



Deputy Speaker

Earlene HOOPER

Assemblywoman, 18th Assembly District



Fall 2015

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE

The 2015 Assembly session can be described as a change of form in operation, a state of flux as we embrace new leadership, yet, remain focused on our duties and mission of representing the best interest of our constituents.

As we moved forward, our legislative agenda was not compromised. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

- **Education:** \$23 billion that includes support grants, \$75 million for struggling schools with emphasis on 5.8% ear-marked for low-need districts. Non-public schools are allocated a total of \$171.4 million with \$30 million for 3-4 year olds pre-k.
- **Higher Education:** SEEK (\$23.4 million); HEOP (\$29.6 million); STEP and C-STEP (\$10.3 million); College Diversity, a priority, is to receive \$1.1 million.
- **SUNY/CUNY:** Teaching hospitals, work training computer labs, EOC Centers, Merit Scholarships and Loan Forgiveness were included to assure students have an opportunity to reach the maximum of their potential. TAP for the disabled is also included.

These are just a few of our commitments via providing over \$23 billion for education so that our students have the necessary skills to compete in a global society.

Economic Development

As we continue to recover from the recession we have invested in our communities and work force: \$200 million funded over the next three years for local governments with water, sewer, local roads and the transit systems.

Small businesses, women minority lending programs, a study to be completed in six (6) months to address the disparity of lending for these important businesses is also appropriated.

Quality of Life Funding

Affordable child care, displaced homemakers, services for families (preventive, intervention treatment and homelessness) have been increased up to 23%.

Health care and housing are aspects of life which have a direct impact on the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

Our intense tenacity of commitment to our constituents resulted in a session of success.

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Two "FIRSTS" Lead the Assembly

Carl E. Heastie has been chosen to lead the Assembly as Speaker. This historic event, over after two hundred years of the Assembly's existence, is the first of an African American man leading the Assembly – "The House of the People" – effective February 3, 2015.

His "first" brings to a total of two (2) "firsts" in the State Assembly.

Earlene Hooper is the first woman in the history of the New York State Assembly to be appointed to the position of Deputy Speaker. She began serving as the Deputy Speaker in February 2009.

These "Two Firsts" capable, efficient persons have demonstrated the necessary skills to lead the Assembly.

Speaker Heastie has demonstrated his excellent leadership skills leading during a crisis by developing a financial plan that continued what is in the interest of all New Yorkers. As you review the successes of the 2015 Session, you can feel confident that we are fortunate to have such a capable person at the helm.

Deputy Speaker Hooper continues her progressive agenda to assure New York State residents can expect the same quality of her leadership in the future.

These historic achievements, by both, are a testament to the validity of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. Still, the struggle continues.

The Speaker will be joining the Deputy Speaker for a targeted tour of the 18th AD on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. The Deputy Speaker is bringing into the 18th AD \$4.5 million for special projects in the district. The Speaker has already demonstrated his interest, commitment and cooperation in working with the Deputy Speaker on 18th AD issues.

Details of the Speaker/Deputy Speaker's district tour are forthcoming.

Centenarian Continues to Contribute

Belle Sylvester has celebrated 100 years (young) as she continues to serve as Coordinator of Cultural Programming at the Freeport Memorial Library.

Her positive attitude is inspiring when she states “It’s no big deal to be 100 years (young).”

She continues to work at the library sharing her elegant gifts of talent to any/all who have the privilege of being in her presence.

She is an accomplished violinist, a world traveler, an historian, holding a degree in psychology from Columbia University.

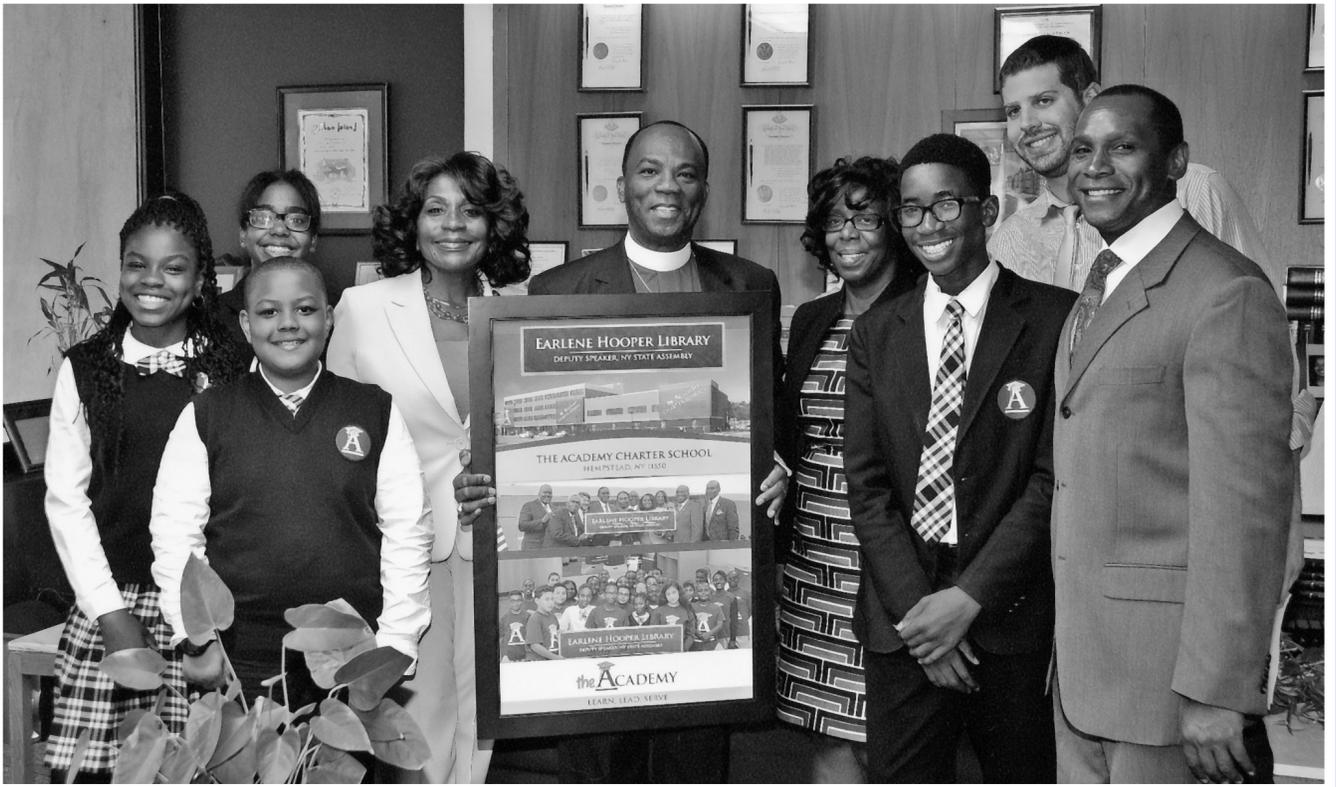
For twenty-three years Belle has been a central figure at the library. We can always count on her for thoughtful insight as to what we, as humans, can achieve if we so desire. She always gives back, as a reward, to those who can benefit from her experiences and wisdom.

She was married in 1934 to the late Arnold Sylvester, is the mother of a son and daughter, grandmother and a great grandmother. We are richer and better because she is “Ours.”

Deputy Speaker Earlene Hooper and Belle Sylvester (Freeport)
Belle Sylvester lives in the 18th A.D. Freeport.



Bishop Goldson Opens Assembly Session



The Deputy Speaker shares an exciting moment with the Bishop as he presents her the plaque that dedicates The Earlene Hooper Library at the Middle School Academy.

Joining him in Albany were students from the academy who were given a lesson in How A Bill Becomes A Law.



Sunday, October 12, 2014 Annual Legislative Breakfast: Deputy Speaker Confers with Local Veterans Post 76

(l. to r. Vincent Martinez, Rob Robesch, Deputy Speaker, Reginald Butts, Bill Ost)

Deputy Speaker Hooper joins Nassau Veterans at their annual breakfast to listen and discuss the issues confronting our veterans.

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Update: Legislative Initiatives and Allocations

PILOT

Governor signs PILOT legislation, A8907, Chapter 493 into law. This legislation allows local elected officials (Hempstead/Freeport) a voice when taxpayers are asked to take properties “off-the-tax-roll” and pay the added tax out of their pockets. This is a small, but beginning step, in the right direction.

SALES TAX

Discussions have begun and are ongoing with Nassau County leaders for a fair share of the sales tax up to \$4.5 million for the Villages of Hempstead and Freeport. (A7432)

Freeport Armory

Continue to secure the Armory for civic use (Veterans, Girl/Boy Scouts, Business Development) while maintaining a pristine natural environment in the area of the Armory.

After-School Programs

- \$75,000 for Hempstead school district after-school program
- \$50,000 for Uniondale after-school programs
- \$50,000 for Kennedy Park kitchen renovation
- \$50,000 for Kennedy Park skate board section
- \$50,000 for Hempstead Academy playground

Useful Numbers to Survive Hurricane Season

NATIONAL GRID (Gas)

Hurricane season is upon us. Hopefully, this region will be spared the devastation of past “angry storms.”

However, if/when (or anytime) you are in need of names, numbers from whom you need assistance, listed are some useful numbers:

**Long Island/New York City
Brian M. Robinson
Gas Regulatory Compliance
175 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
(516) 545-5256 (Office)
(516) 492-6255 (Cell)**

Email: Brian.Robinson@nationalgrid.com

New York State regulations require that natural gas operators in our state file annually a list of names, businesses address and telephone numbers of responsible company officials.

See the list below for your future reference:

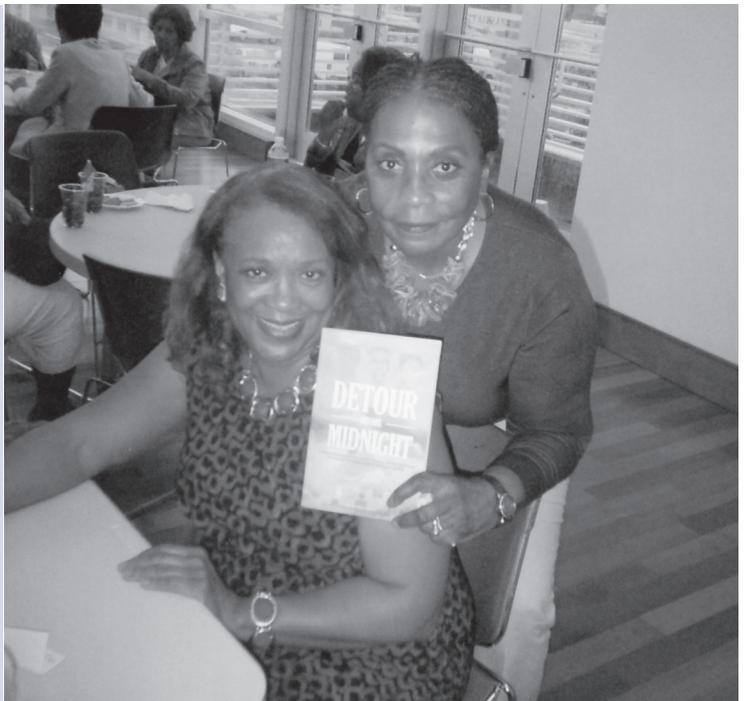
**Officials of National Grid who may be contacted in the event of a major gas emergency, not for leak calls.
This is a list of responsible officials of National Grid.**

Functional Area	Region	Name	Office #	Cell #
Dispatch and Scheduling	L.I. and NYC	David Angelone	(718) 982-7570	(347) 386-0375
	All	Danielle Morrissey	(401) 784-7193	(401) 268-3663
	All	Johnny Johnston	(929) 324-4856	(917) 226-1309
Customer Meter Services	L.I. and NYC	Wayne Schechter	(718) 403-2218	(917) 885-4791
	All	Johnny Johnston	(929) 324-4856	(917) 226-1309
Government Relations	L.I.	Belinda Pagdanganan	(516) 545-4330	(516) 287-6146
	NYS	Echo Cartwright	(518) 417-3100	(518) 817-2013
Media Relations	L.I.	Stephan Brady	(716) 831-7744	(716) 430-1349
			Upstate after hours	(315) 428-3151
			L.I. after hours	(516) 545-5052
			NYC After hours	(718) 403-2503
Operations & Construction	All	Robert DeMarinis	(516) 545-4337	(516) 946-2904
	All	Marie Jordan	(781) 907-4012	(978) 609-4591
Engineering	L.I. and NYC	Timothy Small	(516) 545-5713	(516) 384-7586
LNG Plants	L.I. and NYC	Thomas Kennedy	(718) 963-5418	(516) 647-6406
	L.I. and NYC	Fikret Su	(781) 907-2754	(516) 455-9139

**Local Author,
Bernice “Neechie” Sims
A Detour After Midnight**

A personal, up-close personal experience detailed in a page-turner of a read.

Bernice “Neechie” Sims gave a soul stirring oral presentation to a standing-room-only audience of captivated listeners as she gave her account of the 1964 Freedom Summer Campaign also known as the Mississippi Summer Project that resulted in the death of three (3) civil rights workers who were murdered as they went to engage in voter registration. Ms. Sims was one of the “last” persons to see Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney leave her home (a haven for the Freedom Riders) as they left that fateful Sunday morning.



Deputy Speaker confers with Congressman Steve Israel, 3rd Congressional District regarding the influx of unaccompanied immigrant youth and their impact on school districts to provide quality education to the new arrivals as well as students who are already here. The discussion centered on the role of the federal government's fiscal responsibility and the equitable distribution of the new arrivals into all school districts.



**Earlene
HOOPER**
Deputy Speaker
Assemblywoman
18th A.D.

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Deputy Speaker tours Uniondale schools as she/they seek to address the need for adequate/appropriate space to educate their students.

The Deputy Speaker has received a commitment from the Senate representative and the Assembly Minority representative who represent Uniondale, to assist in this necessary effort.