

Suffolk County Village Officials Association

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

JUNE 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mayor Raymond Fell
Village of Bellport



With all of the challenges we have faced over the past year, every day I am reminded of how special our village communities are and how proud I am of our joint efforts to support village life, as well as our valuable partnerships with our Associate Members. Reaching out and working with our colleagues and friends has been, and remains, key to weathering any crisis or issue we encounter.

One of the greatest strengths of village life is the camaraderie and shared experience that joins us together and helps us create a strong organization that encourages lively discussion of the issues that concern us, a forum for problem-solving, and a shared vision. In a poll of the villages commissioned by SCVOA, 91% of residents reported that they are happy with the level of services provided by village government. In this day and age, it's almost impossible to get 91% of the people to agree on anything, particularly when you're talking about government! The accessibility of village mayors and officials is fundamental to why residents are so satisfied with village government. You probably can't get higher level governmental officials on the phone, but you can always talk to your Village Mayor and members of your Village Board when you have a suggestion, question, or problem.

SCVOA continues to work to promote village life and assist in any way we can as we move into the second half of the year with optimism for the future.

Stay safe, connected, and healthy, and let us know what you're thinking. We welcome your feedback and input!

Best wishes,

MEET VILLAGE OF BABYLON

MAYOR MARY E. ADAMS

Mayor Mary Adams is all about community. She learned the importance of community from her predecessor, mentor and friend Mayor Ralph Scordino, who taught her that being mayor is not about a title, it is about fostering a sense of community for

your residents. Mayor Adams transitioned into the office after Ralph's tragic and sudden passing, led by one guiding spirit - love of the village.

Mary started her government service as a member of the Village of Babylon Architectural Review Board. Prior to becoming mayor, Mary served as a village trustee and was responsible for all the parks and recreation programs, the Summer Gazebo concerts, as well as the tennis courts, gardens and the village greenhouse. She has also been involved in the budget committee, newcomers' committee, the Babylon Village Volunteer Corps, and creating and expanding many innovative programs for both children and adults in the village including "Winterfest 2020" at Argyle Lake. In addition, Mary served as treasurer of the Babylon Beautification Society and chairperson of the Babylon Tuna Club.



Together with Mayor Scordino and Deputy Highway Supervisor Scott Glenn, Mary helped create a task force in March 2020 to quickly respond to the needs of the community and business district as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force worked to issue outdoor dining permits quickly, held regular Zoom meetings to keep residents and business owners updated on COVID-related issues, and assisted business owners and landlords secure loans and funding for critical expenditures.

When Superstorm Sandy devastated the waterfront community in the Village of Babylon, Mary tirelessly assisted with recovery efforts, including serving on the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program for Babylon Village. For all of her efforts during Superstorm Sandy, Mary received the "Woman of Distinction" Award from the State of New York.

Mary has been the owner of Century 21 Adams Real Estate in the village for three decades. She joined the Chamber of Commerce where she took a leadership role to provide additional avenues for promoting business and bringing additional revenue to the Village of Babylon business district. In addition, Mary served as the grievance chairperson for the New York State Association of Realtors; chairperson for the Professional Standards Committee; member of the Legislative Committee for the Long Island Board of Realtors and New York State Association of Realtors; and is past president of the Long Island Board of Realtors and past vice president of the Suffolk County Multiple Listing Service.

Mayor Adams looks forward to dedicating her experience, hard work and love for Babylon Village to the legacy of Mayor Scordino, preserving village history, traditions and values, while helping the village move forward into a thriving future.

COUNSEL'S CORNER: ARE WE BACK YET?

Hon. Peter A. Bee, Esq.
Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter & Donovan



Are you still running your BOT meetings entirely by Zoom (or WebEx, or otherwise virtually)? Are BOT members and the public all still logging in and not face-to-face? Or have you switched back to all in-person meetings? Or some combination of both? And what is the Governor saying about this? (Or are you no longer bothering to read the Governor's Emergency Orders?)

First, remember that without a Governor (or legislative) change to the Open Meetings Law ("OML"), meetings of the BOT must be in-person, and open to the public in-person. The principal exception to this is that a BOT member could participate remotely if the public is able to attend in-person at the "remote" BOT member's location (as well as at the place of the in-person BOT meeting).

Additionally, the OML required advance public notifications of the time/place of the BOT

meetings, and the advance availability of documents that were anticipated to be discussed (e.g., draft resolutions, back-up contracts, etc.). Governor's Order 202.1 changed the law to allow for remote participation by both BOT members and the public, but added certain requirements for remote attendance at the meeting by the public, as well as a requirement for the recording and transcribing of the meeting. It did not eliminate the need for advance notifications to the public about meeting times/dates, nor did it change the requirement to make advance availability of documents (presumably now to be posted on the village website in advance). It did, however, add a requirement for notification as to how the public was to log-in to the meeting.

Keep in mind that you are allowed (not required) to take advantage of the remote participation in BOT meetings. Of course, if you decide upon in-person meetings, you can still limit capacity, require masks and/or enforce social distancing.

While the Governor's Order has met with some mixed (and creative) compliance by some villages, it has worked for the most part, and even been embraced by some as better for both BOT members and the public.

The good news is that the Governor has extended his emergency changes most recently by his Order 202.109 (issued on May 25, 2021) until June 24, 2021.

So, we're not fully back yet! And, in the world of BOT meetings and the OML, this may be good news!

For additional information, please consult with your village attorney or SCVOA Counsel.

**FOCUS ON:
SCVOA ASSOCIATE MEMBER
ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Philip C. Westerman,
Senior Vice President**



Every day, our national Gallagher public sector insurance risk management and consulting teams work to help schools, municipalities, state governments, special districts and pooling organizations manage risk. We focus on your villages' risks so that you can focus on your business – of serving the public.

The public wants to know that their elected officials have take an active interest in the day to day business operations of their village and that must include risk management. We are available to review of your villages risk transfer program and provide an municipal insurance marketplace update. We look forward to continuing to serve the members of SCVOA for many years to come.

Have a great summer!

SCVOA OUTREACH

SCVOA's mission is to provide a voice for the villages of Suffolk County. To that purpose, here are a few of the recent activities we've been engaged in:

Legalization of Recreational Use of Cannabis - New York State recently passed Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act ("MRTA"). SCVOA strongly endorses the opt-out provision for all local municipalities. This provision would enable villages to opt-out of having adult-use cannabis dispensaries in their villages, as well as approving on-site consumption licenses. The deadline for passing this law is December 31, 2021 and SCVOA sent out a statement to all villages supporting it.

Moving Village Elections to November - SCVOA believes recently proposed legislation to move village elections to November violates the NYS Constitution's guarantees to local government powers, introduces partisanship into a currently non-partisan election process, and devalues the importance of media attention to local elections. SCVOA joins with the New York Conference of Mayors ("NYCOM") in opposing this legislation and recommends against its enactment into law.

"Reckless Bicycle" Legislation - SCVOA supports the proposed local legislation entitled "A Local Law to Discourage Reckless Biking in Suffolk County" introduced by Legislator Kara Hahn in response to the frequent dangerous situations created by reckless bikers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

AXIS CONSTRUCTION

BENCOR / S.J. EDWARDS, INC.

CULLEN & DANOWSKI

JOHNSON CONTROLS

NELSON & POPE

With great appreciation to our

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

7-Eleven. Contact: Sean O'Neill, Sean.o'neill@7-11.com
Convenience store business.

R.S. Abrams & Co. Contact: Marianne Van Duyne, mvanduyne@rsabrams.com
Accounting and consulting firm primarily serving school districts, not-for-profit groups, and state & local governments.

Absolute Auctions & Realty. Contact: Philip Gableman, info@aauctions.com
A leader in the auction industry of both real and personal property assets for over 70 years.

Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company (AVZ). Contact: Jeff Davoli, jdavoli@avz.com
Certified public accounting firm.

Altice USA. Contact: Frank Alleva, Francis.alleva@alticeusa.com
Communications and media company.

Amato Law Group. Contact: Andrea Rothamel, arothamel@amatofirm.com
Law firm focusing on land use, zoning, real estate, lending, environment, telecommunications, commercial litigation.

American Red Cross LI. Contact: Neela Lockel, neela-lockel@redcross.org.
Serves more than 2.8 million people on LI, responding to emergencies and disasters across the region.

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services. Contact: Philip C. Westerman, phil_westerman@ajg.com
Provides highly specialized public sector risk management and insurance solutions.

AT&T. Contact: Brandon V. Ray, brandon.ray.1@att.com
International telecommunications company.

AvalonBay Communities Inc. Contact: Michael Adamo, michael_adamo@avalonbay.com
Real estate investment trust focused on developing apartment communities in high barrier-to-entry markets.

Axis Construction. Contact: Ralph Lambert, rlambert@theaxisgroup.com
Construction management, contracting and modular construction services including pre-design consultation, on-site project management, and post-construction follow-up

Town of Babylon IDA. Contact: Matthew McDonough, mmdonough@babylonida.org
Town of Babylon's central vehicle for economic development.

BEB Capital. Contact: Lee Brodsky, lbrodsky@bebcapital.com
Real estate investment firm featuring established and emerging markets throughout the East Coast.

Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter & Donovan. Contact: Peter Bee, Esq, pbee@beereadylaw.com
Law firm focused on representing local government entities.

Belfor Property Restoration. Contact: Michael A. Loguercio Jr., michael.loguercio@us.belfor.com
Provides disaster restoration and emergency response services.

Bencor/S.J. Edwards Inc. Contact: Sharon Davis, sharon.davis@sjedwards.com
Insurance, human resource and financial services.

Brown, Altman & DiLeo, LLP. Contact: David N. Altman, Esq, altman@brownaltman.com
Law firm focusing on all phases of commercial real estate and municipal law.

Cameron Engineering. Contact: John Cameron, jcameron@cameronengineering.com
A full service consulting engineering and planning firm founded in 1985.

Community Development Corp of LI. Contact: Gwen O'Shea, goshea@ccli.org.
Regional non-profit organization formed to help create affordable housing opportunities.

Comp Alliance. Contact: John Triessl, jtriessl@wrightinsurance.com
Provides comprehensive workers' compensation coverage and services to New York's municipalities and schools.

Cullen & Danowski, LLP. Contact: Christopher Reino, CPA, cvr@cdllp.net
Full-service accounting firm offering a broad range of services for business owners, executives, and independent professionals.

Law Offices of Mark Cuthbertson. Contact: Mark Cuthbertson, Esq, mcuthbertson@cuthbertsonlaw.com
Represents municipalities, community development agencies, and zoning applicants in all phases of land use development.

Damianos Realty Group, LLC. Contact: Cristofer Damianos, cdamianos@drgrealty.com
Damianos Realty Group is a commercial real estate company.

Delaware North. Contact: Chuck Kilroy, ckilroy@delawarenorth.com
Privately-held hospitality and food service company.

Discovery Land Company. Contact: Mark Hissey, mail@discoverylandco.com
Private resort community development company.

Empire BlueCross BlueShield. Contact: Dominick Pellegrino, dominick.pellegrino@empireblue.com
Largest health insurer in New York State.

Farrell Fritz. Contact: Anthony Guardino, Esq, aguardino@farrellfritz.com
Municipal law firm focusing on zoning, real estate, and land use.

Flushing Bank. Contact: Thomas Buonaiuto, tbuonaiuto@flushingbank.com
NYS bank providing wide range of banking and investment services.

Fundamental Business Service, Inc. Contact: Dennis Farrell, dfarrell@fbsnet.com
Provides data management and business solutions for local municipalities.

GEI Consultants, Inc., PC.
Contacts: Errol S. Kitt, ekitt@geiconsultants.com & Gary A. Rozmus, grozmus@geiconsultants.com
Provides geotechnical, environmental, coastal resources, and ecological consulting and engineering services.

Good Energy. Contact: Edward Carey, EdwardCarey@GoodEnergy.com
Residential, commercial, and industrial energy procurement consultant and broker, and the number one designer and operator of community energy aggregations in the United States.

H2M Architects & Engineers. Contact: Joyce Cuggino, jcuggino@H2M.com
Architectural, engineering, and environmental consulting firm.

Hawkins Delafield & Wood, LLP. Contact: Robert P. Smith, rsmith@hawkins.com
Law firm focusing on public finance and public projects.

Humes & Wagner, LLP. Contact: Chris Wagner, chriswagner@humeswagner.com
Law firm representing individuals, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, and numerous villages on Long Island, both as general and special counsel.

Island Pump & Tank. Contact: Joe Diandrea, JoeD@islandpumpanktank.com
Provides comprehensive environmental and petroleum services to a variety of industries.

Heatherwood Communities. Contact: Terese Cirone, tcirone@heatherwood.com
Developer of upscale residential rental communities, commercial property and luxury urban spaces.

J. R. Holzmacher PE, LLC. Contact: J. Robert Holzmacher, bob@holzmacher.com
Engineering firm servicing industry, government, municipalities, law firms, and other consulting firms.

HomeServe USA. Contact: Myles Meehan, myles.meehan@homeserveusa.com
Independent provider of emergency repair service plans.

Hotel Indigo East End. Contact: Rob Salvatico, rsalvatico@jaralproperties.com
Family-owned and operated hotel, restaurant and lounge.

Johnson Controls. Contact: Chris Fitzsimmons, chris.fitzsimmons@jci.com
Full range of systems and solutions to make buildings more sustainable.

Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck LLP . Contact: Erik Ortmann, eotmann@kdvlaw.com.
Law firm known for numerous practice areas and commitment to community service.

Lamb & Barnosky, LLP. Contact: Eugene Barnosky, erb@lambbarnosky.com
Full-service law firm.

The Lauro Group. Contact: Robert A. Lauro, rlauro@thelaurogroup.com
Civil land use consulting firm servicing national chain developers.

Local 342 LI Public Service Employees. Contact: William Hennessey, local342@optonline.net
Organization that works to improve contracts, wages, working conditions and overall quality of life for every member of LIPSE.

Long Island Builders Institute. Contact: Mitch Pally, mitch@libi.org
Building industry trade association of Nassau-Suffolk builders, developers, and remodelers.

Long Island Contractors' Association (LICA). Contact: Marc Herbst, info@licanys.org
LICA represents LI's heavy construction contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and industry supporters.

Long Island Housing Partnership, Inc. Contact: Peter J. Elkowitz, Jr., pelkowitz@lihpc.org
Provides housing for low-income residents.

Marcum LLP. Contact: Jeffrey M. Weiner, Jeffrey.Weiner@marcumllp.com
Accounting and financial advisory firm.

Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA). Contact: Ralph J. Kreitzman, exec@ncvoa.org
Not-for-profit organization representing all of Nassau County's 64 villages.

Nelson & Pope. Contact: Eric J. McFerran, emcferran@nelsonpope.com
Full-service engineering, architecture and surveying firm.

New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS)
Contact: Shawn Cullinane, shawn.cullinane@newyorkclass.org
Short-term, highly liquid investment fund designed specifically for the public sector.

Joseph W. Prokop, PLLC. Contact: Joseph W. Prokop, Esq, jwprokopesq@aol.com.
Specializes in village law and represents villages as village attorney and counsel.

PSEG Long Island
Contacts: Karyn Kemp-Smith, Karyn.kemp-smith@pseg.com & Vincent Frigeria, Vincent.frigeria@pseg.com
Industry-leading electric company providing service on LI and The Rockaways.

Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA). Contact: Leah Demo, ldemo@neami.com
Largest self-insurance pool for public entities in New York State.

Strategic Planning Systems Inc. Contact: Michael Dawidziak, miked@strategic-planning.com
Specializes in all aspects of direct voter contact and public opinion services.

Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). Contact: Kelly Morris
Promotes economic development within Suffolk County.

Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. Contact: Tom McAteer, tmcateer@suffolkbus.com
Provides school bus and public transportation services.

Tate Grossman Kelly & Iaccarino, LLP. Contact: Riccardo Iaccarino, riaccarino@bislawfirm
Law firm focusing on a broad range of practice areas.

Total Technology Solutions. Contact: Lisa Guerin, lguerin@total.us.com
Full-service IT solutions provider.

Tritec Building Company. Contact: Robert Loscalzo, robl@tritecre.com.
Provides construction services as general contractor, construction manager, or design builder.

U.S. Green Building Council-LI Chapter (USGBC-LI). Contact: Daniel Busi, dbusi@usgbc-li.org
Encourages and facilitates sustainable building practices on Long Island.

VHB. Contact: Kevin Walsh, kevinwalsh@vhb.com
Provides planning, transportation, land development and environmental services along the east coast.

Vision Risk Management Services. Contact: Al Levy, alevy@vrmanagement services.com
Provides innovative solutions to claims management.

President

Hon. Raymond Fell
Mayor, Village of Bellport

1st Vice President

Hon. Jean M. Thatcher
Mayor, Lloyd Harbor

2nd Vice President

Hon. Robert J. Scottaline
Mayor, Village of Lake Grove

3rd Vice President

Hon. Dennis Siry
Mayor, Village of Amityville

Treasurer

Hon. Kathleen Mulcahy
Mayor, Village of Sag Harbor

Secretary

Hon. Mary Adams
Mayor, Village of Babylon

Immediate Past President

Hon. Richard B. Smith
Mayor, Village of Nissequogue

Past President

Hon. Allan M. Dorman
Mayor, Village of Islandia

Past President

Hon. Paul V. Pontieri
Mayor, Village of Patchogue

President Emeritus

Hon. Paul Rickenbach, Jr.
Former Mayor, Village of East Hampton

Executive Director

Hon. Paul J. Tonna
Former Suffolk County Presiding Officer

Counsel

Peter A. Bee, Esq.
Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter & Donovan
Former Mayor, Village of Garden City

SCVOA's mission is to inform, support, and advocate on behalf of the 32 villages of Suffolk County. The Executive Board of SCVOA works tirelessly in its commitment to create a strong, effective, cohesive organization that promotes an exchange of ideas and strategies that enable village government to faithfully serve the more than 125,000 Suffolk County village residents.
