

**September 2023**

Volume 10, Issue 9

## Events

### Sept. 27- General Meeting

at Varto Technologies, 195 Hackensack St, East Rutherford, NJ 07073 @ 12:00pm (Live ONLY)

Lunch provided at 11:30am

Presentation: Varto Technologies- Tricaster, LiveU, & more

### Oct. 12- Webinar (Zoom @ 2pm) 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 does this stand for 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 franchise and much more.

## President's Message Mark Your Calendars – JAG Hosting Online Sessions All Year Long

By Bob Duthaler, President, JAG



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.

[Read more](#)



## News from Washington DC

by Dave Garb, Legislative Committee Chair

### 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.

### Universal Service Fund

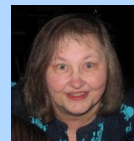
The Communications Act of 1934 stated that all people in the United States shall have access to rapid, efficient, nationwide communications service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges.

### 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.

[Read more](#)



## Committee Profile: the JAG Finance Committee

By Linda Besink, Executive Board, Treasurer

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. [Read more](#)

## Member Spotlight: Why We Do It

By Geoffrey Belinfante, External Relations, Chair



### 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

**See the Full Newsletter**

PDF Version

history of the towns we represent. [Read more](#)



JAG

will be presenting two joint sessions with the NJ League of Municipalities and one session on using social media to communicate with your residents. Detail will be posted soon.



**Alliance for  
Community Media**

### Public Policy Call

October 5, 2:00 PM -  
3:00pm (ET)

Join in on this monthly phone call with ACM President and CEO Mike Wassenaar, discussing current State and Federal issues affecting PEG Access TV, and what actions the individuals in community media can make in support of our industry.

Email ACM if you need the link. Public Policy Phone Briefings are for ACM Members Only. Registration is monitored. Can't make a call, but want to get informed? Listen to a recording on the ACM website.

[Click to Register](#)

## Resolution Opposing the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023 (H.R. 3557)

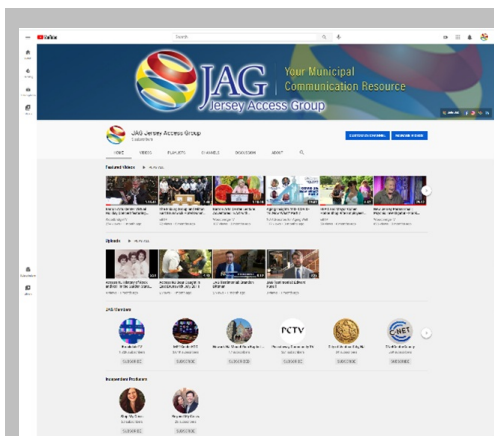
An opposition letter by Mayor Brian C. Wahler of Piscataway N.J. Being one of the first to see the ramifications of HR 3557, he spearheaded the creation of a municipal resolution opposing it and it was recently passed by the Piscataway Township Council.

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.

## JAG YouTube Channel

*Building our organization and promoting your videos*



### 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.

Check out some of the videos featured on our page:

[https://youtu.be/hkbFThx3ZKI?si=dP2fnrbo\\_rYPM3I-](https://youtu.be/hkbFThx3ZKI?si=dP2fnrbo_rYPM3I-)  
Women Talk 2309 Things, Piscataway Community

[https://youtu.be/D9TjLRNY-4c?si=eJuiXzQJ8\\_CQP4\\_a](https://youtu.be/D9TjLRNY-4c?si=eJuiXzQJ8_CQP4_a)  
Montclair Classic Car Show – 2023, MontclairTV34

[READ MORE](#)

Be sure to like and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

**Share our Newsletter.**  
Help expand the awareness of  
JAG.

[Click for a link to share invitation to  
receive our newsletter](#)

# Organizational Members



DE WOLFE MUSIC



## JAG Affiliations



Jersey Access Group, PO Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840  
New Jersey Chapter of NATOA, Organizational Member of ACM, and  
New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate  
Editor-in-Chief: Rich Desimone Social Media Manager: Doug Seidel  
Feature Editors: Stephanie Gibbons & Cindy Hahn  
Staff: Bob Duthaler, Geoffery Belinfante, Dave Garb  
Contact us at [JAGinfo@jagonline.org](mailto:JAGinfo@jagonline.org)

Jersey Access Group | [jagonline.org](http://jagonline.org)



Jersey Access Group | PO Box 164, Metuchen, NJ 08840

[Unsubscribe rjdesimone@verizon.net](mailto:Unsubscribe_rjdesimone@verizon.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [jaginfo@jagonline.org](mailto:jaginfo@jagonline.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!