

Trustees 2015-16

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

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General Meeting Schedule

- Sept. 30-** Varto
Presentation-by our host
- Oct. 28-** Montclair
Presentation-TBD
- Nov. 25-** Edison
Presentation- TBD
- Dec. 9-** Annual Meeting
Location TBD
- Jan. 27-** Reorganization
Meeting: TBD
- Feb. 24-** TBD
Presentation-Telvue
- Mar. 30-** Shadowstone
Presentation-by our host
- Apr. 27-**TBD

Your Municipal Communication Resource

Connecting Your Town to Your Residents

IT WAS A GREAT CONFERENCE

JAG held its eleventh conference on May 20th – May 22nd at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown, NJ. The conference offered three days of learning, networking, and brainstorming about issues important to the JAG community. The conference committee did a great job and deserves our thanks.

While the Meet and Greet was a little colder than we would have liked, attendees seemed to have fun playing games and networking. Congratulations to those who took home door prizes.

Vendors reported it was a successful event and that they came away with some good leads. Some commented that they enjoyed talking to the students and recognize that they are the future buyers. One vendor remarked that meeting the teachers that are developing programs in the schools represented a new group of buyers they would have never found. Other vendors had problems getting to lunch due to attendees wanting to talk. Early indications are that about \$500,000 in sales are already being processed for 8 stations.

The topic facilitators at the Affinity Lunch reported some great conversations at all the tables. The committee will be looking closely at the conference survey to decide if it should become a permanent element of the conference.

The idea of JAG presenting two awards continues to be a great way to build support for community media. We honored Mayor Tom Vahalla of Metuchen with the “Municipal Excellence” award and Congressman Frank Pallone with the



“Legislator of the Year” award during our Keynote Lunch. More



importantly, Dave Garb was able to talk to the congressman’s aide and JAG will be meeting with Congressman Pallone in the near future. Congressman Pallone also extended an invitation to Steve Traylor to meet with him in Washington DC. Keynote

speaker Congressman Pallone and speakers Piscataway Mayor and President of the NJ League of Municipalities Brian Wahlar and NATOA Executive Director, Steve Traylor contributed the success of this event.

A special thank you to Stephanie Gibbons for her work in managing the registration desk. Attendees realized quickly that if you have a question, need a problem addressed, or just need some directions, Stephanie would be able to help.

Now the committee is looking for your help. Please fill out the conference survey that was emailed to all attendees. Be part of the decision making process regarding future conferences.

Closed Captioning Requirements for PEG Channels

by James N. Horwood, Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP

Closed captioning and related requirements affecting PEG channels are set forth in several places.

The general requirement for closed captioning of video programming, which is set forth in FCC Regulations at 47 CFR § 79.19, does *not* apply to programming on PEG channels because of several exceptions in that section, one of which is the exemption for “any channel or stream of video programming producing annual gross revenues of less than \$3,000,000 during the previous calendar year.” This would exempt all PEG channels since none of such channels or streams provides programming that produces as much as \$3,000,000 a year. (But, PEG programming that is captioned must be passed through as captioned by the cable operator.)



However, other federal and state disability statutes may apply to PEG channels and may require that closed captioning be provided. The Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.) imposes requirements for accessibility on state and local governments and educational institutions. Title II provides that state and local governments must ensure that communication with individuals with disabilities is as effective as communications with others, including programming produced by public entities such as public schools, libraries and town councils. Although these requirements do not specifically mandate closed captioning, the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) regulations under the ADA list open and closed captioning as an example of an “auxiliary aid” that promotes effective communication. The DOJ Technical Assistance Manual for Title II provides that the “audio portion of video-tape programming produced by public entities are subject to the requirement to provide equally effective communication for individuals with hearing impairments.”

Those video programming providers which receive federal financial assistance are required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794) to ensure their programs and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. This does not necessarily mean closed captioning, but each federal agency has its own set of Section 504 regulations.

The Federal Communications Act and the implementing FCC regulations require that full-length video programming that is captioned must also be captioned when distributed over the Internet. This requirement does not apply at this time to video clips (defined as excerpts of full-length video programming that are posted on line), but FCC requirements for including captioning on on-line programming that have been captioned on cable will become effective on various dates starting in 2016. The requirements do not apply to programming that is shown *only* on the Internet. But the ADA and Rehabilitation Act requirements will likely apply to websites, whether or not the FCC requirements do, and thus are susceptible to being interpreted to require captioning in some circumstances.

Programming providing information about a current emergency must be made accessible as set forth in FCC Regulations in 47 CFR § 79.2. Examples of emergencies covered are tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, tidal waves, earthquakes, icing conditions, heavy snows, widespread fires, discharge of toxic wastes, widespread power failures; industrial explosions, civil disorders, school closings and changes in school bus schedules resulting from such conditions, and warnings and watches of impending changes in weather.

The regulations require that emergency information provided in the audio portion of programming must be accessible to persons with hearing disabilities, such as by closed captioning, open captions, or another method of visual presentation.

In light of the above discussion of the ADA and Rehabilitation Act requirements, it is advisable for operators of PEG channels, particularly those operating government and educational channels, to begin gearing up to provide closed captioning if they are not doing so already. Although captioning is probably not required *now* for most PEG channels, it is the most effective way to assure that programming is accessible in a nondiscriminatory way for persons with hearing disabilities. If, however, closed captioning would impose an undue financial burden, it is not required at this time. But, as costs of captioning decline, and captioning becomes more prevalent, a claim of undue financial burden will become more difficult to sustain.

The most important reason to caption, or at least to begin taking steps to caption, is that captioning provides an important government and educational benefit to persons with hearing disabilities. .

Conference 2015

by Steve Traylor, Executive Director, NATOA



I LOVE the JAG Annual Conference!

For the fourth year in a row, I got the opportunity to travel to New Jersey to experience – without a doubt – the best trade show put on by any NATOA chapter. With over 50 vendors exhibiting their products and services, the trade show has become the “one stop, must shop” technology event for community media staff, volunteers, producers, engineers and others in the northeast. But the part I enjoy most at the trade show? The student symposium – where high school students are invited to come and visit the vendor floor and hear and learn about community media from professionals.

Along with the trade show, the conference offered a wide variety of workshops with subjects ranging from lighting to editing to social media to franchise agreements. I was particularly pleased to see the increased attendance and attention paid by conference attendees at workshops dealing with federal regulatory issues and their effect on community media operations.

During the keynote luncheon, I was very excited to announce the formation of our newest chapter – Hawaii. A big thank you to J Robertson and Rich Desimone for all their hard work in making the Hawaii chapter a reality! I was also given the opportunity to introduce Congressman Frank Pallone, ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. In this position, the Congressman plays a pivotal role in defining federal communications policy and the role that local governments can play in protecting community media and localism. It was great watching JAG President Bob Duthaler present Congressman Pallone with JAG’s Legislator of the Year Award.

And last – but by no means least – I have to hand it to the JAG conference committee for putting together a great lineup of “meet and greet” events. From the opening night barbeque to the networking breakfasts to the closing night 60s-themed banquet (how does Rich keep coming up with those great costumes?!), everyone had a great time catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Congratulations to everyone at JAG for putting together such a great conference! See you all next year in Morristown.

CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE LUNCHEON

Lt. to rt.

Bob Duthaler, JAG President

Mayor Brian Wahler

Congressman Frank Pallone

Legislator of the Year

Mayor Tom Vahalla

Municipal Excellence Award

Steve Traylor, Exec, Director, NATOA

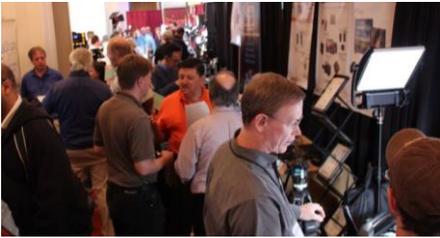


A look back at the conference

Photos by Jeff Arban, Stephanie Gibbons, Rich Desimone



Meet & Greet



Trade Show



Student Symposium



Affinity Lunch



Partners Banquet



Workshops



Bits & Bytes

- Jul. 8 — Executive Board meeting: Discuss: NJLOM Conference Session, Conference, the agenda for the retreat.
- Aug. — Executive Board Annual Retreat: Five year plan.
- Sept. 2 — Executive Board meeting
- Sept. 9-11 — NATOA Annual Conference: Jag is planning to have representation at this event.
- Sept. 30 — General meeting to be held at Varto Technologies. We encourage members to attend. Varto Technologies is a system integrator and will be talking about a number of products.

The JAM Video Awards are set to be cancelled. At this time no one has stepped up to chair the committee.

If you are interested contact Bob as soon as possible.

JAG welcomes Castus as an Organizational Member



We thank all of our Organizational Members for supporting our conference.

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

COMMITTEES CORNER

NATO A 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

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

We are proud to announce that Castus has joined JAG as an associate member. Due to other commitments Castus was not able to participate in the conference this year. Castus president, Nathan Bosseler, is very interested in supporting JAG and will be presenting at a future JAG meeting. We are working with the conference committee to include information about joining JAG in their thank you letter to conference vendors. Varto Technologies will be hosting our September meeting. To join the committee, contact Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Debbe Gist, Chair*

Members interested in joining this committee are requested to contact Debbe Gist at dgist@piscatawaynj.us or call 732-562-2305

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE: *Peter Namen, Chair*

Jersey Access Group Production Committee is always looking for new members. If you would like to be a member don't hesitate to reach out to us, we need you! We are in the process of revitalizing Access New Jersey and we need pieces. If you can produce a news magazine/story piece please let us know. For further info about how to go about it or to join the committee, contact me at pnamen@piscatawaynj.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Affiliate Committee: *Dave Garb, Chair*

Members are needed to serve on the committee. If interested please contact the chairperson at davegarb@paps.net

Membership Committee: *Stephanie Gibbons, Chair*

The membership committee has begun to reach out to contacts made at the NJLOM. We are also gathering information about other groups or associations that may have some interest. If you know of a neighboring town or school district that are not members but should be please send me their contact information. The Membership Committee needs assistance with contacting people, if you are interested please let me know at stgibbons@verizon.net.

Conference Committee: *Rich Desimone, Chair*

We have sent the conference survey to all attendees and thank you to vendors and panelists. The committee will have one last meeting to evaluate the conference survey and produce a final report with recommendations to present to the executive board. Rich Desimone at rjdesimone@verizon.net

NJ League of Municipalities



Nov. 17-20, 2015
Atlantic City, NJ

Save the Date

Support in staffing our booth will be needed.

Annual JAM Video Awards Dinner



Dec. 9, 2015
6-10pm

**THIS EVENT WILL BE
CANCELLED IF NO ONE
STEPS UP TO CHAIR AND
FORM THE COMMITTEE.
DEADLINE JUNE 30.**



*Congratulations to Daniell Krawczyk,
Broadcast Sales, Tighrope
The recipient of this year's JAG
"Serving Community Media" Award.*

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

Editor Rich Desimone