

# NCVOA APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

**NCVOA APRIL 2014**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2014-7:00PM**  
**La Marmite**  
**Williston Park, NY**

**Guest Speaker**

**Alan Schwalberg**

North Shore LIJ's Director of the  
Center for Emergency Services

**Alan Schwalberg, North Shore LIJ's Director of the Center for Emergency Services, will update Nassau County's Village Officials on the progress and success of their private-public emergency medical services (EMS) partnerships now being operated in a number of Long Island villages at the April 8th meeting of the Nassau Village Officials Association at the La Marmite Restaurant.**

Because of the shortage of volunteer fire, emergency and medical personnel, especially during daytime hours, the delivery of 24-hour EMS has become a serious problem especially here on Long Island.

The ever-increasing cost to local governments has made the problem even worse. Local municipalities are turning to hospitals, medical centers and private companies to partner with them to provide life-savings services.

The Center for Emergency Medical Services (CEMS) is currently in partnership with the Village of Rockville Centre, Village of Lake Success, Village of Hempstead and the Port Authority of NY and NJ, (LaGuardia Airport).

These partnerships offer unparalleled ambulance coverage to community residents, improves the overall level of patient care and provides for substantial cost savings to each entity. This combination of resources has strengthened the core of emergency response services received by community members.

The North Shore-LIJ Health System's Center for Emergency Medical Services (CEMS) is the largest hospital-based ambulance service in the New York Metropolitan area and one of the largest in the United States. Home to the Regional

Emergency Management Training Center, CEMS employs more than 300 emergency medical technicians and paramedics who operate over 40 ambulances each day.



### **From the President's Desk**

Dear Mayors, Trustees and Friends:

**We were fortunate to have NYCOM President Dick Donovan as our guest speaker at the March General Membership meeting. Unfortunately, I was stricken with a bad case of the flu and unable to attend. I have spoken to several members in attendance, who told me Dick reinforced what I have been saying throughout my tenure as NCVOA President. We must make our voices heard by staying on top of our state colleagues and the governor's office. There is strength in numbers and we need all village officials to understand the urgency of our situation and make the voices of their residents heard in Albany. I would like to thank Dick for taking the time to travel down from Minoa to be with us. I also would like to thank Gary Vegliante, mayor of the Village of Westhampton Dunes and past president of NYCOM and the Suffolk County Village Officials Association (SCVOA), for traveling from eastern Suffolk County to be with us.**

### Nassau and Suffolk VOA Unite Efforts

As your president, I began taking steps early in my tenure to broaden and strengthen our voice. As recently as March 27th, working closely with Mayor Ralph Scordino, of the Village of Babylon and president of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association (SCVOA), our two executive boards held what was the first of its kind joint meeting to counter attack pressures from Albany. Together, we represent 95 villages with more than 600,000 residents. There was extensive discussion on several issues of mutual interest, namely the Long Island Water Commission Bill, unfunded mandates, and Governor Cuomo's proposed incentive for consolidation and remaining under the 2% tax cap. We agreed to begin our joint efforts by focusing on a single issue and tactic – the proposed Long Island Water Commission legislation, and a means by which we can have our voice more strongly heard in Albany. The key to our success depends on the level of participation from our villages. We will be reaching out to individual mayors and trustees to solidify support and encourage their continued participation.

In addition to Mayor Scordino, I would like to thank Richard Smith, mayor of the Village of Nissequogue; Paul Pontierri, mayor of the Village of Patchogue; and Paul Rickenbach, mayor of the Village of East Hampton.

### March Elections Held

It was encouraging to see several villages having contested elections on March 18. This demonstrates the interest residents have in their local communities. On behalf of the NCVOA, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the newly elected and re-elected mayors and trustees and to personally invite them to our upcoming general membership meeting to be held at La Marmite Restaurant, in Williston Park, April 8th at 7:00 pm at which time we will recognize our newly elected peers. The organization is a source of information for all village officials and a staunch advocate for village residents at the town, county, and state level. I encourage all newly elected village officials to take advantage of the NCVOA resources and contacts by participating in our monthly meetings, held the second Tuesday at LaMarmite Restaurant in Williston Park, beginning at 7 pm.

### April Meeting to Feature Ambulance Program

Dave Daly, PSEG Long Island president, was scheduled to be the guest speaker at our April General Membership Meeting. Unfortunately, he is unable to attend. We are fortunate to have representatives from North Shore-LIJ join us to provide an update on the new ambulance service they have been providing to villages and other municipalities. Please make every effort to attend the April meeting as it promises to be interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

David E. Tanner

President

---

### NYCOM President Urges Villages to Band Together

**We were fortunate to have Dick Donovan, mayor of the Village of Minoa and president of the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), travel to Long Island and serve as the guest speaker for the March General Membership meeting. Many of those attending appreciated Mayor Donovan's approach to local government and dealing with the realities of politics. He admitted to being "an elected official, not a politician" and expressed his passion about village government and the important role it plays in delivering high quality services to residents. During his remarks, Mayor Donovan said he is adamantly opposed to Governor Cuomo's proposed tax freeze, saying "it will not work, only punish us."**



Richard Donovan, NYCOM president

**Mayor Donovan urged all village officials to constantly contact their state officials about issues impacting their villages. He said, "You have a large population down here and can drive the bus when it comes to having our voices heard in Albany." Mayor Donovan was especially complimentary towards our own Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, calling them "true champions of local government."**

---

### Nominating Committee Named

In accordance with NCVOA By-Laws, President Tanner has appointed the following members to serve on the 2014-2015 Nominating Committee:

Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, Great Neck-Chairman

Mayor Stephen Mahler, Atlantic Beach

Mayor Francis Murray, Rockville Centre

Mayor Jean Celender, Great Neck Plaza

Deputy Mayor Dennis Sgambati, North Hills

Elections for the office of President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents and Treasurer will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at our General Membership meeting. Any elected members of our respective 64 villages in good standing (all villages are in good standing at this time) are eligible to hold office in the NCVOA. If interested, please send a resume' to the Executive Director and indicate which office you are interested in.

Rules governing the nominating process can be found on our website by clicking on "About Us" and then clicking on "By-laws" and then scrolling to "Nominating Committee".

---

### NCVOA Challenges Zoning Attack

Most recently members of both houses of the NY State Legislature have sponsored a bill that indirectly attacks local zoning of the 97 villages, 14 towns and 2 cities in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The bill numbers A8163/S5956 would create the Long Island Water Commission, which would direct the Department of Environmental Conservation (15-3505) to prepare “ a comprehensive clean water quality and protection plan to address both restoration and protection measures for surface water and ground water resources.” The Commission would then adopt the plan and within six months of adoption, the bill states that various levels of local government – including cities, villages and towns-“shall adopt and amend as necessary land use, zoning and engineering specifications by local law, ordinance... to conform their land use and water quality regulations to the plan.”

The bill language clearly does not say local governments should consider such amendments or should study such changes. It is a clear directive to “adopt and amend.”

If you haven't already written to your state representatives to voice your opposition, we have a draft letter that can be emailed to you for your use. Email your request to the Executive Director at [exec@ncvoa.org](mailto:exec@ncvoa.org).

Thank you for your assistance and support in this critical matter.

---

## MARCH 2014 MEETING ATTENDEES



NYCOM Executive Committee members Ralph Kreitzman; Gary Vegliante, NYCOM past president; Richard Donovan, NYCOM president; and Francis Murray



Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender; Great Neck Mayor Ralph Kreitzman; NYCOM President Dick; Roger Fay, NCVOA executive director emeritus



Great Neck Trustee Jeff Bass, Mayor Ralph Kreitzman; Mayor Donovan; Great Neck Plaza Trustees Pamela Markshield and Jerry Schneiderman, Mayor Jean Celender



Dr. Dan Levy, mayor, Village of Saddle Rock and Ralph Kreitzman, mayor, Village of Great Neck



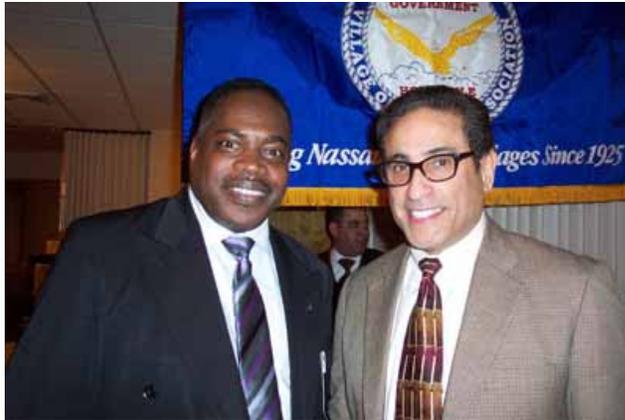
Al Solomon, trustee, Village of Plandome Heights; Joe Scalero, clerk, Village of Mineola; and Bert Patterson, Town of Hempstead



Dave Smollet, administrator, Village of Lawrence and Francis Murray, mayor, Village of Rockville Centre



Marvin Natiss, mayor, Village of North Hills and Jean Celender, mayor, Village of Great Neck Plaza



Village of Hempstead Deputy Mayor Wayland Hobbs and Trustee Louis Figueroa



Village of North Hills Trustees Elliott Arnold and Phyllis Lentini and Mayor Marvin Natiss



Village of South Floral Park Administrator Sally Ponce and Trustees Gary McCollin and Elton McCabe



Warren Tackenberg, NCVOA executive director; Village of Westbury Attorney Dwight Kramer and Trustee Bill Wise

### The Last Word

People should know what you stand for. They should also know what you won't stand for. Source Unknown

