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### General Meeting Schedule 2026-27

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  
 Apr. 28 – TBD  
 Presentation – DeSisti Lighting  
 May – Location TBD  
 JAG Conference & JAG Awards  
 Jun. 30 – Zoom Meeting  
 Presentation – TBA

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## President's Message

Doug Seidel, President of Jersey Access Group



### A few things going on and coming up in JAG.

If you have not seen the news, New Jersey's PBS will soon be run by Montclair State University. JAG has a great working relationship with the university. Stay tuned for information on how we might be able to work with them and the great opportunities that may come with collaboration.

**Our Legislative Committee** is keeping an eye on H.R. 2289 and any future updates on the ADA requirements.

**The Leadership Development Committee** is following the development of "Hollywood of the East" as new film studios pop up across the New Jersey. They are looking into the possibilities of grants and the potential for JAG members to take advantage of this.

**The JAG Awards and Conference Committees** are on summer hiatus and will be back up and running by September. If you would like to join these committees to help shape next year's conference and awards reach out to me at [dseidel@jagonline.org](mailto:dseidel@jagonline.org).

**The Production Committee** is working on some graphics and bumpers you can use to promote JAG.

**The External Relations Committee** has finalized the two sessions that JAG will host at the League of Municipalities Conference in November. One session on ADA requirements is focused on what clerks and administrators need to know. The other will be on H.R. 2289 and how the league can help us fight the bill. Let us know if you plan on going to the event and if you want to help out at our booth for a bit.

**The password has changed for the members only section on the website.** If you are in good standings, you should have received an e-mail with the new password. You can now check out all of the recorded videos from the JAG conference on the website. This includes the ADA and AI keynotes, the future of PEG session and the JAG awards.

Hope to see you all the next JAG meeting in September!



*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.*



## **The American Broadband Deployment Act (H.R. 2289) Saga Continues**

Recap and update: Since last November, we have been telling everyone about the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025 (H.R. 2289). If passed, H.R. 2289 would give conglomerate telecommunications companies de-facto power over local zoning laws and provide no public safety protections for construction of "deemed granted" facilities. Sites will be constructed without any action by the government and without any notice to the local government.

Not only will local authorities have no control of the rights-of-way, but they will also have no negotiating power over any franchise fees. Cable franchise renewals would be eliminated. This would remove the ability of state or local governments to enforce franchise obligations such as build-out, customer service, and PEG. Municipalities will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and they might lose the local programming that provides transparency to the local residents.

The response throughout the country has been very active and very loud. Our partners from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), have shared some of the responses from around the country.

### **Pennsylvania's report on H.R. 2289 ABDA response from Local Governments from Dan Cohen and the Cohen Law Group:**

- *H.R. 2289, entitled "The American Broadband Bill," (ABDA) would reduce the power of local governments to manage telecommunications companies and, in my judgment, would negatively impact public safety.*
- *For example, in the cable franchise arena, the bill would eliminate cable franchise renewals, undercutting the ability of local communities to enforce or improve franchise obligations, and creating "forever franchises." It would also give cable operators the right to change any franchise provision they do not like, such as build-out to every neighborhood, customer service standards, and local PEG channels.*

*H.R. 2289 also weakens municipal authority to manage wireless facilities and internet service providers. In addition, it tips the balance of judicial review of municipal actions away from municipalities.*

### **Minnesota report on H.R. 2289 ABDA response from Local Governments and PEG centers from Mike Bradley of Bradley Werner:**

- *Drafted, disseminated and distributed through MACTA and League of Minnesota Cities (LOMC) and Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA): "You may be surprised to learn that there are no provisions in the 100 pages of the bill that require broadband deployment to any area of the country or provide a single protection for residents. Rather, it is a bill to increase federal intervention into local affairs. It is bad legislation."*

### **Michigan report on H.R. 2289 ABDA response from Local Governments & PEG centers from Mike Watza, Bloom Sluggett:**

- *Mike Watza of Bloom Sluggett, Counsel to Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights-of-Way (PROTEC), Counsel to Merit Network, wrote to Congresswoman Dingell and committee staff, noting: "We are once again confronted with all manner of attempts to diminish local community self-governance. Chief among*

these at present is H.R. 2289 which will, if passed, essentially end local self governance of Telecom Access to our ROW and public lands.”

- See the letter, talking points and key provisions of H.R. 2289 here: <https://www.natoa.org/news/natoa-action-alert-oppose--hr-2289>
- See the bill, H.R. 2289 here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2289/text>

**Washington State report on H.R. 2289 ABDA response of Local Governments & PEG centers via the board of the Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors (WATOA):**

- Shared by Seattle’s Alice Lawson and Kirkland’s Mike O’Connor: “We strongly oppose the federal overreach proposed by H.R. 2289. The local permitting and franchising functions targeted by this legislation exist to facilitate safe, productive deployment while also protecting roads and residents from harms caused by poorly planned or executed construction. Federal preemptions that exclusively prioritize the interests of the telecommunications industry, without sufficient safeguards for local public interests, are misguided and jeopardize the ability of urban, suburban, and rural communities to be a partner in pursuing their telecommunications needs along with effective rights-of-way management.”

**And right here in New Jersey,**

- “In an effort to make our leaders federally, and locally aware of the implications of H.R. 2289, the Jersey Access Group (JAG) created two videos which you can show to your municipalities and use on your stations detailing the harmful points of H.R. 2289 which can be found at the following locations:

*The Harmful Points of H.R. 2289*

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

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

[1 Minute Video on H.R. 2289 via Dropbox](#)

[1 Minute Video on H.R. 2289 via YouTube](#)

And now JAG has produced a new short video/CG version about the dangers of H.R. 2289:

*Alternating the Future of Our Stations – H.R. 2289:*

[On YouTube](#)

[On Google Drive](#)

Please forward ALL 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 communications to keep the members of your community informed.



**TelVue reconnects with friends, customers, and industry partners at Conference.**

TelVue was thrilled to reconnect with friends customers and industry partners at the JAG 2026 Conference. The conference featured timely discussions on AI, accessibility, streaming, and production workflows—subjects that are shaping the future of community media. TelVue participated in several sessions, including the annual TelVue User Group and a panel on AI and PEG: A Transformative Tool.



**Highlights of TelVue User Group**

At the TelVue User Group, we reviewed key innovations released over the past year, focusing on helping stations save time, improve accessibility, and reach broader audiences. Highlights included:

- Affordable AI audio description for ADA Title II accessibility compliance
- 100% automated scheduling that saves significant time
- In-room and web captioning solutions for live meetings and events
- YouTube live integration for multi-platform distribution and audience engagement

We appreciate that so many of you attended our User Group. Your feedback was very valuable and helps us prioritize our development roadmap.

**AI and PEG discussion**

Artificial Intelligence was one of the hottest topics at the conference. During the AI panel discussion, I joined fellow industry leaders to review key trends from NAB and practical applications for AI-powered production, accessibility and workflow automation.

Accessibility remains a major focus as organizations adapt to ADA and WCAG requirements. AI-powered audio description is emerging as an affordable way to make video content more accessible to blind and visually impaired viewers.



*TelVue Demonstrates SmartDescribe™ – AI Audio Description for ADA Compliance*

### **Recognition and remembrance at the JAG Awards Dinner**

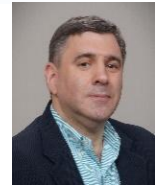
One of the most meaningful moments of this year's conference took place during the awards presentations. TelVue was grateful to JAG for the opportunity to honor the memory of our friend and colleague, Denise Rolfe. For more than 17 years, Denise worked closely with stations throughout New Jersey and across the country, building lasting relationships and helping customers succeed. Many members of the JAG community knew Denise personally, making it especially meaningful to celebrate her legacy together. JAG also recognized several outstanding individuals for their leadership and contributions to community media. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients.

### **Conference follow up and upcoming innovations**

Since the JAG conference, TelVue has been busy working on our next round of innovations and is excited to be unveiling them at the upcoming ACM National Conference:

- Samsung TV Apps for the growing Connected TV audience
- Facebook Live Integration for expanded audience reach
- Stream Deck Integration for streamlined production workflows
- Captioning Speaker Identification for improved accessibility and viewer experience

As the pace of technology and media innovation continues to accelerate, one can only guess what the hot issues will be for next year's conference, but we can be sure JAG will be ready with the perfect sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



### So much that has to happen before lights come on and cameras start rolling.

Most people see the finished program on television, YouTube or social media; or they hear the final voice-over. Very few, however, realize how much time, effort and coordination go into every production. Whether it's lighting, audio setup and testing, graphics creation, control room preparation, or even the script and production outline, every piece plays an important role.

The truth is that a tremendous amount of technology is at work behind the scenes to make everything appear seamless. When technology is transparent and viewers don't notice it, that's usually when it's working best.

### Welcome to the Studio



What viewers see or hear is only a small part of the production process. Most studios contain multiple preview screens that allow operators and directors to frame shots, review graphics, and prepare camera angles before they are broadcast live. Once everything is ready, the director calls for the appropriate camera, graphic, or video source to go live.

Some of the equipment you may find in a modern television or production studio includes:

- Broadcast cameras
- Remote PTZ (Pan Tilt Zoom) cameras with advanced zoom controls
- Professional studio lighting
- Wired and wireless microphones
- Confidence and preview monitors
- Teleprompter systems
- Graphics and character generator computers
- Audio mixing consoles
- PTZ camera control stations
- Video switchers
- Recording and streaming systems

While viewers may only see a host speaking on camera or a finished video presentation, there is often an entire team and significant technology working together behind the scenes to make the production look effortless. For example, a council member, guest, or actor may move out of frame and it is the production team's job to ensure the shot remains usable with minimal disruption to the audience—especially in community television environments.

### The Control Room: Where the Magic Happens



While the studio floor is where guests, council members, and actors appear, the control room brings all the pieces together to produce a professionally crafted show or broadcast. Think of the control room as the brain of the operation. The control room is where directors, technical directors, audio engineers, and graphics specialists decide what viewers will see and hear, and when they will see or hear it. Did you know that some decisions are made in a matter of seconds to avoid interruptions and maintain the natural flow of a production?

Inside the control room are walls of camera feeds, graphics systems, playback sources, preview screens, remote guest feeds, and sometimes connections to entirely different locations. Every position in the room has a responsibility. Some studios still use camera operators on the floor who receive instructions from the director via headset. Other studios have moved toward remotely controlled PTZ cameras operated directly from the control room.

The audio engineer constantly monitors microphone levels, music, remote audio feeds, and sound effects. The graphics operator prepares titles and visual elements. The technical director instructs the switcher and indicates when changes to camera angles, graphics, and video sources are needed.

Whether your control room has a few people or many, the goal remains the same: create smooth transitions so the audience never has to think about which camera, microphone, or video source is in use.

### Lights, Cameras, and Audio



Many people assume the camera is the most important part of a production. While cameras are important, many production professionals will tell you that audio is just as important and, in some situations, even more essential than the video itself. Viewers may tolerate a less-than-perfect camera angle, but poor audio can quickly make a production difficult to watch. That is why microphones, audio mixers, monitoring equipment, and sound checks are critical before any broadcast or recording begins.

Lighting is equally important. Professional lighting helps eliminate shadows, improve image quality, and ensure that hosts and guests appear clear and professional on screen. Proper lighting can completely change the appearance of a production.

Camera placement also requires careful planning. Each shot is selected to help tell a story, maintain viewer interest, and capture the program's most important parts.

### From Recording to Broadcast



Once the production begins, the work continues. Graphics are displayed, cameras are switched, audio is adjusted, and prerecorded segments may be inserted into the show. Depending on the type of production, content may be broadcast live or edited after production. After recording, producers may edit the content, adjust audio levels, add graphics, insert titles, and prepare the final version for distribution.

Today, content may be delivered through traditional television channels, websites, streaming services, YouTube, podcasts, and social media platforms. The technology has changed dramatically over the years, but the goal remains the same: deliver a smooth and engaging experience for the audience. Whether the production is a town council meeting, educational program, interview show, sporting event, podcast, livestream, or community television broadcast, the principles remain the same. Success depends on preparation, communication, technology, and teamwork working together behind the scenes.

### Final Thoughts

The next time you watch a television program, community broadcast, online video, or live stream, remember that there is often far more happening behind the scenes than what appears on screen. What viewers experience in a matter of minutes may represent hours of planning, preparation, testing, coordination, and teamwork. While the audience focuses on the people in front of the camera, an entire team and significant technology work together behind the scenes to make the production appear effortless.

When everything works properly, viewers never think about the cameras, microphones, graphics systems, or control room. They enjoy the program. One of the most rewarding parts of working in production is watching all of the individual pieces come together. When cameras, audio, graphics, lighting, and people all work together successfully, the audience experiences a smooth and professional presentation without ever realizing how much effort went into making it happen.



**Next JAG General Meeting**  
Sept. 30 at 12pm: Varto Technologies  
Presentation: TBA



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. A new password is needed after June 1 of each year. 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 2026**

- 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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