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Inside This Issue

News from Trenton & Washington,
 DC & Changes to the FCC-
 Update on the opposition to The
 American Broadband Deployment
 Act (H.R. 2289) pg2
 Technology Grows Your Station pg5
 When Live Broadcasts Go Wrongpg7
 Communications pg9

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 2027
 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



Summer Education

Between concerts, street fairs and national night out the summer can be a great time to brush up on your video and IP education. Nowadays IP is an essential part of video set ups. Luckily there are a few great resources online to boost your knowledge.

First let's work on our Dante education. Iodinate offers FREE certifications via their website. <https://www.getdante.com/resources/training/dante-certification-program/>

- Level 1 is a great introduction to Dante audio and Dante Controller.
- Level 2 focuses on managing an AV environment with Dante.
- Level 3 teaches you large deployment of Dante and is an advance course in IT management.

They also offer a Dante Domain Manager Administrator Certification that builds on the 3 levels and teaches how to configure, manage and segment Dante domains.

If you want to go further, they also offer a paid in person course over 4 days at their headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Level 1 and 2 certifications are best for us in the AV world of things.

Now for that essential IP knowledge. Net gear offers a FREE certification course on their website to help you understand video over IP.

<https://academy.netgear.com/course/index.php?categoryid=1>

- Level 1 covers networking fundamentals and shows how to do basic set up of a network with Engage Controller.
- Level 2 covers medium scale deployment and design of a Video on IP network.
- Level 3 explores advanced concepts like multicast routing, bandwidth modeling and operational governance for AV networks.

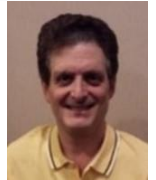
They also offer a Pro AV Certification that focuses on IPMX a suite of technical recommendations and open specifications for AV over IP.

These are two great ways to expand your education or build your resume if you are a freelancer, part timer, or looking toward future career goals. These certifications are also a great way to strengthen your knowledge so you can pitch an AV over IP system to your town. Knowing the answers to questions your mayor or council might ask and having the terminology to communicate with your IT team will help you with your pitch.

Good luck with your certifications and happy learning!



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.



Update on the opposition to The American Broadband Deployment Act (H.R. 2289)

For many months, we have kept everyone informed about the American Broadband Deployment Act (H.R. 2289). If passed, this act would give telecommunication conglomerates de facto power over local zoning laws without providing public safety protections for construction of "deemed granted" facilities. Sites will be constructed without any further action by or notice to the local government.

From NATOA (The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors):

At last month's U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting, a resolution was adopted that urges Congress to reject the American Broadband Deployment Act by warning that the legislation would limit local oversight of broadband deployment and public rights-of-way.

They approved Resolution No. 39, expressing strong opposition to the American Broadband Deployment Act, H.R. 2289 and related Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposals that the conference says would preempt local authority over public rights-of-way, zoning, and telecommunications infrastructure.

This Annual Meeting is one of two major meetings of the United States Conference of Mayors each year. The primary purpose of this meeting is to adopt policy resolutions that guide the organization's advocacy work.

2026 Resolutions of the USCM in the fields of Technology and Innovation include:

A Resolution Expressing Strong Opposition to Federal Preemption of Local Authority for the Benefit of the Telecommunications Industry, Resolution Number 39.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly opposes H.R. 2289 and urges all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to oppose the legislation or any similar preemption proposal as an unnecessary and unconstitutional taking of local property rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors thanks Representative Pallone for his leadership in support of local control and opposition to H.R. 2289 and all those members, Democrat and Republican, that stood with Mr. Pallone in protecting local governments' police powers and property rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its opposition to the proposed actions in the FCC's two broadband dockets, and calls on the Commissions to refrain from taking actions, the authority for which was not delegated by Congress to the Commissions, and even were the power delegated, the actions proposed by the Commissions would result in an unconditional taking of local governments' rights.

Sponsored by: Brian Wahler (Piscataway, NJ); Angela Birney (Redmond, WA); Connie Boesen (Des Moines, IA); J. Christian Bollwage (Elizabeth, NJ); Leirion Gaylor Baird (Lincoln, NE); Anne Marie Graham-Hudak (Charter Township of Canton, MI); Christina Muryn (Findlay, OH); Michael Owens (Mableton, GA); Satya Rhodes-Conway (Madison, WI); Daniel Rickenmann (Columbia, SC); Jim Ross (Arlington, TX); Keith Wilson (Portland, OR) and Michelle Wu (Boston, MA)

Representative Thomas Kean Jr's explanation for his lengthy absence.

For many months, constituents of New Jersey's 7th District (as well as the entire state) wondered what had happened to Representative Tom Kean Jr. He was absent for countless votes with no explanation on his whereabouts. On July 1, we learned the reason behind his absence when Rep. Kean returned and addressed everyone on the House floor with the following speech:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep gratitude for the patience, the kindness, the prayers, and the concern that have been shown to me and my family over the course of the last several months.

This is not an easy speech for me to give. I am a private person by nature, and I have spent most of my life talking about the people that I represent, the issues facing our communities, and the work that continues to be done. Talking about myself has never come naturally, but I believe that I owe an explanation to the people of New Jersey's 7th District, to my colleagues in this chamber, and to the American people for my absence.

Several months ago, due to health concerns, I entered the hospital for some testing. I did not believe that this would result in a long-term stay. I was given the diagnosis of depression.

Now, when people hear the word depression, many people think simply means feeling sad. But depression is so much more than that. It is physical. It is emotional. And until you experience it yourself, it is difficult to fully understand how powerful this illness can be.

The doctors recommended that I remain in the hospital to address my illness. They explained to me that this would be the fastest way to recovery. And to be honest, I was hesitant. I didn't think that I had time for it. I had responsibilities to my family. I had responsibilities to my constituents. I had responsibilities to this institution.

And like many people, I believed that I could simply push through. But I agreed to follow my doctor's recommendations. Again, not believing that would result in a long-term stay. I began to understand not only my diagnosis, but how long depression had been affecting my life.

When I first informed the public that I was dealing with a medical issue, I was still trying to understand what was happening myself. When I said I hope to return in a matter of weeks, I believed it. Those were the best estimates that the doctors could provide.

But as the over 48 million of my fellow Americans being treated for this illness have come to discover, there is no timeline for healing. There is no timeline for recovery. Only the work of getting better one day at a time.

Today, I am grateful that I listened to my doctors. And I am grateful for the exceptional care that I have received from doctors, nurses, and support staff. I am grateful that I accepted help.

Because today I stand before you healthier, stronger, and excited to return to the work that I love. I've always been a supporter of mental health care. During my time in the New Jersey legislature, I worked to advance mental health parity. I believed in the cause then, and I understand it in a far more personal way now.

This experience has given me a deeper appreciation for the millions of Americans who face these challenges each and every day. Many do so quietly. Many do so alone. Many do so while carrying burdens that the rest of us never see.

And to them, I would say, asking for help is not a weakness. It is a strength. To my constituents, Thank you. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you.

I also want to thank my staff, who worked tirelessly to ensure that our office continued serving constituents every day during my absence. And most importantly, I want to thank my family, whose love whose support and whose faith carried me through some very difficult days.

This is not a partisan issue. It touches every community, every family, and every corner of this country. If sharing my story encourages even one person to seek help, if it gives one family the courage to have a difficult conversation, or if it reminds one person that recovery is possible, then this moment will have been worthwhile.

I am grateful to be back with the full support of my doctors. I'm grateful to be healthy. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the people of New Jersey's 7th congressional district. Thank you. May God bless the people of New Jersey and may God bless the United States of America."

Depression affects a person's whole body and mind. It can drain your energy and make daily tasks difficult. Sleep and eating habits can change and it can cause real physical aches. We at JAG welcome Rep. Kean back to Congress and extend our wishes and support for his recovery.



My Metuchen Media Journey

I'm the Director of Communications for the Borough of Metuchen and current studio head of Metuchen Media. I assumed this position in July 2018, after eight years leading operations at ESN-TV, the Edison Schools Network. When I began, I was already relatively familiar with Metuchen, since I had been working just a mile or two down the road. I was excited at the prospect of leading an already successful production facility into the future.

Along with my co-worker Stephanie, I continued the established operations for the first few weeks while I got my feet under me. But, just a few short months later—as things were beginning to click and ideas were starting to blossom—there was a shakeup. Staff cuts turned us into a one-person operation.

Changes bring rebranding and new focus.

That change lit a fire under me, and I decided to redirect METV (as it was known as at the time). I rebranded the station as Metuchen Media and began to concentrate production and distribution to a web and social media-based platform.

Apart from the continuation of Borough Council and Board of Education public meeting simulcasts; I began to add a new element of storytelling to Metuchen Media's portfolio. Short, exciting and emotionally driven profiles of Metuchen residents and town-wide events.

New tools make a big difference in capabilities and quality.



I took a cinematic approach to the visual capture. Wanting to shoot in a 24fps, high-contrast, dynamic format; I decided to get my hands on a Blackmagic URSA G2 Mini-Pro. I've always shot still images with a Canon 5D Mark III, so the URSA G2 was a natural fit since they both use lenses with an EF mount. This saved thousands that would have been relegated to purchasing new lenses if I had gone in a different direction.

The URSA G2 is a dream of a camera that inserted a defined cinematic element, but the camera itself tends to be a bit heavy and cumbersome. I needed something a more manageable and fluid since I was still shooting on my own.

My experience with various DJI drones had me take notice of their catalogue. When they released the Ronin 4D, I decided to give it a shot, and it completely changed everything. The shock absorbing three axis gimbal is nearly flawless and added a certain personality to the camera. This helped take Metuchen Media productions to the next level.

Leveraging new platforms to tell new stories.

The profiles I produced with these cameras perfectly aligned themselves to the social media format. A brief, aggressively shot, and snappily edited emotional piece that could catch the eye of a viewer in the first few frames, before they had a chance to scroll past.

These stories were about exceptional local students, artists, town events and much more. I posted these pieces on any platform I could reach, and the response from the community was immediate and positive. So much so that Metuchen Media has earned three NYNATAS Emmy Nominations since 2019, along with a bunch of Telly and JAG awards that I'm extremely proud of.

Keeping up with Metuchen's award-winning changes.

Metuchen, as a town, began a bit of a renaissance in 2016 after the creation of the Metuchen Downtown Alliance (MDA). I've worked directly with them and their marketing team since I began here nearly a decade ago. They've enjoyed substantial growth and notoriety in recent years, and many Metuchen Media productions have supported their image throughout the surrounding area.



This notoriety came to a crescendo in 2023, when Metuchen and the MDA were recognized as the Great American Main Street Award winner. Metuchen Media has been mentioned as a significant element in that recognition since our vision and presentation generated so much interest in the town.

As with every other PEG station throughout the state, the COVID lockdowns changed just about everything. With so many residents altering their daily lives, even several years after the event, we've had to expand our public meeting broadcasts.

The future of Metuchen and Metuchen Media.

Originally, Metuchen Media only broadcasted Brough Council and BOE meetings. That has now expanded to include Zoning and Planning Board meetings, along with the occasional committee meetings if a hot button topic is being discussed. That added demand, and the aging of our existing system, forced us to upgrade our live switch to a Tricaster 2 Eliete system.



For those who utilize this behemoth, you're familiar with its reliability and performance. Without it, Metuchen Media would be scrambling on a weekly basis just to fulfil our basic promise to the residents of Metuchen, informing them of the goings on at Borough Hall.

After a few years, and many changes to our output, Metuchen Media finds itself at another crossroad. The public's way of consuming information is changing again and to stay relevant, we need to pivot. That's a challenge I'm up for, and I'm excited to see where the future takes Metuchen Media, and the rest of us who work diligently in this industry we all love.



Most people assume that when they watch a live television program, community meeting, sporting event, or livestream, everything unfolds exactly as planned. In reality, every live production carries a level of uncertainty. Equipment can fail, unexpected situations can arise, and people can make mistakes. The difference between an amateur production and a professional one is often not whether something goes wrong, but how quickly and calmly the production team responds.



For viewers, a live broadcast may appear effortless. Behind the scenes, however, a team of professionals constantly monitors every camera, microphone, graphic, video source, and audio feed. Their job is not only to produce a quality program but also to anticipate problems before the audience ever notices them.

Preparation Is the First Line of Defense



Long before a live broadcast begins, production teams spend time preparing for situations they hope never occur. Equipment is tested, microphones are checked, batteries are replaced, graphics are reviewed, cameras are positioned, and communication systems are verified.

Many production crews rely on detailed checklists before every broadcast. While these may seem routine, they help prevent small oversights from becoming major problems during a live production.

Even with careful preparation, live television remains unpredictable.

Audio Problems Can Happen at Any Time

Many production professionals will tell you that audio problems are among the most serious issues that can occur during a broadcast.

A microphone battery may suddenly fail. A cable could become disconnected. Wireless interference might appear without warning. A remote guest may experience internet latency or lose their audio completely.

When this happens, the audio engineer must react immediately. Backup microphones may be activated, audio channels adjusted, or alternate sources brought online. In many cases, viewers never realize there was a problem because the correction happens within seconds.

Cameras Do Not Always Cooperate

Camera issues can occur without warning.

A camera operator may lose sight of a moving subject. A PTZ camera could fail to respond to commands. A video cable may become disconnected, or a signal may suddenly disappear.

Rather than interrupting the broadcast, the director switches to another camera while the issue is resolved behind the scenes. Good productions are designed with flexibility in mind, allowing multiple cameras to cover the same area whenever possible.

Graphics and Video Mistakes

Graphics operators work under constant time pressure.

Names, titles, sponsor information, presentation slides, and prerecorded videos all need to appear at precisely the right moment.

Occasionally, a graphic may contain an error, the wrong title could be displayed, or a video may not start as expected. When this happens, production teams quickly remove the incorrect element, correct the issue, and continue the broadcast with as little disruption as possible.

The audience often remembers the content rather than the brief mistake.

Human Error Is Part of Live Production



No matter how advanced technology becomes, people remain at the center of every production.

A director may accidentally select the wrong camera. A microphone may remain muted. Someone may speak before they realize they are live. A presenter might skip part of the script or unexpectedly change the order of a presentation.

Professional crews understand that mistakes happen. Rather than assigning blame during the broadcast, they focus on solving the problem first. Discussions about improvement come after the production has ended.

Teamwork Makes the Difference

One of the greatest strengths of any production team is communication.

Directors, camera operators, audio engineers, graphics specialists, producers, and technical directors work together continuously throughout the broadcast. Headsets deliver instructions instantly, allowing everyone to react together when unexpected situations arise.

Every member of the team plays an important role, and every position contributes to the success of the final production.

Viewers Rarely Notice the Recovery



One of the true signs of a successful live production is that viewers never realize something went wrong.

They see smooth camera transitions, hear clear audio, and continue watching without interruption. Behind the scenes, however, a production team may have already solved several unexpected challenges before the audience had time to notice.

That ability comes from experience, preparation, communication, and teamwork.

Final Thoughts

Live broadcasting will never be completely predictable, and that is part of what makes it both challenging and rewarding.

Technology continues to improve, but equipment can still fail, and unexpected situations will always occur. What separates professional productions is not perfection. It is preparation, adaptability, and the ability to remain calm under pressure.

The next time you watch a live broadcast, remember that while everything may appear effortless on your screen, an experienced production team is working together behind the scenes to ensure the program continues smoothly, even when things do not go according to plan.



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 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 lbесink@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



Jersey Access Group, PO Box 164, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

www.jagonline.org JAGinfo@jagonline.org

New Jersey Chapter of NATOA, Organizational Member of the ACM, and New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate

Editor-in-Chief: Rich Desimone Editor: Betsy Robin Schwartz

Staff: Doug Seidel, Geoffrey Belinfante, Dave Garb, John Morley

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