



## June 2021 Newsletter

**AT OUR  
THURSDAY, JUNE 24  
AT 5:30 PM ZOOM  
MEETING**

– NOTE, IT IS NOT THE USUAL  
SECOND TUESDAY –

**WE WILL ELECT AND  
NASSAU COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MARILYN SINGAS AND  
FORMER DA, NOW  
CONGRESSWOMAN  
KATHLEEN RICE WILL  
SWEAR IN OUR NEWLY  
ELECTED OFFICERS  
AND SPEAK**

(Zoom link will be sent by email)

[Click here for our 2021-2022  
meeting schedule](#)

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**FUTURE MEETINGS AGAIN  
WILL BE IN PERSON**

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

It was encouraging to see such strong member participation at the May 11 General Membership Zoom Meeting, with 66 members and Friends of the NCVOA attending. As expected, there was great interest in the presentation topic – the legalization of recreational marijuana.

On March 31, 2021 Governor Cuomo signed into law the NY State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. Despite widespread opposition from local governments, law enforcement and addiction treatment centers, this new law regulates the possession and sale of recreational marijuana for adults 21 or older. Home cultivation also will be legal but not until 18 months after the first sale of recreational marijuana at a state-licensed dispensary, which would be no sooner than April 1, 2022.

This law makes New York the first state in the country to allow public consumption of marijuana in places where tobacco smoking is permitted.

The driving force behind this legislation is revenue generation. According to the governor's office, 9% of the 13% sales tax is expected to produce \$350 million in annual revenue for New York State. The remaining 4% will be divided locally with the county receiving 1%, and 3% shared between the respective town and village.



*President Daniel Serota  
Mayor of the Village of Brookville*

The 128-page bill contains a great deal of ambiguity and has created much confusion as many of the processes have yet to be created. With so many unanswered questions, we turned to an experience village attorney for his assessment and guidance. Tom Levin of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. was our guest speaker. Tom is well-known to the NCVOA, having served as legal counsel to numerous villages.

Tom was excellent as he walked us through uncharted waters. He cautioned villages to be patient as this is a very complicated issue with many elements still not solidified.

The most significant deadline for local municipalities is December 31, 2021. Villages, towns and cities have until this deadline to pass a local law to opt-out of allowing retail dispensaries or on-site establishments to operate within their jurisdictions. The opt-out pertains only to the distribution and consumption license.

The local opt-out law would be subject to permissive referendum. After December 31, the power to opt out is gone. If a village opts out the board of trustees could, in the future, opt in by repealing the opt-out local law (also subject to permissive referendum).

Following his presentation, Tom entertained numerous questions. As he concluded, he advised all village mayors and trustees to consult with their village attorneys.

We appreciate Tom being with us and providing valuable insight and guidance.

### **Updates from Congressman Suozzi**

As an added benefit, we were fortunate to have Congressman Tom Suozzi take time from his schedule in Washington to be with us at our May 11 meeting. He updated us on his efforts to restore SALT. He also spoke about the status of ongoing noise abatement problems affecting north shore and south shore villages near LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports, and the proposed Manhattan tidal gate project under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We thank Tom for his time and look forward to future briefings on issues impacting our villages and residents.

### **Final Meeting Before Summer Break**

The Thursday, June 24 General Membership Zoom Meeting will be our final meeting before the summer break as we will elect and install officers for 2021-2022. I look forward to seeing you.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Let's continue to stay strong and stay together.

Sincerely,



Mayor Daniel Serota

## **Nominating Committee Report For Election of Officers:**

The Nominating Committee of the Nassau County Village Officials Association met by telephonic meeting to confer on potential nominees for a slate of officers for the 2021-22 year.

The members of the Nominating Committee, appointed by then-President Edward Lieberman are: Mayor Peter I. Cavallaro (Chairman); Mayor Barbara Donno; Mayor Ralph Ekstrand; Deputy Mayor/Trustee Dennis Sgambati; and Trustee Thomas Cohen.

The Committee reviewed the qualifications of the persons requesting consideration, and had an open discussion about each potential nominee and their qualifications.

Following the discussion, on motion made by Mayor Ekstrand and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sgambati, the Nominating Committee voted to nominate, and hereby nominates and recommends to the membership, each of the following persons for election to the office set forth opposite his or her name, at the annual election to take place at the Association's June 2021 general meeting:

Hon. Daniel Serota, Mayor, Village of Brookville - President

Hon. Nora Haagansen, Mayor, Village of Baxter Estates – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Hon. Elliot Conway, Mayor, Village of Upper Brookville – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Hon. Jeffrey Prime, Mayor, Village of South Floral Park - Treasurer

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 14.

## **2021-2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Our meeting schedule for the balance of this year and next year can be found on our website – [ncvoa.org](http://ncvoa.org) – and by clicking on [2021-2022 Meeting Schedule](#). Future meetings again will be IN PERSON at a location to be announced this summer.

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

Welcome new Friends of the NCVOA:

Bencor / S.J. Edwards, Inc.

RENU Contracting & Restoration / Milburn Flooring

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website – [ncvoa.org](http://ncvoa.org). If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



**The Last Word:**

**“Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.”**

**-- Jonathan Swift**

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## **FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA**

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