



July-August 2021 Newsletter

**WE HOPE YOU
ENJOY THE
SUMMER**

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE IN PERSON
ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9**

[NOT THE USUAL SECOND TUESDAY]

STARTING AT

6:30 PM

AT OPUS

STEAKHOUSE

4 Old Jericho Tpke.

Jericho

[NOT WESTBURY MANOR]

[Click here for our 2021-2022
meeting schedule.](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

I appreciate your confidence and support in electing me NCVOA President for 2021-2022. As an officer and Executive Board member for the past several years, I have been fortunate to have collaborated with and learned from so many talented and dedicated leaders. I look forward to working with the Executive Board during the coming year. Special thanks to Mayor Ed Lieberman for extending his tenure as president and guiding us through the pandemic.

I also would like to thank newly confirmed NYS Court of Appeals Associate Judge Madeline Singas for taking time from her hectic schedule to administer the oath of office to me and Mayors Haagenson, Conway and Prime. Judge Singas was an excellent Nassau County district attorney and the residents of New York State are fortunate to have her serving as a Court of Appeals justice.

It has Been a Year Like No Other

It is hard to dispute that the past year and a half has been a period unlike any we have ever faced. The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on our personal and professional lives. But as American poet Maya Angelou once said, "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you



*President Daniel Serota
Mayor of the Village of Brookville*

can decide not to be reduced by them.” It was encouraging and invigorating to see New Yorkers not reduced by this deadly virus; instead rising to the challenge with resiliency and determination. It was especially gratifying to have Nassau becoming the first and only New York county, to date, with more than 80% of its population 18 years and older having received at least one vaccine dose. The high vaccination rate and the rapid recovery of local businesses is a tribute to the leadership of County Executive Laura Curran and her team. The County Executive has maintained regular communications with the NCVOA throughout the pandemic and we appreciate her recognizing the integral role of village government.

With Nassau County continuing to make positive daily progress, we all are anxious to return to normalcy. Accordingly, I am pleased to announce the Executive Board has decided to resume in-person monthly NCVOA General Membership meetings, beginning Thursday, September 9 (please note the date change). I cannot fully express my appreciation to all the members and Friends of the NCVOA who remained involved the past year and a half by regularly participating in our monthly Zoom meetings. Your steadfast commitment is a primary reason why the NCVOA has been a formidable organization for nearly one hundred years. I look forward to September 9 when I can see each of you.

Challenges Ahead

As we begin the summer recess, there are two significant issues impacting villages in the coming months: Legalization of recreational marijuana and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

In my June newsletter message, I explained that villages, towns and cities have until December 31, 2021 to pass a local law opting out of allowing retail marijuana dispensaries or on-site establishments to operate within their jurisdictions. After December 31, the power to opt out ends. If a village opts out the board of trustees could, in the future, opt in by repealing the opt-out local law. December 31 will be on us quickly. I encourage all mayors and trustees to consult with their village attorneys to ensure they make timely decisions.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes financial assistance to local governments for addressing COVID-19 related expenses. We still are awaiting funding details and spending guidelines.

Several village officials have expressed to me their frustration at the lack of information and direction regarding these important pieces of legislation. Many of the details have yet to be finalized. We are fortunate to have NYCOM as an excellent resource. NYCOM Executive Director Peter Baynes and his team have compiled a wealth of information, articles and

webinars to help educate and guide villages through these and other important issues. I encourage mayors and trustees to access the NYCOM website or contact NYCOM directly.

While we may be on meeting hiatus for July and August, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman if you or your village staff have any questions or need support.

I hope you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,



Mayor Daniel Serota

SAVE THE DATE:

Our annual testimonial dinner to honor our immediate past president will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at Westbury Manor in Jericho this year. Ed Lieberman served as our dedicated and excellent president through our most troubling times for almost two years. Information on attendance and the journal will follow.

NEW MAYOR:

Peter Forman was elected mayor of the Village of Sands Point in the June election. Congratulations Mayor Forman.

DID YOU KNOW?

Malverne Joins Centennial Club

The Village of Malverne is the most recent village to mark its 100th anniversary. Officially incorporated on April 20, 1921, the Village of Malverne becomes the 20th Nassau County village with a century or more of service to its residents.

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website – ncvoa.org. If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



The Last Word:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

-- Albert Einstein

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FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA

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