

Trustees 2023

Bob Duthaler Pres. – 2023

Doug Seidel VP – 2024

Anthony Pagliuco

Recording Sec. – 2025

Linda Besink Treasurer– 2023

Stephanie Gibbons

Corresponding Sec. – 2025

Dave Garb – 2024

George Fairfield – 2023

Don Smith – 2025

Rick Gearhart – 2024

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General Meeting

Schedule 2023-24

Sept. 27- LIVE Varto Technologies

Presentation- Tricaster/LiveU

Oct. 26- LIVE Newark TV

Presentation – Cologna Productions

Dec. 6- ZOOM

Presentation- ENCO/RUSHWORKS

Jan. 31, 2024- ZOOM

Reorganization

Presentation- Cablecast

Feb. 28- LIVE-Bloomfield TV

Presentation- TelVue

Mar. 27- ZOOM

Presentation- TBA

Apr. 24- LIVE Piscataway TV

Presentation- DeSisti

May 16

JAG Conference

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rt. 27, Edison

Jun. 26- ZOOM

No Presentation

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President's Message

Bob Duthaler



Mark Your Calendars – JAG Hosting Online Sessions All Year Long

One of the many great things we do at JAG is to educate our membership. There are several ways we accomplish this. We produce a monthly newsletter, monthly legislative newsletter, monthly membership meetings, annual conference and special online webinars and round table discussions. These online sessions can be an asset to both your station operations and your production skills.

Throughout the year at both our membership meetings and from emails that I receive from members, the board and I have created a list of topics for both our Managers Round Table discussions and Webinars. We have crafted these topics and spread them out throughout the year to coordinate with our membership needs and relevancy of the topics. I urge you as the title of this article states – to *Mark Your Calendar* and add these sessions as must attend events. The good news is, they are free!

MANAGERS ROUND TABLES

So, let's start with the Managers Round Table discussions. These are informal gatherings that allow for a back-and-forth conversation. There are topics and invited guests who have experience with a particular topic. They are there to get the session going, share their thoughts and, more importantly, listen to your questions, shared experiences, and thoughts. As the title states, Managers Round Table, these sessions are geared for those who operate and manage a station. But they are not limited just to Station Managers. Please feel free to invite crew members and committee members as well, so they can learn from the experiences of others. Here is a list of our upcoming sessions and dates:

- Thursday, September 21st: Sports Coverage. Listen to representatives from stations who regularly cover sports like the Woodbridge Channels, Piscataway and Bloomfield. Learn about everything including single camera, multi-camera, live switching with graphics, replay and play-by-play. We will discuss how you can get started, equipment to use to get best results and even how to setup and prepare to cover sports.
- Thursday, November 9th: Getting An HD Channel. Listen to representatives from stations that already have a HD Channel on their cable system. How did they get it, what equipment is necessary, and how do they produce HD content? Learn about local franchising results, systemwide franchising stories and more. If time permits, we will even discuss cord cutting opportunities including streaming, OTT and more.

- Thursday, January 18th: Beyond the Cable Channel – the social media influence. We will talk about how social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Tik-Tok and X are influencing how people take in media and how stations can capitalize on these trends to create content specifically for these social media outlets. Learn why you can't just create long form content for on-air only, and how your station can incorporate these short form videos in to your productions and distribution.
- Thursday, March 21st: Cable Committees – Value or a thing of the Past. This is an open and frank discussion on how Cable Advisory Committees and Boards work with stations, their operations, and staff. Is there value to a cable and advisory boards - what do they bring to the table and are they necessary? Learn from those who have them, those who are considering putting one together, or those who had committees which are no longer functioning.

WEBINARS

There are certain sessions that are of great interest to our membership, but may require both a more formal discussion and presentation and could even require bringing in outside support to share their professional experience or knowledge. These sessions will consist of panel presentations and discussions followed by a structured Q&A at the end of each webinar. Our webinars are designed to bring our membership updated information on valuable topics from legislative issues to new operational requirements. Here is a list of our upcoming Webinars. Please keep in mind that the topics may be set, but the panelists will be announced at different times.

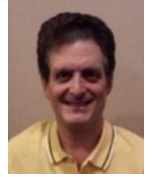
- Thursday, October 12th: Learn the latest on HR 3557 (The American Broadband Act of 2023). Our panelists will fill you in on what this bill means to Municipal Cable Operations, what can you do to help stop it and where it stands moving forward. This is your chance to share this invite with your mayor and council, administrators, and others. Learn the ABCs of HR3557, its impact on local government, the threat to local franchises and much more. This is a must attend session.
- Thursday, December 21st: ADA Compliance and What Does it Mean for your Station and Township? We will discuss Department of Justice requirements on ADA compliance for local governments, their websites, video streaming and even cable broadcasting. We have heard rumors of closed captioning for years, but this new push may require it sooner than later. Hear what the experts are saying about it, what you can do now and how to prepare for the next 12 months or less.
- Thursday, February 15th: Join us as we discuss Broadband and Broadband Deployment. Fresh off the heels of our presentation at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference Sessions, we will recap the session, update people on anything new or pending for the new year. Broadband deployment and speed impact our streaming reach, streaming options and much more. Our experts will share their experience and knowledge and help you plan.
- Thursday, April 18th: This session is wide-open and we are looking for input from our membership. Is there a special topic of interest that you think would make for a great formal webinar presentation? Do you have some specific people you would love to hear from? The goal at JAG has always been to identify the needs of our members and give them solutions. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at bduthaler@jagonline.org or any other board member and express your thoughts on our April Webinar. Your input is greatly appreciated.

As you can tell, we have set aside certain Thursdays in the upcoming months to bring our membership great topics of interest, a panel with expert knowledge, and the chance for our members to discuss, in both informal and formal ways topics that matter most and have the greatest impact on our membership. Each session will take place at 2pm on the designated Thursdays and usually last about an hour. In addition, we will record these sessions and make them available to our membership in the private online section of our website. Again, as the title suggests – MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us each month for these valuable topics and discussions.



Senate confirms Anna Gomez to FCC

The fifth commissioner issue at the FCC has finally been settled. On September 7th, 2023, the US Senate confirmed Anna Gomez with bipartisan support, to serve on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Gomez was confirmed 55-43, with Independents and Republicans crossing the aisle.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) commented before the vote that, “Ms. Gomez’s confirmation will fill the fifth and final spot on the FCC, so they can do the crucial work of expanding access to high-speed internet, administering programs for affordable internet access, and protecting consumers from junk fees, and much more.”

Anna Gomez is a telecom lawyer, who is currently a communications policy adviser at the State Department. Gomez will also be the first Latina to serve on the commission in more than 20 years.

Universal Service Fund

The Communications Act of 1934 stated that all people in the United States shall have access to rapid, efficient, nationwide communications service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges.

Prior to 1996, the Universal Service Fund (USF) was created as a mechanism by which interstate long distance carriers were appraised in order to subsidize telephone service to low-income households and high-cost areas. Then in 1996, The Telecommunications Act expanded the definition to include among other things rural health care providers and eligible schools and libraries.

Currently on Capital Hill and at the FCC, reform discussions are being held in a US Senate working group. The main objective is to expand the revenue stream to go further than the interstate telecoms. They are looking to have it include all Broadband Internet Access Services in order to fund the Universal Service Fund programs.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

One in five American households lack access to broadband and that number seems to be growing. Many eligible Americans rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to access the internet.

The ACP provides millions of families with financial assistance to ensure every household nationwide has access to high-speed and reliable broadband. Unfortunately, current federal investment is expected to be gone by 2024.

In order to continue funding this necessary program, Representatives Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5) and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1) led the call for an extension of the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the upcoming government appropriations bill by writing to the congressional leadership. It was a bipartisan group of 45 Members of Congress, 29 Democrats and 16 Republicans, which also included Donald Norcross (NJ-1), and Thomas Kean, Jr. (NJ-7).

Here is this important letter:

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

We are writing to urge you to extend funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides families with financial assistance for broadband access, to help bridge the digital divide. Congress has a role in ensuring that high-speed and reliable broadband is accessible to every household, nationwide. We urge you to include full funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the upcoming government appropriations bill to ensure that households can access the broadband they desperately need.

In the Twenty-first Century, broadband connectivity is essential to maximizing educational opportunities, stimulating economic growth, lowering health care costs, investing in a skilled workforce, and connecting individuals with their loved ones. We saw during the pandemic how critical broadband access is to everything,

from getting an education to health care to telemedicine to working from home. Unfortunately, one in five American households lack access to broadband. Nearly 40 percent of eligible Americans rely on ACP to maintain internet access and that number is rapidly growing. Current funding is expected to be depleted by 2024 creating an urgent need to extend funding.

ACP provides financial assistance that enables families to access broadband so that no one in our society is left behind. It helps families, Pell Grant recipients, and veterans afford high-speed broadband services — from monthly internet bills to installation fees and computer expenses, which often create significant financial burdens. Specifically, ACP provides eligible households with up to \$30 per month towards their internet bills, and a one-time subsidy of \$100 towards desktops, laptops, or tablet computers for children and hardworking families.

We cannot afford to let millions of Americans lose access to broadband. If funding for ACP is not extended, it would not only put the program's success at risk, but also impede the progress of other federal broadband investments and initiatives. Families and businesses across the country need broadband access, and ACP has become a vital tool in securing this access. It plays a critical role in connecting households, while also promoting digital literacy, device distribution, technical support, and online services training, resulting in its high enrollment and strong bipartisan support.

However, connecting every American to high-speed, affordable broadband requires a public- private partnership, and it is the federal government's responsibility to provide secure and reliable investments. With millions of families still lacking access to a service that has become essential for education, health care, and the economy, time is of the essence.

We have a unique window of opportunity to ensure that every family and child — rural, urban, and suburban — have access to affordable broadband, and can thrive in the digital age. ACP has become a lifeline for Americans, and we cannot afford to let it expire. We strongly urge you to prioritize the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program in the upcoming government appropriations bill. Failure to extend funding would not only leave millions of families without access to the internet but also hinder our long-term competitiveness as a nation.

Sincerely,
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Resolution Opposing American Broadband Deployment Act

In our July newsletter we 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.

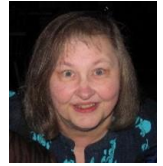
One of the sponsors of the opposition letter for the USCM was Mayor Brian C. Wahler of Piscataway N.J. Being one of the first to see the ramifications of HR 3557, he spearheaded the creation of a municipal resolution opposing it and it was recently passed by the Piscataway Township Council.

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 choose, to denounce this legislation.



I believe the world is populated with two kinds of people: those who love numbers, and those who haven't discovered their magic yet.

Trust me, JAG is not doing business in millions of dollars... at least not yet. But do you know what follows a million, a billion, and a trillion? Much like the names of our months, they are: a quadrillion, a quintillion, a sextillion, a septillion, an octillion, a nonillion, and a decillion.



Every time the JAG monthly finance reports come together, there is a thrill (yes, I said thrill!) and a nod to the process. Although an accounting background is not a requirement to serve on the JAG Finance Committee, in my role as Treasurer it really does help to have an innate love of numbers. Thank goodness I am lucky enough to be able to use that in day-to-day operations.

The Finance Committee is an important committee. The Treasurer is the chair, with the President, Vice President, and chairs of the other standing committees (Production, and External Relations) as members. Also, any member in good standing may serve on Finance as well as any other committee.

The JAG Treasurer has a defined place in the organization's Bylaws and in the Policies & Procedures documents. The responsibilities and requirements of the office are specifically detailed therein. These include:

- **Banking.** All JAG accounts are maintained and reported monthly. Maintenance of QuickBooks and PayPal are included in the banking function.
- **Committee Reporting.** The Finance Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday unless it becomes necessary to move the date. All financial reports are given a recap and review; this is why you do not need an accounting background to serve on the Finance Committee – just common sense. The reports are then brought to the Executive Committee for their monthly meetings to review and for any questions and answers.
- **State and Federal filings.** An Annual Report is filed to the State of New Jersey. This is a very simple filing, which serves mainly to let the State know that JAG is still a viable entity and continues to conduct business. JAG's CPA firm assists us in preparing and filing our annual Federal tax returns. Finally, any 1099 reporting is done through QuickBooks.

JAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Did you know that nonprofits' financial information is public knowledge, and can be accessed by anyone? One website you can use is www.guidestar.org. You can also check the IRS website at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/> to find the nonprofit in which you're interested.

- **Contact Information.** The Treasurer keeps track of dues payments and other operations noted above, so a list of members is kept current, as well as other important contacts.
- **Budgets and Dues Invoicing.** Budgets for all standing committees are prepared in the final quarter of each year, for introduction (January) and approval (February). Additionally, the annual Conference and JAG Awards budgets are worked out as the information becomes available. Dues invoices are emailed to members in December, for renewal of membership in the coming calendar year. Dues payments are followed up on during the year.
- **Expenses.** All expenses are paid through the Treasurer. Checks are co-signed by the President.

In addition to all the above, the Treasurer issues a new password for the members-only section of the website, annually on June 1, to all members in good standing. If you need this password, please contact the JAG Treasurer at lbесink@gmail.com.

The JAG Treasurer also works closely with the Membership Committee, keeping the membership list current and up-to-date and following up on dues payments during the year.

Back to the wonderful world of numbers! Did you know that a temperature of -40° is the same in Celsius as it is in Fahrenheit? Or that most of the mathematical symbols we use every day were not even invented until the 16th century? Maybe you know that there are so many ways to shuffle a simple deck of playing cards, that when you shuffle your deck, chances are that exact order of cards never existed before in history!

Numbers are everywhere. We use them all the time, by necessity. Numbers are logical and perfect. So it's probably best to think in terms of their allure and their power.



Working in Municipal and Community Television can sometimes be a thankless job

—long meetings, municipal bureaucracy, aging equipment, and angry residents—they all come with the job. I suppose we all do it for different reasons, but I guess many of our members find it rewarding because they contribute to their stations year after year. For many, it's like performing a public service--providing information to residents, allowing greater governmental transparency, and documenting the history of the towns we represent.



Sometimes there is a certain repetitive feeling to some of the things we do that may cause us to question that commitment. The same parades, the same celebrations commemorating the same events each year, and all those council and committee meetings that drag on for hours. However, every once in a while, something happens in a town that verifies the importance of what we do, and that makes it truly rewarding. Sometimes they are happy experiences, sometime tragic.

West Milford

Sadly, last week here in West Milford we lost our DPW Director Ed Steines, who died suddenly at age 64. However, Ed was not just the DPW director. He also served as Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and as a volunteer fireman and West Milford's Fire Commissioner. As you can imagine, he touched the lives of many township residents over the course of pretty much his entire adult life while working for the town.

As the Fire Commissioner and a volunteer firefighter, his home Fire Company, Company 6 offered to host a memorial service that was open to the public. Naturally the mayor asked WM77 to cover the service on very short notice. As many of you know, we are a very small all volunteer station with only four of our members who shoot. Despite the Saturday service, we were able to rally the troops and provide coverage so the residents who could not attend in person could view the service both on the channel and on demand.

Summit

While this was a sad occasion, it does underline the importance of Municipal and Community access channels. I recall another occasion where one of our member stations had to respond quickly to a similar circumstance. Several years ago, a beloved police officer in Summit was tragically killed in an automobile accident while on his way to work. Officer Matthew Tarentino was just 29 years old when a vehicle jumped the median on Route 78 and hit him head on. Tragically he left a wife and two children with another one on the way. Officer Tarentino served as the coordinator of the DARE anti-drug program in town and often appeared on HTTV in a show about all the good things that police do called "Off the Cuff." As a result, just like Ed, he touched the lives of many residents of all ages. HTTV also had to rise to the occasion quite quickly. Since their staff is larger than ours and they already had footage of the Officer from his appearances on the station, they were able to put together a video tribute as well as cover the memorial service.

When you receive gratitude from grieving family members and thanks from your township officials, it makes all the late nights and bureaucratic wrangling worthwhile. For me, last week's memorial service made it clear in my mind why our jobs are a little different than many jobs in the television business. It truly is why we do what we do.

Thanks to all the JAG member communities out there who, like all of you, have helped our station.



Events and Postings

Doug Seidel, Social Media Manager

Communications

JAG General Meeting

Sept. 27, 2023 @ 12:00pm (Lunch @ 11:30am)

Varto Technologies, 195 Hackensack St, East Rutherford, NJ 07073

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



JERSEY ACCESS GROUP

facebook.com/pegvtv linkedin.com/company/jersey-access-group instagram.com/jersey_access_group

New Content on JAG YouTube Channel

https://youtu.be/hkbFThx3ZKI?si=dP2fnrbo_rYPM3I-

Women Talk 2309 Things, Piscataway Community

https://youtu.be/D9TjLRNY-4c?si=eJuiXzQJ8_CQP4_a

Montclair Classic Car Show – 2023, MontclairTV34

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>

Event Schedule 2023

Sept 27th at 12noon @ Varto Technologies: JAG Meeting w/presentation by Varto Technologies

Oct. 12th at 2pm: Webinar– Learn the latest on HR 3557 (The American Broadband Act of 2023)

Oct. 25th at 12noon @ Newark TV: JAG Meeting w/presentation by Cologna Productions

Nov. 9th at 2pm: Managers Roundtables– Getting A HD Channel

Dec. 6th at 12noon: JAG Meeting (Zoom) w/presentation by ENCO/Rushworks

Dec. 21st at 2pm: Webinar– ADA Compliance and What does it mean for your station

Jan. 18th at 2pm: Managers Roundtables– Beyond the Cable Channel– the social media influence.

Jan. 31st at 12noon: JAG Meeting (Zoom) w/presentation by Cablecast

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



WE SHARE YOUR VISION™

HELMER, CONLEY & KASSELMAN, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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Staff: Bob Duthaler, Geoffery Belinfante, Dave Garb