

**Trustees 2024**

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- Doug Seidel VP – 2024
- Linda Besink Treasurer – 2026
- Rick Gearhart Secretary – 2024
- Stephanie Gibbons  
Corresponding Sec. – 2025
- Dave Garb – 2024
- George Fairfield – 2026
- Don Smith – 2025
- Mark Albala – 2025

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**General Meeting Schedule 2024-25**

- Jan. 29, 2025 - Oakland TV Reorganization Presentation - TBA
- Feb. 26 - Bloomfield TV Presentation - TelVue
- Mar. 26 - Montclair TV Presentation - TBA
- Apr. 30- Oradell TV Presentation - DeSisti
- May 14-15 - Crown Plaza, Edison JAG Annual Conference:  
 Day 1: A Technology Forum  
 Day 2: Management Symposium & The JAG Awards
- Jun. 25- North Brunswick TV Presentation - TBA
- Sept. 24 - Varto Technologies Presentation- TBA
- Oct. 29 - TBA Presentation - TBA
- Dec. 3 - TBA Presentation - TBA

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## President’s Message

Bob Duthaler



### Annual Holiday Wish List

As we approach the end of 2024, I find myself reflecting on the incredible strides we’ve made together at JAG this year. From advocating for local community media to providing resources and networking opportunities for our members, it's been a year of growth, collaboration, and positive change. I want to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work.

With the holiday season upon us, it’s the perfect time to look ahead and dream big about the future of community media. So, in the spirit of the season, I’ve put together my *Holiday Wish List* for 2025—my top 10 hopes for what lies ahead for our members, our communities, and the future of access media in New Jersey.

#### 1. Increased Funding for Local Access Channels

My number one wish is for increased, sustainable funding for local access channels. These channels are critical to our communities and provide an essential platform for diverse voices, local news, and educational programming. More funding will ensure that these services continue to thrive for years to come. The way to ensure this is to market your work with both your local government, administration, and community.

#### 2. Stronger Legislative Support for PEG Media

I wish for continued and increased legislative support at the state- and federal-government levels to protect and enhance the work of public, educational, and government (PEG) access media. It's crucial that lawmakers understand the value of PEG access and work to ensure these channels operate without barriers. Be part of the Legislative Committee and you too can help JAG keep on top of this and help shape legislation in support of our efforts.

#### 3. Expanded Digital Reach

As technology evolves, so too must our media platforms. I hope for expanded digital streaming capabilities and the ability for our members to deliver content across multiple platforms (social media, mobile apps, OTT, and websites) so that we can reach as many people as possible—whenever and wherever they are. Look for this as a session at our annual conference in May 2025.

#### 4. More Collaborative Partnerships

One of the greatest strengths of JAG is the power of collaboration. In 2025, I wish for even more partnerships with schools, libraries, nonprofits, government agencies, and organizational members to create valuable programming and

resources for the community. Working together with both the Alliance for Community Media and NATOA, we can amplify our impact.

## **5. Access to State-of-the-Art Equipment and Technology**

I wish for increased access to state-of-the-art production equipment and technology for all our members. With advances in virtual production, live streaming, and mobile video, it's more important than ever that our stations are equipped to create high-quality content. Let's make sure everyone learns about and has the tools they need to succeed.

## **6. Enhanced Professional Development Opportunities**

Training and skill development are key to maintaining high standards of programming. I wish for more professional development opportunities in 2025—from workshops and webinars to hands-on training—that empower our members to continue growing in their craft. JAG plans to provide that through our updated conference with a technology forum on day one and a production/management symposium on day two. Save the date of May 14-15, 2025, for our annual event.

## **7. Recognition of the Importance of Local Content**

In the digital age, local programming is more important than ever. I hope for greater recognition of the unique value of community-produced content, from government meetings to hyper-local news. Local media is a pillar of democracy; we must continue to celebrate and elevate it. As members of JAG, you must make this your mission!

## **8. Stronger Advocacy for Media Access Rights**

I wish for a united and stronger voice in advocating for the rights of community access broadcasters. Whether it's fighting for fair access to cable systems or protecting the free speech rights of local producers, we must stand together to ensure that local media rights are upheld and that our voices are heard. This is the power of the independent producer, the content they create, and the power of JAG to circulate that content.

## **9. Growth of Community Engagement**

I hope for a continued increase in community engagement with JAG member stations. In 2025, let's find new and innovative ways to involve our viewers in content creation, feedback, and programming decisions. The more connected we are to our communities, the more relevant and impactful our work will be. This is a key role for station managers and cable boards. Let both your local government and community know and understand the value of local access television. This should be part of your marketing plan for each station.

## **10. A Thriving and Supportive JAG Network**

Finally, my biggest wish for 2025 is that JAG continues to grow as a network of support and inspiration for all of us. A thriving JAG means more resources, more collaboration, and more opportunities for our members to succeed. I look forward to seeing our organization and community access television continue to flourish.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your unwavering dedication to public access media. Together, we've accomplished so much. I'm excited to see what we can achieve in the year ahead. May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and time spent with those you cherish. Here's to a bright and successful 2025!

Warmest wishes,  
Bob Duthaler  
President, Jersey Access Group



## Changes in the FCC

Dave Garb, Legislative Committee, Chair

In November, President-Elect Donald Trump selected current FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr to become the next chairman of the board.



In addition to telecom issues, Carr outlined plans to reinterpret Section 230, the law that protects internet platforms from liability for their users' posts. "While there has been much discussion about whether or not the scope of Section 230 is appropriate, what everyone agrees on is that the authority lies with Congress, not the FCC."

**From Washington Policy Center:** Based on Carr's past and current statements, a large change in the direction of the FCC should be expected. Here are a few key possibilities:

**On Net Neutrality:** Carr was part of the initial repeal of the net neutrality rules in 2017 and has continued to denounce their reinstatement. "As I've argued in the past, the FCC would be wise to avoid reinstating these rules as they overstep the scope of the FCC and create worse outcomes compared to areas that have similar regulations in effect."

**On Digital Divide:** Carr has criticized the BEAD program and advocated for federal agencies to auction off spectrum bands for 5G to private actors. This will also likely shift FCC priorities to making pathways for rural areas to take advantage of wider-range, cost-effective approaches like Starlink in favor of spending more to connect fiber networks to these areas.

**Big Tech:** Alphabet (Google) and Meta (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) have come under scrutiny over political content censorship and de-prioritization. Can Carr thread the needle to protect First Amendment expression without breaking the balance that allows platforms to create desirable spaces? We will see.

**National Security:** Carr' stated skepticism over TikTok and other Chinese technology indicates that he will be a proponent to continue the TikTok ban policy, despite free speech concerns. This would be at odds with President-elect Trump's campaign promise, so it's yet to be seen if this will be strongly pursued or not.

**DEI:** The FCC's latest budget request set diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as the second highest priority in regard to digital communication and services. Carr has explicitly stated this will no longer be a priority for the commission. His advocacy for bridging the digital divide indicates that digital accessibility will still be a focus, but is much more likely to be strategically pursued by cost, reach, and need, rather than external factors such as race or "social stigma."

Current FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel congratulated Commissioner Carr by saying:

"I want to congratulate Commissioner Carr on the announcement by the President-elect that he will serve as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. From his time here, I am confident that Commissioner Carr is familiar with the staff, the responsibilities of this new role, and the importance of continued U.S. leadership in communications."

In another statement, Rosenworcel announces her departure from the FCC: "Serving at the Federal Communications Commission has been the honor of a lifetime, especially my tenure as Chair and as the first woman in history to be confirmed to lead this agency. I want to thank President Biden for entrusting me with the responsibility to guide the FCC during a time when communications technology is a part of every aspect of civic and commercial life. Taking the oath of office on the street outside of the agency during the height of the

pandemic, when so much of our day-to-day moved online, made clear how important the work of the FCC is and how essential it is for us to build a digital future that works for everyone. “I am proud to have served at the FCC alongside some of the hardest working and dedicated public servants I have ever known. Together, we accomplished seemingly impossible feats like setting up the largest broadband affordability program in history—which led to us connecting more than 23 million households to high-speed internet, connecting more than 17 million students caught in the homework gap to hotspots and other devices as learning moved online, putting national security and public safety matters with communications front and center before the agency, and launching the first-ever Space Bureau to support United States leadership in the new Space Age.”

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Also in November, JAG’s Treasurer & Legislative Committee Vice Chair., Linda Besink, was contacted by the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits. They had an urgent request asking everyone to Oppose [H.R. 9495](#).

[H.R. 9495](#), the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, would empower the U.S. Treasury Secretary to unilaterally designate 501(c) organizations as “terrorist supporting organizations” and revoke their tax-exempt status with minimal due process. It would allow the Secretary to bring such accusations without disclosing the evidence behind them and would place the burden of proof on the organization to disprove the allegations.

The Legislative Committee became very curious about this Act. First because we never heard of [H.R. 9495](#) until we were contacted, and secondly, because what this actually would mean to 501 (c) organizations. We reached out to our partners at NATOA and the ACM who both said this has nothing really to do with us and is not its purpose.

Mike Wassenaar, President of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM), further elaborated by saying: “I think the issue relates to non-profits involved with protest – particularly pro-Palestinian protests. The only possible issue I can think that would relate to your members would be *giving airtime* to organizations identified by such legislation. It’s meant to squelch anti-Israeli rhetoric. The most important thing you can do for this or any other type of speech legislation would be *to make sure your policies regarding non-partisan speech are updated and if you are running public access channels, to make sure you are communicating your role as a civic communicator devoted to free speech principles*. Also, if it passes, I have no doubt it will be challenged by groups such as the ACLU and Independent Sector. If that comes to pass, we would let you know.”

On November 21st, by a vote of 219-184, the U.S. House of Representatives passed [H.R. 9495](#). It is now in the hands of the U.S. Senate.



On October 29th, NATOA held a very interesting webinar pertaining to PEG and the challenges we all will face as we strive to obtain funding for our individual operations and maximize.



Mike Lynch, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), started off by affirming that traditional funding for public access, educational and government channels is declining across the country—a fact we are all quite aware of. Transparency is difficult when there isn't any local journalism. There are news deserts with a lack of local government reporting in many communities across the United States.

PEG services provide essential government transparency so citizens and residents can monitor and give feedback to make sure that we have effective local democracy. A side effect of this is the increase in the efficiency and responsiveness in local government.

we also have strong documentation that PEG channels benefit public safety and education. It also provides public health information that benefits communities across the United States. This was most recently demonstrated during the COVID crisis of 2020–2021. We saw documentation across the United States (in both local franchising states and states without local franchising) where community media stepped up to provide people essential information because there were no other outlets providing public health information for the benefit of residents.

Many public access organizations across the United States have been seen as platforms for local political, cultural, and religious expression that should not be undersold. It is a key feature of PEG, even though in many instances, that's not necessarily the function of community television in that area. Think about the role of our stations in our community as we make the case for continued funding of PEG channels.

Generally, the cable subscription base has been declining about 5% per year since it peaked in 2018. The thing that's important to note is that this was originally designed as a subsidy for our services. We never anticipated that that model would change over time as technology changes. It's generally worked for 40 years. Now, we need to think of a new model for funding PEG stations. Broadcasters focus on larger markets. They aren't focusing specifically on the types of communities that that PEG has been able to target and support.



Mike Wassenaar, President, the Alliance for Community Media (ACM), emphasized that



Mike Bradley of Bradley Werner LLC, continued by saying that we see many of the success stories within the field happening within the exurban or suburban markets across the United States It's because those are places that have become functional news deserts, even though there may be a broadcaster.

On top of that, there's a shrinking news window. The amount of news information that a local broadcaster provides has grown smaller and smaller over the course of the last 40 years. So the amount of effort to actually to be able to meet the needs has been decreasing.

Some states have responded to the changing technology landscape by providing new, alternate ways to fund PEG.

- **Vermont** included \$1,000,000 to the state budget to support PEG.
- **Connecticut** ended up creating a 5% tax on communication service providers and .25% of that would go towards funding access television.
- **New York** proposed the Community Media Reinvestment Act. Their legislature proposed a 5% tax on satellite and streaming services, and then they proposed to distribute that in three ways.

They would give 1/5 of the money to the state general fund, then 2/5 to local governments, and then another 2/5 to support community media and so you can see this is a way of addressing the decline in franchise fees and pay fees to communities by really taxing the entities that are at least partially responsible for the decline in cable service. So it's an interesting way of addressing that decline in revenue and it's absolutely worth considering as we look for alternate funding options.

- **Massachusetts** is proposing to create a peg access Facilities Revenue Advisory Board. That board will recommend an assessment rate and then assess it on gross revenues of streaming operators and that revenue would be used to support access television funding.
- **Minnesota** has created the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It was introduced in House filing 4180. It's a piece of legislation that's broader than access television funding—although it included access to television funding that would allow local governments to franchise broadband.

Mike Wassenaar ended the webinar by stressing that now, more than ever, making the case for why what we're doing is vital to life in our communities, whether it's for expression or local business, the proper functioning of local democracy, is important! Each of us must know the best case you can make for your PEG channels. It's extremely important for people to map out the communities of interest that care about what you do. Find the folks in your community that care about local history and culture, and event religious expression. Build relationships with those communities and begin to think about their interests being our interests. Create that list of people who would care if PEG services are not being provided.

More information on PEG funding and the opportunities that are in front of us will be coming in the months ahead. In the meantime consider jotting down your thoughts on why PEG is important to your community and the people you serve. It will help all of us to prepare for our future goals and community needs.

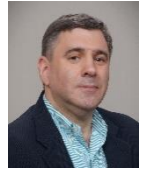


# Why DaVinci Resolve Should Be Your Go-To for Video Editing

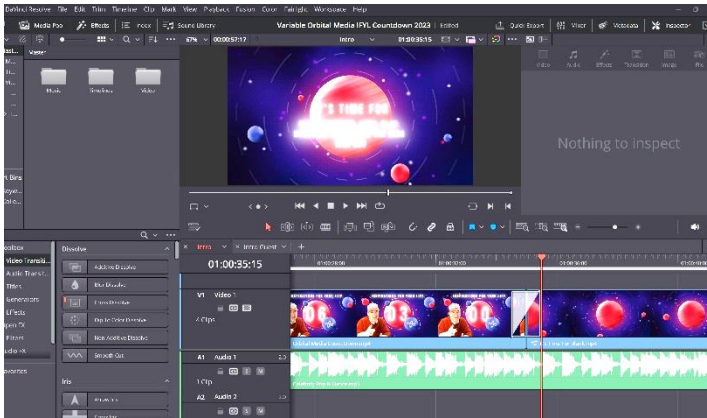
John Morley, Independent Producer

## Technology

My journey began with Corel Video Producer when I started editing videos years ago. While it gave me a foundation to experiment and create, it lacked the polish and power of professional-grade software. Later, I tried Adobe Premiere Pro, but the monthly subscription fees didn't sit well with me. Frustrated and looking for better options, I contacted friends in the film industry. That's when they introduced me to DaVinci Resolve—and I haven't looked back since.



### The Free Version That Amazes



The moment I downloaded DaVinci Resolve's free version, I was blown away by how robust and feature-rich it was, all at no cost. Transitioning from Corel Video Producer was surprisingly seamless, and I've relied on it ever since. Over time, I upgraded to DaVinci Resolve Studio, but even the free version is a powerhouse packed with tools like professional color grading, seamless editing capabilities, and high-quality exports.

One feature I particularly love is **Fairlight Audio**, an advanced audio editing tool built into DaVinci Resolve. It's simple yet powerful—with just a few clicks, you can transform a mono track into a stereo track. Features like this make Resolve stand out as an all-in-one solution for video editing.

### Why Upgrade to Studio?

For those looking to take their editing to the next level, DaVinci Resolve Studio is a one-time purchase that unlocks a treasure trove of advanced features, including:

- **Extensive Color Grading:** Enjoy HDR support, luma, HSL, and 3D keyers for intricate color adjustments.
- **High-Resolution Exports:** Export up to 32K and 120 fps, perfect for professional productions.
- **AI-Powered Tools:** The DaVinci Neural Engine brings facial recognition, advanced noise reduction, and automatic object tracking.
- **Collaborative Editing:** Edit simultaneously with teammates using features like timeline locking to prevent workflow conflicts.
- **Multi-GPU Support:** Speed up rendering and playback by tapping into multiple GPUs.

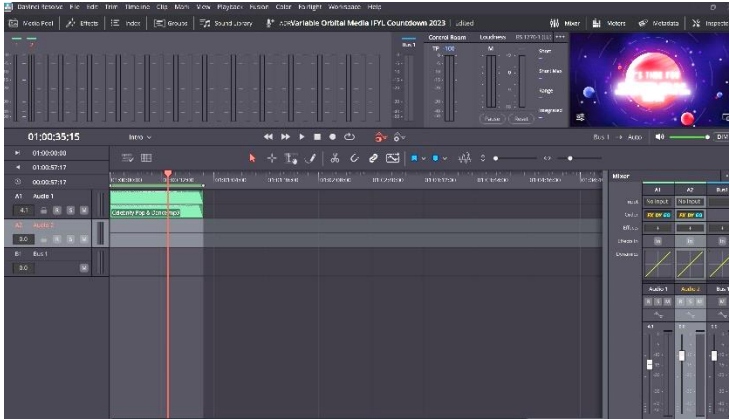
### The Power of Fusion

One of my favorite features of DaVinci Resolve is **Fusion**, its node-based visual effects and motion graphics workspace. Unlike Adobe's layer-based system, Fusion uses nodes to represent project elements, offering unmatched flexibility and control. While it might feel unfamiliar at first, the creative possibilities are worth the learning curve.

Here's an example: creating a title in a box using Fusion involves:

1. Adding a **Background Node** to set the color or gradient.
2. Using a **Rectangle Mask** to define the shape.
3. Adding a **Text Tool** to insert your title.
4. Connecting and merging these components with **MediaIn** and **MediaOut** nodes.

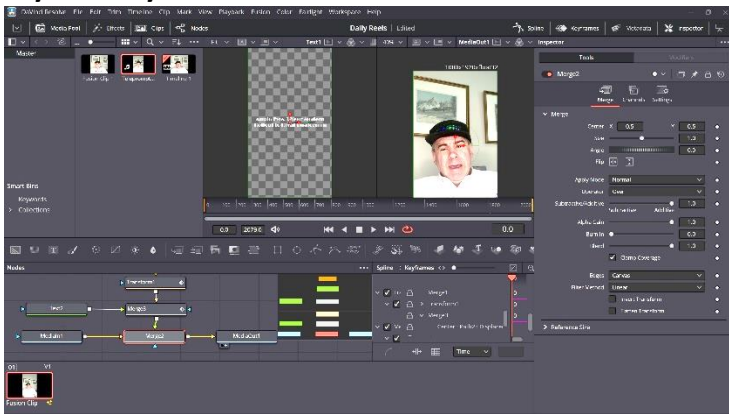
Once you get the hang of it, Fusion opens a world of possibilities, from dynamic animations to custom effects. **Why DaVinci Resolve Stands Out**



Unlike Adobe Premiere Pro, which often requires additional tools to achieve advanced results, DaVinci Resolve provides an all-in-one editing suite.

Whether you're a beginner exploring the basics or a seasoned professional looking for precision, the free version is unparalleled, and the Studio upgrade offers incredible value without recurring fees.

## My Journey in Education



As someone passionate about technology and education, I teach STEM Electronics for ages 2 through adulthood. If you're interested in starting or growing your tech skills, visit [BelieveMeAchieve.com](https://BelieveMeAchieve.com) to check out the **JCM Academy**, where new understanding electronics classes kick off in January 2025 with new courses each quarter. Did you know we even have a workbook and take-home experiment, too?

## Wishing You a Joyous Season

May your holidays this year and always be filled with laughter, peace, and cherished moments. Thank you for reading this article. Keep creating and growing. Let DaVinci Resolve inspire your next masterpiece! Don't forget to check out my latest JAG Server uploads—these are just a glimpse of the thousands of videos I've created and continue to produce.





### JAG General Meeting

January 29, 2025 @ 12:00pm, Oakland TV, Lunch at 11:30am

Annual Reorganization Meeting

Presentation - TBA

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 2024-25

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting, Oakland TV, Presentation scheduled TBA

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting, WBMA TV Bloomfield, Presentation scheduled TelVue

Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting, Montclair TV34, Presentation scheduled TBA

Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting, OPTV, Oradell, Presentation scheduled DeSisti

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>: JAG Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison

Jun. 25<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: General Meeting, North Brunswick TV15, Presentation scheduled TBA

### Organizational Members



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