

Trustees 2026

- Doug Seidel President – 2027
- Mark Albala VP – 2027
- Linda Besink Treasurer – 2026
- George Fairfield Secretary – 2026
- Craig Yetzko
- Corresponding Sec. – 2028
- Dave Garb – 2027
- Don Smith – 2028
- Bob Duthaler – 2026
- Gina Forbes – 2028

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General Meeting Schedule 2025-26

- Feb. 25 – Bloomfield TV Presentation – TelVue
- Mar. 25 – Zoom Meeting Presentation – TBA
- Apr. 30 – Cranford TV Presentation – DeSisti Lighting
- May 13 and 14 – Location TBA JAG Conference & JAG Awards
- Jun. 24 – Zoom Meeting Presentation – TBA
- Sept. 30 – Varto Technologies Presentation – TBA
- Oct. 29 – Zoom Meeting Presentation – TBA
- Dec. 2 – TBA Presentation – TBA
- Jan. 27, 2027 – Zoom Meeting Reorganization Presentation – TBA

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President's Message

Doug Seidel, President of Jersey Access Group



Are you ready for the new ADA requirements?

After the last general meeting I thought it would be good to follow up with more information on the upcoming ADA requirements. The final ruling is called Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities. This calls for web content to be accessible. For most of us that means providing captions and audio description for all of our video content. Here are the dates when you must comply with this ruling:

A public entity, other than a special district government, with a total population of 50,000 or more shall begin complying with this rule April 24, 2026. A public entity with a total population of less than 50,000 or any public entity that is a special district government shall begin complying with this rule April 26, 2027.

You can read the full ruling at this link: [CRT Docket No. 144; AG Order No. 5919-2024](#). It's a long read and provides details that do not only pertaining to video. There is also a quick reference guide that answers many questions. [Click here to see that guide.](#)



JAG General Membership Mtg October 2025- Presentation

In addition, here are two webinar links that may answer some of your questions. The first is one we hosted back in October of last year. Conveniently, that can be found on our [website here](#).

The second video is from Mass Access and TelVue. That can be [found here](#). TelVue users you bring their questions to the February meeting in Bloomfield where TelVue will be our special guest presenters.



Even if your deadline is next year, now is a great time to start figuring out your solutions. Prepare your budget before it's too late. Also, if you are providing programming that other stations air, start now to be ready for the first deadline. We know budgets are tight and paying to add ADA requirements for outside programming might be the first place to save. If you start providing requirements now stations will be keener on keeping your program on their station.

The compliance clock is ticking. Don't get caught in a lawsuit because you were not ready. Here are some additional resources:

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [WAVE evaluation tool](#)
- [Free caption tool](#)
- [Audio Description examples](#)

Of course, if you have additional questions, you can reach out to me at dseidel@jagonline.org



We're excited to be heading to the monthly JAG meeting on Wednesday, February 25th, where we'll showcase powerful new tools to help you stay ADA and WCAG compliant, while also saving time with smarter automation for scheduling and social media.



From live captioning and accessibility solutions to fully automated YouTube broadcasting and rule-based scheduling, TelVue continues to make it easier than ever to serve your community and expand your reach. We'll even be offering a sneak peek at our upcoming AI-powered audio description service.



SmartCaption: Live & Offline Captioning Made Easy

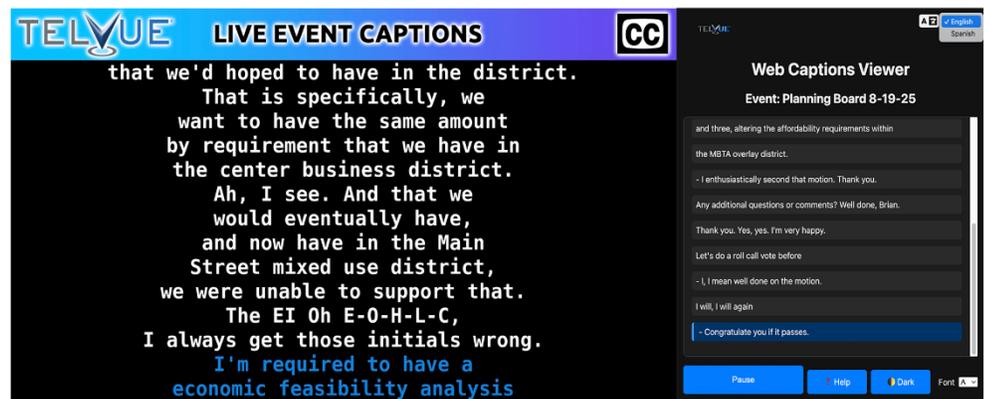
TelVue SmartCaption is an affordable, simple way to caption your live channels and programming, whether on cable or streaming. It integrates seamlessly with HyperCaster playout and CloudCast streaming, creating a fully automated captioning workflow.

Just designate which programs need captions, or enable Smart Mode to automatically caption first-run and unique programming. Need to make quick edits? The built-in SmartCaption Editor is available right from your playout server or in the cloud. When paired with HyperCaster, SmartCaption can also provide open, in-room, and web captions for meetings and events (with available ports and connectivity). It's accessibility made simple—and built directly into your workflow.

CaptionVue: Accessibility for Meetings & Events

For live meetings and events, TelVue CaptionVue delivers a complete caption display solution that makes participation easier for everyone.

CaptionVue is a dedicated device that provides simultaneous closed, open, in-room, and web live captions for your video sources. It accepts SDI, NDI, and streaming inputs and outputs multiple caption formats, perfect for large in-room displays, remote viewers on mobile devices, or hybrid audiences joining via webcast.



Whether you're supporting government meetings, public events, or corporate conferences, CaptionVue ensures every participant can follow along, no matter how they're attending.

AI-Powered Meeting Summaries & Search

Captioning does more than improve accessibility; it transforms your video library into a searchable resource. With TelVue's AI Metadata tools, your meetings can be automatically summarized and divided into chapters with clickable timecodes.

Viewers can quickly find topics of interest, jump to key moments, and search across your entire library. Unlike traditional agendas, AI-generated summaries capture what was actually discussed, making it easier for your community to stay informed and engaged.

HyperCaster 9.0: Fully Automated Scheduling

Our upcoming HyperCaster 9.0 release takes scheduling automation to a whole new level. Enhanced Series Scheduling makes it easier to automate episodic programming with assigned time slots. The new layout is more intuitive, allows faster editing, and supports scheduling as far into the future as you'd like, even perpetually!

Program Segmentation Rules allow you to automatically add bumpers, insert sponsorship spots, create breakpoints and pad content to natural time boundaries, such as 5, 15, or 30 minutes, perfect for sponsorships, announcements, and making your programming and program guide more professional.

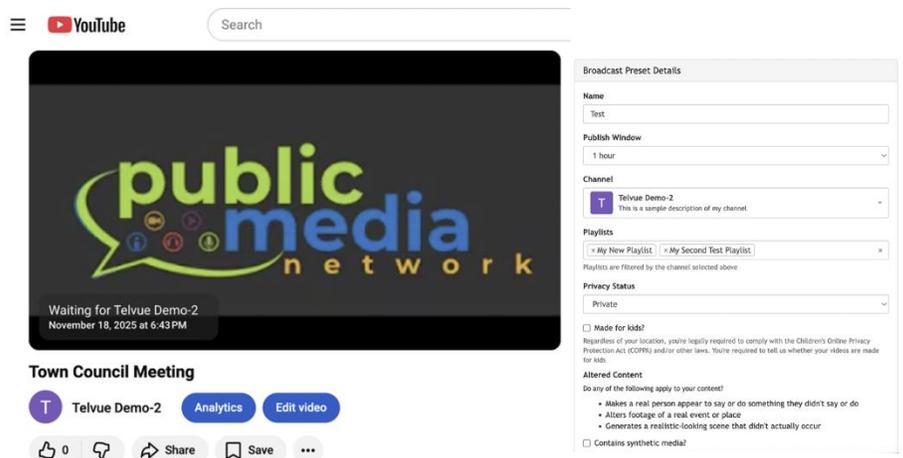
New Scheduling Rules can automatically fill gaps around your series with themed daypart blocks, recent episodes, short-form content, or PSAs. Once your rules are set, simply add new content and your schedule programs itself!

Complete YouTube & Social Media Automation

If you're broadcasting to YouTube, HyperCaster can now automate the entire process.

Authenticate your YouTube accounts, create broadcast presets with thumbnails and branding, and designate which events should be published.

HyperCaster will automatically create broadcast events, apply metadata, manage playlists, negotiate stream keys, and start and stop streams, all hands-free.



Pre-recorded content can automatically be exported to your YouTube accounts and playlists.

CloudCast users can also automate cross-posting to social media whenever new videos are published. Share links to Facebook, Instagram, and X using customizable templates. For example, government meetings can automatically post to a town page, while local productions post to your station's social channels.

We hope you'll join us at JAG to see how TelVue can help you achieve accessibility compliance quickly and affordably, while saving time and growing your audience with powerful new automation tools.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Community access television is often misunderstood.

Some people assume community access TV is the same as commercial cable. Some think it's just a place for town meetings or old reruns. Some confuse it with social media or political programming. Yet, community access TV serves a specific purpose. Understanding that purpose explains why it matters.



At its simplest, community access TV exists to give local residents access to television as a communication tool. It allows people who live in a community to create and share programming that reflects local interests, experiences, and concerns. This access is not based on popularity, influence, or professional background. It is based on residency and participation.

One of the most important distinctions is that community access TV is not commercial television. There are no advertisers dictating content, no ratings pressure, and no expectation that a program must appeal to a broad or national audience. This freedom allows creators to focus on topics that are meaningful locally, even if they would never attract mass attention elsewhere. The value lies in relevance, not reach.

Community access TV is also not social media. While online platforms emphasize speed, reaction, and visibility, access TV offers a slower and more deliberate format. Programs are not shaped by algorithms or trending topics. Conversations can take place without being reduced to short clips or headlines. For many participants, this creates a more respectful and thoughtful space for communication.



Another common misconception is that community access TV is political advocacy. While it may include coverage of public meetings or discussions about local issues, it is not designed to promote political parties, candidates, or positions. The role of access television is to provide information and opportunity for dialogue, not persuasion. This distinction allows stations to serve the entire community and maintain public trust.

Community access TV is also not limited to professionals. You do not need a background in broadcasting, journalism or production to take part. Many programs are created by people who never expected to be on camera. Teachers, retirees, volunteers, artists, students and longtime residents often bring perspectives that feel authentic precisely because they are not polished or performative. Yet, community access TV is not unstructured or chaotic. Guidelines are in place to ensure content is appropriate, respectful and accessible. Training is often provided so participants understand how to use equipment, follow basic production standards and communicate clearly. This balance between open access and shared responsibility allows community access TV to function effectively.



Another misconception is that community access TV is outdated. Despite using a traditional broadcast format, its role is increasingly relevant. As more communication moves online, opportunities for local, place-based conversation become harder to find. Community access TV provides a space for local voices that is not dependent on social media or shifting digital trends.

It is also important to understand what community access TV is not trying to do. It is not meant to represent everyone's viewpoint, and no single program speaks for an entire town. Instead, it works because many different voices can coexist. Each program adds one perspective to a larger mosaic of community life.

What community access TV is essentially a shared public resource. It exists to support participation, learning, and connection. It gives residents the chance to move from being passive consumers of media to active contributors. It allows local stories to be told by the people who live them. In a media environment that often feels distant and impersonal, community access TV remains rooted in real places and real people. Understanding what it is—and what it isn't—helps explain why it continues to play a quiet but meaningful role in community life.



How to get the most out of your Verizon FIOS statewide contract

The statewide contract from Verizon Fios provides for any municipal buildings (schools, police departments, fire departments, etc.) that the township or city owns, to be eligible for one free internet drop and one free cable TV drop.



Now, with that, the internet drop is a basic 50 megabits over 50 megabits fiber connection, and TV is a Basic TV package. We have used this in Cranford in a variety of ways. For example, at the library Wi-Fi from the new service is being used for public Wi-Fi on the first floor.

Several of our locations (such as our historical society) did not even have internet service. Some of our other buildings such as the police department and fire department are using these as backup services. The statewide contract with the details can be found on our website jagonline.org under the members section (Another Great Reason to Become a Member!)

I would encourage you to have a conversation with your mayor or administrator to discuss this great free resource.

What is needed from FIOS is the following:

- Come up with a list of locations with the full address and the location of where the service is to go.
- Place those locations on township letterhead stating that you are requesting this service under the statewide contract
- And send an email to Karyl West our government affairs representative for or FIOS in N.J.

They will then, in turn, send it to engineering and a scheduler will contact you to schedule the drops. One note is that these drops are considered residential. There is no bill, and it is free. The hardware is free too.

This is a fantastic resource for your community! Trust me your mayor and council will be very pleased!





JAG General Meeting

Feb. 25, 2026 @ 12:00pm at Bloomfield TV

Lunch at 11:30am

Presentation: Get Ready for ADA/WCAG Compliance and Smarter Automation with TelVue

By Jesse Lerman, President/CEO

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 for review.

The JAG Job Board is currently being populated with opportunities. A new password is needed after June 1 of each year. Contact Linda Besink 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 2026

March 25 at 12pm: General Meeting, ZOOM, Presentation scheduled TBA

April 29 at 12pm: General Meeting, Cranford TV, Presentation by DeSisti Lighting- Paul DeStefano, Sales

May 13 & 14: JAG Conference: A Technology Forum and Production/Management Symposium & JAG Awards

June 24 at 12pm: General Meeting, ZOOM, Presentation scheduled TBA

September 30 at 12pm: General Meeting, Varto Technologies, Presentation scheduled TBA

October 28 at 12pm: General Meeting, ZOOM, Presentation scheduled TBA

December 2 at 12pm: General Meeting, Location TBD, Presentation scheduled TBA

Organizational Members



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