



Nassau County Village Officials Association

Representing the 64 villages in Nassau County, New York
with a combined population of 450,000 residents

Government Closest to the People

June 2019 Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27
6:30 PM
WESTBURY MANOR**

**ELECTION, AND
INSTALLATION OF
OFFICERS BY
CONGRESSMAN TOM
SUOZZI & COUNTY
EXECUTIVE LAURA
CURRAN**

**SAVE THE DATE--
Testimonial Dinner
Thursday, September 12**

There will be no meetings
in July or August.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

The NCVOA is comprised of 64 member villages, varying in geographic size, population, location, ethnicity, and socioeconomics. As village officials, the extent of our duties may differ but we share a common trait: The desire to serve our communities. For me, it has been personally gratifying to be active in the Village of Farmingdale – first as trustee and now mayor. Knowing I play a role in helping make a difference in the lives of village residents is extremely gratifying.

While being elected by my friends and neighbors is an honor I cherish, I think a more significant personal privilege has been your electing me NCVOA president. This past year has been personally and professionally rewarding for me as I have been able to forge new relationships, strengthen existing ones, and work with so many intelligent, talented and dedicated public servants.

As one who spent his formative years in the 1970s, I am a product of the rock and roll era. One of the many popular bands we listened to during that time was Steely Dan. Donald Fagen, the group's lead singer/keyboardist and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, once said, "When you get a groove going, time flies."

As I complete my term as NCVOA president, I definitely can relate to Fagen. We did get a groove going and the time went by in a flash.



*President Ralph Ekstrand
Mayor of the Village of Farmingdale*

Reflecting on the past year, I believe we have much to be proud of. Because the efforts of the Executive Committee and our member village officials, we were able to make an impact on two significant issues that could have been devastating to local governments – restoration of AIM and the attempt to legalize recreational marijuana. I was proud to be a part of the effort of so many local officials who rose to the challenge. What we accomplished is a prime example of the reason why people want to live in incorporated villages – we effectively advocated for the best interests of our residents. That is why the NCVOA has been such an important and influential organization for nearly a century.

I cannot begin to individually thank all those who provided me with valuable assistance and guidance. I would like to recognize the dedicated members of the Executive Committee for volunteering their time and energies to lead our organization. This is a talented group of experienced leaders who collaborate to make sound and effective decisions for our organization. I appreciate their guidance and efforts. I also would like to thank Ralph Kreitzman, executive director, for keeping me and the Executive Committee focused and informed; NCVOA counsel Gary Fishberg for his counsel and wisdom; our public information officer Eric Ricioppo for his behind the scenes work on the president's message, do you know articles and news releases, he doesn't speak often but when he does people listen to his advice and comments; John Kiernan, our Albany lobbyist, for his outstanding work in advocating for NCVOA issues in Albany; and Peter Baynes and the NYCOM staff for making village issues legislative priorities. It is especially encouraging to see our own Freeport Mayor Bob Kennedy recently elected NYCOM President. Bob was a force when he preceded me as NCVOA President and I know he will bring a similar passion and dedication to NYCOM.

While my tenure as president is ending, I plan to continue my presence and involvement with the NCVOA. I believe in this organization and look forward to helping our new president, officers and Executive Committee continue to elevate the NCVOA's influence and effectiveness.

Thank you, again, for all your support and encouragement. Enjoy the summer!

With profound appreciation,



Mayor Ralph Ekstrand

JOIN US ON JUNE 12, 5 PM FOR AN IMPORTANT MEETING AT FREEPORT VILLAGE HALL:

The Army Corps of Engineers will update Nassau County village officials and residents on the surge barrier project

It has been more than six years since Long Island suffered the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. For many of our neighbors and friends, the nightmare has not ended as they continue to struggle with rebuilding homes and businesses and restoring their lives.

Given the massive storms and unpredictable weather occurring this winter and spring across the country, the threat of another Sandy hitting Long Island is real. For the past six years, Freeport Mayor and NCVOA Past President Bob Kennedy has been spearheading the NCVOA's campaign to have tidal surge barrier gates installed at two locations in Jones Inlet and East Rockaway Inlet. The retractable gates, which are activated only during severe weather, would prevent flooding in Nassau County. They have been operating for years in other states and countries and have a solid track record of preventing tidal surges similar to what we experienced with Superstorm Sandy.

In 2017, Mayor Kennedy secured \$3 million in funding to underwrite a feasibility study. He then met with the Army Corps of Engineers in New Bedford, Massachusetts to inspect surge barrier gates that have been operating for 45 years without failure. The result of this meeting was so positive the Army Corps of Engineers scheduled a second meeting in April 2018 and several NCVOA mayors accompanied Mayor Kennedy to New Bedford to tour the facility.

The Army Corps of Engineers will be back in the **Village of Freeport Wednesday, June 12, 2019** to update village officials and residents on its Nassau County Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study. The meeting will be held at the Village of Freeport Municipal Building, Main Conference Board Room, 46 N. Ocean Ave., Freeport, from **5pm-7pm**. The agenda includes a presentation by the study team, followed by an audience question and answer session.

This is an important meeting and all NCVOA village officials are urged to attend and demonstrate to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers our united commitment to protecting Nassau County.

Please contact Mayor Kennedy at 516-377-2252 to confirm your attendance or find out additional information.

WE ARE GETTING AN AWARD:

The NCVOA will be receiving an award for Strengthening Communities from Vision Long Island (a Friend of the NCVOA) at its 18th Annual Long Island Smart Growth Awards luncheon on **Friday, June 14 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club**. Go to our website homepage – ncvoa.org -- for the Vision Long Island flyer and reservation form.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

“On May 16, 2019, the Nominating Committee of the Nassau County Village Officials Association met by telephonic meeting to confer on potential nominees for a slate of officers for the 2019-20 year.

“The members of the Nominating Committee, appointed by President Ralph Ekstrand, are: Mayor Peter I. Cavallaro (Chairman); Mayor Barbara Donno; Mayor Bernard Ryba; and Deputy Mayor/Trustee Dennis Sgambati.

“The Committee reviewed the qualifications of the persons requesting consideration, and had an open discussion about each potential nominee and their qualifications.

“Following the discussion, on motion made by Mayor Cavallaro and seconded by Mayor Donno, the Nominating Committee voted to nominate, and hereby nominates and

recommends to the membership, each of the following persons for election to the office set forth opposite his or her name, at the annual election to take place at the Association's June 2019 general meeting:

Hon. Edward Lieberman, Mayor, Village of Sea Cliff - President

Hon. Daniel Serota, Mayor, Village of Brookville - 1st Vice President

Hon. Nora Haaganson, Mayor, Village of Baxter Estates - 2nd Vice President

Hon. Elliot Conway, Mayor, Villager of Upper Brookville - Treasurer

"Respectfully Submitted as of: May 27, 2019."

NOTE – Pursuant to our By-Laws, nominations also may be made by a writing signed by at least 25 elected officials representing at least five member villages and filed with Ralph Kreitzman our Executive Director no later than June 17.

DID YOU KNOW?

LONG ISLAND IS NOT AN ISLAND. While the definition of an island is a body of land that is surrounded by water on all sides, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled otherwise. In *US v. Maine*, 469 U.S. 504 (1985), it unanimously held that Long Island is an extension of the mainland – a peninsula. A *New York Times* story satirically reported on the case. Here is a link to the story -- tinyurl.com/SCTLI

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

Please visit our website -- ncvoa.org -- click on the FRIENDS link under our banner and then click on FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA. If you click on their logos, you will be taken to their website home page.

May 2019 Meeting Attendees



Guest Speaker Rebecca D'Eloia, RXR Senior Vice President, updated the membership on the status of the HUB development plan



Sea Cliff Mayor and NCVOA 2nd Vice President Ed Lieberman, Centre Island Mayor Larry Schmidlapp, and Upper Brookville Mayor Elliot Conway



Vision Long Island Executive Director Eric Alexander (Friends of the NCVOA) with Great Neck Plaza Mayor and NCVOA 1st Vice President Jean Celender



Plandome Manor Mayor and NCVOA Past President Barbara Donno, North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss, and Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson.



Westbury Trustee Vincent Abbatiello with D&B Engineering and Architect's Bill Merklin (Friend of the NCVOA).



Saddle Rock Mayor Dr. Dan Levy with Plandome Manor Mayor and NCVOA Past President Barbara Donno



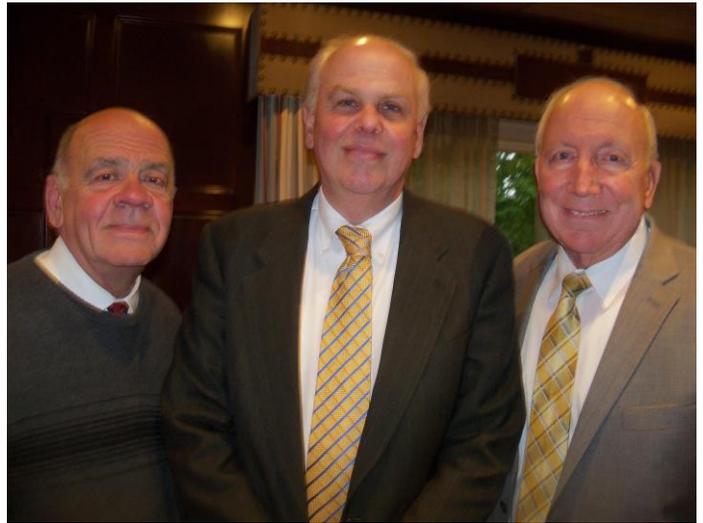
Sea Cliff Mayor and NCVOA 2nd Vice President Ed Lieberman, Freeport Mayor and NCVOA Past President Bob Kennedy, and NCVOA Counsel Gary Fishberg.



Flower Hill Trustee Gary Lewandowski, Baxter Estates Deputy Mayor Charles Comer and Mayor Nora Haagenson.



Great Neck Plaza Trustee Pam Marksheid, Trustee Jerry Schneiderman, and Mayor and NCVOA 1st Vice President Jean Celender.



Mineola Trustee Paul Cusato, Town of Hempstead Planning Board Chair Bert Patterson, and Hempstead Mayor Don Ryan.



North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss with Brookville Mayor and NCVOA Treasurer Dan Serota.



Sea Cliff Mayor and NCVOA 2nd Vice President Ed Lieberman with Garden City Deputy Mayor Bob Bolebruch.



The Last Word:

“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Published by the NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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