



## 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*

## May 2019 Newsletter

**NEXT  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETINGS  
6:30PM  
WESTBURY MANOR**

**MAY 14, TUESDAY**  
Everything you wanted to  
know about the Nassau  
Hub

Presented by:  
David Garten &  
Rebecca D'Eloia  
RXR Senior Vice  
Presidents

**JUNE 27, THURSDAY**  
Election & Installation  
of Officers

There will be no meetings  
in July or August

### **WE ARE GETTING AN AWARD:**

The NCVOA will be receiving an award for Strengthening Communities from Vision Long Island (a Friend of the NCVOA) at its 18th Annual Long Island Smart Growth Awards luncheon on Friday, June 14 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club. Go to our website homepage – [ncvoa.org](http://ncvoa.org) -- for the Vision Long Island flyer and reservation form.

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:**

Dear Colleagues:

The 2019-20 state budget, passed by the senate and assembly, was somewhat gratifying for Nassau County villages as the NCVOA helped make a positive impact on two key issues – restoring Governor Cuomo's proposed elimination of \$60 million in AIM funding and halting his attempt to include legalizing recreational marijuana in the budget. Both could have significantly impacted village operations and quality of life. Averting these potential disasters could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association (SCVOA). The joint efforts of the NCVOA and SCVOA proved there is strength in numbers. We look forward to enhancing our working relationship with SCVOA to ensure the interests of village residents across Long Island continue to be promoted and protected.



*President Ralph Ekstrand  
Mayor of the Village of Farmingdale*

While legalization of recreational marijuana was not included in the budget, Governor Cuomo has said he plans to pursue passage before the legislature adjourns for the summer. This may prove to be a steep challenge as an increasing number of professional health and law enforcement agencies are joining the NCVOA in its opposition. We will continue to monitor this issue and make you aware of any developments.

### **NCVOA is a Resource for Newly Elected Officials**

The recent March village elections resulted in several new mayors and trustees being sworn into office in April. As we all have experienced, stepping into a village official's role for the first time can be daunting. You probably recall attending your first village board meeting and thinking, "What did I get myself into?"

Thanks to the NCVOA, newly elected village officials do not have to panic or struggle unnecessarily as they adapt to their new leadership responsibilities. For nearly a century, the NCVOA has been a valuable educational resource for new mayors and trustees. Our organization provides networking opportunities as well as practical information for handling issues facing a village or its board.

If you know of newly elected village officials, I encourage you to reach out and tell them about the NCVOA. Better yet, invite them to a monthly meeting where they can meet their colleagues and begin to build relationships and resources. The NCVOA is only as strong as its member support. Please help us remain a formidable force in Nassau County and New York State by encouraging new members to become involved.

### **Remembering the People's Mayor**

The NCVOA joins Rockville Centre Mayor Fran Murray and his family in mourning the passing of Fran's father, former Rockville Centre Mayor Eugene Murray. Gene Murray was Rockville Centre's longest tenured mayor, having served from 1987-2007.

A lifelong Rockville Centre resident, Mayor Murray and late wife, Mary Lou, raised eight children in the village. He was active in numerous community organizations and served in many leadership roles, including chief of the volunteer fire department.

Gene Murray was the quintessential village mayor who strongly believed in village government and its vital role in delivering essential services to all residents. His passion for village government extended beyond Rockville Centre's borders as he also was elected president of the NCVOA and NYCOM.

Mayor Murray served the Village of Rockville Centre, NCVOA and NYCOM with distinction and his presence will be missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mayor Fran Murray and his family.

### **Bayville Celebrates a Milestone**

Congratulations to the Village of Bayville as it kicks off the year-long celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bayville was incorporated March 26, 1919 when 59 of 98 voters approved incorporation.

Mayor Robert DeNatale and the Board of Trustees have planned several events throughout the year to commemorate this milestone including a block party, swim race, time capsule burial and a reception.

We salute the Village of Bayville for serving its residents for the past 100 years and wish them continued success.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ralph Ekstrand

### **NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS SOUGHT:**

At our **Thursday, June 27 annual meeting**, we will elect and install our officers for the year starting that day.

In accordance with our By-Laws, our officers – President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer – must be a mayor or trustee of a member village in good standing. Our President has appointed a Nominating Committee, which is charged with nominating officers for election.

If you are interested in serving in one of those positions, please send your resume and any other relevant information to our Executive Director, Ralph Kreitzman at [exec@ncvoa.org](mailto:exec@ncvoa.org) by May 30. Nominations also may be made by a writing signed by at least 25 elected officials representing at least five member villages and filed with our Executive Director no later than June 17.

Please note that the annual meeting is not on the usual second Tuesday of the month.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **Governor Calls NCVOA President**

Constantly juggling the demands of being a village mayor and full-time professional, NCVOA Past President Barbara Donno's cell phone rings constantly. But she was surprised during her tenure as president when she answered her phone and the caller was New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. It seems the governor learned of several local mayors whose villages were being impacted by his plans to construct a third LIRR track. They sent a letter to Mayor Donno asking the NCVOA to support their opposition to the project. Governor Cuomo called Mayor Donno to discuss his revised plan. During the conversation they agreed a meeting should be arranged with the mayors to review the new proposal. A meeting was confirmed for the following week with MTA Chairman Thomas Pendergast and the local mayors whose villages would be most impacted. When Mayor Donno and the mayors arrived at the meeting in Manhattan, it was the governor – not Pendergast – who was there to make a personal appeal to the mayors to consider his proposal. According to Mayor Donno, the governor was concerned with

the issues raised by the mayors and promised to work with them to develop a plan that would be least disruptive to their villages and residents.

After all the animosity created by the governor's controversial consolidation legislation, it was encouraging to see him recognize the critical leadership roles of village officials in their local communities.

### **MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:**

Please visit our website -- [ncvoa.org](http://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 pages.

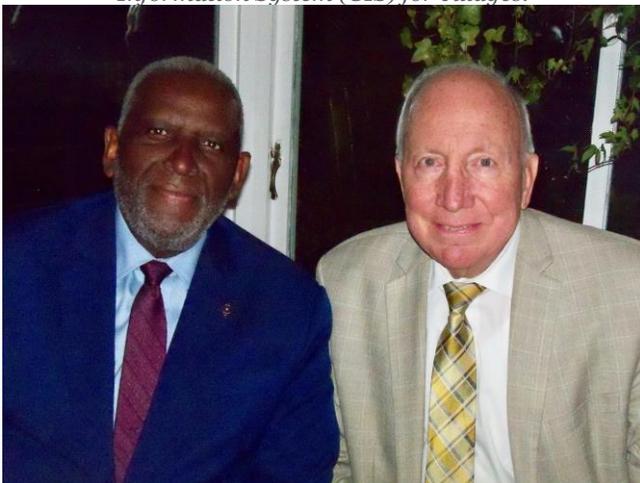
### **April 2019 Meeting Attendees**



*Guest Speaker Chris Kobo, H2M Director of GIS Services, explains how to maximize the benefits of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for villages.*



*Farmingdale Mayor and NCVOA President Ralph Ekstrand, NCVOA Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman, and Farmingdale Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis*



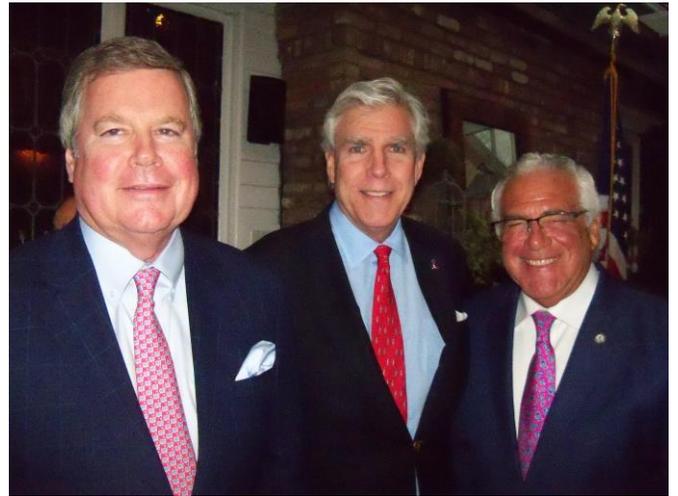
*Hempstead Deputy Mayor Charles Renfroe and Mayor Don Ryan*



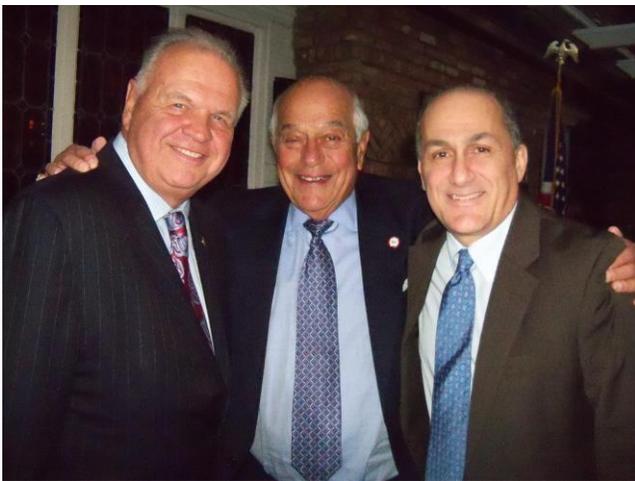
*Baxter Estates Deputy Mayor Charles Comer with North Hills Trustee Gail Cohen.*



*Village Clerks Ronnie Shatzkamer of Flower Hill, Marianne Lobaccaro of North Hills, and Chrissy Kiernan of Baxter Estates.*



*Mill Neck Mayor Peter Quick, Upper Brookville Mayor Elliot Conway, and Sea Cliff Mayor and NCVOA 2nd Vice President Ed Lieberman.*



*North Hills Deputy Mayor Dennis Sgambati, North Hills Mayor and NCVOA Past President Marvin Natiss, and Westbury Mayor and NCVOA Past President Peter Cavallaro.*



*Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson with NY Class Regional Director of Marketing Shawn Cullinane (Friend of the NCVOA).*



*Upper Brookville Mayor Elliot Conway, Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson, and Upper Brookville Assistant Village Clerk Thomas Mullen*



*Valley Stream Mayoral Assistant Barbara Degrace and Deputy Village Clerk James Hunter with NCVOA Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman.*



## The Last Word:

**"Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back."**

**-- Babe Ruth**

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