

NCVOA DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 1104

**NCVOA DECEMBER 2014
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014, 2014-7:00PM
La Marmite
Williston Park, NY**

**"UNDERSTANDING THE
PROPERTY TAX FREEZE"**

Presented by

Barbara Van Epps

Deputy Director of NYCOM

and our

2014 HOLIDAY PARTY

Owing to the complexity surrounding the merits of the "Property Tax Freeze" program, NYCOM has graciously offered to have Barbara Van Epps, its Deputy Director explain to us the many different areas that municipalities must navigate to comply with the this State program.

County and Villages Working Together:

Deputy County Assessor Steve Corte and Deputy County Attorney Martin Valk led the discussion on the county's assessment process



The general membership meeting of November 11, 2014 had the pleasure of having as our guest speakers Nassau County Deputy County Assessor and Village of Westbury Trustee Steven Corte and Nassau County Attorney and Assessment Bureau Chief Martin Valk.

In his opening remarks Steve emphasized the importance of maintaining consistent communications and cooperation between the villages and his office in the County Assessment Department. As a village trustee he recognizes that the village building and assessing departments have a wealth of knowledge that is extremely valuable between his office and the villages in improving the County Department of Assessment. A case in point was a

recommendation that the county receive from the villages a copy of permits with a county work up sheet which if filed with the county before November 1st. would ensure that the village does not lose revenue a year's revenue on a subject property.

In Steve's opinion Assessors do well at the village level and stated that his door is always open to village assessors and if any village has any assessing issue to please call him at 516-571-2391.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

NCVOA President Peter Cavallaro gives his monthly update to the membership

Dear Mayors, Trustees and Friends,



I want to thank our two guest speakers from last month, Deputy Nassau County Assessor Steven Corte (also a Westbury Village trustee) and Deputy County Attorney and Chief of the County Attorney's Assessment Litigation Bureau Martin Valk for a very interesting and informative discussion about the County tax assessment system and issues. They provided us with a good overview of the current status of the County's assessment approach, and answered questions about various problems encountered by villages in terms of assessment. They also

spoke about the need for timely communication and the sharing of information between the County Assessment Department and villages, so that the assessment rolls can be as accurate as possible. They also offered their ongoing assistance to any village that needs the County's help in terms of assessment.

This month, we will be having our annual Holiday Party at La Marmite. I invite you to come down and share some holiday cheer with your colleagues in local government. Also, importantly, we will also be hearing from Barbara Van Epps, Deputy Director of the New York Conference of Mayors, who will be traveling down from Albany to make a presentation to us about the NYS real property tax freeze and rebate legislation. We expect members from the Suffolk County Village Officials to join us. The tax freeze and rebate program is a very confusing and misunderstood piece of legislation that will become even more problematic in the coming year as certain requirements kick in for local governments to demonstrate consolidation of services, efficiency measures, etc. So, please take this opportunity to hear more about this important topic.

The Association recently sent to the State Board of Elections, the governor and to legislative and other government leaders our comment letter on the matter of the permanent fix to the electronic voting machine mandate. This is an important issue that must be addressed and resolved to avoid villages and local districts having to resort to paper ballot elections in the future. The Nassau Board of Elections has repeatedly told us that they will be unable to accommodate all of the village and other local elections conducted annually in the County, unless they are provided with more resources to do so. We are working with our representatives in Albany, especially Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and Senator Jack Martins, to have the State BOE make recommendations to the legislature and governor on the changes necessary to allow for flexibility and additional resources for conducting our local elections.

We are asking each mayor to sign and send to us the form letter of support to the Association's letter on the voting machine issue. Executive Director Warren Tackenberg recently sent out a blast email with the form letter attached. It will be important for us to show that all 64 of our villages are in support of fixing this problem. All letters should be emailed or faxed back to Warren Tackenberg ASAP so that we can batch them all together and deliver them in bulk to our state representatives and the state Board of Elections. So, I urgently request that if you have not already done so, please print out, sign and send your letters to Warren (email: exec@ncvoa.org or fax to: 516 -1437-1455 as soon as possible.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a joyous and happy holiday season, and a healthy 2015.

Peter Cavallaro

President, NCVOA

NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Legislative Priorities for 2015

(As selected by Legislative Committee on 11-17-14)

At its Annual Legislative meeting held in Albany on November 17, 2014, NYCOM set its Legislative Agenda for 2015. Representatives from the 553 villages and 62 cities in the NYCOM family voted for these items as priority items for the benefit of its NYCOM members.

Overall Priority

- Increase AIM Funding

Additional Priorities:

- Ensure that Cities and Villages Receive a Substantial Portion of the State's Settlement

- Funds for Infrastructure and Abandoned Property

- Increase CHIPS Funding

- Amend the Property Tax Cap & Property Tax Freeze

- Prohibit Unfunded State Mandates

- Pension Reform

- Create and Enhance Tools to Address Abandoned Property and Downtown

- Redevelopment

- Authorize Municipalities to Charge for Services Provided to Tax-Exempt Properties

- Restructure and Reform the Gross Receipts Tax

In the very near future, we will be sending our members a complete summary of all of the issues that NYCOM will be addressing with our state leaders.

November 2014 Meeting Attendees



Nassau County Deputy County Attorney Martin Valk, Deputy Assessor Steve Corte, Deputy County Attorney Michael Reynolds, and NCVOA President Peter Cavallaro



NCVOA Treasurer Robert Kennedy, Deputy County Attorney Michael Reynolds, President Peter Cavallaro, Deputy County Assessor Steve Corte, Deputy County Attorney Martin Valk, 1st Vice President Barbara Donno, and 2nd Vice President Bernie Ryba



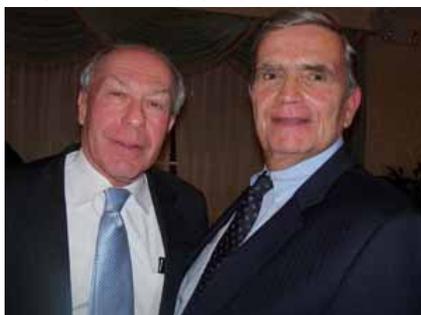
Bayville Deputy Mayor Joe Russo, Trustee Tim Charon, and Mayor Paul Rupp



Farmingdale Mayor Ralph Ekstrand, Trustee Cheryl Parisi, and Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen



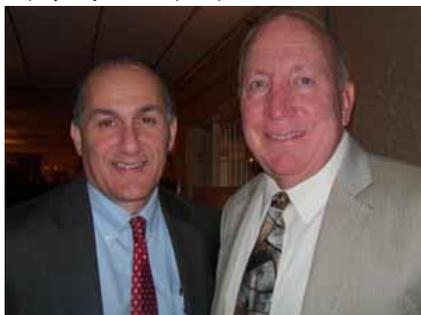
Manorhaven Clerk Leslie Gross and Deputy Mayor Lucretia Steele



NCVOA Counsel Gary Fishberg and Garden City Deputy Mayor Nick Episcopia



NCVOA Past President Ernie Strada, Freeport Mayor and NCVOA Treasurer Robert Kennedy, and NCVOA Past President and North Hills Mayor Marvin Natiss



NCVOA President and Westbury Mayor Peter Cavallaro and Hempstead Trustee Don Ryan



Plandome Heights Mayor Ken Riscica, Plandome Mayor Lloyd Williams, and Flower Hill Mayor Elaine Phillips



Saddle Rock Trustee Manny Alani and Mayor Dr. Dan Levy; Great Neck Deputy Mayor Mitch Beckerman; and Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender



Sands Point Trustee Peter Forman and Plandome Heights Trustee Al Solomon



Stewart Manor Mayor Jerry Tangredi, North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss, and Plandome Manor Mayor and NCVOA 1st Vice President Barbara Donno



The Last Word:

"Times change , but a committment to excellence is always in season." Anon