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### General Meeting Schedule 2024-25

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



### All Your Membership Benefits, In One Day!!

There are many reasons to be a Jersey Access Group member. You can interact with members who do the same job as you, access special group pricing from JAG organizational members, participate in face-to-face networking and educational and interactive sessions. While these are available to JAG members all year, what if you could access all that in just one day? Wouldn't you take advantage of it? Well, you can at the JAG Conference on Thursday May 16 and you still have time to register.

This event has it all! Educational and training sessions, vendors on hand demonstrating some of the latest gear and services, networking with vendors and other members, and an evening awards show that highlights all the great programming created by member stations throughout the state.

JAG works hard to put this conference on each year. The goal is to educate and inform our members. Our vendors to provide access to the latest gear, so our members can see, touch and learn. Our vendors also host special user groups that allow JAG members to get the most out of the products they use, educate members on software updates and provide tips to make your operation more successful.

JAG works with its partners in New Jersey and nationally to bring you important information throughout the day at the conference. Find out about the latest on Capitol Hill, get operational insights to help you run your station, learn more about technology updates and video trends. JAG has access to experts from around the country who track recent legislation, explore the latest trends and watch what other stations and cable companies are doing throughout the country. We put together information and education sessions that help our members stay informed!

Want more? How about an evening networking event and banquet that showcases the best of the best. See what stations around the state are doing as they showcase their programming in the annual JAG Video Awards. Join us as we pay tribute to the creativity and hard work our members do throughout the year. Members compete to see who is the best of the best in over 20 different categories. Come cheer them on! Be inspired by what other JAG members are creating. This is an incentive to step your game. It's always a great end to an action-packed day.

If you have not done so already, go to the JAG Conference website at: [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com) and register now! If you have already registered, visit the website and explore all the sessions that are planned throughout the day. Plan your schedule and get the most out of this year's conference. So much is going on throughout the day, bring a friend or co-worker so you can split up and cover all the sessions. Stop what you are doing and register now! I hope to see everyone at this year's conference. Go to the website now to register and explore this year's conference: [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com).

NOTE: If you experiencing financial hardships that might prevent you from attending, reach out to me immediately. There are a limited number of JAG scholarships that will allow you to attend the conference at limited to no-cost. Email me at [bduthaler@jagonline.org](mailto:bduthaler@jagonline.org) right now – DO NOT WAIT. .



A lot of decisions have happened in our nation’s capital this past month. Here is a brief rundown of a few of the current actions that will have an effect on local governments, as well as decision that will change internet policies and protect consumers:



**DOJ's ADA Rule for State and Local Governments**

From NATOA:

April 8, 2024 - Attorney General Merrick Garland signed a final rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the accessibility of web content and mobile applications (apps) for people with disabilities.

This final rule clarifies the obligations of state and local governments to make their websites and mobile applications accessible. Every day, people across the country use the web and mobile apps to access public programs and services, including emergency information, courts, healthcare providers, schools, voting information, parking, permit applications, tax payments, and transit updates. If these technologies are not accessible, it can be difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to access critical services. Consequently, individuals with disabilities may be excluded from accessing public services that other people routinely use.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) for state and local governments ‘web content and mobile apps:

<https://www.ada.gov/notices/2024/03/08/web-rule/>

<https://www.ada.gov/assets/pdfs/web-rule.pdf>

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>

This table shows how much time a state or local government has to comply with this rule. <b>State and local government size</b>	<b>Compliance date</b>
0 to 49,999 persons	Three years after the final rule is published
Special district governments	Three years after the final rule is published
50,000 or more persons	Two years after the final rule is published

For clarity on this ruling and how it will affect PEG channels in the future, join us at this year's JAG Conference for a special session on these rules. On May 16 at 1:30pm learn about this very important topic **\*ADA Compliance-Updates on the DOJ Rulings and Closed Captioning for Municipal Websites and PEG Channels\***. Please join us for this MUST KNOW session! For more information on how to attend this forum, please visit <https://jagconference.com/>.

**FCC RESTORES NET NEUTRALITY**

***Reasserts Broadband Jurisdiction, Reestablishing National Open Internet Standard***

Press Release from the FCC:

April 25, 2024—The Federal Communications Commission today voted to restore a national standard to ensure the internet is fast, open, and fair. Today’s decision to reclassify broadband service as a Title II telecommunications service allows the FCC to protect consumers, defend national security, and advance public safety.

Through its actions today, the Commission creates a national standard by which it can ensure that broadband internet service is treated as an essential service. Today’s vote also makes clear that the

Commission will exercise its authority over broadband in a narrowly tailored fashion—without rate regulation, tariffing, or unbundling—to foster continued innovation and investment.

With today’s vote, the Commission restores fundamental authority to provide effective oversight over broadband service providers, giving the Commission essential tools to:

- **Protect the Open Internet** – Internet service providers will again be prohibited from blocking, throttling, or engaging in paid prioritization of lawful content, restoring the rules that were upheld by the D.C. Circuit in 2016.
- **Safeguard National Security** – The Commission will have the ability to revoke the authorizations of foreign-owned entities who pose a threat to national security to operate broadband networks in the U.S. The Commission has previously exercised this authority under section 214 of the Communications Act to revoke the operating authorities of four Chinese state-owned carriers to provide voice services in the U.S. Any provider without section 214 authorization for voice services must now also cease any fixed or mobile broadband service operations in the United States.
- **Monitor Internet Service Outages** – When workers cannot telework, students cannot study, or businesses cannot market their products because their internet service is out, the FCC can now play an active role.

For further information on Net Neutrality, including the history of this proceeding starting in 2004 when the then Chairman of the agency challenged the broadband industry to preserve “Internet Freedoms” followed by more than a decade of work to secure these protections, visit:

<https://www.fcc.gov/net-neutrality>.

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## **FCC, FTC Formalize Partnership for Protecting the Open Internet**

### *Press Release from the FCC:*

On April 30, 2024, FCC Release: The FCC and the Federal Trade Commission have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate consumer protection efforts following the FCC’s restoration of Net Neutrality.

For the full press release, please go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-ftc-formalize-partnership-protecting-open-internet>

The FCC’s recent decision to reclassify broadband service as a Title II telecommunications service allows the FCC to protect consumers, defend national security, and advance public safety.

The FCC will return to its traditional position as the enforcer of essential rules as they apply to broadband service providers, a critical part of telecommunications infrastructure. This includes prohibitions against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization practices; transparency requirements; consumer protections related to internet service outages; and basic consumer privacy protections which have long applied to phone networks.

The MOU terminates the 2017 Restoring Internet Freedom FCC-FTC Memorandum of Understanding. It clarifies that commitments under prior MOUs, including the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding regarding Telemarketing Enforcement, as well as the 2015 FCC-FTC Consumer Protection Memorandum of Understanding, remain in effect and are not altered or invalidated by the new MOU.

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As the opening to the old soap opera declares: *Like sand in an hourglass, so are the days of our lives.* Well, those sands will soon run out, so if you haven't signed up for the 2024 JAG Conference yet, you are rapidly running out of time. The conference is set to kick off at 8:00am on Thursday May 16 at the Crowne Plaza in Edison. And, if you're not there, you'll miss some exciting and informative sessions—not to mention a chance to socialize and network with both your fellow JAG Members and the teams from our Organizational Members.



### **USER GROUPS**

The day starts with two users groups that you won't want to miss. The first from TelVue starts at 8:00am and will showcase the latest improvements to the hardware and services that they provide—and best of all, breakfast will be provided.

This users group is followed by a similar users group presentation at 9:00am by Varto Technologies that will address improvements to Tri-caster technology and NDI distribution—and there will be breakfast at this users group too.

### **EXHIBITOR**

After the user groups, visit our exhibit floor, which opens at 9:00am and also offers the opportunity to have breakfast with our organizational partners. You can hear first-hand about the technical advancements they are offering. Members exhibiting include: TelVue, Varto Technologies, Cologne Productions, DeSisti Lighting, NewTek-TriCaster, LiveU, MyCaseBuilder, NJ Film Commission, Swit Electronics, Eiki Projectors & Panel Audio, JVC,G&G Technologies, Panasonic PTZ, Canon PTZ, and US-made Drones

### **SPECIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SESSION**

At 10:00am we have a very interesting and informative panel presented by LiveU about their newly developed technology that helps facilitate communications between your office of emergency management (OEM) and your station during a crisis. This panel is important for both PEG station management and members of your municipality's OEM. Both are invited to join us for this free workshop, so please invite anyone from your town who would be appropriate. Panelists include: Alex Joice, VP of Solution Sales Engineering, LiveU; John Centanni, OEM Director of East Hanover; Louis Venezia, Bloomfield Fire Chief; Luis Figueiredo, Detective Elizabeth Police Dept.; Doug Seidel, Piscataway, TV; Yervant Keshishian, Sales Engineer, Authorized Trainer and Technical Director, Varto Technologies; Moderator: Bob Duthaler, President of JAG.

### **LUNCH PROGRAM**

Our luncheon comes next with a panel that addresses the importance of broadband deployment and what it means for the distribution of cable television in general and more specifically PEG channels. Panelists include: Robert Boyle, CEO, Planet Networks; Mike Wassenaar, President & CEO, Alliance for Community Media; Ken Fellman Esq., founder and partner, Wilson Williams Fellman Dittman; Valarry Bullard, Broadband Director, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; Moderator: Bob Duthaler, President, JAG.

### **SESSIONS**

After lunch you'll have some decisions to make. At 1:30pm you can attend a panel on ADA Compliance and the initiatives from the DOJ in Washington that might require you to close caption your public meetings sooner rather than later.

Or you might want to check out a presentation from the NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission on the explosion of both theatrical and documentary production in the state and how your municipality and your station can benefit from all the money that production companies are spending in the state.

At 2:30pm there are more choices. One panel will explore new ways to communicate with your citizens, and a second will unravel the complex and ever-changing things you should know when renegotiating your franchise agreement with your cable provider.

3:30pm brings two more interesting and informative workshops to choose from—one on interviewing techniques that are sure to improve any production, and a second that explores the technical options available to help you conform to any closed captioning regulations that might come out of Washington.

Finally at 4:30pm, to end a busy and informative day there are two more panels to choose from. For those interested in the technical side of the business, we'll explore some new, lighter and less expensive choices for your location shots. And for those interested in programming, we'll explore new and unusual sources that you might have overlooked for show ideas.

For more information on any or all of these workshops and the names and bios of our presenters, please check out the conference website at [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com).

### **RECEPTION AND BANQUET**

Now that the work has been done, it's time to socialize and network with your fellow attendees. There's a cocktail party sponsored by Cologne Productions starting at 5:30, followed by our banquet and JAG Awards presentation sponsored by Varto Technologies and LiveU.

The evening includes presentations of our Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Cory Booker and the Community Recognition Award to Lisa Allen, Council President, City of Summit. Additional awards include Serving Community Media Award, the President's Ovation Award, and JAG Member Recognition Award. Followed, of course, by the presentation of the JAG Awards recognizing excellence in PEG programming.

Thanks to our sponsors, TelVue, Varto, Planet Networks, LiveU, Cologne Productions and DeSisti for their support, and thanks to all those on the conference committee who have worked so hard to present you, the members of JAG, an exciting and informative conference. We need the support of all members to make this a success. Please join us.

Reminder, if you have interns, they can attend for free. If your township won't pay for your attendance, scholarships are available. Please contact Bob Duthaler. We want as many JAG members as possible to take advantage of the events at this conference!

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

For more information and session details, visit [www.jagconference.com](http://www.jagconference.com).

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### JAG General Meeting

Jun. 26, 2024 @ 12:00pm, ZOOM ONLY

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 [lbesink@gmail.com](mailto:lbesink@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

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

Schedule:

8:00am- TelVue User Group

9:00am- Varto Technologies User Group

10:00am- Session: **Real-time Video Updates and Information During Critical Situations** FREE to all first responders

11:30- Lunch & Session: **Why PEG Stations Should Care About the Broadband Deployment**

1:30- Sessions: **ADA Compliance-Updates on the DOJ Rulings and Closed Captioning for Municipal Websites and PEG Channels Is Your Municipality Ready for Prime Time**

2:30- Sessions: **Beyond Cable: New Ways to Communicate with your Citizens and Understanding Franchising and What to Know When Renegotiating**

3:30- Sessions: **How to Conduct a Great Interview: Interviewing Skills and Tips and Closed Captioning - Easy Solutions and Cost Considerations to Make it Happen**

4:30- Sessions: **Less Gear and Better Production and New Programming Ideas for PEG stations**

6:30- JAG Banquet and JAG Awards

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).

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

### Organizational Members



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