we on the External Relations Committee are thinking about networking and how important it is for the growth of the organization. Last month at JAG's booth and during our workshops at the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, we had the opportunity to meet with many people. It reminded me that the best way to market JAG seems to be face to face with people who understand what we do and have a need for the services we offer. Perhaps because so many townships had to resort to zoom type services to communicate with their residents during the pandemic, this year there seemed to be increased interest in JAG and the services we offer to townships. Every year at the convention we meet and greet lots of people. I can only hope that this year, working with the membership committee, we will be able to further engage some of those people who seem to have renewed interest in JAG. Of course, if we do add members, we will need more people on the External Relations Committee to service them, so I will reiterate my monthly request for new members. If you're interested, please let me know at [geoffbel512@gmail.com](mailto:geoffbel512@gmail.com). Have a wonderful holiday season!

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**SAVE THE DATE**



**A Hybrid Event**

**LIVE Trade Show    VIRTUAL Workshops & Vendor user Groups**

**May 24-26, 2022**

**Details coming soon.**



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

The Legislative Committee strives to keep up with new and pending legislation on both the Federal and state levels. And just recently, we had to move quickly with news that Congress is reintroducing the Protecting Community Television Act. This act will help to preserve the PEG operations that lift up our local community voices and to air our programming that is most relevant to the lives of our Municipalities. This legislation would nullify the FCC's misguided 621 Order by clarifying that the franchise fees that cable companies provide local governments only include monetary assessments, not in-kind contributions. When circumstances like this warrant, this committee solicits the aid of legislators who we believe can either help to enact laws favorable to PEG or to fight against those that could hurt us and our cause. We keep in touch with all our elected officials in order to remind them of who JAG is and that we are there for them as well. It can be quite rewarding when our efforts are not in vain. We always welcome JAG members on our committee. We meet monthly, with possible additional meetings as the need sometimes quickly unfolds.

**Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons (Chair), George Fairfield (Vice Chair)***

We want to welcome George Fairfield as the new Vice Chair of this committee and thank him for taking on the position. We would like to welcome our newest independent members - MOTL-Laurie Jensen & Steve Kaiser, and also want to welcome back the South River. We want to make sure you are getting the most of your member benefits so please let us know if you are not getting information from the listserv, newsletter, access to the member's only section of the website and access to the Connect server for sharing content. Please contact me at: [Stgibbons@verizon.net](mailto:Stgibbons@verizon.net).

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

The LDC Committee is focusing on the development and promotion of JAG by reinventing our marketing strategies and social media platforms. The leadership from JAG's other committees make up this committee, as well as those individuals that are skilled and knowledgeable in areas that are needed to make this committee shine. We aid and work with all of our committees in order for them to achieve their individual goals. One of the objectives of the Leadership Committee is to reach out to you, our members, to discuss the importance of joining one of our other very active committees and bringing your experience and skills to help JAG to grow and be the voice and face of New Jersey's PEG community. Please reach out to me or one of our other Committee Members to find out how you can become an active member in the Jersey Access Group.

**JAG Awards Committee: *George Fairfield (Chairs), Ronni Garrett (Vice Chair)***

The JAG AWARDS will open for submissions beginning on January 1st; just go to <https://jagonline.org/submitting/> and click on ENTER when you are ready to register. All entry forms must be completed by February 28, 2022. If you haven't done so, you need to check out <https://jagonline.org/eligibility/> because the Jag Awards committee has listened to you. To honor our members and their excellence in local & regional Public Education Government (PEG) cablecast programming, each entry will receive either a Bronze, Silver, or Gold adjudicated certificate based on their score. Don't forget to mark on your calendar. The JAG Awards banquet will be May 25, 2022. If you enjoyed the past virtual banquet, you will not want to miss it live & in-person.

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

Eastern Video Expo 2022 Takes a Hybrid Approach for 2022

Having not met in over two years onsite at a trade show, the conference committee is moving forward in May 2022 in presenting a hybrid format for EVE 2022. Over our scheduled three day event (Tuesday, May 24th through Thursday, May 26th) we will hold an in person trade show on Wednesday, May 25th. This will be our time once again to gather at a trade show, with limited vendors geared for access stations, special presentations and hands-on experience with the latest technology. It will be a chance to shake hands (or bump elbows) with the vendors and manufacturers that have supported us during this pandemic and see first hand the new technology. Our event once again will take place shortly after NAB's large event in Vegas. That is where the industry announces their latest technology. Our event is where people can come and see firsthand the new technology that was announced.

To help make this in-person event a more memorable day, the JAG Video Awards and Banquet will take place that evening. What better way after exploring a day of new technology, then gathering with our counterparts and celebrating each other and the great work we do throughout the year? 2022 JAG Awards will be the perfect culmination of celebrating our organization, its members and everything we stand for as an organization. What better way to make this event even better, than to surround it with two days of creative, informative conference sessions? Not only will we gather some of the best and brightest in our field, but we will present these sessions to you in a format that allows you to easily access them without having to spend too much time out of your office. Building off the success of last year's all virtual conference, the committee will have our conference sessions again be virtual, thus creating the ultimate hybrid conference between the in-person trade show, JAG awards and Virtual Sessions on Tuesday and Thursday!

Jersey Access Group, PO Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

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

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