



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

November 2020 Newsletter

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE, OUR
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS WILL BE
ZOOM MEETINGS
STARTING AT 6 PM**
(Zoom links will be sent by
email)

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 10**
Nassau County
Executive Laura Curran
will be speaking

[Click here for our 2020-2021
meeting schedule.](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

There is no denying 2020 has been filled with surprises, obstacles and many "firsts". Similar to the challenges you are confronting in your villages, the NCVOA is constantly adapting and creating new ways to keep our organization relevant and moving forward. One example is our May 12 and October 13, 2020 General Membership meetings, which for the first time was held via Zoom. Hosting a large meeting in a virtual format is unprecedented for us so we were unsure how it would be received by the membership. I was extremely pleased to see 65 members and Friends of the NCVOA participate in our latest meeting. I attribute the strong showing to our guest speaker, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. The comptroller is a long-time village resident who truly understands local government. Many of us have known Tom for years and he always attracts a crowd when he speaks. He did not disappoint.

Comptroller DiNapoli methodically walked us through New York State's fiscal condition and provided stark statistics describing the extensive negative impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic: GDP down 30%; double digit unemployment; 1.9 million Wall Street jobs lost; \$50 billion in



*President Edward Lieberman
Mayor of the Village of Sea Cliff*

unemployment benefits paid to date versus \$2 billion in 2019; and state sales tax revenue down 27% in the second quarter. He predicted by year's end Long Island will lose 27% of its jobs and Nassau County revenue will decrease by \$360 million.

DiNapoli said the MTA is in a similar situation and needs to remain solvent, which he said may not be possible without federal assistance. He also believes the federal government must play a key role in repairing the state's economy and, without financial aid, the picture is bleak. DiNapoli illustrated his call for federal support by explaining that New York receives 90 cents for every dollar it sends to Washington, compared to the average state return of \$1.20. New York is one of only seven net giver states.

On a positive note, DiNapoli said our pension fund is one of the strongest in the nation. While we were heading towards a double digit value increase prior to the pandemic, we have been able to weather the pandemic and still increase the pension value. He did say, however, the pension rate for municipalities is rising from 24.4% to 28.3% for police and firefighters and 14.6% to 16.2% for other employees.

The eternal optimist, Comptroller DiNapoli concluded his remarks by saying we have been strong and smart, and we will meet our current challenges by continuing to communicate, collaborate and support each other.

It was reassuring to know we have such a competent and dedicated public servant as our state comptroller. We appreciate Tom taking time from his busy schedule to update us and share his insights.

By-Laws Committee Meets and Makes Recommendations

During the COVID-19 crisis we have been evaluating the NCVOA's operations to ensure we remain relevant and efficient. As with any organization, we are governed by a set of by-laws and it is critical the by-laws are current. Accordingly, I appointed South Floral Park Mayor Geoffrey Prime to chair the By-Laws Committee. The committee met virtually and made recommendations to revise some provisions to address our current challenges. The revised by-laws are being sent to each village for review with this newsletter before we move for adoption at the December General Membership meeting.

Next General Membership Meeting Features County Executive Curran

Our upcoming November 10 General Membership meeting features Nassau County Executive Laura Curran as our guest speaker. Please mark your calendars to attend what I believe will be an interesting and informative presentation. The meeting begins at 6 pm via Zoom. Please check your email for the link and call-in information. I look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell phone at 516-359-4691 or via email

at elieberman@seacliff-ny.gov if I can provide any assistance. You also can contact Ralph Kreitzman, NCVOA executive director, at exec@ncvoa.org.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you and your families a very safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. Despite all the challenges we face daily, we have so much to be grateful for.

Let's continue to stay safe and strong!

Sincerely,



Mayor Edward Lieberman

WE FAILED TO CONGRATULATE A NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER:

Brian Herrington was elected mayor of the Village of Flower Hill on September 15. He had been appointed mayor earlier this year after the untimely passing of Mayor Robert McNamara. Congratulations.

BY-LAWS UPDATE TO BE VOTED UPON AT OUR DECEMBER 12 MEETING:

The By-Laws Committee appointed by our Executive Board to review and update our By-Laws has met a number of times and has discussed their recommendations with the Executive Board at which there was further discussion. Pursuant to By-Laws Article XIII, notice hereby is given that the proposed, revised By-Laws are submitted to the member villages for a vote at our December 12 Zoom meeting at 6 pm. Accompanying this newsletter is a memorandum summarizing the more material changes, the proposed revised By-Laws and a copy marked to reflect changes from our existing By-Laws. If anyone has any questions or comments, please direct them to our Executive Director Ralph Kreitzman preferably by email to exec@ncvoa.org or by telephone to 516-437-1455.

REMINDER OF A NEW LAW AFFECTING OUR VILLAGES:

Public employers are required to develop and publish, among other things, a Pandemic Operations Plan by April 1, 2021. [Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020] Unions must be presented with the plan for recommendations by February 4, 2021. A few days ago, NYCOM had a webinar on this new law, and they will share further guidance as it becomes available. Check their website from time to time for that and other useful information.

DID YOU KNOW?

The website of the Office of the New York State Comptroller has many extremely useful tools and information for local government and more. The url is osc.state.ny.us. For example, among its many publications is *New Financial Tools for Local Officials for 2020 and Beyond*. It also includes information on seminars, including those specifically for local officials, and state and local government data.

As mentioned above, NYCOM's website also is a terrific source of useful information. Its url is nycom.org.

RLUIPA is 20. Yes, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act is 20 years old. The US Department of Justice has issued a 31 page report on the history of the Act and summarizing key cases over the last 20 years. The report can be found at justice.gov/crt/case-document/file/1319186/download. The DOJ website - justice.gov - contains significant additional RLUIPA information. Just enter RLUIPA in it's search box.

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website - ncvoa.org. If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



The Last Word:

“All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.”

— Robert Kennedy

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