

Trustees 2026

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Inside This Issue

Conference 2026 pg2
 News from Trenton & Washington, DC & Changes to the FCC pg5
 Why Local Media and National Celebrating Excellence: The 2026 JAG Awards pg7
 DeSisti to Debut New Innovative Fixtures pg8
 Why Some Stories Make the News, and Others Don't pg9
 Communications pg11

General Meeting Schedule 2026-27

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
 Feb. 24 – Bloomfield TV
 Presentation – TelVue
 Mar. 31 – Zoom Meeting
 Presentation – JAG Conference 2026

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President's Message

Doug Seidel, President of Jersey Access Group



Here are a few things going on and coming up in JAG.

As I write this, our legislative committee is down in Washington DC for Hill Day. They are discussing the potential consequences of HR 2289 and looking for support from our representatives to vote against it. Meetings are set up with Congressman Thomas Kean Jr and Senator Andy Kim's offices. Stay tuned for updates

The Leadership Development Committee has selected a member of JAG for the annual recognition award. Join us on May 13th at the JAG Conference banquet to find out who will receive this year's award.

The JAG Awards Committee is hard at work getting the final submissions through the judging process and putting together trophies and certificates. The committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the banquet on May 13th.

The Conference Committee is hard at work finalizing the schedule for the conference. Don't miss your chance to register: www.jagconference.com/tickets

The Production Committee put together a great video in opposition of HR 2289. You can see the [video here](#). The video has already been shared with both the ACM and NATOA and both organizations are sharing it with their members.

The External Relations Committee is working on our booth and panels for the League of Municipalities in November. This helps us keep a great relationship with the League and many of our state legislators.

The Membership Committee is looking into ideas for a work share program within JAG to open up opportunities to learn from other stations and check out equipment they are using.

The Finance Committee has submitted our budget, and we are ready to vote on it at our April meeting in Cranford. That means now is a good time to get your certified voting forms in so you can be sure to have your say in the operating budget of JAG.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting in April in Cranford with a presentation from DeSisti and May 13 & 14 at our annual conference.



The Jersey Access Group's (JAG) Annual Conference continues to stand as one of the most important gatherings for community media professionals, volunteers, and municipal communication leaders across New Jersey. More than just an event, the conference represents a unique opportunity for JAG members to strengthen their skills, expand their networks, and stay ahead in an ever-evolving media landscape.

Why JAG Members Should Attend

For JAG members, attending the Annual Conference is both a professional investment and a strategic advantage. The conference brings together industry experts, municipal leaders, station managers, and content creators in a collaborative environment designed to inspire growth and innovation. Members gain access to the latest tools, emerging technologies, and regulatory updates that directly impact local government access channels.

Beyond the educational value, the conference fosters meaningful connections. Whether you're a seasoned station manager or a volunteer just getting started, the ability to exchange ideas, troubleshoot challenges, and build relationships with peers is invaluable. Attendees consistently leave with actionable insights that improve their station operations, content quality, and community engagement efforts.

Day One – Wednesday, May 13, 2026: Technology, Innovation, and Celebration

JAG Technology Forum

The conference kicks off on May 13 with JAG's highly anticipated Technology Forum. This portion of the event is dedicated to showcasing the latest advancements in broadcast, streaming, and production technology. Vendors from across the industry will demonstrate cutting-edge products designed specifically for community media operations. Attendees can expect to explore solutions in areas such as:

- Video production equipment and workflows
- Live streaming and hybrid meeting platforms
- Automation and playback systems
- Captioning and accessibility tools
- Content management and distribution platforms

What sets the Technology Forum apart is its hands-on approach. Participants aren't just observing—they're actively engaging with the equipment, testing workflows, and speaking directly with vendors about real-world applications. This interactive experience allows attendees to better evaluate what tools will work best for their own stations and communities.

JAG Video Awards – Evening Celebration

As the day transitions from innovation to celebration, the evening of May 13th features the JAG Video Awards. This signature event recognizes excellence in community media programming across the state.

The awards ceremony highlights the creativity, dedication, and storytelling power of JAG members. From municipal meeting coverage to original productions, the Video Awards showcase the impact of local access television in informing and connecting communities. It's also a moment of pride and inspiration, as attendees celebrate their peers and gain ideas for future projects.

Day Two – Thursday, May 14, 2026: Production/Management Symposium

The second day of the conference shifts focus to professional development through the Production and Management Symposium. This full day of sessions is designed to address both the creative and operational sides of running a successful access station.

Attendees can participate in a variety of sessions covering topics such as:

- Effective storytelling and production techniques
- Managing staff and volunteers
- Enhancing community engagement and outreach
- Navigating funding and sustainability challenges
- Adapting to changes in media consumption

Each session is led by experienced professionals who provide practical insights and real-world strategies that attendees can immediately apply.

Keynote Lunch Panel: WCAG 2.1 AA Compliance

A major highlight of the day is the keynote lunch panel discussion focused on WCAG 2.1 AA compliance. As accessibility continues to be a critical priority, this session will address what local government access stations need to do to meet compliance standards. Panelists will discuss:

- The requirements of WCAG 2.1 AA standards
- Steps stations should take now to prepare
- Tools and workflows for improving accessibility
- Realistic timelines for implementation

This session is especially important for municipal stations, as accessibility compliance is not only a best practice, but an increasing regulatory expectation. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to move forward confidently and responsibly.

Join the JAG Annual Conference

The JAG Annual Conference is more than an event—it's a catalyst for growth, innovation, and community impact. From hands-on technology exploration to insightful educational sessions and inspiring celebrations, the conference offers something for every member.

All JAG members are strongly encouraged to attend and take full advantage of this opportunity. To maximize your savings, be sure to obtain your JAG Membership discount code by contacting JAG Treasurer Linda Besink at lbesink@gmail.com.

For more information and to register, visit: www.jagconference.com

Don't miss your chance to be part of New Jersey's premier community media event—register today and invest in the future of your station and your community.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 13 & 14, 2026 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ

A Technology Forum and Production/Management Symposium

Partners

TelVue Cooperation, Varto Technologies, Planet Network,
LiveU, and DeSisti Lighting

Equipment Seminars

Technology Showcase and Panels

Product Demonstrations

User Group Breakfast Meetings

Panel Sessions/Roundtable Discussions

JAG Awards Banquet

Topics include:

Program Creation and Development, Content Distribution,
Facility Operation, and Legislation Impacting Community Media

<https://jagconference.com/>

Schedule (*Conference details will be posted as they are finalized.*)

May 13- 8:00am-10:00pm

- Technology Showcase and Panels (TelVue, Varto Technologies, LiveU, Vizrt, DeSisti Lighting, CueScript, Mycasebulider, McComm (Panasonic, PTZ, Sony, Blackmagic), B&H and more)
- User Groups Breakfast Meetings (TelVue and Varto Technologies)
- Equipment Seminars
- Product Demonstrations
- Technology Luncheon
- JAG Awards Banquet

May 14- 8:00am-5:30pm

- Panel Sessions
- Roundtable Discussions
- Networking Breakfast
- Keynote Lunch

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

Please reach out to JAG Treasurer Linda Besink for your JAG Membership Discount Code: lbesink@gmail.com
Questions? Feel free to reach out to me. bduthaler@jagonline.org. See you at the conference!

Bob Duthaler

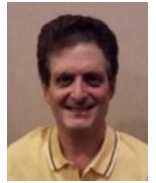
Member, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (EMMYS)

Past-President, Jersey Access Group

Past-President, NJ NATOA



The Jersey Access Group has represented the interests of municipal, educational, and community television for 25 years. Our efforts on behalf of our members have never been more important. JAG's Legislative Committee has kept a watchful eye on bills both nationally and statewide that might be an issue for us, our operations and our communities.



Dangers of the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025 (H.R. 2289)

Last November, a dangerous bill passed out of the Congressional House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee, titled the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025 (H.R. 2289). H.R. 2289 gives telecommunication companies de facto power over local zoning laws:

- It provides no public safety protections for construction of “deemed granted” facilities. Sites will be constructed without any further action by the government, without notice to the local government.
- It strips local governments of the ability to ensure public safety, manage traffic, protect existing utilities and workers, and maintain fair competition, while imposing no reciprocal obligations on providers.
- It empowers providers to install facilities where they choose regardless of local zoning, thus eliminating the ability of local government to balance providers’ and neighbors’ interests.

Not only will local authorities have no control of the rights-of-way, but the franchise fees generated by them will also be impacted:

- Cable franchise renewals would be eliminated, thereby removing ability of state or local communities to enforce franchise obligations such as build-out, customer service, and PEG.
- Municipalities will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and local programming that provides transparency to the local residents.

In an effort to make our leadership aware of the implications of this act, the Jersey Access Group created the following two videos about it:

- The first one, is a 3 minute video which details the harmful points of H.R. 2289

[3 Minute Video on H.R. 2289 Via Dropbox](#)

[3 Minute Video on HR 2289 Via Youtube](#)

[HR 2289 PSA \(on the TelVue Server\)](#)

- The second is a 1 minute overview of this act.

[1 Minute Video on HR 2289 via Dropbox](#)

[1 Minute Video on HR 2289 via Youtube](#)

[HR 2289 PSA 1 min \(on the TelVue Server\)](#)

Please forward both these videos to your local, state and federal lawmakers to make everyone aware and informed of the dangers of H.R. 2289 to your local municipalities. Also, please consider airing them on your television channels and other means of communication, to make the members of your community informed as well.

Amazing News!

ADA Title II Web and Mobility Access Compliance to the WCAG 2.1 Level AA Rules A One Year Extension!

From Mike Lynch, Leg/Reg Affairs, NATOA-National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors:

A hearty congratulations and 'job well done' to our good friends at the National League of Cities (NLC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) for achieving a one-year extension on both deadlines for the DOJ's web accessibility rules for state and local government.

Angelina Panettieri of NLC and Seamus Dowdall of NACo each led a team of folks through meetings with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Justice to plead and argue on fiscal and technical grounds for this extension.

See the NLC and NACo ex parte filings here:

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/viewEO12866Meeting?viewRule=true&rin=1190-AA82&meetingId=1326573&acronym=1190-DOJ/CRT>

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) compliance deadlines are now:

April 26, 2027, for localities >50,000 in population &

April 26, 2028, for localities <50,000 in population.

What this means for all of us now is that beginning on April 26, 2027, any video that is on government websites (or anywhere on the web) serving more than 50K residents, has to be ADA compliant by providing online communications that meet a minimum WCAG standard. These rules will also apply to all government's websites with less than 50,000 residents beginning April 26, 2028.

A link to the notice of this extension can be found in the Federal Register at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/20/2026-07663/extension-of-compliance-dates-for-nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-accessibility-of-web>. The DOJ is also seeking comments about the interim rule extending the deadlines.

From Mike Wassenaar, President, ACM-Alliance for Community Media:

This ruling still includes closed captioning for all VOD and live streaming that is online, and a descriptive audio track for pre-recorded video that will also be aired online.

A reminder for everyone: you should determine the costs for compliance with the new rule and plan either to meet the standards for your online presence or to make the case that compliance with one or more elements presents an undue burden. In either case, decision makers with local government need to be involved. Regardless of the Federal Government's enforcement of the ADA, these rules can be enforced through private legal action, so local governments and non-profits would be subject to legal liability if they fail to act appropriately.

You are not exempt from ADA requirements. They require all non-profits and local governments to assess the costs of providing effective communication for residents. Solutions must be based on what residents need. You may not be required to provide that service if it fundamentally changes what you do, or it presents an undue economic burden. Guidelines are at

<https://www.ada.gov/resources/effective-communication/>

If you provide captions, but they are not transmitted by a cable operator on your channels, tell the FCC as this is against the law. Email dro@fcc.org or use the link

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/closed-captioning-television>.

Mike Wassenaar and the ACM have shared a slideshow with us [Accessibility Rules Every PEG Channel Should Understand](#) that highlights everything you need to know about these rules, as well as the following list of key takeaways to remember about disability access with your channels and services.



As we approach the JAG Awards, it's a privilege to look back at the incredible range of talent within our community. This year's submissions have been outstanding, with 26 different organizations participating and bringing forward some of the most creative work we've seen.



On a personal note, my journey with media and community broadcasting has always been driven by the belief that local stories deserve a professional stage. In my work as chair of the JAG Awards Committee and through my involvement in various regional media projects, I've focused on bridging the gap between technical execution and meaningful storytelling. Whether it's overseeing the logistics of our annual audit or working on-site to ensure our stations have the tools they need to succeed, I'm passionate about elevating the standard of what we produce. Seeing the growth in quality across our member stations over the last few years has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this role.

Of course, the culmination of all this hard work is the JAG Awards Banquet. It's more than just a ceremony; it's the one night of the year where we get to step out from behind the cameras and control boards to celebrate together. There is a unique energy in the room when colleagues from across the state finally get to connect, share ideas, and recognize the long hours that go into every 30-second promo and hours-long town hall. It's a night of genuine fun, high spirits, and a shared pride in the impact local broadcasting has on our communities.

To give you a preview of the scale of this year's competition, we have entries spanning a wide variety of categories, including:

- 501 PSA: Public Service Announcements making a difference.
- 601 Promotion: Highlighting specific events and station branding.
- 2200 Best Bulletin Board: Keeping our neighborhoods informed.
- 2000 Community Festival/Fair Event: Showcasing local culture and creativity.
- 101 Documentary: Deep dives into the stories that matter.



We can't wait to see you all there to celebrate another year of excellence! May 13 at the Crowne Plaza in Edison, New Jersey.





Paul DeStefano, Northeast Regional Sales Manager, DeSisti

At the 2026 NAB Show, DeSisti Lighting is expanding its portfolio with a series of new fixtures that emphasize efficiency, flexibility, and practical innovation for modern broadcast and production environments. The company's latest introductions span its cost-effective LITE series as well as entirely new lighting concepts, underscoring its continued focus on high-performance LED solutions.



A major highlight is the expansion of the LITE series, designed to bring DeSisti's optical quality and reliability to more budget-conscious markets such as education, public access, and government production. Among the new additions is the F4.7-LITE, a compact 40-watt Fresnel featuring a true 4.7-inch borosilicate glass lens. Available in tungsten (3200K), daylight (5600K), and variable white (2700K–6500K), the

fixture uses DeSisti's patented optical system to deliver higher output with lower power consumption. Its compact size and compatibility with existing F4.7 and Magis accessories make it particularly well suited for smaller studios and low grid heights.

The updated F6-LITE builds on this approach with increased power, now featuring an 80-watt LED array. It maintains full compatibility with standard F6 Fresnel accessories and even legacy 1000-watt tungsten Leonardo fixtures, providing an easy upgrade path for facilities transitioning to LED. Like the F4.7-LITE, it is offered in multiple color temperature configurations to suit a wide range of production needs.

In soft lighting, DeSisti introduces the SoftLED2-LITE, reengineered for higher output while consuming just 120 watts, along with the new SoftLED1-LITE, a 60-watt half-size version. These fixtures deliver even, high-quality illumination with excellent CRI/TLCI performance, making them ideal for multi-camera studio environments. Notably, all LITE series fixtures are completely fanless, using passive cooling to ensure silent operation—an essential feature for broadcast applications.

Beyond the LITE series, DeSisti is also debuting the GIOTTO Linear cyclorama light, a high-efficiency LED solution designed for even, controlled cyc illumination. Available in both variable white and extended color versions, the fixture features an asymmetrical optical system that minimizes light spill while maintaining uniform coverage. Its 48-inch form factor allows fewer units to be used compared to traditional cyc lights, improving both efficiency and setup simplicity.

Perhaps the most groundbreaking introduction is the GALILEO SOFT-NEL, a completely new lighting concept that rethinks traditional studio lighting techniques. By combining a central Fresnel hard light with a surrounding soft-light ring in a single coaxial system, GALILEO enables continuous control of shadow quality without changing fixture position. This patented dual-source architecture introduces what DeSisti calls "Intelli-Shadow," allowing lighting designers to fine-tune shadow characteristics while maintaining a consistent beam axis. With independent control of intensity and color temperature for both sources, GALILEO consolidates what previously required multiple fixtures into one highly versatile tool.

Across all these new products, DeSisti emphasizes ease of use with intuitive onboard controls, DMX integration, and daisy-chainable power and data connections. The result is a lineup that not only advances lighting technology but also addresses the practical needs of today's production environments.

Together, these new products position DeSisti at the forefront of LED lighting innovation, offering solutions that are not only more efficient and affordable, but also more adaptable to the evolving demands of broadcast and content creation.



Having been in the media for many years, I often hear from people who want their stories covered. The reality is that while something may be important to you, it may not be considered newsworthy by local or national outlets.



People reach out about birthdays, grand openings, new recipes, or personal accomplishments. All of those things matter on a personal level, but not everything meets the threshold for news

coverage. That does not make those moments any less meaningful. It simply reflects how the media decides what to focus on. Let's take a closer look at what makes something newsworthy and why some stories get covered while others do not.

Note that repeatedly reaching out to media outlets rarely improves the chances of coverage. In fact, it can have the opposite effect. Every day, countless events and stories unfold, but only a small number are selected.



So, what determines whether a story gets picked up? From experience, it comes down to a few key factors. Understanding how media outlets think is not as complicated as it may seem. You just have to look at it from their perspective for a moment.



A story usually affects more than just one person. Media outlets look for stories that impact a group, an organization, or a broader community. The larger the relevance, the more likely it is to be considered.

Timing also plays a major role. A story that happened days or weeks ago is far less likely to be covered than something happening right now. News, by nature, is immediate.

Relevance is just as important. A story may be meaningful to you, your family, or your friends, but the question is whether it connects to a wider audience. Would others find it useful, interesting, or worth paying attention to? Stories that show some form of change or impact tend to stand out. If something led to a result, solved a problem, or influenced a group of people, it becomes easier to understand why it matters.



Human interest also plays a role. People connect with people. When a story includes real experiences, voices, or perspectives, it becomes more engaging and easier to follow.

Practical considerations matter as well. If a story falls outside a media outlet's coverage area, it will usually not be considered. Even when a story meets many of these factors, it may still not get covered due to limited staffing or available resources.

In the end, the media does not simply report everything that happens. It selects what to highlight based on relevance, timing, impact, and connection. Understanding that process helps explain why some stories are covered while others are not.

Just as important as knowing what gets picked up by the media is understanding what will likely be passed over. In many cases, the reasons are straightforward:

- It reads more like a personal or business announcement than a story
- It is primarily promotional or encourages action that benefits a business
- It does not offer anything new or different from what has already been covered
- It lacks a clear reason for a broader audience to care
- It is too small in scope for that particular outlet
- It was submitted without consideration for what the outlet actually covers
- It is missing supporting elements such as quotes, visuals, or verifiable details
- It competes with stronger or more time-sensitive stories
- It simply does not stand out enough to be selected

In many situations, the idea itself is not bad. It is just not the right fit at the right time.

One final point that often confuses is the difference between community access stations, local public stations, and national media.



Community access stations are designed to give residents a voice. They provide a platform for local individuals and organizations to share information, ideas, and experiences. The focus is on access and participation rather than broad reach.

Local public stations operate differently. They typically produce more structured programming and may focus on education, public interest topics, and community coverage. While they serve local audiences, the content is usually developed

by the station rather than the general public.

National media operates on a much larger scale. It focuses on stories that affect large populations and often prioritizes topics with widespread impact. The audience is broad, and the coverage is designed to reach across regions rather than focus on a single community.

Each serves a different purpose. Community access focuses on participation, local public stations focus on structured local programming, and national media focus on scale and reach.

Each plays a different role in how people receive and understand information.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 13 & 14, 2026 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ

A Technology Forum and Production/Management Symposium

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



JAG General Meeting

April 29 at 12pm: Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Lunch 11:30am
Presentation: DeSisti Lighting- Paul Distefano Northeast Regional Sales Manager



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

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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