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General Meeting Schedule 2024-25

- Apr. 24- LIVE @ YMCA at Piscataway Community Center
Presentation- DeSisti
May 16
JAG Conference
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rt. 27, Edison
Jun. 26- ZOOM
No Presentation
Sept. 27- TBA
Presentation- TBA
Oct. 30- TBA
Presentation- TBA
Dec. 4- TBA
Presentation- TBA
Jan. 29, 2025- ZOOM
Reorganization
Presentation- TBA
Feb. 26- LIVE-Bloomfield TV
Presentation- TelVue
Mar. 26- TBA
Presentation- TBA

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President’s Message

Bob Duthaler



Station Check List – JAG Can Help Grow Your Station

This article is an updated version of one I did previously, with more information, details and solutions. Moving your station forward is always the goal as a station manager. Here are some ideas on how you can grow, strengthen and improve your station operations and overall appearance. They are in no particular 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. What am I referring to? Just about any product or software you have in your place. You would be surprised how much they have to offer and how we don’t use them to their full potential. What are some examples of this? How can I find solutions? I will give you a couple examples, but take inventory of all your hardware and software, research all they have to offer, then train yourself to use all they have to offer. Read all product material that came with your purchase, find user guides enclosed or online, and search for useful videos on the web. For our purpose I am going to talk about broadcast systems and multi-camera productions. Each one 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 squeeze backs?
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?
Do you know how to add closed captioning?

Multi-camera Productions:

- Do you understand the 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, web and other sources?

Learn all the above and more. How? Come to the JAG conference on Thursday, May 16 and attend the special user group session by Telvue and Newtek. Learn the ins and outs of your broadcast server, make creative bulletin boards and discover the extra features that make your station stand out during the Telvue users group. Get the most out of your live or live-to-tape productions by fully understanding all that your switcher can do. Learn how to create a picture-in-picture effect, virtual sets and how to bring in sources over your network or internet. Varto Technologies will review all this and a lot more during their Vizrt Tricaster users group. Learn to get the most out of all 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 the cable was the only way to see your station. As the viewing habits of the residents in your community change, so your operations must change 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, are not just for Netflix. Learn how you can get your channel on these platforms and more. What about creating videos for all the new social media formats like Reels, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. Special workshops geared for this topic, along with vendors with the knowledge and ability to show you an affordable way to get your station broadcasting in platforms you never thought were possible. Where? Come to the JAG conference on Thursday, May 16 at the Crowne Plaza in Edison, NJ. Learn how create these special videos, 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](http://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 the 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 all the 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 16. Learn about current legislation, FCC rules and proposed legislation in special topics during the legislative sessions scheduled during the JAG Conference in Edison, NJ. Register now for this year's event at [www.jagconference.com](http://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 may mean to our industry. There is so much new technology out there and more is on the way after the NAB Tradeshow. How can you keep up with it all? 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](http://www.jagconference.com) and set yourself up to be in the know. Join us on Thursday, May 16 for a one-day event that will surely enhance your knowledge and ability to successfully operate your station.

**Respond faster and make informed tactical decisions!** By working together, local government access TV and the OEM can enhance the community's overall awareness, preparedness, and responsiveness during emergencies. To that extent, the Jersey Access Group (JAG) will be hosting an informational panel session on OEM, fire and police working collaboratively with local government access channels to disseminate information to the public in real time. This session will also include a discussion and demonstration of using drones, video and bonded cellular technology to get mission critical, real-time video to both mobile command units and OEM command centers. "It is very important to emergency management that we collaborate with local tv stations to ensure important and timely information is provided to our citizens before, during and after a disaster." Dennis VanNatta, MAS ,CEM, OEM coordinator Township of Scotch Plains, New Jersey. JAG is offering this session FREE to all OEM, Police and Fire Officials on Thursday, May 16 at the Crowne Plaza in Edison, NJ. This session is sponsored by the Jersey Access Group, Varto Technologies and LiveU. A special registration for all police, fire and OEM officials will give them access before and after the session to have a chance to visit the JAG conference floor which will have some of the latest technology in drones, video equipment and bonded cellular technology. To register for this free session please go the JAG Conference website: [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com) . For more information, please feel free to reach out to me, Bob Duthaler (JAG President) at [bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org) for a special information sheet on this session. Space is limited. Act fast. Register now!!!

So much is going on throughout the day at the JAG Conference. But, there is still 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. Register now for JAG's Conference 2024 on Thursday, May 16 in Edison, NJ. Don't wait!!! [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com). I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's event!



The Debate is Over, and the Result is.....

Technology

What PEG Stations Have Been Waiting For

Paul A. Distefano, NE Regional Sales Manager, DeSisti Lighting

I joined DeSisti in 2019, and before I made my first sales call for them, there had been an ongoing debate. DeSisti has always been a premium product, preferred by broadcasters, and is used in broadcast studios from small markets to networks. With our patented optics, we generally outperform our competitors with superior white CCTs (Correlated Color Temperature), very high CRIs (Color Rendering Index), and higher output at lower wattages, across our entire product line. Of course, that high standard of quality comes with a commensurate price. Thus, the debate.



Could DeSisti produce a more affordable fixture, maintain our high standard of quality, and fit within the budgetary constraints of TV production entities such as non-network broadcasters, like the PEG community? Well, the debate is over. The answer is YES! At the Live Design International Conference last December, DeSisti introduced our "Lite" line of fixtures. These new Fresnels and Softlights feature high-efficiency emitters, quiet fanless operation, DMX control, all steel construction, multiple fixed white, variable white, and full-spectrum color versions, and DeSisti's patented optical system.... All at a much more affordable price.

We offer 6", 50W Fresnels and 12" x 22" 150W Softlights in 3200°K Tungsten, 4000°K Neutral, 5600°K Daylight, and 2700° - 6500°K Variable White with CRIs over 96 and TLCI (Television Lighting Consistency Index) above 97. Our SoftLED1-LITE VW+RGB is a 1x1 60W Softlight featuring variable white CCTs plus red, green, and blue. Control of all modes (VW from 2700° - 10,000°K, 4-Zone, HSI (Hue/Saturation/Intensity), FX, and Pixel FX) via DMX or Bluetooth, AC/DC operation, and light control via included 4-leaf barndoors, optional softbox or honeycomb grids. F6LITE Fresnels start at under \$1,500.00 list. The SoftLEDLITE2 starts at under \$2,400.00. The SoftLED1LITE-VW+RGB lists for under \$900.00!



F6Lite



SoftLED2 LITE



SoftLED1LITE VW+RGB

So, for all of you who have put off updating your studio lighting or remote kits to LED because of the cost, we now have something to discuss. As a (very) simple example: Let's say that we needed to outfit a system to light two subjects with simple 3-point lighting in an interview set. Using (4) F4.7 DeSisti Fresnels as keys and backs.... And (2) of our SoftLED2 Softlights for fills, all single color, the LIST price would be almost \$16,000. If we substitute with (4) of our new F6LITE-VW and (2) SoftLED1LITE-VW+RGB, not only do you now have the capability of variable CCT whites and full color, but the list price comes down to under \$9,100.00. That is over 40% less. This is a very basic comparison, but I believe you see my point.

We are presenting the Lite line at the NAB conference on April 12, and I will be presenting to JAG the following week at the April 24 meeting, and again at the JAG Conference on May 16. Please come out and check out these incredible new lights or let me know if you would like a demo at your studio. In the meantime, click here to see data sheets on the Lite line, as well as any other DeSisti products <https://www.desisti.it/wp/exhibitions-2024/>. I look forward to seeing you all on April 24.



On Thursday May 16, JAG ( Jersey Access Group) will be hosting our yearly conference ([jagconference.com](http://jagconference.com)) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison, New Jersey. This event brings together many facets of the community media world, including access television stations, municipal and elected officials, advocates/supporters of community media and telecommunication issues and services.



One of the main topics we will be discussing will be on different areas of legislation and regulations that are currently out there or will be coming in the near future. These special sessions are in areas that we, not only need to be aware of, but some of which we must have a proactive mentality about.

At 12:00pm we will be presenting a special session: **Why PEG Stations Should Care about Broadband Deployment**. Come and understand how the broadband landscape will change how Access TV stations distributes their content to their residents.

- You will discover how the cable companies and the existence of your channels will change in the immediate future and what you might need to do now to prepare for it?
- Other questions to be answered will include how could this work for us to quickly obtain HDTV? Will broadband help to end the digital discrimination/black holes that now exist in many NJ community and how?

At 1:30pm comes a very important session that all of us need to prepare for: **ADA Compliance-Updates on the DOJ Rulings and Closed Captioning for Municipal Websites and PEG Channels**. Last December we held a special webinar about what might be coming out about closed captioning. One fact resonated among all else, start budgeting for it just in case we must need to start doing so quickly.

- For this forum, we are going to expand on this issue by comprehending the latest information that municipalities and PEG stations need to be concerned about. Don't be afraid! We all must be educated on what may occur.
- Find out if PEG Channels are safe to 'not' caption as stated under the FCC rulings or is this something that is now a must now because of the DOJ's Rulings?
- Also discover how long we have to comply with these rulings? What can be done if a station just doesn't have the funds to make this happen? What should we focus on when it comes to captioning. (public meetings, sports, concerts, etc.).

Scary? Maybe. But right after this eye-opening session, we will then be holding another one to help you further understand what is out there to make closed captioning a reality.

At 2:30pm we will continue with: **Understanding Franchising and What to Know When Renegotiating**. Learn what the main differences are between a State Franchise and the ones negotiated at the municipal level? Which one is a better choice and can a municipality have a say on which one they prefer? Franchise monies are going down due to the streaming industry, so what can we do during negotiations to curb this?

- Bills are being introduced around the country that are trying to force streamers to pay a per subscriber fee to municipalities. Find out how this going and, if successful, what does that mean for the local access station.

At 3:30pm will be: **Closed Captioning - Easy Solutions and Cost Considerations to Make it Happen**. This special workshop will explore the components TV facilities need to know about in order to incorporate closed captioning into your work flow.

- This will offer an understanding of what products are currently out there, the ease of use and time constraints on the user, dual language abilities for the make-up of your community, and of course, the costs associated with incorporating it.

## 2024 Legislator of the Year Award Presentation at the Annual JAG Conference



The Jersey Access Group recognizes New Jersey’s US Senator Cory Booker as our 2024 Legislator of the Year.

Senator Booker recognizes the importance of communicating to residents through their municipal access television channels. He understands its essential need as it provides transparent, and sometimes vital, information that is specific to each community as well as its need to continue to thrive at the local levels.

Senator Booker was invited and sent a staff representative to last year’s JAG Conference to learn more about the work of the Jersey Access Group. At that conference JAG requested Senator Booker’s help in protecting community television which resulted in his signing on as a co-sponsor of the Protecting Community Television Act S340.

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There has been quite a lot of actions happening in New Jersey as well as down in our nation’s capital this past month. Here is a brief rundown of current issues and upcoming actions that may affect local governments and well as federal and state internet policies and programs.

### Bill to Reform OPRA Delayed

Last month New Jersey’s Assembly Appropriations Committee pulled legislation that would modernize the Open Public Records Act ( [A-4045](#)) from its agenda. The Act had been fast-tracked through the legislature, despite outcries from activists who insist if this was to pass, it would make government significantly less transparent.

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin has slowed down this legislation in order to allow it to be relooked at, and work with parties on all sides of the bill to find compromises to some points of disagreement with it.

*From “The New Jersey Globe”:*

“We have an open and transparent process where anyone can walk into the State House and have an open and honest discussion with their elected representatives on any legislation being considered. I am inspired that so many people have taken an interest and engaged in this legislation,” Coughlin said. “Understanding how important it is to maintain transparency and the right of the public to know what their government is doing, I appreciate the concerns raised about [A-4045](#). Right now, we are working on various amendments to ensure we get the bill right.”

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### Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus Backs Legislation to Protect Internet Access for Low-Income Families:

*Press Release from the Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus:*

The Problem Solvers Caucus, Co-Chaired by Congressmen Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) and Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05), has sixty-two Members evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. On March 28th, The caucus announced its endorsement of the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act: ([HR-6929/S-3565](#)). This Legislation will facilitate the continuation of the Affordable Connectivity Program through the end of 2024 while lawmakers work to identify a more permanent solution. The program is currently on track to shut down at the end of April, disrupting broadband access for tens of millions of Americans.

The Affordable Connectivity Program was established in January 2022 and has connected over 23 million U.S. households – more than one in six – with access to high-speed, reliable internet. Under the program, low-income households can receive up to \$30 each month to supplement the cost of internet service as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet.

“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,” said Problem Solvers Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05). “I’m glad that the

members of the Problem Solvers Caucus came together to endorse the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024, which will ensure the 23 million households who rely on ACP stay connected.”

### **FCC TO VOTE ON RESTORING NET NEUTRALITY**

*Press Release from the FCC:*

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced the Commission will vote during its open meeting on April 25, to restore Net Neutrality, which would bring back a national standard for broadband reliability, security and consumer protection. If adopted, the Chairwoman’s proposal would ensure that broadband services are treated as an essential resource deserving of FCC oversight under Title II authority.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CFIYDEs4Ww>

“The pandemic proved once and for all that broadband is essential,” said Chairwoman Rosenworcel. “A return to the FCC’s overwhelmingly popular and court-approved standard of net neutrality will allow the agency to serve once again as a strong consumer advocate of an open internet.” If adopted, the proposal would:

- Return Popular Net Neutrality Protections – Prevent broadband providers from blocking,
- slowing down, or creating pay-to-play internet fast lanes.
- Provides Oversight of Broadband Outages.
- Boost Security of Broadband Networks.
- Increase Consumer Protections – Protect consumers data information.
- Restore Widely Accepted National Standard – Keeps internet access fast, open, and fair.

The meeting will be open to the public and streamed live at [www.fcc.gov/live](http://www.fcc.gov/live). If adopted, the reclassification and rules would largely go into effect 60 days after Federal Register publication.

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### **All-In Pricing for Cable and Satellite Television Service:**

*From “NATOA - National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors”:*

On March 19, the FCC posted the All-In Pricing order on its website. The rules, adopted in a 3-2 vote, require cable and satellite TV operators to provide a single price for programming on bills and promotional materials, including ads. The rules take effect nine months from this date or “after the Office of Management and Budget completes review of any information collection requirements that may be required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), whichever is later.” Small cable operators received three months more to comply or one year in total. The FCC’s definition of small is “those with annual receipts of \$47 million or less.”

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-24-29A1.pdf>

***Additional from the FCC All-In Order:***

- This action was taken by the FCC to benefit video consumers by requiring cable operators and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers to specify the “all-in” price for video programming in their promotional materials that include pricing information and on subscribers’ bills. This action enables consumers to make purchasing decisions with access to clear, easy-to-understand, and accurate information disclosing the price of video programming. The FCC believes that an “all-in” price for video service also will increase transparency and have a positive effect on competition in the video programming marketplace by allowing consumers to make better informed choices among the ranges of video programming service options available to them.

JAG (Jersey Access Group) constantly advocates, analyzes and addresses emerging issues in areas such as: Local Government Communications and Internet Policy. JAG promotes, and preserves the right to media production, distribution, civic engagement, and education in support of diverse community voices, through Public, Educational and Government access facilities and other forms of media.



The clock is ticking, time is of the essence, you're running out of time, you need to act now, we're almost down to the wire, the deadline is looming (thanks to AI for the list)—but no matter which cliché you choose, our 2024 JAG Conference is just a little over a month away so you should think about registering now at [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com) or go to the JAG website and click on the conference tab. What will happen if you don't register? You'll miss out on informative workshops, a chance to catch up on new technology, and an opportunity to network with your colleagues. The conference is at the Crowne Plaza in Edison, NJ on May 16, but no need to write it down now, you can be sure I'll remind you again at the end of the article. I just thought I would mention it now, just in case you don't make it to the end.



Your conference committee has spent quite a lot of time planning a slew of informative panels for your education and enjoyment. A complete list can be found on the website, but here are some that you might find particularly interesting:

- This year JAG has added a special session on new technology that will allow PEG Channels to more easily interface with their town's office of Emergency Management to bring citizens important real time update in case of an emergency. Panelists will include: Alex Joice, VP of Solution Sales Engineering, LiveU and representatives from OEM, fire, and police. This is a must attend for stations managers and OEM representatives alike so bring along the folks from your Office of Emergency Management so everyone on their team is up-to-date on the latest technology. This session is sponsored by LiveU.

***Municipal OEM staff, fire and police officials can attend this workshop for free!***

- We've been talking about the need to add close captioning to our meetings for several years now and it appears that the time is rapidly approaching when all public meeting will have to be captioned. Interestingly, this year's initiative is coming from the Justice department rather than the FCC. There will be two workshops on this topic, one on the legal rumblings from Washington and another on the technology available to implement captioning when required.
- For those interested in improving the quality of their programs, you won't want to miss the workshops on techniques to sharpen your storytelling and ways to improve your interviews from professionals who make their living interviewing people every day. Panelist include Kristina Behr, Emmy-Winning News Anchor and Host
- For those who are interested in improving the on-air look of those interviews, there is a workshop on a new LED light kit that makes location lighting a bit easier and is lot lighter to carry than some of those old tungsten light kits that we all use to schlep around from place to place.
- If you are responsible for getting information to your town's citizens then you won't want to miss our workshop on alternate ways to communicate with your citizens, and then you can attend a workshop on places to look for new programming ideas to send to those citizens.

The conference will also feature user group meeting sponsored by The TelVue Corporation and Varto Technologies to fill you in on what's new with their products and to answer operational questions for those who may have a particular issue. If you want to see something specific, you can also visit many of our organizational members in our exhibitor room.

JAG will be presenting a number of recognition awards including the Legislator of the Year award to Senator Cory Booker and Municipal Excellence Award to Lisa Allen, Council President, City of Summit. There will also be awards presented to JAG members for their contributions in support of JAG's mandate to include: JAG Member Recognition Award and the President's Ovation Awards.

At our luncheon, we will explore the progress of the broadband expansion in our state and what it means the way PEG channels will be delivered in the future, and why you should care! Panelists to include: Robert Boyle, CEO, Planet Networks; Mike Wassenaar, President & CEO, Alliance for Community Media and others to help gaze into their crystal balls at the future of television delivery.

In the evening, there is a great opportunity to network with your fellow JAG members and participating exhibitors at a cocktail hour, followed by a banquet and our annual JAG Awards and some special presentation. Lighting to be supplied by Paul DeStefano, Northeast Regional Sales Manager, DeSisti Lighting.

Great information, great people, great food (OK maybe the food isn't up to the quality of a Michelin star but it will be tasty)—you won't want to miss the 2024 JAG Conference. Log on to [jagconference.com](http://jagconference.com) right now to sign up, and we'll see you at the Crowne Plaza in Edison on May 16.

Registration is now open at [Shop – JAG Conference](#)

For more information and session details, check out the conference tab on our website, [jagonline.org/conference](http://jagonline.org/conference) or log on to [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com). Be sure to check back often to follow additions to the schedule. New events and sessions are being added all the time.

Thanks to the following JAG Organizational and Municipal members who will be participating as panelist or moderators and sharing their knowledge that will help to increase the quality of municipal TV stations in NJ.

Jesse Lerman President/CEO, TelVue Corporation  
Yervant Keshishian, Sales Engineer, Varto Technologies  
Ken Fellman, Esq., Wilson Williams Fellman Dittman  
Alex Joice, VP of Solution Sales Engineering, LiveU  
Ed Cologne, President/CEO, Cologne Productions  
Paul DeStefano, Northeast Regional Sales Manager, DeSisti  
Bob Duthaler, President of JAG  
Dave Garb, Legislative Chair, JAG  
Geoffory Belinfante, External Relations Chair, JAG  
Gina Forbes, Station Manager, Woodbridge TV  
Don Smith, Station Manager, Cranford TV  
Anthony Pagliuco, Station Manager, East Brunswick TV  
Joe Fernandes, Producer, Woodbridge TV  
Brandon Uhlig, Station Manager, Metuchen TV

### Call for Vendors

Booth size and event sponsors: Link to register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/889386h>

Exhibitors include:

TelVue Corporation	DeSisti Lighting	JVC
Varto Technologies	G&G Technologies	Eiki- Projectors & Panel Audio
Cologne Productions	Panasonic PTZ's	Swit Electronics
NJ Film Commission	Canon PTZ's	Drones-US made
MyCaseBuilder	LiveU	

### **Thanks to our sponsors:**

Diamond-TelVue  
Titanium-Planet Networks  
Platinum-Varto Technologies  
Sapphire-LiveU  
Gold-Cologne Productions  
DeSisti Lighting



As one of the independent producers in our group I have been asked to write a short piece about my training, background and current work. Here goes...



In 1967 the principal of my junior high school called me out of class to come to his office. In those days it meant the end of your world, except I didn't know what infraction I had committed. The principal knew I was on the lighting crew – he had just purchased one of the first Sony Porta-Paks and told me to take a few classes 'off' and learn how to use it! I was hooked on using video to have fun and make money. I moved onto the lighting crew in high school and got to briefly talk with William Shatner who had just become famous with Star Trek.



After several attempts at college, I enrolled in NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Among my student projects was working with Divine as she taped a demo of "Women Behind Bars" and commercials for Drakes Cakes for the Hispanic market. That's where I learned that actors working with food have to have a bucket to spit out the food because after so many takes the actor would have a stomach ache!

I left NYU after 2 ½ years and sold all my belongings to travel to Los Angeles to accept a two-day job as a PA on an HBO Special. Most of my time was with Imero Fiorentino Associates, a lighting design company, as a staff PA. I worked on many great shows like "The Big Show" (someday I'll tell you about the fight between Barbara Streisand and Neil Diamond).

An actors' strike forced me to leave LA and move back to the East Coast. First, I worked for SIR, a musical instrument rental and rehearsal studio company with offices in LA and NYC. My first job? I became a designated tech for the second and third year of Saturday Night Live. Someday I'll tell you about hanging out at the downtown bar that Belushi and Ackroyd bought so they had somewhere to go and decompress after the show wrapped that night.

I decided at this point to move away from production and into the business side of the industry. I joined Worldvision Enterprises, a syndication company. For three years I was the booker/scheduler for all episodes of "Little House on the Prairie" shown domestically, but I never got the chance to meet Melissa Gilbert.



Feeling that I was, as they say, ready to go out on my own, I started a small (one-person) production company, NJ VideoWorks, in 1987. I produced/directed programs for small ad agencies, non-profits and got my first taste of municipal work. Public access cable was just growing up at this time. I helped start Ocean Township's channel in 2005 and volunteered there until 2007 when I moved to Asbury Park.

I started videotaping council meetings, using my own equipment. A woman had attempted to do this a few years before and was removed by police at the councils request, so I was warned about what I could be facing. However, I was allowed to continue. I posted the meetings on a YouTube channel which I established for just this purpose. This effort won the trust of the council, and in 2007 I was invited by them to start work on establishing an Asbury Park channel.



For the first two years my time (unpaid) was taken with working with the cable carriers to get a head-end installed, writing our charter, and recruiting people to serve on the newly formed Asbury Park Cable Advisory Committee. I left APTV in 2010 to return to my business, which was almost entirely gone after two years of neglect. I did work for the local chamber of commerce, two different boards of education and another local access channel.

I am currently semi-retired (what's that?), but still produce work for an ad agency, the Asbury Park Board of Education and a couple of non-profits.

I don't know about the future of municipal access television. It's really important yet still needs to fight for its place, and budget, every day.

I have enjoyed my career tremendously, and I look forward to more adventures!



### JAG General Meeting

Apr. 24, 2024 @ 12:00pm, LIVE (11:30am Lunch)

at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center

Presentation: Paul A. Distefano, NE Regional Sales Manager, DeSisti Lighting

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

Don't forget to check out our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@jagjerseyaccessgroup>

Have something you want on our YouTube channel? Send a link to [dseidel@piscatawaynj.org](mailto:dseidel@piscatawaynj.org) for review.

The JAG Job Board is currently being populated with opportunities. New password needed after June 1. Contact Linda Besink [lbsink@gmail.com](mailto:lbsink@gmail.com) for access

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 2024

**Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> at 12noon: General Meeting at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center w/presentation by DeSisti Lighting**

DeSisti will introduce its "Lite" line of fixtures. These new Fresnels and Softlights feature high-efficiency emitters, quiet fanless operation, DMX control, all steel construction, multiple fixed white, variable white, and full-spectrum color versions, and DeSisti's patented optical system... all at a much more affordable price.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 8am-5pm: JAG Annual Conference, Crown Plaza Hotel, 2055 Lincoln Highway (Rt 27), Edison, NJ**

For more information, check out the conference tab on our website, [jagonline.org/conference](http://jagonline.org/conference) or log on to [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com). Check back often to follow additions to the schedule. New events and sessions are being added all the time.

**Jun. 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting (Zoom) No presentation scheduled**

### Organizational Members



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

[www.jagonline.org](http://www.jagonline.org) [JAGinfo@jagonline.org](mailto:JAGinfo@jagonline.org)

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