



April 2019

## Staten Island Democratic Association

*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*

*www.sidems.org*

At our Next Meeting:

- **Phil Jonas on a Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Gun Violence**
- **Richmond County Public Administrator Edwina Martin**
- **District Attorney Endorsement Vote**
- **Presentations by S.I.D.A. Member Candidates for District Leader**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 8:00 P.M.  
Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10314



## Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com).

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

*Chris Bauer, Editor*  
(917) 576-9248

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*“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”*

*- Thomas Jefferson*  
1787

## Submission Deadlines

for the newsletter are:

May .....	May 6
June .....	June 3

### S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large .....	Clara Ogburn
Vice President .....	Member at-Large .....	Emmanuel Dami
Executive Secretary .....		Ojo Powerson II
Corresponding & Recording Secretary .....	Member at-Large .....	Jasmine Robinson
Treasurer .....	Member at-Large .....	Sharon Santana
Social Secretary .....	Ex Officio.....	Michelle Akyempong
Member at-Large .....	Ex Officio.....	Bobby Digi
Member at-Large .....	Ex Officio.....	Belinda Dixon
Member at-Large .....	Ex Officio.....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large .....	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich
	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone

## S.I.D.A. President's Statement

April 2019

### **“An Inevitable Change Looming - Keep Your Fingers Crossed”**

**A**s I am writing my statement, the last day to turn in the petitions to nominate current D.A. Michael McMahon for District Attorney, Judge Orlando Marrazzo, Jr. for Judge of the Civil Court of the Civil (Municipal) Court District, County of Richmond, New York, and other District Leaders and our own Member at-Large and Executive Committee member Joann Olbrich for District Leader, it marks not only a new chapter in the Staten Island Democratic party politics but also shows a sign of resurgence of Democratic principles that was amiss at the helm of Staten Island Democratic Committee for the past many years.

The fervent and high pitch activity that was exhibited by all those who were giving their best to bring this long awaited change to restore the faith of the Democratic Party members in the administration and functioning of the Richmond County Democratic Committee of Staten Island, has to be seen to be believed. Members of the Democratic Party patiently waited quite long enough, but when the last straw of the hope was pulled during the Surrogate Judge elections, the party members felt that enough is enough and had to roll their sleeves to get to work for the transformation for a true Democratic Party. But it is not done yet as the results will be known soon, how far this effort will succeed for a better change. I am sure by the time you get these newsletter in your hands, the changes would have happened already. For those who gave their time and support, you should all pat yourself on the back for your zeal and enthusiasm to bring this change. This is what is needed when one wants to make changes in its truest democratic form.

Now we pivot back to our last month March meeting where our current District Attorney Michael McMahon was our guest speaker. He provided a lot more information than we can digest regarding the great role that D.A.'s office is playing to bring in a great quality of life, crime reduction, controlling the opioid epidemic, and other issues including domestic abuse and violence and first offence forgiveness. Ever since he has taken office, District Attorney McMahon has expanded his staff many fold, working closely with all the community groups to address their issues. All these notable achievements of the D.A.'s Office need to continue and be sustained for a long time, and this can only be possible with Michael McMahon, who needs to be at the helm of this office to provide this excellent service. This is where our S.I.D.A. members play an important role to make sure that Michael McMahon is endorsed at our forthcoming April meeting to give him a second term office that he truly deserves.

I also take this opportunity to thank immensely our Surrogate Judge Matthew Titone who graciously accepted our invitation and swore in the new S.I.D.A. officers. Unfortunately four of Executive Committee members could not make it to the swearing in. Now that we are all sworn in and have accepted our responsibilities, it is time to perform well with new challenges coming our way. I truly believe with so many experienced, devoted, and expert people in S.I.D.A., we will certainly do the best to make S.I.D.A. an organization that cares for Staten Island Community and the issues that is facing our country.

S.I.D.A. will be supporting the #WeStandWithRashid protest in Staten Island on April 2, against Amazon's bad treatment of its employees with adverse working conditions. We are joining labor unions, organizations and Democratic clubs in Staten Island to send a strong message to Amazon to stop the abuse of its workers and provide them the benefits that they all deserve. I will update more in our next month's journal. "If you see something, say something"

*Radhakrishna Mohan  
President*



## A Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Gun Violence



*S.I.D.A. member Phil Jonas will present on reducing gun violence at our April 16 General Membership Meeting. Phil is third from the right in the above photo of a protest outside then Congressman Michael Grimm's office.*

### A Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Gun Violence

The United States suffers from a disproportionate level of gun violence when compared with countries most like us. Gun deaths by homicide and suicide are far more frequent here and remain a public health crisis. Like all complex human behavior the causes, both individual and cultural, are multifaceted. Therefore the most robust approach to addressing the issue must be multi-pronged.

The good news is that we are making progress. New York State, home of the largest city in the country, ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest per capita in the country in gun fatalities. Our stricter gun violence

prevention laws combined with evidence based violence interruption efforts and successful community policing appear to be having their desired effect.

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence ([www.nyagv.org](http://www.nyagv.org)) and New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund ([www.nyagvedfund.org](http://www.nyagvedfund.org)) are state wide organizations that advocate for ‘gun sense’ legislation and also offer an empowering yearlong educational experience for youth in communities most impacted by gun violence. As non-partisan organizations we partner with community based organizations and educational institutions to address both the supply of guns as well as the demand for their use.

- Phil Jonas  
Board of Directors, NYAGV



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## Edwina Martin, Public Administrator



*Public Administrator Edwina Martin will be a guest speaker at our April 16 General Membership Meeting. The following was taken from her office web site.*

### **Message from the Public Administrator**

**G**reetings from the Office of the Richmond County Public Administrator ("R.C.P.A."). I am honored to serve you as Staten Island's Commissioner and Public Administrator. The R.C.P.A. is responsible for the administration of estates of persons that have left no will, and where there are no qualified person(s) to administer the decedent's estate. Amongst other things,

the R.C.P.A. provides for burial arrangements when no close relative is available to do so; protects the decedent's property from waste, loss, or theft; and locates persons entitled to inherit from the estate. Public Administrators, by law, are barred from investing any funds or property in their care in a manner that is speculative or otherwise imprudent.

I hope you will peruse our website for more information regarding the role of a Public Administrator, useful forms, dates of upcoming estate sales, dates and locations of burials, and information regarding outside vendor opportunities, as well as instructions on how to become an outside vendor of the R.C.P.A.

I am pleased to continue the R.C.P.A.'s tradition of providing a dignified burial on Staten Island to all decedents whose estates we administer. In the fiscal year 2018, (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), thanks in large part to generous donated services from businesses and elected officials, the R.C.P.A. arranged for the dignified burials of 71 Staten Island residents, including 32 still born infants, preventing the fate of their being ignobly buried on Hart Island – New York City's pauper's gravesite – as is the practice in the other boroughs of New York City.

Dignity and compassion for all, coupled with transparency and accountability in the operations of the office of the R.C.P.A., are my top priorities. In addition to the above listed areas of responsibility, other areas of interest include:

1. Ensuring the elderly, and other vulnerable communities, have access to adequate estate planning, such as wills, health care proxies, powers of attorney, and disposition of remains;
2. Ensuring veterans receive the end-of-life benefits to which they are entitled, including burial with military honors;
3. Educating families regarding the importance of establishing Guardianships for adult children with developmental disabilities; and
4. Educating the elderly and other vulnerable communities about financial and physical abuse.

If your community group or organization would like me to address you on any of the above topics, please contact the office. Also, if you have any questions or comments regarding this website, please let us know, we welcome your feedback!

*Hon. Edwina Frances Martin  
Commissioner  
Public Administrator  
Richmond County*

*"[W]e are but stewards of this earth, and it is incumbent upon us to leave it in a better place than when we came into being."* Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., Swearing In as Richmond County Public Administrator, February 9, 2019.



**WHO WORE IT  
BETTER?**



## March 2019 Minutes

**General Meeting  
March 19, 2019  
Oriental Plaza  
1845 Richmond Avenue**

**P**resident Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. He introduced Staten Island District Attorney, Michael McMahon.

### **Guest Speaker**

Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon told members he is thrilled and honored to have the nomination for Staten Island District Attorney. He mentioned that he has been working hard trying to gather the 4,000 petitions needed to get on the ballot. He gave kudos to S.I.D.A. for helping him get elected and mentioned that he is very grateful for our help.

The District Attorney spoke proudly about the way he and his staff have transformed the D.A.'s Office into a modern Prosecutor's office. He mentioned how he has been able to increase staff, adding more women and also raising the level of diversity.

D.A. McMahon spoke about the different programs that have been introduced including the Family Justice Center, Overdose Response Initiative, the HOPE Program, Staten Island Drug Treatment Court and the O.D. Response Initiative. He mentioned that due to the success of these new programs crime statistics in many categories have dropped. The D.A. mentioned that his office is leading the way on Staten Island and some programs have been duplicated in other boroughs of the city as well as in other parts of New York State.

Michael McMahon urged members to continue to support him for re-election. He said he plans to continue to strive to be the best District Attorney's Office in New York State. After his presentation D.A. McMahon took questions from several members in attendance.

### **Important News Regarding Petitions**

President Mohan introduced S.I.D.A. member and District Leader Joann Olbrich. Joann told members that petitions are due by March 24 for those that want to be on the county committee. She explained that in order to get elected one must get the required signatures from the people on the list included in their packets. After you get the required signatures, you can collect additional signatures from anywhere on Staten Island.

Joann mentioned that she has extra petitions available and that they are trying to qualify as many people as possible.

### **Executive Committee Installation**

Surrogate Court Judge Matt Titone installed S.I.D.A. Officers President Radhakrishna Mohan, Vice President Liz Price, Corresponding and Recording Secretary Marie Dwyer, Treasurer Bonita (Bonnie) Rothman, and Social Secretary Pearl Minsky. Executive Secretary Dennis Brown was not able to attend. The Judge also installed Members at-Large Roy Moskowitz, Clara Ogburn, Phil Marius and Sharon Santana. Pat Kane, Jasmine Robinson and Emanuel Dami Ojo Powerson II were not in attendance at the time of the installation.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Liz Price provided members with a brief summary from the Executive Committee meeting held on February 28.

### **Social Secretary's Report**

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky mentioned that she is exploring new ideas for future events.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with the current treasurer's report. She told members that dues are due for those who don't have 2019 on the mailing label of their newsletter.

### **By-Laws Committee Report**

Chair Joann Olbrich reported that she plans to make copies of the recently amended constitution.

### **Human Rights**

Chair Clara Ogburn reported that the committee plans to attend NAACP May Meeting to speak about OPOVA (One Person One Vote).

### **Media, Public Relations, and Web Site**

Chair Roy Moskowitz mentioned that he plans to send a press release out for the Executive Committee Installation. He also reported that he plans to update the group photo.

### **Issues Committee**

Co-chairs are Richard Reichard and Phil Marius. Richard urged members to let him know if they have ideas for new issue papers.

### **New Business**

President Mohan reported that Dan Chilton wanted to speak about his paper "Rank Choice Voting" which couldn't be published as is. He was sent an email to bring paper to the meeting. President Mohan also mentioned that he ordered a wireless microphone and would like to purchase an easel.

Joann Olbrich made a motion to accept the motion Paul Scublinsky proposed at the February 19 meeting regarding the Governor's proposed Lobby Expense Limit. The motion is on page 8 in March newsletter. Mary Kain seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Clara Ogburn announced that the Staten Island Black Heritage Association is holding their annual Red, Black and Green Ball on March 22 at The Crystal Room.

Joann Olbrich announced that The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 6. She spoke briefly about the history of the Scholarship. Joann urged members to attend the brunch, or consider taking an ad or making a donation which will help fund future scholarships.

Steve Schwall announced that the Veterans Pride Memorial Day is scheduled for May 27. He urged members to show their support by making a donation to help with cost of printing posters for the parade.

Pearl Minsky made a motion to take action to oppose the toll increase for the Verrazano Bridge. Joann seconded the motion. Mary Kain made a motion to table the discussion for the next Executive Committee meeting. The motion was accepted.

President Mohan announced that in the future he would like members to send him the proposed motions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dwyer  
Corresponding &  
Recording Secretary*



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## Congestion Pricing Resolution

*The following resolution by Paul Scublinsky will be introduced for a vote at our April 16 General Membership Meeting.*

**T**o our elected leaders in the State of New York, Staten Islanders have one of the most expensive commutes in the United States. The current cash toll for the Verrazano Bridge is \$19. The only bridge in the United States more expensive is the 23 mile long Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in Virginia. 14% of the Verrazano toll is paid by commuters making less than \$30,000 year. It also raises the cost of living in Staten Island as the even higher tolls levied on trucks raise the cost of food and various consumer goods.

The problem with the MTA has long been that our bridge that connects Richmond County to the rest of the New York City has helped subsidize the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). We welcome any attempt to find alternate revenues sources for the MTA. This includes a renewed commuter tax, a millionaires tax, or even congestion price indexing. This is the only way our toll nightmare has any shot of ending.

That said we are disturbed that the latest proposals to implement congestion price indexing rather than lowering the cost of our commute would actually increase our costs. It does not even address how woeful our public transportation infrastructure is compared to the rest of the city.

The Staten Island Democratic Association asks for the following.

1. At a minimum we request that commuters who travel from Staten Island be exempt from the commuter tax. We already pay more than our fair share. We will still pay more for our commute than any other New York City resident does.
2. That as new, fairer, and more progressive funding mechanisms are implemented that the regressive Verrazano toll is rolled back.

3. That some of the new MTA revenue generated by these new funding mechanisms are shared with Staten Island. There are many good ideas of how Staten Islanders can enjoy the same types of mass transit resources that other parts of the city enjoy. There have been various studies over the last few decades on ideas as diverse as rapid bus transit and a revival of rail service on our north shore. It is long past due for some of these plans become a reality.

Sincerely,  
The Staten Island  
Democratic Association



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## North Shore Democratic Club Annual Dinner



*Join us as we honor:*

*The Honorable Charles D. Fall*  
*Assemblyman 61<sup>st</sup> District*  
John D. "Butch" Kearney  
Democrat of the Year Award

*Saman Mahmood*  
Elizabeth Connelly Award for Public Service

*John Durso, President*  
*RWDSU Local 338*  
Robert Parker Labor Leader Award

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**LiGreci's Staaten**  
**697 Forest Avenue**

Contact:  
[PO Box 140065](#)  
[Staten Island, NY 10314](#)  
[\(917\) 816-1123](#)  
[president@northshoredems.org](mailto:president@northshoredems.org)



# Patricia Anne Taylor Carsel Letter

*Patricia Anne Taylor Carsel sent the following letter thanking S.I.D.A for the tribute to Gary Carsel at our February Meeting.*

## Patricia "Anne" Taylor Carsel

15 March 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association  
P.O. Box 140371  
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371



Dear President Radhakrishna Mohan, and all my SIDA friends and colleagues,

Thank you so much, each of you, for all your kindness and support during the last few years as my husband, Gary Carsel, and I were going through such trying times. I especially thank SIDA Past President Bobby Digi Olisa for so adroitly memorializing Gary's political activity and his Club participation during the service to honor Gary on January 20, 2019, at Congregation Temple Emanu-El of Staten Island in Port Richmond, our home synagogue.

Thank you so much to all who visited our home during Gary's Shiva week to comfort me and Gary's daughter, Casey, as we thanked G-d for having been privileged to know and spend time with Gary. My additional thanks go to those who sent or brought Shiva delicacies, plants, flowers, or cards, or who gave donations in Gary's name. The kindness of those friends who participated in the Shiva minyanim, or who visited me later on or invited me out to help keep my spirits up is very much appreciated.



I am trying to look forward to better times. Meanwhile, please feel free to reach out to me if I can be assistance to the Club.

Sincerely,

*Anne Taylor Carsel*

Patricia Anne Taylor Carsel





# Staten Island **PrideFest**



## **PrideFest** Kickoff Party

Saturday, May 11  
7:30PM - 10:00PM

@



Building A  
1000 Richmond Terrace,  
Staten Island, NY

**718-808-1360**



### **Bulletin Board Policy**

Items posted on the Bulletin Board are done so at the request of an S.I.D.A. member and are for informational purposes only. A posting on the Bulletin Board does not imply endorsement by S.I.D.A.

April 16, 2019	May 21, 2019
<b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Jonas on Reducing Gun Violence</li> <li>• Richmond County Public Administrator Edwina Martin</li> <li>• D.A. Endorsement Vote</li> <li>• S.I.D.A. Member Candidates for District Leader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson</li> </ul>

**It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!**

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.



2019 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$15 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.)    \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to: S.I.D.A.  
P.O. Box 140371  
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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