

PEGTV

Rutland Community Access

Annual Report 2025



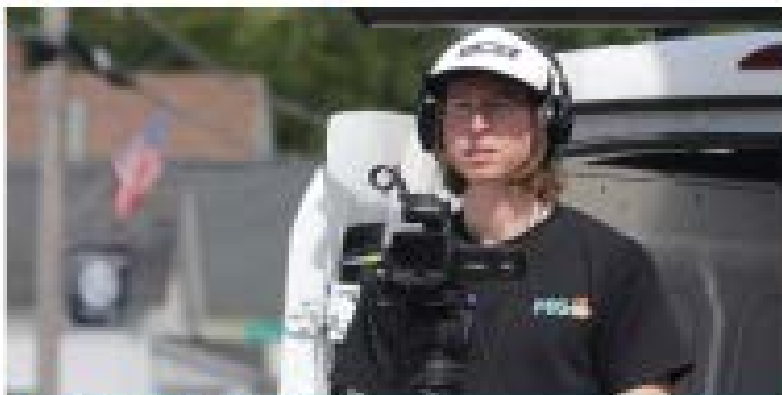
William Chmielewski



Greg McCormack

PEGTV Field Producers

A vital part of PEGTV operations, our field producers attend town meetings, school boards, parades, presentations and countless events in Rutland County to bring you relevant content on all three PEGTV channels.



Chris Donahue



Steven Wilson



29th ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2025 · 5:15pm

Welcome - Tom Leypoldt, *Executive Director*

Convene Meeting – Gerry Carbine, *Board President*

- Approve 28th Annual Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2024
- Introduction of PEGTV Board Members
- Recognition of Outgoing Board Members, Stephen Dardeck & Terry (Jaye) Jarrosak
- Nominate Proposed New Board Members: Ed Kelly & Jerry Hansen for the term 2025-2028
- Re-elect Current Board Members to a 2nd Term:
Gerry Carbine & Sherri Birkheimer Rooker for the Term 2025-2028

PEGTV Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report - Gerry Carbine

Executive Director's Report - Tom Leypoldt

- Introduction of Staff
- Executive Director's Remarks

Introduction of Guest Speaker - Tom Leypoldt

- Charity Clark, Vermont State Attorney General and Chris Curtis, Director of the Consumer Assistance Program

Romeo Award Presentation - Tom Leypoldt

PEGTV Hall of Fame Inductions

- Tom Chamberlain, Marsha Cassel, Greg Thayer and Rich Dow

Adjourn Annual Meeting

Convene September Board Meeting – Gerry Carbine

- **Move to Approve Slate of Officers for the Term 2025-2026**

Gerry Carbine, President

Sherri Birkheimer Rooker, Vice President

Gerry Carbine, Treasurer

Nancy Donahue, Secretary

Adjourn September Board Meeting

Charity R. Clark was sworn in as Attorney General of Vermont on January 5, 2023, and is the first woman to be elected to this position. Since then, she has made protecting Vermonters a trademark of her administration, suing Monsanto for PCB contamination of Vermont's waterways and schools and bringing a case against Meta for Instagram's harm to young users' mental health. She also successfully advocated for the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission, housed in the Attorney General's Office, and continues her work to bring focus on the issue of sexual and domestic violence. A passionate defender of reproductive rights, Attorney General Clark joined a challenge to a ban on the abortion drug mifepristone, allowing Vermonters to retain access to this safe and effective abortion medication.

Attorney General Clark's career in the Attorney General's Office began in 2014 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Public Protection Division. Later, she was appointed Chief of Staff, serving in the role from 2018 to 2022. During her tenure as Chief of Staff, and the first person to ever hold this position, she oversaw the Office's expungement clinics, training countless attorneys to assist Vermonters seeking to expunge or seal their criminal records. She also championed the effort to achieve status as a Breastfeeding Friendly Employer and create a dedicated space for breastfeeding employees and visitors to the office, an effort that she would bring to fruition during her first few months as Attorney General.

Attorney General Clark was born and raised in southern Vermont and grew up working in her family's grocery store in Londonderry, Clark's IGA. She is a graduate of Burr & Burton Academy in Manchester, the University of Vermont, and Boston College Law School. Before she entered law school, Attorney General Clark was a policy analyst at the Vermont Governor's Office under Governor Howard Dean. In 2005, she began her legal career as an associate at a law firm in Burlington, Vermont, and later in New York City. Attorney General Clark is an avid skier and hiker, completing the Long Trail in 2021. She is chair of the board of her town library and serves as a justice of the peace.

AG Clark will be joined by Christopher Curtis, Director of the Consumer Assistance Program

Christopher Curtis is the Director of the Consumer Assistance Program. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Chris spent more than a decade in practice representing low-income Vermonters at Vermont Legal Aid. He lives in Montpelier with his spouse and children.



Executive Director's Report

The media landscape is changing rapidly and as you would expect, our online presence has grown dramatically. We upgraded our website to make it more user friendly on hand-held devices and now almost all of our content is right at your fingertips. We've also upgraded the lighting in our main studio, which has given our programs a more professional look. Additionally, the Comcast HD transition process has begun.

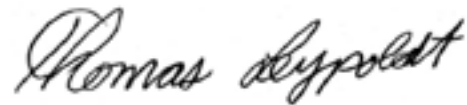
PEGTV's incredible staff is beyond compare; Nancy Donahue, Office Manager, has been with us for just over 22 years, Chelsea Vogel has completed a decade of service as Channel Coordinator for Channels 1075 & 1095. PEGTV's Government Channel Coordinator, Rich Elnicki, is in his 5th year. Jim Boughton, Marketing & Production Support, completes 4 years this month. I reached the 30-year mark in May. Senior Field Producer, Bill Chemielewski, 12 years, Field Producers Greg McCormack and Steven Wilson, 4 years and Field Producer, Chris Donahue has 3.5 years of service.

Much appreciation and thanks to our outgoing board members, Stephen Dardeck and Terry Jaye. They both have made outstanding contributions to PEGTV.

The State grant funding we received was due in large part to the advocacy efforts of the Vermont Access Network and the support of the entire Rutland County Delegation. Thank you.

Please continue to appreciate and support the continuous flow of remarkable, local content produced by PEGTV volunteers and staff.

Sincerely,



Tom Leypoldt
Executive Director



President's Report

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of PEGTV. We have been an important resource for Rutland County residents for 31 years now. The staff continues to do a wonderful job of providing meaningful information to our audience. By the way, there has been no staff turnover this year!

If you are not aware, we now have a YouTube Channel, a Facebook page and an Instagram page. Also, don't miss the pegtv.com website where, among other things you can see a live grid of daily programs on each channel.

Some of the things accomplished for the year include: three live parades, dozens of special event programs, live election coverage, mayoral & aldermanic forums, almost every graduation in Rutland County, new studio lighting, lease renewal at Howe Center location (20 years at Howe so far). We hope you will continue to enjoy our offerings and thank you for your support.

Gerry Carbine
President and Treasurer PEGTV



Public & Education Channel Report

Channel 1075

Channel 1075 aired 645 locally produced talk shows, psas, special events, cooking shows and parades, for a combined total of 430 hours in 2024. In addition, 52 shows were licensed and downloaded from the Vermont Media Exchange (VMX) adding an additional 26 hours of content.



Highlighted recurring shows in 2024 include: BROCC Talk: Program Spotlight (Tom Donahue), Chaffee Arts Center (Sherri Birkheimer Rooker), Crafts for Kids (Jann Johnson), The Geppetto Room (Lou Scott), Green Mountain Chef (Ian Vair), Historical PowerPoint Presentations (Gale Finlayson), Historically Speaking (Micheal Dwyer), Home with Habitat (Rebekah Stevens), MOSTLY Arts with Mary Crowley (Mary Crowley), Pet Partners (Stephanie Wilson), Tea & Talk (Olivia Boughton), The Relationship Toolbox (Tom Chamberlain & Marsha Cassel) and Your Health Matters (Dr. Peter Hogenkamp).

I would like to thank all PEGTV volunteer producers. Your content helps to empower Rutland County by continuing to make your voices heard. From all of us at PEGTV—thank you for being the heart of community media.

Channel 1095

Channel 1095 aired 433 school board meetings, graduations, current and vintage games in 2024, adding up to 866 hours of content.

Our Sports Rewind campaign, featuring vintage sporting events dating back to the early 90's, continues to gain popularity.

The 2024 Courcelle Scholarship was awarded to three talented students. The scholarship is consistent with PEGTV's mission to empower community members through media access and education. The PEGTV Courcelle Scholarship was established in honor of Joe Courcelle, an influential public access television producer and longtime PEGTV board member. The scholarship is awarded to Rutland County high school seniors intending to pursue post secondary education in media arts. The 2024 winners are Colleen Hadley, Ryan Skaza and Emily Sunderland.

PEGTV offers our thanks to all dedicated members of the Rutland County school boards, working tirelessly to support students, educators and families. Your leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and countless hours of service help shape the future of our schools, students and communities.

Chelsea Vogel
Channel 1075 & 1095 Coordinator



Government Channel Report

Channel 1085

In 2024, Channel 1085 aired 351 municipal meetings, as well as 158 Vermont State House meetings/conferences downloaded from The Vermont Media Exchange. We hosted two live forums in February, Aldermanic and School Board. Tom Donahue moderated the Aldermanic forum, and The Rutland Herald's, Jim Sabatase moderated the School Board forum. This led to our live Election Night coverage in early March, which was also hosted by Tom Donahue.



The fall brought more election season coverage with our live Rutland County Senate forum hosted by VTSU Castleton Professor Rich Clark. We had another fantastic night of live election coverage in November. Many thanks to our Field Producers for collecting information at the polls. Tom Donahue did another stellar job as our on-air host. Thank you.

Vermonters for Vermont, Conversations with Gregory, recorded 12 new shows in 2024. In April, we began airing Catamount Community Connection with Senator Brian Collamore, airing 34 shows to date. We also had great success with Candidate Profiles in 2024, with 22 candidates seeking local and statewide offices. Collectively Channel 1085 aired 583 new programs, totaling 738.25 hours of content in 2024.

It was very productive 2024 at PEGTV. I again want to thank everyone here for your continued support. I would also like to thank our Field Producers for another great year of coverage throughout Rutland County. I look forward to a bright future ahead with PEGTV.

Rich Elnicki
Channel 1085 Coordinator



Marketing & Production Report



After months of hard work and dedication, PEGTV launched its new website in 2024. Our new site features a fresh design, improved navigation, and a wealth of new content that we hope you find useful and engaging. The new features include streaming each channel directly to our site, updated analytics, and the ability to connect to our social media platforms. PEGTV's website has something for everyone.

In 2024, I trained and certified 16 people for our VIP program (Volunteer Independent Producer), this very important program teaches people how to use our equipment which allows them to create their own content for PEGTV. In addition, four people were trained on how to edit their own videos, allowing them to have full control of the video production process.

We gave 76 people a tour of the PEGTV Studios. Because of these tours, we have had success with people and organizations coming back after their tour to utilize our services. Every time someone steps into our studio, they are very impressed.

With staff assistance, I helped create 986 images for PEGTV's digital Bulletin Boards, helping over 80 non-profits get important information out to the public.

Our social media accounts continue to grow. In 2024, our YouTube subscribers increased by 625 people, that is a 22% increase from the previous year. Our total YouTube views increased by 41% from the previous year. Facebook and Instagram have increased in views and followers as well.

PEGTV ran over 75 ads in a variety of papers and magazines to promote the many services we offer the community. PEGTV also sponsored five significant events in Rutland and supported five area schools by purchasing yearbook ads.

I will continue to work hard at building a PEGTV following, online and throughout the community. I am very appreciative of our volunteers and my coworkers, which make up such a strong competent team. I'm constantly impressed by your dedication and work ethic.

Sincerely,

Jim Boughton
Marketing & Production Support Coordinator



PEGTV Staff

TOM LEYPOLDT
Executive Director

NANCY DONAHUE
Office Manager

CHELSEA VOGEL
Channel 1075 & 1095 Program Coordinator

RICH ELNICKI
Channel 1085 Program Coordinator

JIM BOUGHTON
Marketing & Production Support
Coordinator

Field Producers

WILLIAM CHMIELEWSKI
Senior Field Producer

GREG MCCORMACK
Field Producer

STEVEN WILSON
Field Producer

CHRIS DONAHUE
Field Producer

2024 PEGTV Board of Directors

GERRY CARBINE
President

SHERRI BIRKHEIMER ROOKER-
Vice President

GERRY CARBINE
Treasurer

STEPHEN DARDECK

MIKE DOENGES

TERRY (JAYE) JARROSAK

CHRISTINA KUMKA

TRACI MOORE

ANDREW WILSON



2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

PEGTV - Board of Directors

28th Annual Meeting Minutes
Southside Steakhouse—September 9, 2024

Present - Stephanie Wilson, Gerry Carbine, Sherri Birkheimer Rooker, Jerry Hansen, Ed Kelly, Terry Jarrosak, Stephen Dardeck and Traci Moore

Absent- None

Welcome

Tom Leypoldt, Executive Director, welcomed the audience to PEGTV's 28th Annual Meeting. He thanked David Jeffers and the staff at Southside Steakhouse for their hospitality. He then introduced President, Stephanie Wilson.

The 28th PEGTV Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Stephanie Wilson.

Approval of Last Year's Meeting Minutes

Stephanie moved for a motion to approve last year's Annual Meeting minutes dated September 11, 2023.

A motion was made by Stephen Dardeck to approve last year's Annual Meeting minutes of September 11, 2023. Seconded by Jerry Hansen. Voted on and approved.

Introduction of PEGTV Board Members

Stephanie Wilson, President introduced the Board and thanked them for their guidance and the hard work that they've done in carrying out the vision and mission of PEGTV.

She then introduced the Officers and Board members of PEGTV: Sherri Birkheimer Rooker-Vice President, Gerry Carbine-Treasurer and Board Members: Jerry Hansen, Ed Kelly, Terry (Jaye) Jarrosak, Stephen Dardeck and Tracy Moore.

PEGTV Committee Reports

Nominating Committee:

Stephanie Wilson recognized outgoing Board members: Jerry Hansen, Ed Kelly and Stephanie Wilson for their valuable contribution to PEGTV over the years.

Stephanie Wilson moved to nominate proposed new Board members: Mike Doenges, Cristina Kumka and Andrew Wilson for the term 2024-2027.

A motion was made by Tom Donahue to accept the nomination of proposed new Board members: Mike Doenges, Cristina Kumka and Andrew Wilson for the term 2024-2027. Seconded by Stephen Dardeck. Voted on and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

A Treasurer's Report was given by Gerry Carbine, Treasurer

A motion was made by Stephen Dardeck to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Tom Donahue. Voted on and approved.

Gerry mentioned if anyone is interested in seeing the PEGTV financials to stop in the office, the public is welcome to review them at any time.

Executive Director's Report

Tom Leypoldt-Executive Director introduced the Staff of PEGTV in order of seniority: Nancy Donahue-Office Manager, Chelsea Vogel-Channel 1075 & 1095 Program Coordinator, Rich Elnicki-Channel 1085 Program Coordinator and Jim Boughton-Marketing & Production Support Coordinator.

Tom thanked VAN for legislative work, Dave Giancola for PEGTV's lease renewal agreement, Tom Donahue-BROC for Election Night assistance and the Rutland Herald for their media partnership.

He thanked and acknowledged all the Field Producers for their hard work and dedication: Bill Chmielewski, Greg McCormack, Steven Wilson, Chris Donahue and Tucker Babcock.

Tom then reported on equipment upgrades at remote locations and programming for the year 2023. He expressed thanks to Stephanie Wilson, President and the entire Board for their guidance.

He concluded with special thanks to outgoing Board members, Stephanie Wilson, Ed Kelly and Jerry Hansen.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

The voice of Vermont State University-Castleton sports at Castletonsports.com as well as sports announcer on the Northeast Sports Network including the Vermont-New Hampshire Shrine Football Game on nsnsports.com, **Jack Healey** was introduced by Tom Leypoldt as our guest speaker.

Guest speaker Jack Healey spoke at length about the origins of his radio broadcasting career. He reviewed the timeline of events leading up to his legendary status as a local sportscaster in Rutland. Mr. Healey shared memories with the audience and joked about several technical difficulties he incurred over the decades. Jack also reflected on his many successes and highlighted how the positive relationship between WSYB and PEGTV benefited both organizations and the community.

Awards Presentation

Romeo Award Presentation: Tom Leypoldt praised Michael Dwyer for his outstanding contribution to public access television and announced him as the recipient of the Romeo Award.

PEGTV Hall of Fame Inductions: Tom Leypoldt inducted Peg Bolgioni into the PEGTV Hall of Fame for her remarkable service and dedication to public access television.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Tom Leypoldt presented Stephanie Wilson with the first PEGTV Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to public access television, and as a symbol of our admiration and gratitude for her many years of serving PEGTV.

Adjourn

Tom Leypoldt moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. A motion was made by Peg Bolgioni to adjourn. Seconded by Jerry Hansen. Voted on and approved.

2024 COURCELLE SCHOLARSHIP

Winners

The PEGTV Courcelle Scholarship honors the memory of Joe Courcelle for his pioneering work for Public Access Television in Rutland. He was an active member of the original board of directors, a dedicated independent producer, and an integral part of the establishment of PEGTV.

Any Rutland County high school senior intending to pursue post-secondary education in the fields of television, film, radio, internet, computer animation, graphic and digital arts, sound engineering, photo and print journalism, marketing, communications, and public relations is eligible to apply.



*Congratulations Emily, Ryan and Colleen.
Wishing you success in whatever comes next,
and joy in how you get there.*

Emily Sunderland

Graduated from:
Stafford Technical Center

Attending:
Savannah College of Art and Design



Ryan Skaza

Graduated from:
West Rutland tSchool

Attending:
University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Colleen Hadley

Graduated from:
Stafford Technical Center

Attending:
University of Maine at Machias

