

# NCVOA DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 1104

**NCVOA DECEMBER 2015  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015-7:00PM  
CITY CELLAR RESTAURANT  
1080 CORPORATE DRIVE  
WESTBURY, NY 11590**

**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Holiday Party  
Holiday Party

*December 8, 2015 will afford the NCVOA members to meet as a "family" and celebrate the Holiday Season. The reasons and the seasons are the celebrations of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. With that thought, we sincerely hope you will take time out from your busy schedules to join with the NCVOA in celebrating our cherished holidays.*

## Presiding Officer Looks to Work Closely with Villages:



Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves addresses the NCVOA general membership

Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves was the guest speaker at the NCVOA November General Membership meeting. During her remarks, Legislator Gonsalves touched on a number of issues pertaining to public safety, explaining the legislature is in discussions with the Nassau County Police Department regarding the use of body cams for its patrol officers. She also said a pilot program will be underway shortly with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> precincts to address the growing homeless problem in Nassau County. The Presiding Officer also discussed enhanced training for administering the Narcan to prevent drug overdose, citing her own personal experience when a friend's son passed away three years ago from an overdose.

Legislator Gonsalves said she is eager to work with villages, stating "Tonight is the beginning of a new relationship between the legislature and villages and we need to communicate. Just because I do not have any villages in my district does not mean I am not interested. If you have an idea for improving efficiencies or services, bring it to me."

We appreciate the Presiding Officer's recognition of village government and the vital role we play in serving one-third of Nassau County's population. We look forward to working with her and the entire legislature during the upcoming year.

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK:

Dear Colleagues:



Barbara Donno

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and were able to spend some quality time with your family. As elected officials, we are required to spend many nights and weekends away from our families in service to our communities. I would like to express my personal gratitude to your family for sharing you with your village and the NCVOA. Please let your family know we appreciate their support.

### **NYCOM Sets 2016 Legislative Priorities**

On November 16, I joined NCVOA Executive Director Warren Tackenberg and NYCOM Executive Board members Francis Murray, mayor of the Village of Rockville Centre, and Robert Kennedy, mayor of the Village of Freeport at the NYCOM Annual Legislative Meeting in Albany. After much discussion, the following list of NYCOM legislative priorities for 2016 was created:

#### **Overall Priority**

- Increase Unrestricted State Aid

#### **Additional Priorities**

- Strengthen the Tax Cap
- Ensure cities and villages receive a substantial portion of the State's settlement/surplus funds for water and infrastructure
- Create and enhance tools to address abandoned property and downtown redevelopment
- Increase State funding for local highways
- Prohibit unfunded State mandates
- Authorize municipalities to charge for services provided to tax-exempt properties
- Restructure and reform the Gross Receipts tax
- Reform the civil service appointment process
- Amend restrictions governing municipal health insurance
- Reduce public construction costs

We will continue to work closely with NYCOM and our state legislators to achieve as many of these goals as possible. But we cannot do it alone. We need all villages to contact their respective legislators and make them aware of the issues we are facing and the support we need from the State of New York to serve our residents, who also are their constituents.

#### **Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves Addresses Membership**

At our November General Membership meeting, we were fortunate to have Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves as our guest speaker. During her remarks, Legislator Gonsalves committed to working with the NCVOA, telling us her door is always open. We appreciate her interest in our issues and look forward to working this year with her and the entire Nassau County Legislature.

#### **County Considering Eliminating Sales Tax Revenue Sharing with Villages**

A large number of mayors were surprised to read a November 21, 2015 Newsday article reporting County Executive Ed Mangano is considering eliminating \$1.2 million in sales tax revenue sharing with villages as one of the measures to reduce spending in his proposed \$2.95 billion budget for 2016. I immediately responded with a letter of opposition, which was sent to every county legislator. I also contacted all mayors and requested they follow up with their respective legislators. The NCVOA fought for years to finally receive a portion of the sales tax revenue, which is a small amount of the millions of dollars in sales tax revenue generated annually by village merchants and business. Eliminating the sales tax sharing with villages sends the wrong message and should not be considered.

**December Meeting-Tuesday Dec. 8, 2015** Our next General Membership meeting is Tuesday, December 8 at City Cellar in Westbury, beginning at 7 pm. Our December meeting traditionally is our holiday reception, so there is no guest speaker. I look forward to sharing the evening with you.

#### **January Meeting-Tuesday Jan. 12, 2016**

The speaker for our January General Membership meeting will be Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

On behalf of the NCVOA Executive Committee, I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mayor Barbara Donno, President

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**NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING ATTENDEES**



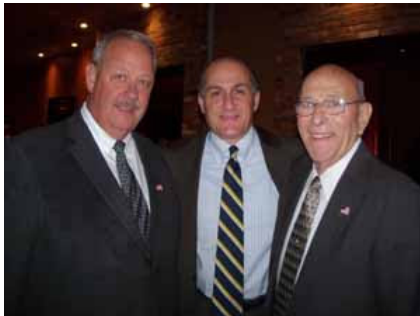
Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves with NCVOA Officers Robert Kennedy, 2nd vice president; Barbara Donno, president; and Bernie Ryba, 1st vice president



NCVOA President and Plandome Manor Mayor Barbara Donno with Plandome Mayor Lloyd Williams



NCVOA Past President and North Hills Mayor Marvin Natiss with Plandome Heights Trustee Al Solomon



NCVOA 2nd Vice President and Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy, NCVOA Immediate Past President and Westbury Mayor Peter Cavallaro, and NCVOA and NYCOPM Past President Ernie Strada



Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson and Deputy Mayor Charles Comer



Garden City Mayor Nick Episcopia with Farmingdale Trustee Cheryl Parisi, Mayor Ralph Ekstrand, and Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen



Great Neck Plaza Trustees Jerry Schneiderman and Pam Marksheid



Hempstead Trustee Don Ryan, NCVOA Executive Director Warren Tackenberg, and Town of Hempstead Official Bert Patterson



NCVOA Executive Director Warren Tackenberg, NCVOA 2nd Vice President Robert Kennedy, Old Westbury Trustee Leslie Fastenberg, and Freeport Trustee Debra Mule



Plandome Trustee Don Richardson and NCVOA 1st Vice President Bernie Ryba



South Floral Park Administrator Sally Ponce, Deputy Mayor Gary McCollin, Trustee George Ingram, and Deputy Clerk Marlene Melendez



Village of Freeport officials attending the meeting included (seated) Village Attorney Howard Colton, Clerk Pamela Walsh Boening, Deputy Mayor Jorge Martinez; (standing) Trustee Debra Mule', and Mayor Robert Kennedy

### The Last Word:

"Progress always involves risk; you can't steal second base with your foot on first base."

Fredrick Wilcox



# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016