

September 2026

Volume 13, Issue 9

Events**Sept. 30 - General Meeting****Varto Technologies @ 12:00pm (Lunch 11:30am)****Presentation: One Operator. A Much Smarter Production** by Yervant Keshishian, Technical Director and Sales Engineer, Varto Technologies.

When JAG returns to Varto Technologies on September 30, we will put several newer tools together and show how they can take some of the routine work off the operator's plate. The point is not to automate every decision. It is to give the operator more time to watch the production and make the decisions that matter. [Read more](#)

**News from Trenton & Washington, DC and FCC Legislation Changes**

by Dave Garb, Chair, Legislative

FCC Amends Closed Captioning Rules for Video Programmers - Docket No: 05-23125-133: Closed Captioning of Video Programming; Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking; Delete, Delete, Delete Proceedings*From: Mike Wassenaar, President Alliance for Community Media (ACM) & National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)*

In 2016, the ACM asked the FCC to waive closed captioning registration rules for public, educational, and governmental access (PEG) program producers. **On August 26, 2026, this request was granted.**

The FCC agreed with this decade-long crusade by releasing a Report and Order that amended its registration and certification closed captioning requirements to alleviate obligations for providers of PEG programming and providers of programming carried on nonbroadcast networks. The Report, when published in the Federal Register, will go into effect in 30 days.

In some trade magazines, there have been headlines that say the FCC has lifted captioning requirements for cable channels. *This is not in fact the case.* What they have done is lifted the registration requirements for video producers on PEG channels that are exempt from FCC captioning rules. [Read more](#)

Looking ahead to the 2027 JAG Awards: Time to Start Capturing!

by Connor Cheung, JAG Awards Committee, Chair



With the summer wrapping up and a brand-new production season officially underway, it's time to turn our attention toward the 2027 JAG Awards.

While May might feel like a long way off, we all know how fast a year moves in local media. Between town council meetings, community events, high school sports games, and creative studio shows, your cameras are already rolling on the exact kind of work that defines our local programming. [Read more](#)

Are We Losing Our Community's Video History?

by John Morley, Independent Producer



Walk into almost any community television station that has been operating for several decades, and there is a good chance you will find pieces of the community's history stored somewhere inside. Shelves may contain videotapes with handwritten labels, cabinets may hold DVDs and other recording media, and hard drives or servers may contain years of locally produced programming. Some stations may even have recordings stored on formats newer staff have never worked with, and equipment that has not been powered on in years. [Read more](#)

**Alliance for Community Media****Public Policy Call**
Oct. 1, 2026
2:00pm- 3:00pm (ET)

Join in on this monthly phone call with ACM President and CEO Mike Wassenaar, discussing current State and Federal issues affecting PEG Access TV, and what actions the individuals in community media can make in support of our industry. Email ACM is you need the link. Public Policy Phone Briefings are for ACM Members Only. Registration is monitored. Can't make a call, but want to get informed? Listen to a recording on the ACM website.

[Click to Register](#)



JAG Booth 256

Nov. 17 & 18 9:00am-5:00pm, Nov. 19 9:00am-12:00pm

JAG/NJML Joint Sessions

ADA Website Compliance: Essential Guidance of Admins and Clerks!

Nov 17, 2:00pm-3:15pm Rm: 405/406

The Deadline for bringing local government web sites and "apps" into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act was delayed by a year still, there are many things that municipalities must do to be compliant. Session will explain the law and offer suggestions on how your community can most efficiently meet the needs of your community while achieving compliance.

Washington is Moving to Strip Away Your Right-of-Way Authority

Nov. 18, 10:45am-12:00pm Rm: 316

There are regulatory threats in Washington that would eliminate revenue to your municipality and terminate your rights to regulate deployment of wires and devices on the poles in your community. If adopted, the proposals will cost you money, affect your budget and forever change your town's ability to control its right-of-way. Learn what you can do to stop the assaults on your rights.

[Registration](#)

JAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 12 & 13, 2027 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ

A Technology Forum and Production/Management Symposium

JAG Awards

SAVE THE DATE

[Check out the Latest Videos from our members on our YouTube page](#)

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EVENT SCHEDULE 2026-27

- Sept. 30 at 12pm: General Meeting, Varto Technologies, Presentation: One Operator. A Much Smarter Production by Yervant Keshishian, Technical Director and Sales Engineer, Varto Technologies.
- Oct. 28 at 12pm: General Meeting, Zoom Meeting, Presentation TBA
- Dec. 2 at 12pm: General Meeting, Location TBD, Presentation TBA
- Jan. 27, 2027 at 12pm: Zoom Meeting-Reorganization, Presentation – TBA
- Feb. 24 at 12pm: General Meeting, Bloomfield TV, Presentation – TelVue
- Mar. 31 at 12pm: General Meeting, Zoom Meeting, Presentation – JAG Conference 2027
- Apr. 28 at 12pm: General Meeting, Location TBD, Presentation – DeSisti Lighting
- May – JAG Conference & JAG Awards, Location TBD
- Jun. 30 at 12pm: General Meeting, Zoom Meeting, Presentation – TBA

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Organizational Members



JAG Affiliations



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

Jersey Access Group

New Jersey Chapter of NATOA, Organizational Member of ACM, and

New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate

Newsletter

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