

NCVOA DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

NCVOA DECEMBER 2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 10, 2013-7:00PM

La Marmite Restaurant

Williston Park, NY

All members are cordially invited to attend this special evening. The dinner cost is covered by the NCVOA for the following officials of each village; mayor, trustees, village attorney, village administrator, village clerk, clerk treasurer, and village treasurer. Members are encouraged to bring guests to this event but are required to pay for the dinner, which is \$50. Thank you.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:



Dear Mayors, Trustees and Friends:

At the October 12 General Membership Meeting, we were fortunate to have Peter Koehler, Cablevision's editorial director, as our guest speaker. Mr. Koehler has a long and distinguished journalism career, having worked for major network news operations prior to his tenure at Cablevision. Mr. Koehler explained how an editorial board selects its topics and he gave us several examples of how recent news events influenced Cablevision's decisions to provide editorial opinions. He also talked about the value of village government, having been a Village of Huntington resident for many years. Mr. Koehler encouraged us to continue to keep Cablevision's editorial board informed of key issues impacting villages and their residents.

Peter Koehler's appearance followed the recent Newsday publishing of my editorial regarding lever voting machines. I received numerous positive comments in response to the article. This reinforced one of my major goals as NCVOA president for this year – to broaden media coverage for villages so more people and decision makers understand the value of villages and our

organization. I also met with representatives from FIOS 1 for a similar purpose. I expect FIOS 1 also will expand its coverage of village issues. I will continue my efforts to keep the NCVOA highly visible.

NYCOM Legislative Agenda Meeting

On Monday, November 18 I traveled to Albany to attend NYCOM's annual Legislative Agenda Meeting, where the NYCOM Executive Board decided the organization's legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Great Neck Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, Rockville Centre Mayor Fran Murray and Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy attended as members of the NYCOM Executive Committee, and Warren Tackenberg accompanied me as well. I was pleased to have the opportunity to represent the NCVOA and ensure we remain influential in NYCOM's decisions.

Long Island Regional Planning Council Seeks to Circumvent Villages

Last month John Cameron, as chairman of the Long Island regional Planning Council, sent a letter to New York State Senator Patrick Gallivan, chair of the Senate Majority Coalition Forum on Regulation Reform on Long Island, urging the Senator to expedite development projects deemed "Regionally Significant." We believe the Long Island regional Planning Board was wrongly critical of the role local government plays in the SEQRA process, saying "The myriad of permitting entities and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) have long been considered the biggest hindrance to development on Long Island."

At the October Executive Committee meeting, members of the Executive Committee took strong objection to this comment. In response, as your President, I immediately wrote to Senator Gallivan, denouncing the Council's statement and explaining why local zoning control is vital to preserving the quality of life in local communities.

NCVOA Loses a Respected Colleague

On Saturday, November 16 the NCVOA suffered a loss with the passing of Leonard Wurzel, former mayor of the Village of Sands Point. Len was a fixture in village government, having served as mayor for 22 years until his retirement in 2011. Len was a staunch supporter of villages and the quality of life we provide. He was the driving force behind the Village of Sands Point purchasing the IBM Country Club and Conference Center and converting it to a village golf course. We extend our deepest sympathy to Len's wife, Elaine, and their entire family.

December Holiday Meeting

Our December General Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 10 at LaMarmite Restaurant in Williston Park. This is our traditional Holiday Party so there will be no guest speaker. I look forward to sharing your company as we celebrate the holidays together.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

David E. Tanner

President

NYCOM

Legislative Priorities for 2014

(as selected by Legislative Committee on 11-18-13)

The NCVOA delegation, led by President David Tanner, attended the NYCOM legislative Priorities Meeting in Albany on November 18, 2013 to participate in the discussion of more than 40 different policy issues affecting villages and cities. Some of the topics discussed were Finance, Employee Relations, Public Safety, Government Operations, Community Development, Environment and Energy.

At the conclusion of the discussions, ballots were cast and the following items were selected as priority legislation for 2014.

Overall Priority

- Increase AIM Funding

Additional Priorities

- Increase CHIPS Funding
- Prohibit Unfunded State Mandates
- Amend the Property Tax Cap
- Authorize Municipalities to Charge for Services Provided to Tax Exempt Properties
- Pension Reform
- Create and Enhance Tools to Address Abandoned Property and Downtown Redevelopment
- Increase the Rate and Expand the Scope of the Utility Gross Receipts Tax
- Limit Payments under General Municipal Law § 207-a and § 207-c
- Increase Opportunities for Small Projects in the Consolidated Funding Application Process
- Establish Minimum Health Insurance Contribution Levels for Employees and retirees

November 2013 Meeting Attendees



Prior to the formal program, NCVOA officers posed for a photo with Peter Kohler, Cablevision's editorial director and the evening's guest speaker. Pictured here is Barbara Donno, mayor of the Village of Plandome Manor and NCVOA 1st vice president; Peter Kohler, David Tanner, mayor of the Village of East Williston and NCVOA president, Bernard Ryba, mayor of Old Brookville and NCVOA treasurer.



Peter Kohler, Cablevision's editorial director, addressed the membership and explained how Cablevision determines its editorial issues and positions.



Richard Mac Dougal, (L) trustee, Village of Oyster Bay Cove; Charlie Goulding, deputy mayor, Village of Oyster Bay Cove; and Jeff Bass, trustee, Village of Great Neck and Mitch Beckerman, Deputy Mayor of Great Neck.



Jerry Tangredi, (L) mayor, Village of Stewart Manor; Cheryl Parisi, trustee, Village of Farmingdale; Pat Christiansen, deputy mayor, Village of Farmingdale; and Warren Tackenberg, NCVOA executive director.



Ernie Strada, former mayor, Village of Westbury and NCVOA and NYCOM past president with Barbara Donno, mayor of the Village of Plandome Manor and NCVOA 1st vice president.



Gail Cohen, trustee, Village of North Hills; Al Solomon, trustee, Village of Plandome Heights; and Dennis Sgambati, deputy mayor, Village of North Hills enjoy each other's company during the cocktail reception.



Many NCVOA past presidents remain active in the organization and regularly attend general membership meetings. Attending the November meeting were Ralph Kreitzman, mayor, Village of Great Neck; Tony Panzarella, former mayor, Village of Malverne; and Marvin Natiss, mayor of North Hills.



Elliott Arnold, (L) trustee, Village of North Hills converses with Jerry Schneiderman, trustee, Village of Great Neck Plaza.



Bill Wise,(L)trustee, Village of Westbury and Jerry Tangredi, mayor, Village of Stewart Manor.



The Village of Great Neck Plaza was well represented at the meeting with Mayor Jean Celender and Trustees Pamela Marksheid and Jerry Schneiderman attending.



THE LAST WORD:

[Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation”.](#)

[Margaret Chase Smith](#)