

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS BIENNIAL CONVENTION – April 19, 2026



QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS FOUNDATION Biennial Convention 2026

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary in Queens

and

Honoring Outstanding Civic Leaders

Sunday, April 19, 2026

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Program

Welcome – Rhonda Binda, *Moderator*

Pledge of Allegiance – Sherry Reisner, *Vice Pres, QCC*

National Anthem – Charles Henry

Moment of Remembrance

Introductory Remarks - Warren Schreiber, *President, QCC*

Recognition of Honored Guests

PRESENTATION: Queens at America's 250th Anniversary

Jason Antos, *President, Queens Hist. Society, Queens Borough Historian*

Presentation of QCC Community Awards - James Trent, *Treasurer, QCC*

- Timothy Chubinidze (QBP Dir, Intergov't. Affairs & Civic Engagement)
- Nagassar Ramgarib (former VP, QCC; Pres. Queens Village Civic Assoc.)
- Rev. Carlene O. Thorbs (Chairperson Community Board #12, Queens)
- Ashook Ramsaran (Queens Civic Congress; Fresh Meadows Civic Assoc.)
- Maria Becce (Broadway Flushing Housing Assoc; LGA Airport Comm.)

Special Guest Appearances

GUESTS OF HONOR

SPECIAL SPEAKER

Concluding Remarks – Michael Scotland, *Executive Secretary, QCC*

Piano music by Charles Henry

Event supported by Con Edison

*** Cash Bar Available ***

Venue: Antun's, Queens Village, New York

www.qcc.nyc

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS

OFFICIALS 2026

President
Executive Vice President
Executive Secretary
Treasurer
Vice Presidents

Warren Schreiber
Ashook Ramsaran
Michael Scotland
James Trent
Henry Euler, Rene Hill, Richard Hellenbrecht,
Mahmood Ishmael, Barbara Larkin,
John McCaffrey, Charles Ober, Sherry Reisner,
Denise Winters, Elaine Young.

Founder

Late Robert (Bob) Harris (d. Nov. 2020)

The Queens Civic Congress represents over 75 civic, block, and taxpayer associations. This convention serves as our premier gathering to honor those who have made significant contributions to the "World's Borough."

TIMOTHY CHUBINIDZE - *Honoree*



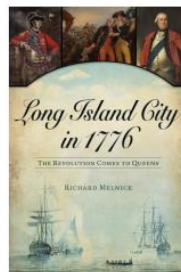
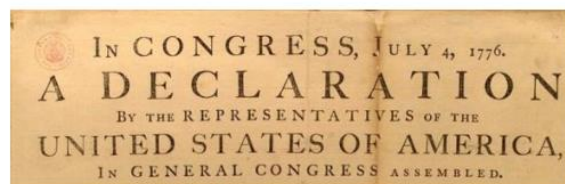
Timothy is the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Civic Engagement at the Office of the Queens Borough President. He began his career as an intern in 2018 and has been serving Queens' constituents ever since. Born and raised in Queens, he holds a master's degree in Urban Affairs from Queens College, New York. He coordinates a monthly Queens Civic Engagement Committee focusing on a range of issues and topics, and includes more than 400 community stakeholders. He also maintains consistent dialogue with civic associations of Queens through quarterly civic roundtable meetings. In addition, Timothy leads youth civic engagement initiatives through civics in the classroom programming, bringing civic awareness and presentations directly to students.

NAGASSAR RAMGARIB - *Honoree*



Nagassar Ramgarib is long time resident of Queens and currently the President of the Queens Village Civic Association, a position he has held for over 20 years. He emigrated from Trinidad and Tobago and obtained higher education in USA and engaged in community activities. Nagassar Ramgarib retired as the Director of Engineering for Coney Island Hospital after working for NYC Health & Hospital for 27.5 years. He joined the Shiva Mandir Temple in East Elmhurst in 1983, serving as its Construction Engineer and then as its President for 20 years. He is still highly active in the daily operation of Shiva Mandir. QBP Shulman appointed him to Community Board 13 and he continues to serve. In 2006 he served as Vice President for Building Code Enforcement for Queens Civic Congress. Recently, he gave testimony at the Board of Standard against the 12-story building on Jamaica Ave. and successfully opposed a juvenile prison in Queens Village.

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary in Queens



Jason Antos is President of the Queens Historical Society (QHS) and was appointed as Queens Borough Historian by Queens Borough Donovan Richards Jr. An avid researcher, he has authored 8 books on local history and is dedicated to preserving the history of Queens, referred to as "the historical heartbeat of New York City".



Rhonda Binda was former Deputy Queens Borough President. She graduated from Duke University and Georgetown Law and is an Oxford University Lord Rothermere Scholar. She serves on the boards of the New York Hall of Science, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens, and is on the National Council for AIPAC.

IN PASSING

Catherine T. Nolan (March 12, 1958 – March 11, 2026). Served on the NYS Assembly from 1985 to 2022. Represented New York's 37th State Assembly district, which included the Queens neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Ridgewood, Astoria, Woodside, Long Island City, Maspeth, Queensbridge, Ravenswood, Dutch Kills, and Blissville.

Event brochure developed by Ashook Ramsaran and Sherry Reisner

Rev. CARLENE THORBS - *Honoree*



Rev. Carlene O. Thorbs is a devoted community leader whose life has been shaped by faith, community and public service. A retired NYC Police Officer and graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she began her service as a Police Cadet in the 113th Precinct and went on to serve with distinction in the 70th and 71st Precincts in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Rev. Thorbs is a committed member of Community Board 12 and currently serves as Chairperson, providing steadfast leadership through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. She answered the call to ministry while serving with her mother Rev. Carlene Y. Thorbs at New Jerusalem Baptist Church and while she was the president of the Baptist ministers Conference of Queens and Vicinity. She has decades of leadership and unwavering dedication to building a stronger, safer, and more united community.

ASHOOK K. RAMSARAN - *Honoree*



Ashook Ramsaran is a longtime civic and community leader in Queens. He emigrated from Guyana and earned advanced engineering degrees at Polytechnic-New York University. He persevered despite many hardships, including violent racial attacks on his family and his home. He raised a family and established a manufacturing business in College Point, New York.

Ashook holds many positions in civic and community organizations: Exec. Vice-President, Queens Civic Congress; Chair, Community Advisory Council, NY Presbyterian Hospital/Queens; Pres, Indian Diaspora Council Int'l; Board Member, Center for Caribbean & Latin Amer. Studies, St. John's Univ; Member, Fresh Meadows Civic Assoc; Member, District 24 AM Weprin South Asian Advisory Panel; Member, QBP's Census 2010 & 2020 Comm; Alumnus of QBP's General Assembly. He has received numerous US and international awards, initiates street co-namings for deserving individuals/institutions, and recently published his memoirs "Beyond Expectations: The Odyssey of a Village Boy from Guyana".

MARIA R. BECCE - *Honoree*



Maria R. Becce is a lifelong resident of Queens. She is currently Chairperson of the LaGuardia Airport Committee and Co-Chairperson of the New York Community Aviation Roundtable (NYCAR), where she also represents Congress Member Grace Meng. She retired from the Board of the Broadway-Flushing Homeowners' Association, having volunteered for more than 35 yrs.

Maria spearheaded an initiative with Community Board 7 and the City Council to co-name a city street honoring beloved community leaders, Marjorie and Nicholas Ferrigno, who dedicated their lives preserving their community of Broadway-Flushing. She was also a Community Liaison to Council Member Paul Vallone. Maria recently joined the Executive Committee of BFHA and was elected Treasurer in 2025. She is a former Chairperson of St. Andrew Avellino Church Annual Dinner Dance and one of the original members of the church's Pastoral Council. She is a former Trustee of the Queens Historical Society, having worked on restoring the gardens at Kingsland Homestead and Weeping Beech Park.