



April 2020

# Staten Island Democratic Association

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

*www.sidems.org*

## At our Next Meeting:

- **Kevin Elkins,**  
Congressman Max Rose's Efforts  
to Help Fight COVID-19



- **Dr. Ramachandran  
Nair,**  
COVID-19 Information



- **Chris Smalls,**  
Amazon Walkout



Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 8:00 P.M.

**Via Zoom, see page 2**



## Instructions for Monthly Meeting via Zoom

*Due to the shelter in place mandate in New York State the April 21 General Membership Meeting will take place via remote conferencing. The instructions are listed below.*

# **Staten Island Democratic Association General Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 PM 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This meeting can be attended (audio and video by computer by using the Link attached) and by cell phone (audio and video by dialing in and following the prompts) and by landline phone (audio only by dialing in and following the prompts.)

Join Zoom Meeting by:

**Computer** using the following link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/872121265?pwd=ZDhTV2VLQjZhV0U0eEQzRnBYScjFSQT09>

Meeting ID ..... 872 121 265

Password ..... 025475

### **One tap mobile**

+16465588656,,872121265#,,#025475# US (New York)

Meeting ID ..... 872 121 265#

Password ..... 025475#

### **LandLine Phone**

Dial by your location

1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID ..... 872 121 265

Password ..... 025475



## 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

## Table of Contents

• Zoom Meeting Instructions.....	2
• S.I.D.A. President’s Statement .....	4
• Speakers .....	6
• N.Y.S. Primaries .....	7
• COVID-19 Information .....	8
• LVMSF Awards Brunch .....	9
• Upcoming Meetings .....	10
• Renewal Form.....	10

*“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

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

May .....	May 4
June .....	June 1

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

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Vice President .....	Member at-Large .....	Charles Roland
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Social Secretary .....	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone
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Olusoji Oluwole		

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

April 2020

### **The Strange World We are All In – For NOW and the IMMEDIATE FUTURE**

**T**he New York State is in 'PAUSE' until April 29, 2020 with all the State Offices and most businesses closed, with most of the nonessential employees having been advised to work from home. People have been asked to socially distance themselves and avoid social gatherings and advised to put on masks when they leave home, in order to avoid any new cases, as a preventative measure. We are in uncharted waters with fear gripping everyone about when this is going to end. This is not the world anyone ever imagined, but here we are now, unfortunately, though our health care workers on the front lines are doing their best to take care of those afflicted, at the risk of being infected themselves. So give them, grocery store and hospitality workers the respect they deserve.

With the coronavirus having started in December, 2019 in Wuhan, China, and having spread throughout the world--with more than 1.3 million people affected all over, and more than 70,000 dead--the epicenter has now moved to none other than New York City. In the U.S., as of April 7, more than 367,385 people tested positive, and more than 11,000 people have died, with about half of them being in New York alone. The spread of COVID-19 and the deaths from it are both still growing.

While this could have been anticipated well ahead of time by the National Security Council (N.S.C.), the ill-advised decision of President Trump in 2018 to dismantle the National Security Council directorate at the White House charged with preparing for when, not if, another pandemic would hit the nation, is a tragedy itself. Just to quote, in the words of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Health, that it would be nice if the office were still there, since he told Congress more than a month ago that he would characterize having eliminated the unit as a mistake, as it had worked very well with the N.S.C. in the past.

This basically indicated that the current administration shot itself in the foot by dismantling the N.S.C. program. With no advance monitoring, and steps taken in the absence of the N.S.C. coupled with an inexcusable delay in taking preventative measures, the inevitable started happening in the beginning of March this year, and will be reaching its apex this and next week, with many more lives possibly being lost by the time the curve starts flattening. Adding to this, the absence of beds in hospitals, the limited availability of healthcare professionals, P.P.E. (Personal Protection Equipment) and life-saving ventilators, makes this pandemic much worse, with the State governors at a crossroads with the lack of Federal help coming quickly to address the situation.

Deaths are projected at a scary 100,000 to 200,000 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the current czar to control this pandemic in the country. Now, with all the full efforts, especially by N.Y.S. Governor Cuomo and N.Y.C. Mayor Bill de Blasio, the situation is getting better in N.Y.C. With more than 131,000 cases and 5,000 deaths, New York State constitutes close to half of the deaths in the US. By the time you get this Newsletter, it is projected at a higher number.

With no break from COVID-19 soon, the S.I.D.A.'s monthly meeting is being planned as a video and/or audio conference call. With our elected officials running for office and a primary being anticipated for our NY Senate seat, we will be sharing whatever information on these situations we can get, with our S.I.D.A. members.

On April 7, The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a delay in holding the Wisconsin State primary and it is going on as scheduled to vote for the Democratic primary candidates, former V.P. Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders. With the former V.P. in the lead now, there were suggestions popping up to have N.Y.S. Governor Andrew Cuomo to be his Vice Presidential choice. **Now that on April 8 Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out of the Presidential race and endorsed former V.P. Joe Biden on April 13, former V.P. Joe Biden will be now Democratic Party's Presidential presumptive nominee.** Now the most interesting general election between Joe Biden vs. Trump will be taking place with presumably all Democrats rallying for Joe Biden. We all hope that it will not be a repeat of 2016 election where Hillary Clinton did not get the expected support from some quarters of Democrats and you know the rest. It is also time to say kudos to N.Y.S. Governor Andrew Cuomo and his administration for their response to, and excellent handling of, all matters related to COVID-19. Governor Cuomo has found a niche by his deft control of the situation and how he is addressing this pandemic. He will be long-remembered for his great performance as Governor of New York State, protecting its citizens during this crisis.

Meanwhile, with all these events happening, we must explore any possibility, be it small or big, to help the community around us during this pandemic, be it adopting or helping a senior, contributing to organizations such as Project Hospitality and other similar organizations, and at the minimum, sharing information regarding COVID-19 resources to friends and families, to make sure all of them are safe.

On behalf of S.I.D.A. and the Executive Committee, we SALUTE the brave dedication of all Healthcare professionals including doctors, nurses, nursing aides and support staff as well as the first responders such as the N.Y.P.D., the F.D.N.Y., the E.M.T. and ambulance services, transit workers, infrastructure support workers, charities and faith organizations helping those in need, and all those organizations and community members who are doing their best for their community at this critical time. Remember, it is not ME but WE, as we need to work together and get through this together.

I request everyone to PLEASE STAY HOME, BE WELL and SAVE LIVES, and follow all the safety protocols.

May you all stay safe and be well,  
Be well,

*Radhakrishna Mohan  
S.I.D.A. President*

*"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."  
- President John F. Kennedy*



**If I buy a pizzeria and 3 years later it runs out of napkins, gloves, aprons, flour and sauce...it's the previous owners fault.**

## Speakers: Elkins, Dr. Nair, Walls

*Kevin Elkins will be a guest speaker at our April 21 General Membership Meeting and will give us an update on Congressman Max Rose.*

### **Kevin Elkins**

**K**evin Elkins is Congressman Max Rose's District Director. For over a decade, Kevin has worked in a variety of government and political roles fighting for Staten Island. Prior to his role as Congressman Rose's District Director, he was the campaign manager for Max's 2018 campaign. He also served as the Borough Director for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, as the Executive Director of the Staten Island Democratic Party, and as a Communications Director for Michael E. McMahon's successful 2015 District Attorney campaign.

Kevin will speak on the Congressman Rose's efforts, in part as part of National Guard, to address the coronavirus pandemic in Staten Island.



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*Dr. Ramachandran Nair will be a guest speaker at our April 21 General Membership Meeting and will talk about COVID-19.*

### **Dr Ramachandran Nair**

**D**r. Ramachandran Nair works in Staten Island and specializes in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine. Dr. Ramachandran Nair is affiliated with Interfaith Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. He currently practices at 2071 Clove Road Suite K, Staten Island, NY, 10304.



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*Chris Smalls will be a guest speaker at our April 21, 2020 General Membership Meeting and will talk about working at Amazon and organizing the walkout for safer working conditions at the Staten Island warehouse.*

### **Chris Smalls**

**I** was born on July 4, 1988, in Passaic and raised in Hackensack by my single mother along with my younger brother. I'm a father of three, 7 year old twins (a boy and a girl) and a 10 year old boy. Growing up I played sports, and my first passion was to be a professional basketball player. My second passion was to be a hip hop artist.

After I graduated high school I attended Indian State college in Florida. After doing two semesters I decided to relocate back to New Jersey and transferred to The institute of Audio Research for Music. Ultimately I withdrew from college altogether to pursue my music career. I did numerous shows in Bergen County and Manhattan.

In 2011 I decided to hang it up and settle down with my wife who was expecting. I began working for a union at a local grocery distribution warehouse. After a few years there I applied to Amazon and in 2015 was hired as a Tier 1 Warehouse Associate. My starting wage was \$12.75. I worked hard and was promoted to Tier 3 Process Assistant in less than a year and was one up until my last day. Throughout my tenure I launched three different buildings: NJ Ewr9, CT Bdl2, and NY JFK8 Staten Island. I got divorced with 50 percent of custody in 2019.

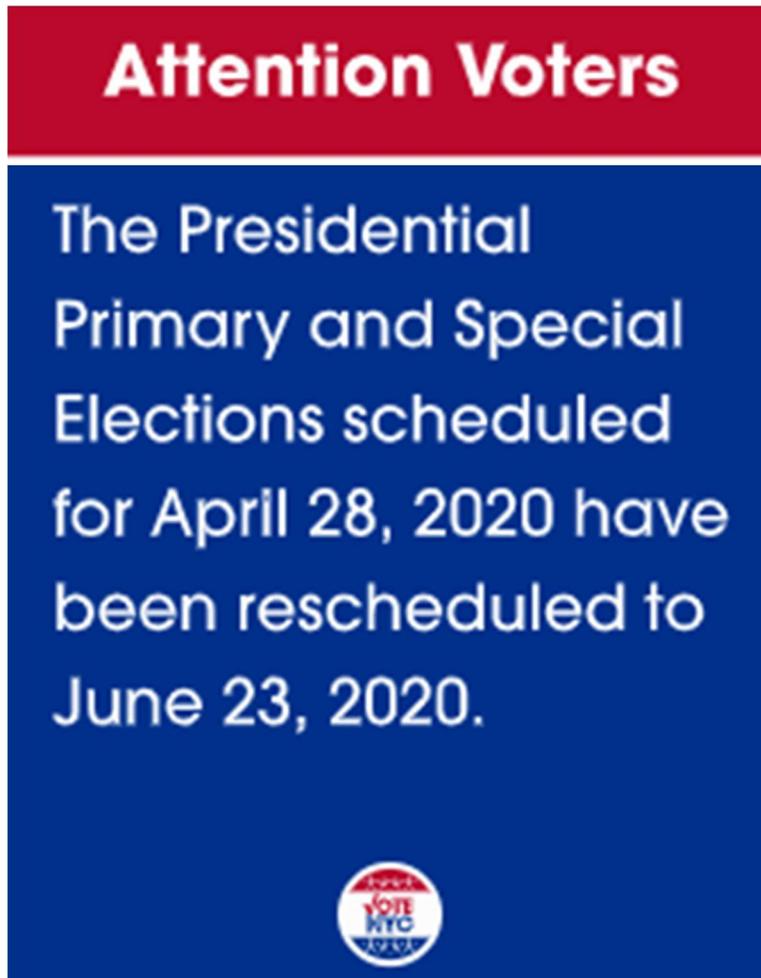
In March, 2020 I began to mobilize a walk out after the company failed to protect its employees at the start of the pandemic. After returning to work March 24 I sent home a colleague who tested positive and had been around hundreds of employees. After spending the rest of the week coming to the building off the clock to inform associates the truth I was placed on quarantine March 28. I took further action to mobilize a walkout on March 30 which resulted with my termination with Amazon.

My objective was and still is to give voice to employees who are afraid to speak and have underlying health issues. I continue to fight and empower more employees from all over the nation and world to speak up about unsafe conditions at work. Although my mission is incomplete I have hope to sparked a revolution that will change the way front-liners are to be treated in the future so that this never happens again.



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## N.Y.S. Primary Elections



**Attention Voters**

The Presidential  
Primary and Special  
Elections scheduled  
for April 28, 2020 have  
been rescheduled to  
June 23, 2020.





## **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

### *Protect Yourself: Know How it Spreads*

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person (sometimes from people who are not showing symptoms) coughs, sneezes or talks.

### *Prevent the Spread*

- **Avoid close contact**
- Stay home as much as possible
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others**
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- **Immediately wash your hands**

### **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.**

This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

#### **To disinfect:**

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

#### **Options include:**

- **Diluting your household bleach. mix:**
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water  
OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of waterFollow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- **Alcohol solutions.**  
Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.



LVMSF Awards Brunch

**SAVE THE DATE- PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE**

**The 2020 Lathrope Voorspuy  
Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Awards Brunch**

Sunday, **October 18**, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Jade Asian Bistro  
331 New Dorp Lane  
Staten Island, NY 10306

The Seven 2020 LVMSF awardees (a new record) are:



Setonji Agosa



Nidhi Khanna



Dana Koenigsberg

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Colleen McKeever



Lou Paniccioli



Pryde Smith-Gilbert

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Steven Williams



April 21, 2020	May 19, 2020
<b>General Meeting, 8:00p.m.</b> <b>Via Zoom, see page 2</b>	<b>General Meeting, 8:00p.m.</b> <b>Venue T.B.D.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Elkins, on Congressman Max Rose's COVID Response</li> <li>• Dr. Ramachandran Nair, COVID-19 Information</li> <li>• Chris Smalls, on the Amazon Walkout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker T.B.D.</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.

✂

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2020 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ \$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.  
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