

Trustees 2023

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General Meeting Schedule 2023-24

Apr. 26- ZOOM
 Conference Discussion
 May 18
 JAG Conference
 Jun. 28- ZOOM
 No Presentation
 Sept. 27- TBD
 Presentation –TBA
 Oct. 26- at Varto Technologies
 Presentation –Varto Technologies
 Dec. 6- ZOOM
 Presentation- TBD
 Jan. 25, 2024- ZOOM
 Presentation- TBD
 Feb. 22- ZOOM
 Presentation- Cablecast
 Mar. 31 at Bloomfield TV
 Presentation- TelVue

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President's Message

Bob Duthaler



Station Check List – Help Grow Your Station

Here are some ideas on how you can grow, strengthen, and improve you station operations and overall appearance. They are in no order, so use these as a guide for your station. Do all or do some, but the key to change and growth is to do something.

Use What You Have, and Use It To The Fullest... We are all guilty of this, I know that I am. So, what am I referring to? Just about any product or software you have in your place. You would be surprised at how much they have to offer and how we don't use this technology to its full potential. What are some examples of this? How can I find solutions? I will give you a couple examples, but take inventory on all your hardware and software, research all they have to offer, then train yourself to use it to its fullest potential. For our purpose I am going to talk about broadcast systems and multi-camera productions. Both of these are important to station productions, operations, and overall appearance.

Broadcast Servers:

- Do you know how to schedule series programs?
- Do you know how to use squeezbacks?
- Do you know how to add "now playing" and "up next" snipe graphics?
- Do you run a station logo or bug?
- Are you running text crawl messages and incorporating emergency notifications?

Multi-camera Productions:

- Do you understand the idea concept of two hand switching?
- Do you know how to use M/E?
- Are you doing live graphics?
- Do you know how to create virtual sets and chromakey?
- Do you know how to roll in video clips?
- Do you know how to bring in sources over the network, across the web and other sources?

Learn all the above and more. But how you ask? Come to the JAG conference on Thursday, May 18th and attend special user group sessions by TelVue and Newtek. Learn to get the most out of the equipment you already own or are looking to get. Register now for this year's event at www.jagconference.com

Cable, live streaming on social media, and cord cutters...serve them all. The time has come to serve everyone in your community, whether they have cable or not. Gone are the days in which cable was the only way to see your station. As the viewing habits of the residents in your community change, so must you change in

order to reach them. But how do you reach them? What are the benefits of live streaming? Is there a way to reach the cord cutters? Apple TV, ROKU and Amazon Fire... they are not just for Netflix. Learn how you can get your channel on these platforms and more. Attend special workshops geared for this very topic. Meet with vendors with the knowledge and ability to show you an affordable way to get your station broadcasting on platforms you never thought were possible. Where? Come to the JAG conference on Thursday, May 18th at the Crowne Plaza in Edison, NJ. Learn how to get access to affordable streaming equipment, have your channel on OTT platforms and a lot more. Register now for this year's event at www.jagconference.com

Know what the future of PEG could hold, and know what you are entitled to now... One of the biggest ways to be successful in our industry is to understand the laws that govern our industry and what you should be advocating for. Over the years JAG has fought hard to get your station access to training and equipment. JAG also made it possible for you to have a high-definition channel. But do you know how to go about getting these? Wouldn't you like to learn what stations around New Jersey and the country are getting in their local franchise negotiations? Knowledge is power, which becomes an advantageous ally when dealing with cable companies during your franchise renewal. I am sure you don't have time to sit and track state and federal legislation that pertains to PEG-TV, broadband and more on a regular basis. If you are looking for an easy explanation of all the above, in a clear, concise way for you to understand and bring back to your cable board or local government, then you need to attend the annual JAG Conference on Thursday, May 18th. Learn current legislation, FCC rules and proposed legislation in special topics and a Keynote Lunch during the JAG Conference in Edison, NJ. Register now for this year's event at www.jagconference.com

VHS Tapes, File Based Broadcast Servers, Closed Captioning and AI... We have watched our industry change over the years, but what is in store next? Are you contemplating the addition of closed captioning to your station? What is the best approach? Should you have an on-site unit or a cloud-based subscription? What about remote video transmission, is there an affordable solution out there? Can you harness the power of the internet and cellular data to transmit live video? How about AI technology? More and more we are hearing about the use of AI and what it means to our industry. There is so much new technology out there and the announcement of more coming off the heels of the NAB Tradeshow, how can you keep up with it all? You can get caught up with some of the latest and greatest right here in New Jersey at JAG's annual conference. Mark your calendar now and click the registration link: www.jagconference.com and set yourself up to be in the know. Join us on Thursday, May 18th for a one-day event that will surely enhance your knowledge and ability to successfully operate your station.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much going on throughout the day at the JAG Conference. Plus, there will be ample time for networking with others in our industry and vendors from around the country. This event is designed specifically for those in the PEG community. It is our chance to get together, discuss topics that pertain to our industry, learn the latest and interact with each other. There is no doubt this is the one event each year you do not want to miss. The time is now to register for JAG's Conference 2023 on Thursday, May 18th in Edison, NJ. Don't wait, register now!!! www.jagconference.com I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's event!

Thanks to Our Sponsors





A Visit to the Hill: Protecting Community Television Act

Dave Garb, Legislative Committee Chair

Legislation

Last month I joined the ACM as we visited our esteemed Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill in an effort to garner co-sponsorship for the "Protecting Community Television Act".

The Identical bills, S 340, Authored by Senator Edward Markey (MA) and Tammy Baldwin (WI), & HR 907, Authored by Representative Anna Eshoo (CA), were reintroduced in Congress on February 9th of this year. It was our intention to make sure to inform as many members of Congress as possible about these bills.



Being the sole spokesperson for New Jersey, by representing the Jersey Access Group, and never having experienced what I was about to encounter, I had a steep learning curve to navigate.

Fortunately for me, ACM President Mike Wassenaar had already planned two very interesting meetings for me with the Legislative Assistants to Senator Cory Booker and Representative Mikie Sherrill. Both seemed very interested in what was told to them regarding the effect of the 2019 FCC ruling upon community television, why these Acts came to be, and why we need their support by co-sponsoring them. I even had the pleasure of having Mike join me for the meeting at Senator Booker's office.

As for the rest of the members from New Jersey, their offices were easy to find and they had open door policies, so I was able to talk to their office staff and to leave information for their Legislative Director/Assistants. And yes, I managed to visit all of our Federal Legislators.

The main message communicated to each office or staff member was quite simple, and it is the crux of why the Protecting Community Television Act is needed. PEG/Access Television is in jeopardy!

From The ACM:

In 2019, The FCC Franchise Fee Order redefined the federal Cable Act's 5% franchise fee cap to include the value of most non-monetary franchise obligations as franchise fees. This change allows cable companies to reduce what they pay for the use of public property and rights-of-way. The Protecting Community Television Act (S 340/HR 907) corrects this error by clarifying franchise fees are only monetary.

The Cable Act protects the rights of a local community to charge cable companies a five (5%) percent franchise fee and to meet community needs and interests, such as providing public, educational and governmental channel capacity. Contrary to industry practices that date to the 1980s, the FCC's actions could result in reducing cable operators' monetary compensation to towns and municipalities that wish to communicate with residents through community television. The FCC Order could force communities to choose between franchise fees or communicating with residents through community media that provide Americans with local (transparent) civic, public safety and public health content.

The Protecting Community Television Act (S 340/HR 907) clarifies that only monetary payments, not non-monetary franchise obligations, qualify as Cable Act franchise fees and are subject to a fee cap. Without it, a cable operator could create fees to drain away municipal revenues and pressure municipalities to give up or de-staff channels.

When the Protecting Community Television Act, was introduced during the 2021-2022 Congressional Session, Representatives Donald Payne (10th District) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (12th District), led the charge by co-sponsoring it at that time. The hope this time is that we can get all of our members of Congress to support them and the local content that our communities need and deserve.

With all this fresh in your minds, this also happens to be one of our main topics at this year's legislative workshop at the JAG Conference.

News from Capitol Hill and Around the Country, and What it Means to the New Jersey PEG/Access Stations

The Jersey Access Group will present a workshop at 10AM on May 18th at the Crown Plaza in Edison, NJ as part of its annual conference.

Our featured panelists will be Mike Wassenaar, President of the ACM, and Mike Lynch, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Director for NATOA, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Do you know what is going on in the Halls of Congress or even in the individual States, including right here in New Jersey, that could affect how you are able to do business as usual at your local municipality and PEG stations?

There are many issues that will be talked about during this very informative conversation.

- Hear how the Protecting Community Television Acts, which are circulating around both chambers of Congress, could drastically change the direction of the FCC's 621 Order that currently is hurting all access communities and municipalities.
- Is the FCC going to get a 5th Commissioner and what would that mean to you and the citizens of New Jersey?
- What is the status of the Broadband Funds and how could this effect your community both monetarily and regarding your community fully connected.

[New Jersey Current Mobile Broadband Map](#)

[New Jersey Current Fixed Broadband Map](#)

- An Act To Ensure Nondiscriminatory Treatment of Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels by Cable System Operators has been enacted in the State of Maine. Known as the "PEG Non-Discrimination" or "PEG Equal Rights" law, **[Nondiscriminatory Treatment of PEG Access Channels](#)**, it carries out five major actions:
 1. Cable Services Providers must carry local PEG stations on all basic subscriber tiers and packages
 2. Cable Service Providers cannot downgrade signal quality if PEG stations are sending an HD signal.
 3. No 'slamming.' Local PEG stations must be placed in the same numerical range with other local network affiliate stations.
 4. Local PEG content/data must receive equal treatment in all electronic program guides and digital menus
 5. PEG organizations must be provided with a direct point of contact to resolve issues related to PEG signal quality.

Could this law be considered in other States? Find out the answers to these issues and more, along with having your own questions answered by our panel of national experts on all matters that could greatly impact the future of access television.

Please register for not only this informative session, but all the events planned to keep you and your communities in the know. <https://jagconference.com/>



From the first conference to our 19th edition, the JAG Conference is the best place to get the latest hardware updates the freshest gear, and collaborate with your fellow colleagues from other stations around New Jersey. This year's conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison on May 18th from 9am-11pm.

We are only a month away from the JAG Conference!



- Have you made your checklist for new equipment you would like to get more information on?
- Have you purchased your tickets?
- Have you reserved your hotel room?

Conference Updates

TelVue Users Group: Ultra-affordable All-in-One Payout, Integrated Streaming, Editing, and CBB, Live Caption Translation, New Viewer Analytics, and more!

Showcasing the latest and greatest from TelVue including a peek into our broadcast products roadmap...all with the purpose of streamlining your workflow, saving you time, expanding your audience, increasing accessibility, and unlocking new sources of revenue. Demos & topics will include: New, ultra-affordable & scalable HyperCaster AIO+ All-in-One payout models; HyperCaster integrated CBB, editing, and streaming; HyperCaster automatic social media multistreaming, no expensive restreaming services required; Redesigned, mobile-friendly scheduling pages to streamline scheduling from anywhere; Enhanced user access control & roles to more easily and securely distribute workloads; Affordable, accurate live captioning with live translation to a second language; Making your government meeting videos fully searchable with Caption Transcript Search; New, built-in viewer analytics to gain more insights into your streaming, mobile & OTT audiences; CloudCast player integrated full-view agenda/documents and channel schedules. Bring questions, feedback, feature requests. Great for existing users looking to get the most out of their TelVue systems, and prospects looking to upgrade from unsupported and cumbersome platforms, or insecure windows payout systems. A huge thanks to TelVue for being our Diamond Sponsor.

TriCaster & NDI User Group: NAB Highlights & Interactive Forum

Discover the latest TriCaster and NDI advancements at our JAG Conference User Group session, where we'll kick off with an overview of the groundbreaking updates from the NAB Show in Las Vegas. Learn about innovative features such as HTML 5 Cloud Graphics and how they can revolutionize your live productions. Following this brief presentation, the session will transition into an interactive forum for both new and experienced TriCaster users. Participants can ask questions, discuss workflows, and learn from each other's experiences, with our presenter offering demonstrations and insights into real-life workflow scenarios. This engaging session provides an opportunity to connect with industry peers, share best practices, and stay ahead of the curve in live video production. Moderator: Yervant Keshishian, Sales Engineer, Authorized Trainer & Technical Director, Varto Technologies. Varto Technologies is a Titanium Sponsor and will sponsor the JAG Banquet.

There will be a number of workshops throughout the day and details can be found at www.jagconference.com. Planet Networks is a Titanium Sponsor and will be sponsoring the Keynote Lunch.

Banquet Entertainment

Returning to JAG's conference is Simon Mandel, sponsored by Cologne Productions. Simon Mandal started out as a kid reading books at the library, and watching beginner magic VHS tapes. He knew by the time he was ten that he wanted to be either a magician or a comedy writer. After high school, he studied Acting/Drama at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, and at The William Esper Studio. Those years weren't dedicated to magic head on, but he studied comedy in depth, and it helped his show a lot. Simon went full time in the early 2,000's, and has been developing his own magic ever since. Simon Mandal is one of the most in demand illusionists in the world today. Mandal combines incredible feats of skill with hilarious interactive routines that bring the house down, and be prepared to become part of the show. Simon will be looking for help from the audience to join him on stage.

Separate banquet tickets are on sale. Order now. This event will sell out.

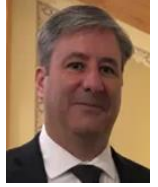
The conference wraps up with the JAG Banquet and the JAG Awards. Please stay and cheer on colleagues from local access stations across the state! There are many new categories this year to win, and many stations will go home with some nice trophies.

This year the cost of the Conference, including the JAG Banquet is \$160 per person for JAG members. Your admission includes the User Group Breakfast, vendor exhibits, a number of workshops, keynote lunch, admission to the cocktail party, the banquet and the JAG Awards. Details can be found at www.jagconference.com.



Rebuilding For Now and The Future But Recognizing The Past Members Spotlight Bob Duthaler, Station Manager, Bloomfield

And So It Began... WBMA-TV (Channel 35) in Bloomfield, NJ has been in operation for over 45 years, making it one of the oldest municipal channels on Comcast. Its purpose was and still is to inform the Bloomfield Community of events happening throughout the township, while supporting open government through the playback of meetings on the cable channel. It started out like many stations across the state have, in a small space, a bunch of VHS players and a graphics system. Over the years the space in which the station operated grew larger, but much of the equipment stayed the same. VHS players, mixed with SVHS with shows being recorded on mini-dv, were the flavor through the early 2000s. Unfortunately, due to the death of the station manager, and a couple of short-term interim managers, the station was starting to fall by the wayside. Thankfully, a new board member who was experienced professionally in the industry, kept the station on life support, convincing the Township of Bloomfield and the Cable Advisory Board that the station needed to change both the way it operated and the technology at hand.



Timing Is Everything... Just like the timing was right for the station to change, so would the timing for its current Executive Director, Bob Duthaler to step in. Brought in by the Cable Advisory Council liaison and Board President in 2007, Duthaler hit the ground running. Fortunately, he had the support of the Township Council and Cable Advisory Board behind him. The station quickly converted from analog playout to a Telvue digital broadcast server and bulletin board system. Doing away with the racks of SVHS and VHS players, the station started down a new road. New edit systems, new studio cameras and file-based recorders all became the new norm for WBMA-TV. Within the next few years more township events were being covered, in addition to council, board of ed, planning and zoning meetings. The station soon began its own series of shows including *Bloomfield Buzz TV*, *Saturday Night at the Movies*, *To Your Health Bloomfield* and *WBMA-TV Sports Coverage*. Within a few short years, the station now had an operational studio, ENG cameras for remote events and the ability to do live events. They even pulled off an 8-hour live Harvest Fest Coverage with an outside studio for interviews, live music coverage and remote live “man on the street” interviews using microwave transmission. Duthaler will be quick to tell you that coverage of this event was possible due to all the Cable Advisory Board members pitching in as volunteers, along with several JAG members who also volunteered to help him as well.



Leap Forward... Skip ahead ten plus years and WBMA-TV remained strong in its operation, covering more township events than ever. There is a regular programming schedule, and the station continues to be a community fixture. WBMA-TV now includes an online presence with live streaming of the station on the township website, its own video on demand player with access to years of programming, along with now operating two channels on Comcast and three on Verizon. Operationally, WBMA-TV adapted to the changes over the years. “As volunteers started to become far and few between, we needed to start hiring freelancers to keep up with the coverage of events for which we were requested” said Duthaler. He continued to say, “The industry is always changing, and we learned to keep up with and adapt as necessary to that change. This is what has helped us remain a successful station. JAG has also played an important role in that as well, giving us access to vendors, equipment and conference workshops that teach us and help us grow.”

Who Knew It Was Coming... Then in 2018, WBMA-TV had developed a strong relationship with the Township’s IT Director along with continued support from the Mayor and Council and would begin to start its next phase of growth and expansion. The station took over the operation of the educational channel as well on both Comcast and Verizon. Soon, both Comcast and Verizon would run new fiber to the WBMA-TV studios in addition to placing digital encoders to receive the stations broadcast signal. WBMA-TV finally removed the last remaining analog component to its operation and became all digital in its broadcast. It would also be through the local franchise negotiations with Comcast, that Bloomfield had put in place for its future the running of fiber between the municipal building and the civic center, in which WBMA-TV was located. The plan was now to setup PTZ cameras and Dante Audio systems at the municipalities’ Council Chambers to send them back to the station control room via a network connection to produce meetings from the WBMA-TV studios. In addition to that project getting underway, the station also purchased a used video production

truck from the negotiated franchise funds and was starting to create its own mobile production vehicle. Things were about to get underway with both projects, then the calendar read March 2020!



Lockdown, reinvention, LIVE... It all changed that second week in March, when we all got the word that everything was shutting down because of COVID-19. Fortunately for WBMA-TV, we had everything in place for operating the station remotely. Thankfully because of vendors associated with JAG like Telvue and Varto Technologies, we could already operate the station remotely, handling station programming, bulletin board updates, program insertion and more from remote locations. What WBMA-TV was now being challenged to do, how do we cover all meetings from remote locations, some in a hybrid situation and broadcast them live and on-air and social media. Thankfully, through the support of LiveU and their PEG bundling equipment and pricing we found that solution. So, with lots of COVID testing, masks, social distancing, a large monitor with Zoom, and our camera equipped with a LiveU 300 unit, we started out in uncharted waters of live, remote tv coverage from Conference Rooms at town hall, Media Centers at the HS Library or in large rooms with everyone spread out, we

embarked on a new adventure that has changed our operations even today. We were now the Live Channel! We also ran daily live press conferences from the governor, health updates from township officials and regular updates from the mayor as well.

It Took Longer, but it's here... COVID brought about changes in both the truck project and remote meeting coverage system. A new Tricaster TC-2 Elite was purchased during covid to replace the TC-1 in which we were about to install in the studio control room. The new unit allowed us to incorporate Zoom meeting directly into the switcher allowing for individuals to be brought up on air as single shot. The TC-1 which was slated for the studio, now was put in to the truck, which started a yearlong build out of the vehicle (COVID and Supply Chain- not a winning combination). In addition, we continued the long road of battling COVID, lockdowns and mask wearing to build out the council chambers with PTZ cameras, incorporating Dante for audio and



sending it across a fiber network from town hall to the studio control room about a mile away (as the fiber goes). It wasn't long before we started doing all Zoom meetings in our control room, which allowed us better broadcasting quality, individual shot selections, presentation pull-ups and more, while broadcasting live on-air, streaming on the website and social media. We eventually came back in person for council and a zoom portion for public input. Hybrid meeting coverage was well underway. We also were rolling out OTT capabilities during this period. We launched our own Apple TV, ROKU, and Amazon Fire Channels. This now allowed cord cutters to be kept in the loop as well during the pandemic. Change was coming hard and fast (as fast as you can go during a pandemic) and the station was once again evolving. The Mayor, Council and Community all put their trust in the station to keep the community informed and involved during the pandemic, and WBMA-TV came through with flying colors.



New Era Underway... July 4th, 2022, WBMA-TV began its first remote production with its new vehicle. Coverage of Bloomfield's annual July 4th Concert and Fireworks kicked off a new chapter for WBMA-TV. The new production truck would continue to cover summer concerts, parades and more, both live and live to tape (or hard drive). The Studio control room is fully operational for remote, live meeting coverage – in which live is the new norm now. The video production truck now has a replay system installed for future sports coverage and is working on getting its own power source for locations where two 30amp circuits are not setup to accommodate the vehicle. WBMA-TV

also added its first high-definition channel on cable, with the new Verizon 2137 Channel. WBMA-TV is also working on creating an iOS and Android app, to make the station available on phones, computers, and tablets. The next phase in the evolution of the once Channel 35 is underway, again! Feel free to reach out to Bob Duthaler at WBMA-TV and have a look at the station's operations, studio and production truck.



Fun Fact: Channel 35 as it was known for years, as being on channel location 35 on Comcast, is called WBMA-TV. What does WBMA-TV mean? **W**atch **B**loomfield **M**unicipal **A**ccess **T**V. You can see the station's website at www.wbmatv.com



JAG General Meeting (ZOOM)

Apr. 26, 2023 @ 12:00pm

For more information and access to the meeting email JAGinfo@jagonline.org

JERSEY ACCESS GROUP

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instagram.com/jersey_access_group



New Content on JAG YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxYD91dqyo8>

Woodbridge 49th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade - March 12, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-sJ626z4RY>

Women Talk 2302 What Do You Do In Your Spare Time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3bbVd13W4w>

Aging Insights 137: Traveling After 60

Do not forget to check out our YouTube channel. Have something you want on our YouTube channel?

Send a link to dseidel@piscatawaynj.org for review.

New Content on JAG Members Only Section

The JAG Job Board is currently being populated with opportunities.

New Password as of June 1- Contact Linda Besink lbesink@gmail.com for access

New Content on JAG Web Site

List of the 2022 JAG Award recipients. <https://jagonline.org/jag-award-winners/>

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>

Managers Roundtable 2023 Schedule

Thursday, June 8th at 2pm: "Field Productions: Multi-Camera Productions both Live and Live to Tape"

Thursday, September 14th at 2pm: "Sports Coverage"

Thursday, November 9th at 2pm: Topic To Be Announced. Do you have a specific topic you would like to discuss? Please reach out to JAG President Bob Duthaler and discuss your ideas on topics you would like to discuss. Contact information: bduthaler@jagonline.org



Organizational Members



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New Jersey Chapter of NATOA, Organizational Member of the ACM, and New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate
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