



### Trustees 2023

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### General Meeting Schedule 2023-24

- Sept. 27- at Varto Technologies
- Presentation – Varto Technologies
- Oct. 26- Zoom
- Presentation – TBD
- Dec. 6- ZOOM
- Presentation- TBA
- Jan. 31, 2024- TBD
- Presentation- DeSisti
- Feb. 28- ZOOM
- Presentation- de Wolfe Music
- Mar. 27 at Bloomfield TV
- Presentation- TelVue
- Apr. 24- ZOOM
- No Presentation
- May TBD
- JAG Conference
- Crown Plaza Hotel, Rt. 27, Edison
- Jun. 26- ZOOM
- No Presentation

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## President’s Message

Bob Duthaler



### HELP.... I Need Someone

There are times when running a station, you will find you may need additional support and information. How do you get that information? Who is available to give you that added help? With JAG as a resource, you will find there are many places you can get the information and help you need.

**Information:** Tell me how to get it! The first and easiest way is on the JAG website. There is a source of information and resources available on the site. The website contains everything from access to past newsletters with pertinent information, articles and posts, conference information, videos from league presentations, members only section and much more. This resource should always be your first stop with looking for information.

What if you can’t find what you are looking for on the JAG website? Where can you turn to next? Look no further than your email inbox. As a JAG member you have access to a very powerful tool, the JAG Email List Serve. It’s a place where you can ask questions of both JAG members and vendors alike. You get the advantage of multiple responses from multiple resources. Plus, you get the benefit of asking others who may have already experienced what you are seeking to find out about.

**Another powerful resource:** For JAG members is our organizational members. These are vendors who have already committed themselves to working with JAG and our membership by being part of the organization. You should always consider them as a valued tool. These are both companies and people who understand the unique nature of what we do, the budget constraints we are up against and the need for updated technology. Whether looking to update your current equipment, add new technology or just plan for down the road, avail yourself of their expertise.

**What if I need just a little more?** That is a question many people have asked and where did they turn to? A consultant. First, I must reveal that professionally, I am a consultant. With over 35 years of experience in the television industry, my knowledge, and the knowledge of others like me, become a valuable tool for stations just starting out, wanting to make the next move or just need additional support to help them operate. Paying to “pick the brain” of a consultant, one who is qualified to analyze your unique needs, plan a course of action, and help you achieve your goals is another tool in the toolbox. Consultants can help in technology, management and financially through franchise negotiations.

**I know many station managers** in JAG have reached out to each other to share a very important asset, crew. So many of us in this industry might be operating a station part-time, as a volunteer or even a full-time staff, but also do freelance work on the side. In addition, you may have camera operators and editors that freelance as well. JAG understands the importance of these resources and to that extent has made a special section in the JAG website that allows freelancers to share their information and experience and make it available for JAG members to reach out to them to hire them for additional production support. You never know when you might need an additional camera operator, editor, or all-around production support. When you do, look no further than your JAG members.

**My goal in this article** is to help you realize that your membership in JAG is an extremely valuable tool to help you achieve a higher level of quality of operation, content and understanding of the industry. Most of this is easily accessible from your computer, web browser or email. But you need to know that in most cases you need to reach out and make the first move to ask for help and commit yourself to the next level of paid support. Whichever path you choose, the goal is the same: to help you move forward in your knowledge and operation of your station.



**Resolution Opposing American Broadband Deployment Act** As was reported in the recent Special Legislative Update, the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023 (H.R. 3557) was passed by the Congressional House Energy and Commerce Committee. If enacted, it would impose new restrictions on local authorities' ability to regulate a variety of state and local land use and zoning issues pertaining to the deployment of the telecommunications infrastructure. This would include wireless and wireline deployment, as well as new limits on requirements and renewals of cable franchise agreements.



Due to the oppositions set forth from the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), and JAG, word has been quickly spreading about this act.

One of the sponsors of the opposition letter for the USCM was Mayor Brian C. Wahler of Piscataway N.J. Being one of the first to see the ramifications of HR 3557, he spearheaded the creation of a municipal resolution opposing it and it was recently passed by the Piscataway Township Council.

A copy of this resolution has been shared at the following link, <https://jagonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Broadband-Resolution.pdf> , so that all of New Jersey can use this as a guide to create their own resolutions, if they chose, to denounce this legislation.

**High-Speed Internet Grant Program** On June 26th, President Biden and Vice President Harris, announced how the United States will allocate \$42.45 Billion from the bipartisan High-Speed Internet Grant Program to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories, which will distribute affordable and reliable high-speed Internet service to everyone in America.

This is part of their Investing in America agenda and the funding comes from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Grant programs will be administered to all U.S. eligible entities.

"What this announcement means for people across the country is that if you don't have access to quality, affordable high-speed Internet service now – you will, thanks to President Biden and his commitment to investing in America," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Whether it's connecting people to the digital economy, manufacturing fiber-optic cable in America, or creating good paying jobs building Internet infrastructure in the states, the investments we're announcing will increase our competitiveness and spur economic growth across the country for years to come."

Here in New Jersey, we are being allocated \$263,689,548.65. Under this law, Eligible Entities have 180 days from the date of that formal notice to submit their Initial Proposals describing how they propose to run their grant programs. As of July 1, 2023, all can submit their Initial Proposals to InternetForAll.Gov

Once the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) approves an Initial Proposal, which will occur on a rolling basis, eligible entities will be permitted to request access to at least 20 percent of their allocated funds.

**From the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation:** Senator Maria Cantwell, of Washington, has sent a letter to the FCC imploring them to reopen their proceedings on vMVPDs. In 2014 the agency opened a file to examine the issue of how streaming services should be treated but has yet to be put anything into place for nearly a decade."

Senator Cantwell would like the FCC to consider changing their classification so that they would have to follow to the same rules that traditional multichannel video providers follow.

Broadcasters, along with the National Association of Broadcasters have long implored for revision of the rules regulating vMVPDs like YouTube TV, FuboTV, Sling TV, and others who provide bundles of streaming channels over the internet.

"In the nearly ten years since the FCC launched the proceeding, the video service landscape has changed dramatically," Cantwell wrote in her letter. "However, today when viewers have more options for what content to watch (and which platform to watch it from), local broadcasts remain the recognized expert and dominant source for local news for many Americans.... Local stations provide news that is essential to our nation's security. They keep the public informed and strengthen our democracy with on-the-ground reporting that counters misinformation and holds the powerful accountable."

Initially, the FCC didn't take action to classify streaming services as MVPDs because the industry was still in its early stages and because of the difficulty it presented.

The FCC will have to deal with complex questions, such as, how should regulators classify the packages of streaming channels that traditional pay TV operators like Comcast and Altice deliver directly over the Internet to broadband customers?



# The Success of JAG Conference

Cynthia Hahn, C-NET Executive Director

Feature

Myself and two others of the C-NET staff were fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2023 JAG Conference in Edison, New Jersey. This was, for all practical purposes, the return to in-person conferences for JAG, after a fully remote conference in 2021 and a “hybrid” conference in 2022. Gathering together in person was as exciting and satisfying as I had hoped.



I had previously been a member of the JAG Conference Committee until 2021, and I know that the conference is a tremendous amount of work. Hats off to the dedicated volunteers who planned this year’s conference – finding vendors, creating workshops, arranging for speakers, coordinating with the hotel, booking entertainment, handling registration and payment logistics, and a hundred other details. They are to be thanked for their patience, hard work and stamina!



There were several changes to this year’s conference, which I think turned out to be quite successful. Holding some workshops in the same room as the vendor booths gave the vendors increased exposure to attendees, and created a more intimate environment in which we were literally “in the same space”. And the consolidation to a one-day event, with a lower registration fee, may have provided additional people the opportunity to attend.

One of the highlights of the conference was, of course, the JAG Awards! The entertainment by Simon Mandel left the audience astounded, mystified and even downright scared! Simon defies the laws of physics while reading minds and creating laughter....he is amazing and always leaves us wanting more!

Congratulations to all the JAG Award winners! The awards highlight the high quality work which PEG organizations consistently produce, but do even more. Attending the JAG Awards ceremony is a “bonding experience” for everyone who works in access. Access employees and volunteers are often underpaid, overworked and undervalued. But when we share our work with each other, we know it is appreciated. When we share our work, we share the best of ourselves and our communities.



Thanks again to all those who had a part in putting together the conference and the JAG Awards. Only 10 months until we meet again in 2024!



Editor’s Note:  
Cindy Hahn was presented with JAG’s 2023 Ovation Award. In acknowledgement of your unrelenting commitment to the members of the Jersey Access Group, PEG Access and local governments throughout the State of New Jersey.

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View all the JAG Award winning video at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1GODzEKbOu7TXJLkbuINvc3yklcNTP4e>



### Community Recognition Award



present them our Community

Recognition Award. The Jersey Access Group presents to the West Milford Town Council, and in particular Mayor Michele Dale and council liaisons Ada Erik and Marilyn Lichtenberg, for their continued support of their municipal channel WM77. West Milford launched its channel just 10 years ago, but since the beginning, the council, the mayor and the liaisons have supported the activities of the all-volunteer staff to keep residents informed on township activities. While WM77 is one of the smaller stations in the organization, it would not be able to continue its mission without the financial support and encouragement of the council, and for that reason we are pleased to

### JAG Recognition Award



the JAG Recognition Award.

The Jersey Access Group presents to Lee Beckerman, one of the founding members of JAG... from its first meeting to serving on the executive board for over 18 years. Lee was involved with the writing of JAG's first mission statement, goals and policies and procedures. Lee served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of JAG and has been on the production committee from the beginning. Lee has dedicated thousands of hours in the last 30+ years serving to the betterment of this organization and the PEG TV industry. Lee's time with JAG has added immeasurably to the success of the organization. We are pleased to present Lee Beckerman

### President's Ovation Awards



Presented to Stephanie Gibbons  
In acknowledgement of your unrelenting commitment to the members of the Jersey Access Group, PEG Access and local governments throughout the State of New Jersey.



Presented to Cindy Hahn  
In acknowledgement of your unrelenting commitment to the members of the Jersey Access Group, PEG Access and local governments throughout the State of New Jersey.

### Vendor Recognition



The Jersey Access Group recognizes the support of Rushworks for their donation of the Streamster, a hardware/software combination for managing and streaming JAG's own Internet TV channel.



The Jersey Access Group recognizes the support of TelVue in providing the streaming service that makes it possible for the JAG Internet TV channel to be seen on a number of different social media platforms.





Up here in the highlands of New Jersey, we at WM77 have been lucky to win two JAG “awards of excellence” in the past two years, one in the category of “Fairs, Festivals, Car Shows and Arts and Crafts,” and one for single camera coverage of our Town Council meetings. While it’s always nice to be recognized for outstanding work by your peers, for a small station like WM77 it has meant a lot more than just a pat on the back and a trophy for Town Hall.



For a small station that is run entirely by volunteers, the recognition has definitely raised our profile within the township, both with the residents and, more importantly, the town council. Up until this year, we had only received a small stipend for the station that came as part of our cable franchise agreement. The \$4800 we receive annually paid for license fees for our TelVue products, with a few dollars left over for miscellaneous expenses which we spent mostly on things like cables, expendables and our JAG membership. We have operated the station for almost 10 years now with no additional contribution to our budget from the township. Winning the JAG Awards changed everything.



The first thing we did was to submit a press release to the local newspaper. We strategically included photographs of our council liaison presenting the awards to the mayor who was surprised by the presentation. The publicity generated by the media exposure got the attention of the town council who finally authorized an expenditure from General Funds to cover some badly needed switching, monitoring and communications equipment.

More importantly, we have managed to change the way residents and the town council members think about the channel. While we are constituted as the West Milford TV Commission, up until now the folks on the council seemed to think of us more like a club. Now they are taking our contribution to the town much more seriously. We have even been approached by several other organizations in town to help them publicize and/or document upcoming events. It’s taken a while, but now people think of the station, along with the local newspaper and posters in the local supermarkets, as one of those places you go when you are looking to let people know about an event.

For many years, we have been asking for a room to house our equipment and a small space to use as a studio. Suddenly we now have two locations to consider. The township has even invited us to participate in conversations with a new media consultant they have hired to improve communications with the residents. We are covering more events in town than ever before, which is challenging to our small volunteer staff. The Recreation department has even assigned a township employee to help cover some daytime events as part of his daily activities. We, in turn, have trained him on the operation of our camera equipment. This is something that was unthinkable just a few years ago.

Every story needs a moral and the moral of this one is: enter the JAG awards. Even if you don’t win an award of excellence, use the certificates you receive to generate publicity for your channel. As you can see, small channels like ours have really benefited from the recognition. Tell anyone who will listen about your accomplishments. Use the awards to engage your town council members to appreciate your work. Use the local media to tell your citizens about your success. Then parlay that publicity into more support, both financial and creative for your station. Use your success to recruit new members, promote the channel to your residents and gain the respect that we all deserve for the role we play in communicating important information to the residents of the communities we serve.



As a result of our efforts and the new respect we gained from our mayor and town council, JAG recognized West Milford with the Community Recognition Award. The award is given annually to a Municipality that has demonstrated support for strong communication between a township and its citizens. It was presented during the luncheon at our JAG Conference this year. After almost 10 years, we have finally gained the respect that we deserve for the role we play in communicating important information to the residents of the township, and all this came from winning a couple of JAG Awards.

The Jersey Access Group was pleased to present the West Milford Town Council, and in particular Mayor Michele Dale and council liaisons Ada Erik and Marilyn Lichtenberg, for their continued support of their municipal channel WM77. West Milford launched its channel just 10 years ago, but since the beginning, the council, the mayor and the liaisons have supported the activities of the all-volunteer staff to keep residents informed on township activities. While WM77 is one of the smaller stations in the organization, it would not be able to continue its mission without the financial support and encouragement of the council, and for that reason we are pleased to present them our Community Recognition Award.



**JAG General Meeting**

Sept. 27, 2023 @ 12:00pm

For more information and access to the meeting email [JAGinfo@jagonline.org](mailto:JAGinfo@jagonline.org)

**JERSEY ACCESS GROUP**

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**New Content on JAG YouTube Channel**

<https://youtu.be/-439Li9bpu8>

JAG Conference 2023 Keynote Luncheon Sponsored by Planet Networks

<https://youtu.be/lxsa2Fa6Lrc>

How to Set up and Use Connect's JAG server

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1GODzEKbOu7TXJLkbuINvc3yklcNTP4e>

Playlist for all the 2023 JAG award top winners

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 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](mailto: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, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm:** "Sports Coverage"

**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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Staff: Bob Duthaler, Geoffery Belinfante, Dave Garb