

NCVOA JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

NCVOA January 2016 General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016-7:00PM

City Cellar Restaurant, Westbury, NY

Guest Speaker

Hon. Kevan Abrahams

Minority Leader

Nassau County Legislature

Kevan Abrahams (D-Hempstead) has served as a Nassau County Legislator in the 1st Legislative District, after decisively winning his seat with a resounding victory in 2002. When first elected in 2002, Abrahams was the youngest legislator ever elected to the Nassau County Legislature.

Abrahams joined the County Legislature staff as Deputy Finance Director in 2000, eventually moving up to the position of Finance Director. He brings with him a wealth of government experience and has served as a legislative assistant and Deputy District Director for Congressman Floyd H. Flake and as a District Representative for Carolyn McCarthy. Abrahams also worked in the private sector as a Financial Analyst for Astoria Federal Savings Bank. Abrahams holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Queens College and also attended Baruch College's MBA Program.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WELCOME 2016

"This New Year may all your troubles vanish like magic,
May you reach out to great glories and achieve all that you desire.

From the President's Desk:

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year! I hope the holidays were enjoyable for you and your families. Christmas sure felt different this year with temperatures more spring-like than winter. I thought I was in Florida! I know all village officials will not complain about the unusually mild winter so far and we are keeping our fingers crossed it continues for another few months.

As we begin the New Year, I would like to share with you my Mayor's list of New Year's resolutions:

Take every opportunity to communicate to the governor and my state legislators the unreasonable restrictions resulting from a tax cap that is not 2%, and the long-term negative impact it will have on my village and residents;

Educate my residents about the long-term negative impact on our village and them if the tax cap continues to be below 2%

3. Continue to explore new ways to increase village efficiencies and share services with neighboring villages



Barbara Donno

I hope your resolutions are similar. We need to unite in our efforts as we face another year with many difficult challenges.

Newsday's Bias Towards Villages Can't Change the Facts

Newsday's December 21 edition featured a two-page spread focusing on the high payroll costs of village police departments. In Newsday's typical anti-village style, the article also included Long Island villages' top civilian earners. Once again, the paper did not let the facts get in the way of a controversial headline. Only this time, their research resulted in an unlikely recognition of village government efficiency.

The reporter noted that 87 of Long Island's 97 villages responded to Newsday's request for information. While stating, "295 of the top 300 salaries (in 2014) went to retired and active police department employees", the article also said, "Islandwide, village elected officials – including mayors, trustees, planning boards and boards of appeals, were paid a total of \$2.3 million. Villages paid mayors and deputy mayors a total of \$953,599."

Let's do the math: If you remove the salaries of the two full-time mayors with the highest populations – Hempstead and Freeport, two villages whose populations are greater than 46 cities in NY – the \$953,599 drops to \$693,985. Divided by the 87 villages reporting and you have an average annual salary for mayors and deputy mayors of \$7,976. I think you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who would consider this exorbitant, given the amount of hours mayors and deputy mayors (and trustees) work for their residents and that most receive little or no compensation.

So a big THANK YOU to Newsday for publicly documenting what we have been saying for years: **Villages are our most effective and efficient form of local government!**

First Meeting of 2016 to Feature Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams

Kevan Abrahams, Nassau County Legislature's minority leader, will be the guest speaker at our January 12, 2016 General Membership meeting. We look forward to hearing his perspective on the state of the county and how he and his caucus view villages. The meeting at City Cellar in Westbury begins at 7 pm with a cocktail reception, followed by the meeting and program at 7:30 pm. I look forward to seeing you January 12.

Sincerely,

Mayor Barbara Donno, President

December 2015 Meeting Attendees



Plandome Manor Mayor and NCVOA President Barbara Donno, Flower Hill Mayor and NCVOA Treasurer Elaine Phillips, and Plandome Heights Mayor Ken Riscia

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Farmingdale Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen and Trustee Cheryl Paris

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Massapequa Park Deputy Mayor Teresa Spinosa, Trustee Tina Schiaffino, and Deputy Village Clerk Linda Tuminello



North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss, Freeport Trustee Debra Mule', and Westbury Mayor and NCVOA Immediate Past President Peter Cavallaro



North Hills Trustees Gail Cohen and Phyllis Lentini with Mayor Marvin Natiss



Old Brookville Mayor and NCVOA 1st Vice President Bernie Ryba with Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy



Plandome Heights Village Clerk Arlene Drucker, Deputy Village Clerk Elizabeth Vera, Mayor Ken Riscia, and Trustee Al Solomon



Rockville Centre Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard, North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss, Old Brookville Mayor and NCVOA 1st Vice President Bernie Ryba, Rockville Centre Mayor Fran Murray, and NCVOA Executive Director Warren Tackenberg



Stewart Manor Mayor Gerard Tangredi and Bellerose Trustee John Tweedy



Westbury Trustee Bill Wise, Westbury Mayor and NCVOA Immediate Past President Peter Cavallaro, and Town of Hempstead's Bert Patterson

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The Last Word:

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION



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