

NCVOA MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 1104

NCVOA MAY 2014
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2014-7:00PM
La Marmite
Williston Park, NY

Guest Speaker
HON. EDWARD MANGANO
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Mangano was re-elected Nassau County Executive on November 5, 2013. Prior to becoming County Executive, Ed Mangano gained extensive experience as a County Legislator, where he served the 17th Legislative District for seven terms until leaving the position in 2009 to become County Executive.

The County Executive will up-date the NCVOA on the state of the County, especially in its regard to the 64 villages that represent 449,633 residents.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK:



David Tanner

Dear Mayors, Trustees and Friends:

Legislature Adopts Budget

For the fourth consecutive year, the state legislature passed a budget by the March 31st deadline. As with most budgets, there was some good news for villages and some not-so-good news. The good news is a one-time increase of \$40 million transportation aid funding for CHIPS for "Extreme Winter recovery" (i.e. potholes). This brings the CHIPS total for 2014-2015 to \$478 million. It is expected this additional money will be distributed using the standard CHIPS formula. The not-so-good news is Governor Cuomo continued his assault on local governments as the state legislature approved his tax cap incentive. The incentive potentially provides what could be considered miniscule refund to residents whose municipality's budget falls below the cap. But a closer examination of the legislation reveals it is nothing more than an election year ploy. Unfortunately, it places the onus on local governments to hold the line on taxes at a time when unfunded state mandates keep increasing.

NYCOM recently prepared a summary of this new law, which I have paraphrased for you to use as a reference:

Effective for local government fiscal years beginning in 2015, the adopted budget includes a proposal to effectively freeze property taxes for two years on the primary residences of homeowners with annual incomes at or below \$500,000 in local governments and school districts that stay within the tax cap. The credit, which will be distributed to each eligible homeowner in the form of a check, will be equal to the greater of: (a) the amount by which the individual's property tax bill increased from year to year or (b) the amount of the individual's prior year tax bill multiplied by the allowable levy growth factor (cap amount) for the subsequent year. This eliminates the incentive for a municipality to automatically increase its levy to the capped amount if it is not necessary, since their residents will be eligible to receive a check as if they did levy the full amount.

For the first year, no homeowner would be eligible to receive the income tax credit until the CEO or budget officer of the local government certifies to the State Comptroller and the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance that the municipality stayed within the cap and did not enact a local law to override the cap. (If a local law was enacted and the cap was not exceeded, the law would have to be repealed). This certification must be completed no later than 21 days into the fiscal year to which it applies.

For homeowners in their jurisdictions to receive the property tax credit in the second year, the local government must certify it has stayed within the tax cap (and there is no local override law in place), as well as develop (or participate in the development of) a state-approved "Government Efficiency Plan" that features shared services, cooperation agreements, mergers and/or efficiencies that, when implemented, will achieve savings for taxpayers.

Unlike the original tax freeze proposal, there is no requirement the Government Efficiency Plans be developed on a countywide basis, although they can be. The plans must include initiatives that will generate savings for three consecutive years equal to 1% of the combined tax levy of all of the local governments participating in the plan. The plans must also be submitted to the Division of the Budget by June 1, 2015 and will apply to fiscal years beginning in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

For a local government that develops its own Government Efficiency Plan, the CEO has to certify, by June 1, 2015, that the local government agrees to "undertake its best efforts to fully implement the plan by the end of the local fiscal year beginning in 2017". Additionally, the CFO of the local government must submit to the Director of the Budget an analysis of the savings, as well as a written certification that the actions outlined in the plan, in his/her professional opinion, would result in the projected savings equal to 1% of its 2014 tax levy for each of the three years beginning in the fiscal year that commences in 2017.

If a local government develops a Government Efficiency Plan with other municipalities, the same plan-related certifications are required but must be submitted to the lead local government by May 15, 2015. It is then up to the lead local government to submit the plan and all of the relevant certifications to the Director of Budget by June 1, 2015. The Director of Budget must determine whether the requirements have been met and notify the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance no later than July 31, 2015 of his determination.

While the Governor's original tax freeze proposal would have allowed the state to withhold aid from a local government that failed to implement the actions included in the Government Efficiency Plan, this provision is not part of the final tax freeze proposal. Finally the law states that the director of the Budget "shall consider past efficiencies, shared services and reforms in their approval process to determine whether the requirements have been met." The law does not specify an absolute date/year to which this "look back" would apply or what types of initiatives may be acceptable. It is expected there will be guidance documents on the tax freeze proposal that will hopefully address this and the many other questions that are likely to arise.

I hope you communicate the essence of this legislation to your residents, especially when they start looking for their checks!

County Executive to Speak at May Meeting

Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano will be the guest speaker at our May General Membership meeting, which will be held Tuesday, May 13, 7 pm at LaMarmite Restaurant. The County Executive will share with us some of the challenges facing the county during this year and discuss the working relationship between the county and villages. Please make every effort to attend. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

David E. Tanner

President



At the April 8, 2014 General Membership Meeting Alan Schwalberg, vice president of North Shore-LIJ Health System's Center for Emergency Medical Services (CEMS), discussed the partnerships North Shore has created with local municipalities to provide ambulance and medical services.

"The shortage of volunteer fire, emergency and medical personnel, especially during daytime hours, and the skyrocketing costs of hiring EMS professionals have become difficult problems for local governments and fire districts throughout Long Island," Schwalberg said.

"Several years ago, at the request of the Village of Rockville Centre and its volunteer fire department, we agreed to launch the first-of-its-kind public private partnership in Nassau County to provide 911 emergency response services," Schwalberg explained. "The program has been hugely successful for the village and has been hailed as a national model for the delivery of emergency and ambulance services."

Under the terms of the original agreement, North Shore LIJ provided ambulance and emergency medical services for the village weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. when local volunteers are in especially short supply. The village's cost was based on the number of calls North Shore LIJ answered. The more calls, the lower the cost. Additionally, the bottom-line cost was capped, regardless of the amount of calls. The agreement was recently extended to provide for additional secondary coverage for the remainder of the week.

Following Rockville Centre, North Shore-LIJ CEMS in June 2012 formalized an agreement with the Village of Hempstead, which was dependent for years on the Nassau County Ambulance Bureau for the majority of its 911 emergency calls. Under the old system, when Nassau County ambulance services were needed, a Hempstead Village police officer had to be assigned to drive the ambulance to the hospital while the accompanying Nassau County AEMT cared for the patient. That system strained staffing resources within Hempstead Police Department and drove up police overtime costs for responding to nearly 6,000 emergency calls every year.

Over the past two years, the North Shore-LIJ CEMS has expanded its partnerships to include the Villages of Lake Success and Old Westbury, as well as LaGuardia Airport, the State University of New York at Old Westbury and New York City's Central Park Medical Unit.

Schwalberg explained the different service models available to local governments and fire departments. "Ambulances can be dedicated to a specific community, provide backup coverage, provide all services in a turnkey operation or just enter into a mutual aid agreement where we share and partner with the community. CEMS works with all existing service providers in order to maximize the value each brings to the table."

"Every community is different. There is no 'one size fits all' model. We can fashion an agreement that makes sense for every individual community."

PRESIDENT TANNER APPOINTS PLANDOME RESIDENT TO EMERGENCY POST

Roger Goodwin, resident of the Village of Plandome and an experienced firefighter, has been selected by NCVOA President David Tanner to serve as NCVOA Emergency Director. He replaces Angel Soto, former mayor of the Village of South Floral Park, who recently relocated out of state.

Mr. Goodwin was appointed in May 2012 to the Nassau County Fire Commission. In that role, he assists Fire Marshals in their emergency response duties.

A certified EMT-B and member of the Plandome Fire Department since 1996, Mr. Goodwin rose to Chief of the Department in 2009. He also has served in numerous leadership roles including 8th Battalion Officer and Battalion Chairman.

In addition to his firematic experience, Mr. Goodwin has served in local government as a member of the Village of Plandome Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Board. A graduate of Chaminade High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Lehigh University and is currently studying towards his Master of Science in Emergency Management.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Goodwin on his appointment.

SAVE THE DATE:

The next General Membership of the NCVOA will be on Thursday, June 26, 2014
(day change).

Election and Installation of Officers

Installing officer:

Hon. Richard Nicoello
Nassau County Legislator
La Marmite Restaurant-7:00PM

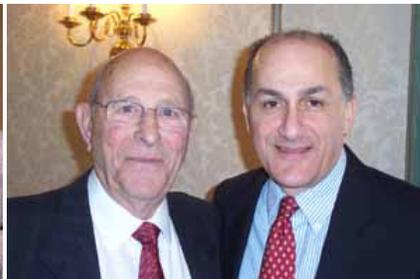
Please note that all general membership meetings dates are posted on our website home page.

APRIL 2014 MEETING ATTENDEES



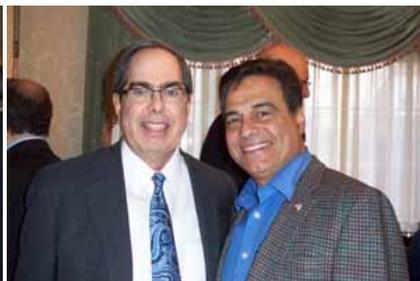
Alan Schwalberg, VP, North Shore-LIJ Center for Emergency Medical Services; and Great Neck mayor Ralph Kreitzman

Dennis Sgambati, North Hills Dep Mayor; David Tanner, NCVOA President; Marvin Natiss, North Hills Mayor; Peter Cavallaro, NCVOA VP; Ralph Kreitzman, Great Neck Mayor



Laurel Hollow Clerk Karen Navin; Mayor Dan DeVita; and Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender

Former Westbury Mayor Ernie Strada and current Mayor Peter Cavallaro



North Hills Deputy Mayor Dennis Sgambati and Baxter Estates trustee Alice Pecklis

North Hills Trustee Elliott Arnold and Saddle Rock Mayor Dr. Dan Levy



North Shore-LIJ AVP John Washko; Rockville Centre Trustee Ed Oppenheimer; and North Shore-LIJ Representative Bruce Nyman

Plandome Heights Trustee Al Solomon and Bellerose Trustees John Tweedy and Ken Moore



Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy and Trustee Ed Lieberman

Tim Almeda, AHRCE Works; Great Neck Mayor Ralph Kreitzman; and NCVOA President David Tanner



THE LAST WORD:

“People with goals succeed because they know where they’re going”

Earl

Nightingale

Warren Tackenberg, NCVOA Exec. Director and East Rockaway Mayor Francis Lenahan, Trustee Ed Corrado, and Deputy Mayor Bruno Romano