

Trustees 2014-15

Lee Beckerman-2015
 Bob Duthaler-2014
 Dave Garb-2015
 Stephanie Gibbons-2014
 Debbe Gist-2015
 Open two year Seat 2014
 Open one year Seat 2014

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Coming in 2015

Tech Talk: articles by organizational member vendors

Meeting Schedule

TUESDAY
Nov. 24- Montclair Presentation- Castus
Dec. 10- Annual Meeting & JAM Awards Dinner
 Spain Inn, Piscataway
Jan. 28- TBA
 Presentation-TBA
Feb. 25- TBA
 Presentation-Telvue
Mar. 25- On Hold
 Presentation-TBA
Apr. 30- TBA
 Presentation-TBA
May 21- Conference
 Hyatt Morristown
Sept. 24- TBD
 Presentation-TBD

Your Municipal Communication Resource

Connecting Your Town to Your Residents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the October JAG meeting we successfully had a vendor presentation by RUSHWORKS from their office in Texas. Texas, you may say, how is that possible when the JAG meeting was in Metuchen? We did the entire presentation via Skype. This included live video of the products, screen shots and more. The members in attendance remarked that it was a great presentation. With the success of the presentation, this technology expands the possibilities to have guest speakers, vendor presentations and online training that others vendors to participate in our meetings but cannot make the trip to the meeting.



In the future we may even explore the possibility of allowing JAG members to Skype in to our meeting and participate. This will allow those who might not have the ability to "break away" from their job to drive to a meeting as well as spend the next hour or so attending it. You can "pop-in" at the start of the meeting and stay as long as you can. Look for more information on this in the future.



Photo by Rich Desimone

If you have not done so already, please register online for the JAG Video Awards/Holiday Gathering/Annual JAG Meeting. This year's event will take place at The Spain Inn, Piscataway, NJ on Wednesday, December 10th. This will be a great evening of fun, entertainment and useful JAG information. This is an official JAG Meeting so I strongly urge you to attend.

Bob Duthaler
 President, Jersey Access Group
bduthaler@jagonline.org

NATOA Responds to Wireless Siting Order

October 17, 2014 12:00 PM

Contact: Steve Traylor, (703) 519-8035

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 17, 2014) –

No one wants more competition and choice in the communications arena than local governments. For years, communities across the country have taken innovative steps to improve the deployment of critical infrastructure in the public rights of way, carefully balancing the needs of industry with the health and safety concerns of our residents. This is why we don't believe today's order was necessary.

But, in any event, today's order recognizes the vital role that local governments play in bringing advanced communications services to all Americans. While we must wait to read the order in its entirety for full comment, we believe many of our concerns about the proposed rules were heard and addressed. For example, communities may require the filing of an application for collocation installations that fall within the parameters of Section 6409 and do not involve a "substantial change" to the physical dimensions of the existing structure. Installations must adhere to a community's building, electrical, and structural codes. Stealth installations will be protected. And the rules will not take effect until 90 days following publication in the Federal Register.

While we may disagree with a number of items addressed in the order, including the imposition of a 60-day shot clock to approve eligible Section 6409 applications, we will work with our national local government association partners, industry, and the FCC on educational initiatives that will provide our cities and counties with the information they need to comply with these new rules. NATOA remains committed, as we always have, to continue to reach out to industry to increase competition and choice for our residents and businesses.

Tony Perez
President
NATOA



Photo by Stephanie Gibbons

**JAG general meeting room in
Metuchen as seen on Skype.**

October 29, 2014

 **Government VIDEO EXPO 2014**
Walter E Washington Convention Center | Washington DC

**WHERE VIDEO PRODUCTION STREAMING
AV BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY
INTERSECT**

REGISTER NOW!

Conference: December 2-4, 2014
Exhibits: December 3-4, 2014

BPU changes to Regulations of Cable Television Act

Recently, the executive board has been inundated with rule changes from both the federal and state levels. The FCC is busy with the cell tower issue, as mentioned in the above article, while here in New Jersey, the BPU is changing the Regulations of Cable Television Act **N.J.A.C. 14:18**. Last April, JAG found out about these changes to New Jersey's Administrative Code and had our legal counsel respond a month later to certain parts of those proposals.

Overall, JAG was troubled with the proposed language changes to Chapter 18, as well as the motivation for these changes. In the draft, the rationale for the proposed changes was stated as: "However, it is believed that this rulemaking will lessen costs to cable television companies by allowing them to file documents electronically and to provide notice to customers and municipalities less frequently and electronically. By reducing unnecessary administrative burdens and cutting red tape, these rules will reduce compliance costs, thereby mitigating upward pressure on rates and allowing cable television companies to focus their resources on other priorities that too benefit customers."

JAG commented that the "Notification and filing requirements are not unnecessary burdens – rather they are customer service protections and rights that customers including local franchising authorities should continue to maintain. There is no evidence to suggest that changing the rules pursuant to the proposed changes will mitigate pressure on rates. Unless the Board were to require a quid pro quo in return for eliminating certain regulations, in the form of guarantees from cable operators that the regulatory savings will result in rate benefits to consumers – and penalties for lack of compliance, the cost savings to the cable operators, if indeed there are any, could just as easily go to shareholder dividends or benefits to corporate management. The effect of the proposed rules will do little more than reduce customer service standards and consumer protections and increase corporate profits, to the benefit of the cable providers."

In response the BPU said, "The electronic filing requirements are required to implement changes in the law passed by the Legislature pursuant to P.L. 2013, c. 97, and P.L. 2013, c. 232. Moreover, on January 20, 2010, Governor Chris Christie signed Executive Order No. 2 (EO No. 2), which in relevant part, provides that, "[a]gencies should require submission of the minimum amount of information necessary to administer their rules." Furthermore, EO No. 2 provides that State agencies, "Draft all proposed rules so they impose the least burden and costs to business, including paperwork and other compliance costs, necessary to achieve the underlying regulatory objective." The Board believes that modification of the rules as proposed in this rulemaking furthers those goals. The Board does not believe that customers will be harmed by this rulemaking. It is noted, however, that only basic rates are regulated, and only in a limited number of municipalities."

As we delved further into the heart of Chapter 18, JAG responded to 6 specific sections of 65 recommended changes that we felt directly affected our membership. Those JAG comments and the responses from the BPU are as follows:

#7 - JAG objects to the proposed language change to the definition of "normal business hours" which eliminates the requirement that cable companies must have evening and weekend hours for their bricks and mortar locations.

BPU response: The Board's intention in proposing the changes to the definition of "normal business hours" was to specify the hours during which the Board and the Office of Cable Television are open for business. Cable television companies determine the hours in which to conduct business based on the needs of their customers.

#11. - JAG objects to the multiple proposed rule changes under Subchapter 3 that would remove the requirement for cable companies to provide a schedule of prices, rate, terms, and conditions, notices, and other customer information directly to customers if it elects to provide such information on its website. Cable rates, packages, terms, and conditions, channel lineups, and other critical customer information are largely driven by local franchise agreements. It is very difficult to navigate through the national website of the cable provider to find local information.

BPU response: The proposed rules are pursuant to statutory changes and must be instituted. Customers must be provided quarterly notice of how they can obtain a current copy of the schedule of prices, rates, terms, and conditions. Additionally, customers that are unable to access the Internet can obtain a paper copy of a cable television company's schedule of prices, rates, terms, and conditions. The Board disagrees that "[c]able rates, packages, terms, and conditions, channel lineups, and other critical customer information are largely driven by local franchise agreements." Municipalities are disallowed from regulating rates or programming and terms and conditions are up to the cable television company, within the strictures of State and Federal law.

#31 - JAG objects to the proposed change under N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.16 that eliminates the requirement for the cable companies to provide notifications of price changes to municipalities. This proposed change prevents municipalities from

obtaining important information that it needs to assist its residents, which ultimately benefits cable operators. If the Board adopts this rule and essentially takes local governments out of the process of assisting consumers, local governments will be resigned to advising consumers to call their cable operators, or to call the Board in order to learn why local governments no longer receive this information.

BPU response: In New Jersey, a municipality under a municipal consent-based franchise is permitted to determine whether it or the OCTV will serve as the designated complaint officer for cable television customers of the municipality. For over 90 percent of the municipal consent-based franchises, as well as all of the system-wide franchises, the OCTV is the designated complaint officer. Additionally, the OCTV has staff dedicated to addressing inquiries and complaints from all cable television customers and is equipped to answer their questions and concerns. A municipality that has chosen to be the complaint officer for residents subscribing to cable television must set up procedures for handling those complaints. Municipalities may also refer cable television customers to the OCTV at its toll free complaint line dedicated to cable television complaints.

#35 - JAG strenuously objects to the proposed language in N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(c). PEG channel location changes are expensive and difficult to manage for PEG operators that rely on the identity of channel locations as part of their branding. For example, many PEG channels are identified by channel number on the channel lineup. Thirty days' notice is not sufficient for PEG channels to make appropriate internal and external changes including alerting viewers to the new channel location. This proposed language will also result in a substantial increase of costs to PEG operators particularly for those that must re-brand their channel to a new channel number.

BPU response: The requirement for cable television companies to provide 30 days' written notice to municipalities regarding a deletion or change in channel allocation for a public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channel has not changed. Such notice was required under N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(a), which now only requires 10 days' electronic notice of deletions or channel allocation changes. The addition of N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(d) protects the 30 days' notice to municipalities for PEG access channel reallocations and deletions. Therefore, the Board declines to make any additional modifications.

#36 - N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(d) also appears to further relax the notification provision for alterations and deletions that are not "within the exclusive control of the cable television operator." Under this subsection, it is proposed that the cable television operator only needs to provide 24 hours' notice via electronic means. It is unclear whether this proposed language is intended to also apply to PEG channels. However, because it does not explicitly exempt PEG channels, it appears to apply. As stated above (in Comment 35), 30 days is not sufficient notice for channel deletions or changes in location, let alone 24 hours. JAG is concerned with the proposed language under this section removing the requirement that cable companies must notify affected municipalities of alterations in channel allocation. If adopted, the new rules will make it more difficult to get important information to consumers, and result in more calls to cable operators and to Board for this information.

BPU response: JAG is correct that N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.17(d) applies to PEG access channels, but the cable television company would have to show that additional notice was not possible for reasons beyond its control, which is unlikely in the case of a PEG access channel. Therefore, the Board does not propose any additional modifications to this subsection.

52 - JAG objects to the proposed language changes that remove the right of the public to inspect complaints, records and filings, prices, rates, terms, and conditions. Public inspection is an important customer right and should be retained. The Board should be promoting transparency in the consumer information that is provided to New Jersey citizens.

BPU response: The only amendment proposed is to not require cable television companies to maintain public files of its schedule of prices, rates, terms, and conditions, which is consistent with amendments to the Cable Act enacted by the Legislature (P.L. 2013, c. 232). Each cable television company, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-3.4, must provide a copy of its schedule of prices, rates, terms, and conditions upon a customer's request. If a cable television company chooses to maintain its schedules of prices, rates, terms, and conditions online, and a customer opts to receive notice in such manner, a cable television company must provide notice to each customer at least quarterly of how to retrieve the information. The Board believes these provisions adequately protect the State's cable television customers.

With regard to complaints, the Board notes that it maintains and protects such information in accordance with both State and Federal cable television subscriber policy laws. Subject thereto, any party may request copies of public records in accordance with the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Though none of our comments were accepted by the BPU as a means to modify these regulations, it is important to know that the JAG executive board will be keeping a close eye on these changes and will continue to monitor its progress.

For a more detailed understanding of the changes, the full document will be listed on the JAG website shortly.

David Garb, Vice President, JAG

JAG Executive Board Elections 2014 Nominations

Nominations for the 2015 JAG Executive Board were accepted at the October 28 general meeting. There are (3) two year and (1) one term positions available. The following were nominated and will appear on the ballot.

Jeff Arban – Rutgers University, Chief Engineer

Jeff has been working in television for over 30 years. He has worked at NBC, NY, the Federal Government and now at Rutgers University. Jeff has extensive experience in Production, Post Production and Technical Engineering. He is a member of JAG for 7 years and represents both Rutgers (RU-tv) and Long Branch cable networks.

Bob Duthaler – Bloomfield & Scott Plains, Station Manager

Bob has been in the Television and Video Industry for over 25 years. Currently he owns and operates his own multimedia production company, Duke Multimedia Productions, in Sparta, NJ. Clients are both national and local, including the US Army, Toshiba and numerous municipalities throughout NJ. Bob has been the President of Jersey Access Group for the last nine years. Bob Duthaler is also the current chair of the New Jersey Chapter of NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors). Duke Multimedia Productions and Bob Duthaler have also won eight Telly Awards in the past few years along with several Videographer Awards. Bob Duthaler is also a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (The Emmys).

Duke Multimedia Productions also consults on a regular basis for many communities throughout New Jersey on creating, upgrading and maintaining a Public, Educational or Government (PEG) Access channel. Current and past clients include: Bloomfield, Metuchen, Sparta, Saddle Brook, Montclair, Summit, to name a few. It is our goal to help a Township create and maintain a quality access channel that properly serves the community and is a source of information during times of emergencies. Duke Multimedia Productions has also worked with municipalities on station build outs, council chamber video production and franchise negotiations. Stations that Bob Duthaler have worked for have won over five JAM video awards, recognizing video excellence and outstanding video for local access television.

Stephanie Gibbons – Metuchen, Program Manager

Stephanie has been a member of the Jersey Access Group since its formation and has served on the Executive board over 11 years. She has served a term as Vice Chair and Secretary. She has been on the External Relations committee, Conference committee and been chair of the Membership committee for the last six years. She believes in the mission of JAG and hopes to continue to serve on its executive board.

Victoria Timpanaro – Essex County College, Audio Visual Coordinator

My name is Victoria Timpanaro and I am the Manager of Production Services at Essex County College in Newark. We house the Educational Access station for Cablevision in Newark (Ch.77) and the Government & Educational Access for Verizon Fios for Essex County (Ch.37). We have a state of the art production facility and I direct, shoot and/or edit many of our studio shows as well as live event shoots. Before I came to the College, I worked as the Master Control Coordinator for CN8: The Comcast Network out of Union, NJ. I was there for seven years maintaining their daily playlogs, tape libraries, duplications and doing some editing. I have degrees in Communications/Media Studies from Brookdale Community College, Ramapo College and The New School in NYC.

Brian Smith – HomeTown Television, Summit, Production

Brian Smith - Senior Vice President of Production at HomeTowne Television in Summit NJ. Additionally a member of the board of trustees at HomeTowne Television. I recently retired from a large international company. The experience gave me the opportunity to work with departments covering many business areas and international locations. My focus was on designing network architecture for mobile applications, teleconferencing and remote access software and security. I spent several years working with telecommunications systems globally to enable remote access and smart phone email and messaging. I was also very active with process improvements, innovation and collaboration. This allowed groups to collaborate effectively across international locations.

Photography and Video have been a passion of mine for more than 20 years. I started at HomeTowne Television about 4 years ago and have been able to apply my background skills to help move the station forward. At HomeTowne Television it is great that I can be involved and hands on in all aspects of production.

I have recently been introduced to JAG and would like to add my background skills to help with communications and education as the technology and regulations keep evolving.

Ballots will be sent via email by Nov. 17 and must be returned Nov. 24 at 4pm or they can be presented at the Nov. 25 general meeting. Thanks to all those nominated.

New Organizational Members letter

External Relations Committee

This is the letter that was approved on 10.8.14 by the executive board, added to JAG's Policies and Procedures (5.3) and being sent to prospective new members.



P.O. Box 772, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
Web Site: www.jagonline.org E-mail: JAGinfo@jagonline.org
Chapter of NATOA & Affiliate of the NJ League of Municipalities
A 501c3 organization

Dear (name),

JAG is pleased to introduce our new **Organizational Membership** classification. The **Organizational Membership** will be open to manufacturers, integrators, and vendors. Please consider this membership to support the work of JAG.

The Jersey Access Group (JAG) is a professional advisory organization that informs, educates, and recommends in the areas of technology, legislation, and regulation that shape and direct the use of multi-communication platforms for content creators and distributors on behalf of municipalities, educational institutions, and other public media facilities.

JAG promotes quality operations for New Jersey's public, education, and government (PEG) television stations as an intricate part of local municipalities' communication infrastructure, for the purpose of educating and informing the public about their communities via multiple distribution platforms.

JAG oversees updates in communication technology related to the production and distribution of video content and disseminates that information to its membership through its monthly newsletter and meetings.

Your **Organizational Membership** will provide great value in keeping your company in front of the discussion makers that are responsible for purchasing. The benefit of the **Organizational Membership** level includes:

- Access to our membership mailing list
- Listing with link to your web site
- Preferred booth location at our annual conference trade show
- Opportunity to attend all general membership meetings
- Opportunity to provide a pre-conference users group meeting at our annual conference trade show
- Opportunity to provide a presentation at one of our monthly general meetings
- Opportunity to provide two ½ page articles for our monthly e-newsletter per year
- Ability to host a general meeting at your New Jersey office or a public venue in New Jersey

(location subject to approval by the executive board)

The membership dues will be \$500 per year. All new members will include the remainder of 2014 and all of 2015. Checks should be made payable to The Jersey Access Group and mailed to: Jersey Access Group, PO Box 772, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Organizational Membership application (mail in with a check or online with a credit card) can be found on our web site <http://www.jagonline.org/join-jag/>.

JAG is proud to be recognized as the NJ Chapter of The National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (NATOA) and is an affiliate member of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

We look forward to your participation in JAG as an **Organizational Member**.

Rich Desimone
External Relations Chair
Jersey Access Group

Bits & Bytes

- November 3 – JAG launched its new organizational membership classification.
- November 5 – Executive board next meeting. The Executive board will evaluate and approve the proposed 2015 budget and continue working on changes to JAG’s Policies and Procedures.
- November 18-20 – NJLOM conference in Atlantic City. JAG will have a booth on the trade show floor and will conduct two sessions:
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 @ 2:00pm - *Cable Franchise Renewals in an Era of Changing Technology*
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 @ 2:00 PM - *Local Government Communications in a Digital World*
This is a joint session with the New Jersey League of Municipalities.
- November 20 – Bob Duthaler will present NATOA’s Jane E. Lawton Award to Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler at the League of Municipal Conference luncheon. The Jane E. Lawton Award is presented annually to an elected official to recognize his/her years of extraordinary service on behalf of local governments and communities throughout the United States. It was created in memory of the Honorable Jane E. Lawton, who served as Mayor of Chevy Chase, MD; Delegate to the Maryland State House; and President of NATOA. Previous recipients: 2008 Marilyn Praisner (posthumously), 2009 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, 2010 Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, 2011 Andy Huckaba, City Council Member, Lenexa, KS, 2012 Senator Jay Rockefeller, and 2013 Senator Barbara Mikulski.
- November 25 – Next general meeting with a presentation by Castus, elections will be held for the 2015 JAG Executive Board and the presentation of the 2015 budget at general meeting
- December 1, 2pm – ***The Courts, The Hill and The FCC - A Year in Review and Setting the Stage for 2015.*** Our panel of experts will assess how 2014 affected policy and practice on key communications issues and will provide their views of what may be coming in 2015 - and how local governments can prepare. Additional details can be found at <https://www.natoa.org/events/enatoa.html>
NATOA “eNATOAs” webinars can be seen by members at METV free of charge. Presentations can be seen at Metuchen’s TV station. Reservations are required due to limited space. Call Rich Desimone at 732-603-9750.
- December 10 – JAM Video Festival Dinner and JAG Annual meeting. **Only 40 tickets left.** Cost \$45.00. To purchase tickets use the following link:
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5izl8xcab&oeidk=a07e9xa4ism178542d9>
- May 20-22 – JAG Annual Eastern Region Communication and Technology Conference 2015 will be held at the Hyatt Morristown. We are taking your advice and recommendations. New location, new schedule, new workshop structure, and new events, it’s a new conference. Details coming soon. Hotel reservation and conference registration will open in November. Watch for the “Save the Date” email. Like us on Facebook and watch the conference develop.
- Sept. 8-11 – NATOA's 2015 Annual Conference will take place in sunny San Diego, CA at the Hard Rock Hotel in the heart of the Gaslamp District. This event will be jam packed with educational sessions, dynamic speakers and content, and fun networking activities, making this an event you won't want to miss!

Thank You to those members that have volunteered to staff our booth at the League of Municipalities Conference. *Dave Garb, Vice Chair*

COMMITTEES CORNER

NJ League of Municipalities Conference



Nov. 18-20

Set up Nov.17

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

We have begun our campaign to solicit associate members. This membership classification is open to vendors, manufacturers, integrators and non-profit organizations that support our mission and goals. We have submitted to the executive board updates to JAG's Policies & Procedures for their review. Bylaws changes that were submitted have been approved by the executive board and amendments to the bylaws will be introduced to the membership for a vote. We continue to have monthly conference calls and possible face to face meetings before or after JAG's monthly general meetings. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 10, 2014

6-10pm

Spain Inn, Piscataway, NJ

Only 40 tickets left!

Order tickets today.

FINANCE COMMITTEES: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

The committee will be meeting soon to discuss the 2015 budget and make it's recommendation to the executive board. Members interested in joining this committee are requested to contact Debbe Gist at dgist@piscatawaynj.us or call 732-562-2305

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Affiliate Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

The committee is currently reviewing the FCC new "Wireless Siting Order" and its impact on local municipalities. The executive board has voted to allocate funds to respond to the FCC. JAG's attorney, Ken Fellman, Esq. will be filing comments on behalf of JAG soon.

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

The Membership Committee is looking for new members. In the next few months we are looking to survey the membership on current JAG services and needs. We will also be reaching out to potential members. Please join us by contacting Stephanie Gibbons at stgibbons@verizon.net or 732-603-9750.

JAG Annual Conference

**Eastern Region Communication
and Technology Conference 2015**



May 20-22, 2015

Hyatt Morristown, NJ

Save the Date

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

The conference committee will begin monthly e-newsletters this month. Early registration will provide substantial discounts to you. Payment must be received by April 1. Those using purchase orders should get them in the first quarter of 2015 to insure payment is received by April 1. Additional discounts are available for groups of three or more. Free conference registration for all full time students. Students must register in advance on the conference and present their student ID at the registration desk. moderators, social media management, municipal outreach, student symposium development, event supervisors, and marketing and attendee development. The committee will meet via conference call once a month for the next 7 months. To join contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

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732-877-8581

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

Editor Rich Desimone