

October 2026

Volume 13, Issue 10

Events**Oct. 28, 12noon
General Meeting- ZOOM**

Presentation: Discussion about what you want to see at the JAG Annual Conference 2027.

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

by Dave Garb, Chair, Legislative

Committee

Update: FCC Amends Closed Captioning Rules for Video Programmers - Docket No: 05-23125-133: Closed Captioning of Video Programming But ADA Rules Still Apply

From: Mike Wassenaar, President Alliance for Community Media (ACM) & National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)

Last month, we shared an article about the [FCC's amendments to certain closed-captioning rules](#). These changes have raised questions about how the updated FCC requirements affect municipalities and public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access stations—and what they mean for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The FCC has lifted the registration requirements for video producers on PEG channels who seek to be exempt from FCC captioning rules. Previously, the FCC stated that there was a deadline for registering and that each cable channel in the United States should keep a point of contact in case there are consumer complaints. In the future, they will most likely set up a simple registration process to get a FCC registration number, and then, ask channels to state whether or not they are exempt based upon the captioning rules that exist for the FCC.

But even if a program or a provider is exempt under these amended FCC rules, they may still have obligations under other federal laws (DOJ) to make your video programming accessible to individuals with disabilities. The ADA rules apply to just about everyone and to PEG channels. [Read more](#)

Here is what is going on at JAG.

by Doug Seidel, President, JAG



Legislation: The new ADA requirements are still scheduled to take effect in April 2027. While the FCC has determined that these requirements do not apply to cable programming, they still apply to online content, including YouTube, Facebook, and websites. Start planning now to ensure you're ready for the transition next year. [Review the Legislative Committee article for specific details.](#)
[Read more](#)

OBTV, Reimagining the Possibilities, One Upgrade at a Time

by Aimee Alonso, Manager, Old Bridge TV



Hello JAG colleagues and friends. I have always felt energized to read about the innovative upgrades and programs happening at other stations. There is nothing more thrilling and inspiring than seeing what is possible and imagining how those ideas might spark new opportunities for all our work. I remember reading similar JAG articles about other stations and feeling my creativity come alive with each example. My hope is that this article does the same for you. I hope you feel encouraged to come up with new ideas and that you are reminded of the exciting potential within reach for each of our stations. [Read more](#)

Who Will Run Community Television Tomorrow?

by John Morley, Independent Producer



Community television has always depended on more than cameras, production equipment, and broadcast technology. Behind every municipal meeting, local interview, school concert, and community celebration are people who can turn an idea into a finished production. Some are experienced station managers, engineers, and producers, while others are students, municipal employees, and dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and expertise. [Read more](#)

The League of Municipalities Conference and JAG**Gear Up for the 2027 JAG Awards**



Perfect Together

by Geoffrey Belinfante, Chair,
External Relations Committee

Once again, this year, JAG will have a presence at the [New Jersey League of Municipalities](#)

[Conference](#) in Atlantic City from November 17th through November 19th. Our attendance there includes a booth on the convention floor and the sponsorship of two workshops that are presented jointly with the endorsement of the League.

We find our presence at the Conference truly important to the image of JAG and the way we are perceived in the state. Most municipalities are members of the League and by appearing at their convention and presenting workshops that are jointly sponsored with the League, JAG helps solidify its responsibility as an organization with expertise on matters that pertain to municipalities and their relationships with cable operators, wireless carriers, large telecoms and the legislators in Trenton and Washington. [Read more](#)



YOUR CONFERENCE. YOUR IDEAS. YOUR VOICE.

by Bob Duthaler, Chair,
Conference Committee

Help Us Shape the JAG Conference 2027!

Planning is already underway for the JAG Conference 2027, and this year we want you to help us build the conference.

The JAG Conference brings together community media professionals, municipal television stations, producers, engineers, government officials, educators, technology experts, manufacturers, vendors and others working throughout the PEG and community media industry. But before we finalize the 2027 program, [we want to hear from you.](#)

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN 2027?

[Read more](#)

[Take Our Survey](#)

by Connor Cheung, Chair,
JAG Awards Committee



As we dive deeper into the fall production season, the JAG Awards Committee is already hard at work laying the groundwork for an incredible 2027 program. Our recent committee meeting focused entirely on streamlining the process, making it easier for stations to participate, and getting a head start so everyone can avoid the usual spring scramble. [Read more](#)



Registration Opens January 1, 2027

Details will be announced soon.
Awards Banquet May 12, 2027 as part of JAG Annual Conference



**Alliance for
Community Media**

Public Policy Call
Dec. 3, 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](#)



**Webinar: The
Courts, The
Hill
and The FCC –**

A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2027

Dec. 14, 2026, 2:00pm- 3:00pm (ET)

Registration open until 12/13/26 at 5:00 PM (EST)

[Click to Register](#)



JAG | **CONFERENCE 2027**
Jersey Access Group

EDUCATION | TECHNOLOGY | NETWORKING | COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 12 & 13, 2027
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL | EDISON, NJ

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE AT JAG 2027?

Your Ideas Shape the Conference!

TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY
Scan the QR Code to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for JAG 2027.

SESSION TOPICS
What would you like to learn and explore?

HANDS-ON TRAINING
What technologies or production skills would you like to see?

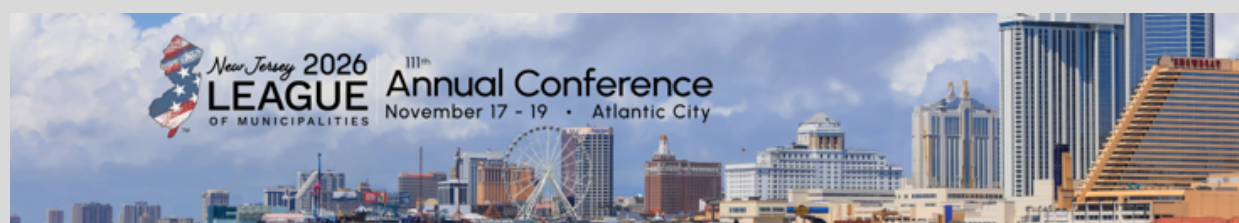
VENDORS & MANUFACTURERS
Who do you want to see in the exhibit hall?

SPEAKERS & EXPERTS
Is there someone you think we should invite?

YOUR IDEAS
Have a big idea or suggestion? We want to hear it!

HAVE MORE TO SHARE?
Reach out to **Bob Duthaler**, Conference Chair at bduthaler@jagonline.org to share your thoughts, ideas and if you are interested in being part of the conference committee.

Help Us Build the Conference You Want!



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](#)

Have something you want on our YouTube channel?

[Click to Send Video](#)

EVENT SCHEDULE 2026-27

- Oct. 28 at 12pm: General Meeting, Zoom Meeting, Presentation: **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN 2027?**
- Dec. 2 at 12pm: General Meeting, Location TBD, Presentation TBA
- Jan. 27, 2027 at 12pm: General Meeting, 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 12 & 13: JAG Conference & JAG Awards, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ
- Jun. 30 at 12pm: General Meeting, Zoom Meeting, Presentation – TBA

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Share our Newsletter.

Help expand the awareness of
JAG.

[Click for a link to share invitation to
receive our newsletter](#)

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 Secretary – 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

Editor-in-Chief: Rich Desimone Editor: Bhavika Desai

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

Contact us at JAGinfo@jagonline.org

Jersey Access Group | jagonline.org



Jersey Access Group | PO Box 164 | Metuchen, NJ 08840 US

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