



JAG
Jersey Access Group

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Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2015

Trustees 2015-16

Jeff Arban 2015
Lee Beckerman-2015
Bob Duthaler-2016
Dave Garb-2015
Stephanie Gibbons-2016
Debbe Gist-2015
Victoria Timpanaro 2016

Your Municipal Communication Resource

Connecting Your Town to Your Residents

The Unofficial End of Summer - The Official Re-Start of JAG

Summer break is now over and the kids are going back to school. It's also now time for you to get back in the JAG mode. What is the JAG mode you ask? Simply put, it's the future of Access Television and Community Communication. You are the key ingredient to make it all happen.

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Just like you, JAG General Membership Meetings took some time off during the summer.

September marks the beginning of getting back in the membership meeting swing. JAG's next meeting is September 30th at Varto Technologies. Please mark this on your calendar and come out and support one of JAG's new organizational members. This will be a great opportunity to get hands on with some new equipment and technology. Plus sit down and talk with an integrator who can help you plan out your station operations and growth.

September also marks the opening up of the JAM Video Awards. It's time to sit down and go through all your programs you created throughout the year and enter them in this year's awards. You and your crew have worked hard putting these shows together, now is the time to be rewarded for your efforts. Give your station the recognition it deserves, enter the JAM Video Awards now. Check this newsletter for more information on how to enter, plus check out JAG's social media for reminders and links as well.

General Meeting Schedule

Sept. 30- Varto
Presentation-by our host
Oct. 28- Montclair
Presentation- JVC
Nov. 24- Edison
Presentation- Tigh trope
Dec. 9- Annual Meeting
JAM AWARDS
Location Spain Inn
Jan. 27- Reorganization
Meeting: TBD
Presentation by Castus
Feb. 24- TBD
Presentation-Telvue
Mar. 30- Shadowstone
Presentation-by our host
Apr. 27-TBD

While you may have been relaxing on the beach, out in the boat or just sitting on your deck in August, the JAG Executive Board was locked up in a conference room for two straight days during our annual retreat. This was a chance for our board to become re-invigorated with the organization, work on updating our policies & procedures and come up with ways to help you the members also get excited again about JAG and get the most out of your membership. Look for changes in the upcoming months to give you added value for your membership, keep you up to date with technology changes and new ways to update you with information and communication within the organization. Our board will be working very hard to give you, JAG Members, the type of organization you expect and need. Please take advantage of our efforts and keep up with JAG in the upcoming months.

So, after you help the kids get back to school and settled in for their upcoming school year, don't forget to get yourself back in the JAG mindset, help your station grow and get your community communication moving in the right direction. Welcome Back to JAG!!

Bob Duthaler,
President, Jersey Access Group

JAM Awards Registration is Open!

By Victoria Timpanaro and Jeff Arban, Co-Chairs, JAM Awards Committee

The JAM Video Awards registration is now open with some changes. Most importantly the mailing of DVD's is over. This year all applicants will be emailed a password to access a private folder using Drop Box. Then you can upload all your entries. Make sure you label each file correctly. The committee will handle sorting them into the proper categories and then provide access to the appropriate judging site for viewing.

There are also five new categories that have been added to encourage college students to share their work.



Enter Now! 5th Annual JAM Video Awards Including Five College Student Categories

Submission deadline: Friday, Oct. 15, 2015

The registration is open to members of the public and at a discount rate to members of the Jersey Access Group. Not a JAG member? Find out how to become one.

College Student Categories entries are FREE of charge with a limit of five entries.

Rules

Judging is based on six basic criteria: Content, Technical Quality, Creativity, "Local-centricity", Style, and Overall Impact. There are a total of 14 competitive categories.

1. Submit all entries in MPEG-4 format only - files must be received by October 15, 2015.
2. Entries may be any length; however judges are only required to watch 15 minutes of each entry. You may submit any part of a program or programs: such as the beginning and end, or beginning and middle, etc. of a single program OR three to four segments from a series program, not exceeding 5 minutes for each segment (clearly delineate between each segment with a slate or fade). You must not re-edit the segments for the purpose of this contest; they must appear as they were originally produced.
3. All entries must be accompanied by a 15 second highlight clip for use as part of the JAM Video Awards presentation.
4. All entries submitted must have been wholly produced between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015.
5. Entry fees are \$50 for JAG members and \$75 for non-JAG members, per entry. Enter 4 programs and you get the fifth entry free!!! Pay online with PayPal at the registration site, a municipal purchase order, or by check. Make checks payable to Jersey Access Group. *If you don't know if you are a current Jersey Access Group member please contact Debbe Gist at dgist@piscatawaynj.org.*
6. Category awards will be in the form of award for first place, certificates for second and third place, and possibly honorable mention.
7. Please label each entry file with the category number, category entered, name of entry, and station or organization name.
8. Instructions and password will be sent via email for uploading of entries to JAM Awards Drop Box.

Make checks payable to Jersey Access Group

Mail check or purchase order to:

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

Reasons for Disqualification

1. File is not in the required format.
2. Files which are not viewable for technical reasons. Judges will make every effort to view your entry. Please check your files before upload.
3. An entry that clearly violates a specific requirement of the category in which it is entered.
4. Improper alteration or re-editing for the purpose of this contest. Program or excerpts of the program should be entered in this contest as they were originally produced.
5. Incorrect payment or failure to pay by Nov. 15, 2015.
6. Failure to provide a 15 seconds publicity clip.
7. Entry received after Oct. 15, 2015. This is a REAL deadline and there will be no extensions!

Note: No refunds will be made for any entry that is disqualified, or if any other error is made by the producer or submitter of any entry.

Indemnification and Rights

- All decisions made by the judging panels of the Jersey Access Group Video Awards Committee are final.
- To promote community media, the Jersey Access Group retains the right to use clips of winning entries for promotional purposes, including broadcast of the JAM Awards show for a period of two (2) years.
- The producer of the work is responsible for obtaining all approvals, clearances, licenses, etc., for materials contained in the entry and will provide such clearances upon request.
- To volunteer to be a judging site, or for answers to questions, contact: Victoria Timpanaro-vtimpana@essex.edu.

Program Categories

Note: Programs may be entered into more than one category but each category has to have a separate entry form and fee. Awards will be given to first place winners with second and third place winners receiving certificates.

1. Arts, Entertainment, or Music Performance: Spoken recital, video and movie wrap-a-round, sketch comedy, variety acts, along with movie and gaming reviews. Traditional or innovative musical/dance performance, creative or experimental music videos, dance, or music/dance artist profiles.
2. Diversity Programming: Program that explores culture, people or ideas not generally explored in the mainstream media; speaks to a human understanding of diversity; a specific culture, ethnic group, gay/lesbian, or differently-abled group or different ways of life.
3. Documentary Profile or Event: Program that profiles true-to-life people, places, organizations, or program that examines true-to-life event(s), occurrences or issues and provides factual information without fictional elements.
4. Instructional & Training: Programming of a "how-to" nature... informational and skill-building feature (often hands-on) to help viewers accomplish a goal.
5. Issues and Political Process: Program that includes a monolog or opinion/interview-based discussion of an issue or idea in order to explore points of view, or that involves viewers in the political process, pre-election interviews or coverage of local election night results, commentary, debates, or forums...democracy in action.
6. Live Event or Other Programming, excluding sports productions, that is Live or Live to Tape: Coverage of an event or competition involving NO post-production editing (except minimal titling) such as a community event, meeting, live in-studio call-in, etc.
7. Local Events: Parades, festivals, fairs, holiday events, performance, concerts, hometown events, things-to-do in your community.
8. News and Magazine Format: Entertainment, information, or variety show or series comprised of short, self-contained segments; or an edited series, or a program that offers reports on local topics and events around a town, city or school.
9. Program Opening: Best use of a title sequence of a recurring program.
10. Promo/PSA (UNDER 5 MINUTES): Station IDs, show promos, informational piece about PEG, short scripted production, or a short public service announcement about a nonprofit organization.
11. Sports Programming: Program or series about topics related to sports and/or athletics
12. Sports Programming-Games: Coverage of a sporting event and/or sports competition
13. Talk Show- Entertainment: Any subject or topic that includes activities and entertainment segments.
14. Talk Show- Informational: Any subject or topic that include opinion/interview-based discussion of a person or event to generate interest and educate the public.

College Student Non-Broadcast Categories

These are any video works that have NOT been broadcast over the conventional television channels, but follow the appropriate broadcast standards (No obscenity, no nudity, etc.). They could have been created as a class assignment or internal communications - i.e.: internet/streaming. The categories are:

15. News Show/Short Segment: Entertainment or information show or series comprised of short, self-contained segments, or an edited series, or a program that reports on local topics and events.
16. Talk Show: Any subject or topic that includes opinion/interview-based discussion of a person or event to generate interest and educate the public.
17. Public Service Announcement: A short public service announcement about a non-profit organization or public awareness (i.e. Don't Smoke, Recycling, etc.).
18. Sports Event: Coverage of a sporting event and/or sports competition, or a program or series about topics related to sports and/or athletics.
19. Narrative Short Film/Video: Program that profiles people, places, organizations, or true-to-life event(s), occurrences or issues and provides factual information without fictional elements.

For questions or to volunteer to be a judging site, contact: Victoria Timpanaro at vtimpana@essex.edu.

Submission instructions

- After submitting this on line registration you will be sent instructions and a password to upload your entry file to JAM Video Awards on-line and Drop Box folder.
- Each entry must be uploaded separately.
- File name must include the category number, category name, entry title, and the name of your organization or station.
- Payments can be made by check, purchase order or PayPal with a credit card.
- Click below to enter up to five programs and/or categories.
- Additional entries require use of a different email address.
- You may not change or add to your registration form after you have submitted it.
- Maximum of 5 entries per registration form.
- Submission of this registration application certifies that I have the authority to submit this entry and have secured all necessary rights for material presented in the program. I understand that by submitting this entry, I am giving the Jersey Access Group and local broadcast stations the rights for non-commercial use of clips of my winning entry for two years for promotional and/or broadcast of the JAM Video Awards show.
- All entry must be received no later than Friday, Oct. 15, 2015.

Payment or purchase order must be received by Nov 15, 2015 or the entry will be disqualified.

Click below to register.

Register Here!

Only 5 entries per registration.

Awards will be presented at the Jersey Access Group JAM Awards Dinner on Dec. 9, 2015, 6-10pm, at the Spain Inn, Piscataway, NJ.

We appreciate your support and wish you luck!

Sincerely,

JAM Video Awards Committee

Victoria Timpanaro & Jeff Arban, Co-Chairs

**All JAG members – please free up your calendars for this very important
“Live” Roundtable Discussion on Closed Captioning
for Public Access & Governmental Programming**

November 10, 2015, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST

The FCC will hold a special forum to promote discussion about closed captioning of public access and governmental programming shown on television. The event will include discussions about the benefits of captioning such programming, the relevant captioning obligations of programmers and stations, and effective captioning solutions. The event will engage local government professionals, policy makers, captioning vendors, consumer groups, engineers, representatives from the programming industry, and others as appropriate. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding captioning of public access and governmental programming, and to ensure the accessibility of such programming for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as other individuals who may benefit from the availability of closed captions on this programming.

The event will be free and open to the public. Live, captioned video of the event will be available at www.fcc.gov/live.



**Government
VIDEO EXPO 2015**

Walter E Washington Convention Center, Washington DC

Save the Date
DEC. 1-3, 2015

TOP EXHIBITORS | TARGETED TRAINING | KEYNOTE SPEAKERS | NETWORKING EVENTS | DAILY PRIZES

What Over-the-Top Means for PEG

by **Jesse Lerman, President and CEO, TelVue Corporation**

When Over-the-Top television first arrived on the scene, it was portrayed as the rebellious “cord-cutter” - the technology that would make cable TV obsolete. But predictions of the death of cable were premature. Instead, cable TV is rolling out its own version of OTT services, while purely OTT services start experimenting with linear programming. Comcast is reportedly going to launch a new curated OTT service this Fall over its X1 platform, in the hopes of reaching younger audiences with a mix of pro- and semi-pro content. Meanwhile Dish, Sony, Verizon and DirecTV are all launching their own Internet video offerings. Are the two forms of delivery becoming one? Or, in the words of the FCC, is linear broadcasting becoming “technology-neutral”?

That would seem to be the rationale behind the FCC’s recent notice of proposed rulemaking that would expand the definition of Multichannel Video Program Distributors (MVPDs) to include linear OTT services. In a blogpost last year, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler explained it as a way to open up competition: *“Consumers have long complained about how their cable service forces them to buy channels they never watch. The move of video onto the Internet can do something about that frustration – but first Internet video services need access to the programs. Today the FCC takes the first step to open access to cable programs as well as local television. The result should be to give consumers more alternatives from which to choose so they can buy the programs they want.”*

If adopted, this new definition of MVPD could be a game-changer for PEG operations, because of the implications for the future of the franchise fees. Both NATOA and the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) are preparing to disseminate guidelines on this issue to their members, to help them alert local politicians to the potential of losing PEG’s “right-of-way” revenues. NATOA President Steve Traylor put it this way: *“OTT services have the potential to bring new and exciting viewing options to consumers. But in the rush to “level the regulatory playing field” for these new services, the FCC must be careful to respect public interest obligations and protect local community media.”*

And in a members’ letter last Spring, ACM President Mike Wassenaar wrote: *“The FCC is trying to find ways to encourage competition with the cable industry – which we think is a great idea as long as it doesn’t mean getting rid of benefits and fair compensation to communities. In concrete terms, we don’t want a system that encourages cable to not pay for use of public property like Rights-Of-Way or to drive more and more of its services to broadband delivery to try to escape their community obligations. And we need to find a way to have local media delivered on as many competitors as possible. We need a system that encourages MORE local programming for viewers, not less!”*

Among the comments filed with the FCC is a very detailed response from a coalition of PEG stations from Maryland to Texas, which raises the question - never mentioned in the FCC proposal - about whether OTT services would be bound by the same requirements that current MVPDs have: to pay compensation in return for the use of public right-of-way. The coalition supports the FCC move, on condition that: *“... cable operator-provided OTT services are no different in any legally significant way from any other video service provided by a cable operator, and that the cable operator’s choice of bandwidth cannot free it from the obligations it voluntarily accepted in exchange for a community’s rights-of-way.”* Unspoken here, but clearly understood, is that a key obligation would be the payment of franchise fees for the operation of community media access.

For PEG operations, OTT is more than just a part of a financing equation. It can also be an opportunity. OTT has the potential of allowing PEGs to deliver an HD channel to multiple viewing platforms, at affordable prices. Many municipalities, for example, already have their own Roku channel, both for VOD and linear broadcast, as exemplified by the scores of PEG stations that are currently included in the PEG.TV Roku channel powered by TelVue CloudCast. TelVue also offers dedicated Roku channel design for stations and media companies, and we’re working on support for additional OTT platforms. Roku is an opportunity for PEG stations to broadcast in HD, even before their cable carrier gives them an HD channel. Apple TV, Sony Playstation, Chromecast, Samsung TVs, Amazon FireTV even Xbox can also be considered potential OTT outlets, although for the moment many curate their channels more tightly than Roku does.

The FCC move is a recognition of this rapid rise of OTT services in recent years. The most recent Conviva Viewer Experience Report says the OTT viewing is steadily getting better, with bitrates worldwide improving 19 percent since the beginning of 2015, and video start failures have fallen to a four-year low of 2.0 percent.

As OTT gains ground, both technically and commercially, PEG operations should ponder some of these questions:

1. If the MVPD label is extended to OTT providers, will the public interest obligation carry over to them as well?
2. If an OTT provider is simply using another company’s fiber to get to your home, should that provider be paying for the public right-of-way?
3. What happens when Apple, Facebook or Google (YouTube) provide linear channels? Will they become MVPDs?

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler was clear about his desire to expand the definition of MVPD: *“...the definition of an MVPD should turn on the services that a provider offers, not on how those services reach viewers... We have passed from an era where it was necessary to build a purpose-specific pathway to deliver video.”* What is less clear is where the FCC will stand on protecting the public interest in this new telecom ecosystem. OTT is here to stay, and we’re fast heading in a direction where IP delivery over broadband becomes the dominant method of delivery. PEGs should embrace OTT video to expand their viewership and adapt to modern technologies, but need to pay close attention to the regulatory story behind the scenes.

Bits & Bytes

- Sept. 30 — General meeting to be held at Varto Technologies. Varto Technologies is a system integrator and will be talking about a number of products. This will include a demonstration of how virtual sets can become a solution for stations without studios. We encourage members to attend.
- Oct. 5 — NATOA webinar-Right of Way Management Ordinances
With more interest by broadband providers in deploying new fiber optic networks or expanding existing networks, local governments should be concerned with their ROW management regulations. Proper ROW management regulations protect cities from future road maintenance expenses by establishing engineering standards for boring and excavation operations, a permitting process to keep track of providers working in the ROW at all times, and inspections to ensure compliance with engineering standards and construction practices prescribing traffic diversion standards. In this session you will learn about the key elements of an effective ROW ordinance.
- Oct. 14 — JAG Executive Board will meet and review changes to the policies and procedures.
- Oct. 19 — First meeting of the 2016 Conference Committee.
- Oct. 28 — General meeting to be held at Montclair. **Nominations for 4 board trustees.** Our newest organizational member JVC will be presenting their latest equipment. Ken Freed, JVC sales will be joining us. Ken is also an engineer and is a great resource for JAG members. If you are trying to figure out the cameras you need to transition your station into HD and to send content via wireless technology you will not want to miss this meeting. We encourage members to attend.
- Nov. 9 — NATOA webinar-How to be a Gig City -- What are the Options?
Communities are stepping up to the challenge of establishing local infrastructure that will ensure they remain economically competitive with the rest of the world, while protecting public health, safety, and educational opportunity in a knowledge-based future. This session will examine what options are available, and how to strategically plan, to be a Gig City. Does it mean having to build a fiber infrastructure yourself, or are there less riskier alternatives but which may mean less control over this critical infrastructure.
- Nov. 11-12 — CCW-(Content and Communications World) Javits Convention Center, NYC
- Nov. 24 — General meeting to be held in Edison. **Election of 2016 JAG Board of Trustees.** Please note that this meeting will be on Tuesday Nov. 24 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. This will be the first time Edison will host a meeting giving members an opportunity to see their operation. Tightrope Media Systems will be providing a presentation.
- Dec. 7 — NATOA webinar-The Courts, The Hill and The FCC -- A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2015
Our panel of experts will assess how 2015 affected policy and practice on key communications issues and will provide their views of what may be coming in 2016 - and how local governments can prepare.



COMMITTEES CORNER

NATOA 2015 Annual Conference Sept. 9 - 11



San Diego, CA
2015 Annual Conference, Sept 9-11 at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego, CA
Registration Open
Hard Rock Hotel sold out
Residence Inn San Diego
Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter Hotel

NJ League of Municipalities



New Jersey State League
of Municipalities

Nov. 17-20, 2015

Atlantic City, NJ

Save the Date

Annual JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 9, 2015

6-10pm

Spain Inn

Piscataway, NJ

JAG Annual Conference

May 25-27, 2016

Hyatt Morristown, NJ

Save the Date

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

Varto Technologies will be hosting our September meeting. JVC will present at the October meeting in Montclair. Tightrope will be doing a presentation at the November meeting in Edison. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

Membership dues invoices for 2016 will be sent out at the beginning of October. The fee for this coming year will be \$155.00. If you are interested in joining the Finance Committee please contact Debbe Gist: dgist@piscatawaynj.org, or call 732-562-2305.

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair*

The Production Committee has created an account on Dropbox. This will be used to send pieces to Access New Jersey as well as entries to the JAM Awards. It is in early development so stay tuned for more details. Important note, this is not a replacement for TelVue and in no way will it take its place so do not submit programs on here. The committee is also looking for announcements of new shows that need or want distribution to the membership. We want all producers and stations to notify the committee as to what you are putting out there for distribution. We can blurb it on Twitter, Facebook and at our meetings. Join the committee, contact me at pnamen@piscatawaynj.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Legislation Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

I am eagerly seeking members to join the Legislative Committee. With all the activity that is happening from the Federal Government on down. Our eyes and ears are needed to protect the interest of our PEG communities. If you are interested in being a watchdog, please contact David Garb at davegarb@paps.net.

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

Membership Committee is currently working on a member's survey about the benefits JAG offers. We want to hear from you and this gives you an opportunity to give us your opinion of JAG services. It will be coming out soon so please look for it and give us your feedback. We are always looking for members to join our committee if you are interested please contact Stephanie at stgibbons@verizon.net.

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

The committee has just completed negotiations with the Hyatt Morristown to host the 2016 conference. We are looking for members that are looking for a way to get more involved with supporting JAG's mission. This event is JAG's major annual fundraiser and we need your help. The committee meets monthly Oct. 2015 – May 2016. First meeting will be Oct. 19, 2015. If you are interested contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

JAM Awards Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro & Jeff Arban, Co-Chairs*

The JAM Committee has been working hard on getting this year's competition and Awards Ceremony ready. The application process will begin soon with revamped categories and a new digital submission system. The Committee is looking for judges and members to help at the Awards Ceremony. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Victoria Timpanaro at vtimpana@essex.edu.

Marketing Committee: *Victoria Timpanaro, Chair*

The Marketing Committee is up and running. We have already re-launched JAG's Facebook and Twitter pages and started to advertise the upcoming JAM Awards. If you would like to be a part of this committee please contact Victoria Timpanaro at vtimpana@essex.edu

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New Jersey Chapter of NATOA and New Jersey League of Municipalities Affiliate

Editor Rich Desimone, Marketing Committee