

NCVOA MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 1104

Guest Speaker

Mayor Richard Donovan

President-NYCOM

NYCOM President to Address NCVOA

Regarding Latest Attempt to Undermine Local Governments NYCOM President Richard Donovan, mayor of the Village of Minoa and NYCOM president, will be the guest speaker at the March 11th NCVOA General Membership Meeting.

**NCVOA MARCH 2014
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Tuesday, MARCH 11, 2014-7:00PM
La Marmite
Williston Park, NY**

Mayor Donovan, who also serves as president of the Onondaga County Mayors Association, is traveling the State to garner the support of villages in combating Governor Cuomo's most recent assault on village government – the proposed payment to residents whose municipalities stay within the 2% tax cap.

According to Mayor Donovan, the unified support of local governments throughout the State is vital to defeating this proposed legislation. He is looking for direct input from Nassau County villages because, as he stated, "Just because something works in other parts of the State does not mean it will work in Nassau County."

Mayor Donovan also will update the membership on the status of the budget negotiations as the legislature nears the March 31st deadline for submission.

Your attendance at this meeting is extremely important so we can demonstrate to Mayor Donovan our commitment to NYCOM's efforts. Please make every effort to have at least one representative from your village attend.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK:

Dear Mayors, Trustees and Friends:

It seems as if it never ends. The latest effort to undermine Village Home Rule that is being spearheaded by two state legislators from Suffolk County – Senator Ken LaValle and Assemblyman Bob Sweeney. They recently introduced a bill to create the Long Island Water



david tanner

Quality Commission. Under its provisions, the State Department of Environmental Conservation is directed to prepare a comprehensive clean water quality and protection plan. This plan, once adopted by the Commission, would supersede local land use and zoning laws, ordinances and regulations.

LaValle's and Sweeney's legislation generates yet another commission and additional level of bureaucracy. More concerning, it violates the State Constitution that grants zoning powers to towns, villages and cities. This bill seeks to remove that power and transfer decisions about future "human development activity" to an appointed Commission. This group would dictate to local officials, elected by their residents, what is best for their communities and decide what can or cannot be built or developed.

Simply stated, this legislation is unnecessary. Numerous agencies already exist to review water quality and supply issues, namely the EPA, DEC, state and county health departments, and local planning agencies. Wetlands and run-off waters are strictly regulated. Water quality tests are performed regularly and the results are published. Water issues also are an integral component of environmental impact studies required before any significant development can progress.

Recently, a draft suggested letter of opposition was sent to every village. We strongly urge you to personalize this letter and immediately send it to your respective state senator and assembly representative. We cannot allow Home Rule to be compromised at any level. Please make sure your letters are sent and contact Warren Tackenberg, NCVOA executive director, to let him know once they have been sent so he can monitor the progress.

I also recently sent a Letter to the Editor to Newsday and the Legislative Gazette. You will be receiving a copy. Please feel free to use this letter, revise it as necessary, and send it under your signature to your residents and local newspapers.

Thank you for understanding the importance of this initiative and for joining us in our efforts to prevent this dangerous bill from moving forward.

February General Membership Meeting

Our February General Membership Meeting was held at the Stewart Manor Country Club. Our guest speaker was Kevin Hamilton, who explained the FDIC Reciprocal Insurance Deposit Program. Special thanks to Pat Mezeul, Flushing Bank senior vice president and director of Government Banking, who arranged for Kevin to address our group.

March General Membership Meeting Features NYCOM President

We will return to LaMarmite Restaurant in Williston Park for our March General Membership Meeting, which will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2014 beginning at 7 pm. Our guest speaker will be Richard Donovan, mayor of the Village of Minoa and NYCOM president. Mayor Donovan will update us on the legislative issues facing local governments this year. I look forward to seeing you March 11.

It has been the "winter to end all winters"! I look forward to seeing you at this upcoming meeting. Sincerely,

David E. Tanner

President

Don't Mess with Home Rule

If there was one group we would expect to understand and respect Home Rule, it would be our colleagues in the state legislature. Unfortunately, in typical election year style, State Senator Ken LaValle and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, both of Suffolk County, have crafted legislation creating the Long Island Water Commission. This proposed board of appointed members would, in essence, dictate the type of development that could take place in local municipalities. This is yet another intentional attack on village government. Even Newsday and the Legislative Gazette realized the infringement on Home Rule and recently published the following letter from NCVOA President David Tanner in their respective newspapers:

To the Editor:

As Long Islanders, we are fortunate to enjoy one of the world's most coveted natural resources – a freshwater aquifer that provides clean, abundant water for our use. This precious commodity is one we can never take for granted and must be preserved and protected at all costs.

Two Long Island state legislators – Senator Ken LaValle and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney - recently introduced a bill that creates the Long Island Water Quality Commission. Under its provisions, the State Department of Environmental Conservation is directed to prepare a comprehensive clean water quality and protection plan. This plan, once adopted by the Commission, would supersede local land use and zoning laws, ordinances and regulations.

The intent is commendable; however, as President George W. Bush once said, “Good intentions aren’t good enough.” LaValle’s and Sweeney’s legislation creates yet another commission and additional level of bureaucracy. More concerning, it violates the State Constitution that grants zoning powers to towns, villages and cities. This bill seeks to remove that power and transfer decisions about future “human development activity” to an appointed Commission. This group would dictate to local officials, elected by their residents, what is best for their communities and decide what can or cannot be built or developed.

Simply stated, this legislation is unnecessary. Numerous agencies already exist to review water quality and supply issues, namely the EPA, DEC, state and county health departments, and local planning agencies. Wetlands and run-off waters are strictly regulated. Water quality tests are performed regularly and the results are published. Water issues also are an integral component of environmental impact studies required before any significant development can progress.

To continue protecting and preserving Long Island’s drinking water supply, local elected officials need more state resources – not more bureaucracy.

David E. Tanner, mayor of the Village of East Williston and
President, Nassau County Village Officials Association

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

As you know, the electronic voting machine legislation has been an issue the NCVOA has been fighting on behalf of its member villages. Thanks to the efforts of Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, state legislation was passed a few years ago allowing villages to continue using lever voting machines. There also was a subsequent extension of the original bill, which expires December 2014.

The NCVOA Executive Committee has been working to open discussions with the Nassau County Board of Elections to permanently resolve the issue. Recently we sent you a survey regarding electronic voting machines and asked for your input. Since that time, the Board of Elections has requested additional information from the villages. As we go to press, 30 villages have responded to our latest request and we thank those villages for their response. However there still remains 34 villages that have yet to complete the survey and email it back to us.

This information is vital to our ongoing discussions. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Warren Tackenberg,

NCVOA Executive Director

FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING ATTENDEES



