



Nassau County Village Officials Association

Representing the 64 villages in Nassau County, New York
with a combined population of 450,000 residents

Government Closest to the People

REVISED March 2019 Newsletter

**MARCH 2019
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

**MARCH 12, 2019
6:30PM
WESTBURY MANOR**

**Marijuana
a Discussion**

Presented by:

**Jeffrey L. Reynolds
Ph.D, CEAP, SAP9
President & CEO
Family and Children's
Association**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

You probably have heard the ancient Chinese proverb, "Be careful what you wish for, lest it come true." It appears Governor Cuomo learned this firsthand recently when he announced his 2019-20 budget, removing \$60 million in AIM funding from municipalities across the state.

The governor, who has been relentless in his quest to eliminate villages and drive intermunicipal cooperation, got his wish as town supervisors and village mayors demonstrated intermunicipal cooperation at its best by joining forces to push back on the AIM cut.

Village mayors were stunned at the unexpected reduction in state funding, especially since we have not had an AIM increase in nine years. Town supervisors across Long Island and many villages were especially livid as their budgets already were approved and included AIM funding at the previous year's level.

The solidarity among municipal officials was extremely effective, resulting in Governor Cuomo amending his budget and "restoring" the \$60 million. But, he really is not restoring state AIM funding. His latest proposal is to require counties to pay it from their share of the internet sales tax which requires a law not yet passed. That simply is taking dollars from one resident's pocket to put in another of his or her pockets!



*President Ralph Ekstrand
Mayor of the Village of Farmingdale*

However, his latest effort proves there is strength in numbers. I would like to thank our Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman and the many individual mayors and trustees who met with or contacted their state representatives to voice their opposition to the AIM cut.

Governor Cuomo Looks to Challenge Home Rule – Again!

While he may have backed down somewhat on AIM, Governor Cuomo is setting his sights higher as he looks to have legislation passed approving the sale of recreation marijuana in New York State. Under the proposed bill, municipalities with populations greater than 100,000 can opt out but would lose the right to share in sales tax revenue.

In anticipation of legislative approval, the Town of North Hempstead became the first Nassau County town to ban the sale of recreational marijuana. While villages will not have the ability to ban the sale of marijuana, we control the zoning and should be able to restrict the sales to certain areas. The Village of Mineola is the first village to take such action, voting to confine sales to its light industrial area. Floral Park and New Hyde Park are among other villages discussing similar action.

What is particularly alarming about this legislation is that it proposes to have the state supersede village zoning authority by taking control of approving potential sale sites. **This is a direct attack on Home Rule, the foundation of village government.** Under no circumstance will villages tolerate this action. The NCVOA is joining with the Suffolk County Village Officials Association to plan aggressive measures to preserve Home Rule. I will keep you apprised of developments.

That is why the upcoming March 12 General Membership Meeting will be important for all villages. We will be discussing the recreational marijuana issue and our efforts in detail. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, CEO of Family and Children's Association Services and past executive director of the Long Island Council on Drug and Alcohol Dependence. Dr. Reynolds chaired the Suffolk County Heroin/Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel and is a member of the Nassau County Heroin Prevention Task Force Executive Committee. He is expert in drug abuse and is certain to provide interesting and valuable information.

This is a must attend meeting for all villages and I urge you to make sure your village is well represented. I look forward to seeing you Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 pm at the Westbury Manor.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ralph Ekstrand

GUEST SPEAKERS FOCUS ON GRANT FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Attendees at the February General Membership Meeting learned of several grant funding sources for villages.

Eric Alexander, Executive Director of **Vision Long Island**, said there are numerous opportunities for villages to obtain state grants in areas including historic preservation, water quality and affordable housing. He also said there are corporate partnerships available with several community banks. He urged village officials, “Don’t leave money on the table.” Eric also invited villages to contact Vision Long Island directly for assistance with completing grant applications.

John Keating, PSEG-Long Island Manager of Economic Development, focused on two PSEG-LI programs suited for villages: **Vacant Space Revival** and **Main Street Revitalization**.

Vacant Space Revival program provides a discount on electric bills for a full year when a business takes over a commercial space that has been vacant for more than a year. Most small to mid-size business qualify and application must be made within six months of receiving a Certificate of Occupancy or within six months of applying for electric service.

Main Street Revitalization is for specific, well-designed projects that improve local business communities. Applications are judged on private sector job creation and/or retention, capital investment, expected economic growth in the business district, and utilization of existing electric infrastructure. There are two tiers: Tier One awards up to \$100,000 and is intended to supplement funding from non-PSEG-LI sources. Tier Two awards up to \$25,000 and does not require third party grants.

Lyle Sclair, **National Grid** economic development representative, presented the wide range of grant programs and incentives National Grid offers to help revitalize and support downtowns across Nassau County. The two key downtown redevelopment grants are the **Cinderella** and **Brownfield Redevelopment Assistance** programs.

Cinderella Grants are for redevelopment of existing vacant buildings or vacant sites (the site must have had a previous use) to create new retail/commercial spaces with funding amounts up to \$250,000. The **Brownfield Redevelopment Assistance** program offers grants up to \$250,000 to help remediate vacant buildings and sites. Additionally, the funding can be used by municipalities to cover costs related to Phase I and II SEQRA forms and for Brownfield Opportunity Area grants. Sclair also gave an overview of energy efficiency rebates National

Grid offers to residents, municipalities and businesses, ranging from \$75 for a Wi-Fi thermostat to \$12,000 for large high efficiency condensing boilers.

John Keating and Lyle Sclair provided NCVOA Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman with information sheets explaining the various grant programs. Please contact Ralph by email at exec@ncvoa.org if you would like copies. For general information or discuss a specific project with **National Grid**, please reach out to Lyle directly at lyle.sclair@nationalgrid.com or 516-419-0321.

NEW WEBSITE—PLEASE UPDATE:

We hope you are enjoying our New Website. It has new features, new functionality, a cleaner look and is mobile device friendly. If you have not already done so, please send to exec@ncvoa.org a photo of your village hall or a village scene of your choosing. It will be displayed on your village information page and, rotating with others, on our home page. Also, if you have not already done so, please update your village information page. Just give us the information in the fill in the blanks form under the LOGIN link under our banner, and we will update your page for you.

SAVE THE DATES:

Our Spring and Summer General Membership Meetings will be on Tuesday, April 9; Tuesday May 14; and Thursday, June 27. We do not have meetings in July or August.

VOTE AND ENCOURAGE YOUR RESIDENTS TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS:

Many of our villages will be having elections for mayor, trustee and judge on Tuesday, March 12. Remember to vote before coming to our March meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Introduction: The Value of the NCVOA

When a newly elected mayor or trustee assumes office for the first time, the demands and duties can be overwhelming and intimidating. In addition to learning the ropes of the new village role, most newly elected village officials are discovering for the first time the Nassau County Village Officials Association. The question most often asked is, "What does the NVCOA do?"

There is the obvious: Since 1925, the NCVOA has provided a forum for educating village officials; networking with colleagues to make valuable contacts and learn important

information; exchanging ideas and best practices; sharing services; and lobbying state legislators on issues impacting local villages.

The NCVOA also assists villages on a grander scale. There have been so many accomplishments through the years, we thought we would share some of the more memorable ones, old and new, in our monthly newsletters and our website under the heading **Did you Know?** It is under the ABOUT US link.

Looking Back to 1996: Saving villages, towns and the state millions of Dollars.

In 1991, New York State established a process for collecting its share of municipal court fines that was both bizarre and inefficient. At that time, local municipalities were required to submit to the NYS Comptroller's Office all of the fines and judgments collected each quarter. Then, they had to wait for the Comptroller's Office to audit each submission before removing the state's portion and returning the municipality's share. As you can imagine, the backlog for reimbursement was extensive. During the extended delay, the state was earning interest on the float of millions of dollars.

During a visit to Long Island, Comptroller Carl McCall met with the NCVOA Executive Board, which explained this dysfunctional system. The Comptroller agreed. As a result, Governor George Pataki, on October 2, 1996, signed into law a bill repealing the law and allowing local municipalities to simply deduct the state share and send it to Albany.

Also, the NCVOA worked with the Comptroller's office to develop a system that allows the approximately 1,300 state town and village courts to file electronically the transaction of each financial quarter. This innovation allowed the Controller's office to relocate approximately 60 state employees that were auditing the hundreds of thousands of tickets and court transactions in the system.

The NCVOA's initiative saved towns and villages across New York State millions of dollars during the following 23 years.

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

Please visit our website -- ncvoa.org -- click on the FRIENDS link under our banner and then click on FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA. If you click on their logos you will be taken to their website home page.

January 2019 Meeting Attendees



Guest speaker Eric Alexander, Vision Long Island Executive Director (Friends of the NCVOA).



Guest Speaker John Keating, PSEG-Long Island Manager of Economic Development



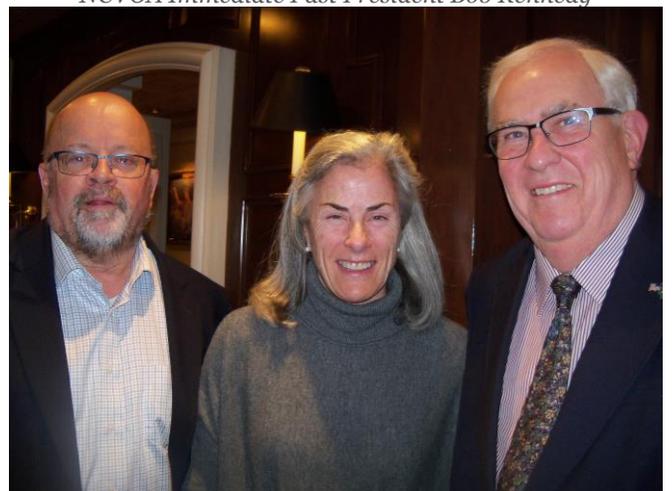
Guest Speaker Lyle Scclair, National Grid Economic Development Representative



Farmingdale Mayor and NCVOA President Ralph Ekstrand, Lynbrook Deputy Mayor Hilary Becker, and Freeport Mayor and NCVOA Immediate Past President Bob Kennedy



Floral Park Mayor Dominick Longobardi with Richard Stephens, appraisal project manager for Michael Haberman Associates (Friends of the NCVOA)



Oyster Bay Cove Mayor Charlie Goulding, Trustee Liz Brown and Deputy Mayor Richard MacDougall



Flushing Bank Executive Vice President Patricia Mezeul (Friends of the NCVOA) with Saddle Rock Mayor Dr. Dan Levy



Plandome Manor Mayor and NCVOA Past President Barbara Donno, Westbury Mayor and NCVOA Past President Peter Cavallaro, and Mineola Trustee George Durham



NCVOA Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman, Brookville Mayor and NCVOA Treasurer Dan Serota, and North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss



Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson and Deputy Mayor Charles Comer



THE LAST WORD:

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

-- Nelson Mandela

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