



December 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club
www.sidems.org



At our Next Meeting:



- **Patricia Anne Taylor**
Commissioner, NYC Board of Elections,
what to expect in 2020

- **Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates**



Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 8:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION FOR DECEMBER!!!

Mimmo's, 15 Gifford's Lane (off Amboy Road)

Staten Island, NY 10308



Meeting Location

Please note that we will have our December 17 meeting at a different location because our regular site is unavailable in December. Our January 21 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be back at our regular site, the Oriental Plaza.

****DECEMBER 17 MEETING LOCATION****

Mimmo's

Brick Oven Pizzeria & Trattoria
15 Gifford's Lane (off Amboy Road)
(718) 967-6560



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.

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

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

January	January 6
February	February

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.....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich

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

December 2019

The month of December is poised to be a busy month with holiday party events taking place in Staten Island Democratic circles. With the newly formed Democratic Committee of Richmond County having their Cocktail Dinner on December 5 at Snug Harbor and the All Dems Gala taking place on December 11 at De Noi Restaurant, the Staten Island Democrats are busy planning to attend these dinners.

While this is happening, there is big change happening at the national presidential elections, with former New York City Mayor Bloomberg declaring his candidacy with a series of paid advertisements, of course, with his own money, the biggest advantage he has over the fellow presidential candidates. With Elizabeth Warren taking some slide from second place, Bernie Sanders somehow keeping up his 3rd place, Small Bend Mayor Pete Buttlegieg slowing surging in his ranks, with Kamala Harris dropping out, Joe Biden somehow managing his top place currently, the U.S. presidential election is taking interesting turns.

In our local elections, the Democratic candidate for Civil Court Judge Edwina Martin narrowly lost to the Republican candidate. With this the Democratic Party has lost a seat of the Civil Court which it has held for four decades. Something needs to be learned by this hard lesson is to never take it easy and treat this experience as yet another reminder that unless people come out to vote, all the efforts of the party will go in vain. Of course, as stated in the *Staten Island Advance*, coordination and grassroots effort is a must, to win such close races.

What to look forward to in 2020 are the most important U.S. presidential elections, District 11 Congressional election, and New York State Senate and Assembly Elections. Before the holiday joy wanes, it is time for all the Democrats to fasten their seat belts and get involved in the above races to make a difference. Of course, we need unity first, even before we start on anything as a Democrat.

Not but least, we all need to remember our civic duty that we can all engage in to make Staten Island a better community to live and make it better.

I wish you all the members of S.I.D.A. Joyous Holidays and a Happy 2020!

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



November 2019 Minutes

**General Meeting
November 19, 2019
Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.**

President Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. He announced that the results from the Civil Court Judge race were not available yet. He also urged members to do the best they can to help candidates running in the near future.

President Mohan reminded members that County will be having a fundraiser on December 5th and the All Dems Holiday Party is scheduled for December 11th at Da Noi's.

October Minutes

Mohan made a motion to accept minutes as published in the current newsletter. Liz Price seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Guest Speaker

President Mohan announced that Ernest Bailey, the scheduled speaker for the evening, cancelled.

President Mohan mentioned that we will be inviting congressional candidates to speak to members within the next few months.

Nominating Committee Report

Chair Liz Price reported that the committee met on October 27 at the Bay House Restaurant. She thanked all the committee members for their participation. Liz reported that the current slate of officers was endorsed for another term. She also reported that the following candidates were nominated to run for the 7 Member at-Large Positions.

Ruben Adeshuko, Nana Chilton, Ajoy George, Jill Latman, Roy Moskowitz, Clara Ogburn, Soji Oluwole, Dami Powerson, Jasmine Robinson, Charles Rolland, Sharon Santana, Tom Shcherbenko, David Wynard.

Anyone else interested in running must submit petition with 15 member signatures by the end of the December 17 General Meeting. Liz also mentioned that all candidates are invited to speak at that meeting. In addition, all candidates are invited to submit a 200-word statement by January 2 to newsletter editor Chris Bauer (e-mail cmaxbauer@yahoo.com) for publication in the January newsletter.

VicePresident's Report

Vice President Liz Price provided members with a brief report from the Executive Committee meeting held on October 27.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown mentioned that we are in the throes of the Impeachment Hearings. He said Congressman Max Rose will face issues as he endorsed the impeachment vote. Dennis feels it is important for our club to continue to support Max Rose who he feels has worked very hard. He mentioned that hard working progressives took back the seat and it's important for us to keep the seat.

Dennis also wants to see the club have mixers to help maintain and strengthen our base. He wants to see Democrats working together to build up the Democratic Party.

Dennis suggested that we hold a mixer after the New Year at O'Henrys Publick House. Richard Reichard suggested we hold a rally outside Congressman Rose's office in support of impeachment.

There was a spirited discussion about Dennis's suggestion to support Max Rose. President Mohan suggested that we hold an Open forum for all the congressional candidates running for the seat.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided an up to date Treasurer's Report. She reminded members that dues need to be paid by the end of January. She also provided an update from October's banquet.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky reminded members about the All Dems Holiday Party scheduled for December 11 at Da Noi's. Pearl asked if members to let her know if they know anyone who could provide some entertainment. She mentioned that the club would provide dinner for the person.

By Laws Committee

Chair Joann Olbrich reported that at the last Executive Committee meeting there was discussion about the fact that the current by-laws do not specify how the Nominating Chair is chosen. It has been SIDA's tradition that the person who gets the most votes for Nominating Committee election becomes chair. Joann reported that she will draft proposed by-laws revisions to make sure this is clarified.

Dennis gave kudos to Dan Chilton because "Ranked Choice Voting" Referendum won on election day, and Dan had worked to put together a paper about this. Dan spoke about the fact that he worked on his paper for about one year and felt it had been vetoed by the Issue Committee.

Issues Committee Chair Richard Reichard said he supported Dan's paper "Rank Choice Voting" and just asked for Dan to edit and asked for clarification on some points. Richard added that as Issues Chair, he wants to make sure papers are clear and concise. Many members commented on this issue.

Public Relations Committee

Chair Roy Moskowitz reported that he switched from Constant Contact to YMLP. He also mentioned that he sent a press release to the *Advance* for the Banquet, but it wasn't published.

New Business/Announcements

Joann Olbrich spoke about the December 5th Democratic County Committee fundraiser. She encouraged members to attend and to donate money to the party if they cannot attend the event.

Richard Reichard asked the Executive Committee to plan to invite state candidates running for office to future meetings.

Cindy Voorspuy announced that the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Committee is accepting applications in January.

Tommy Blancero gave kudos to Joann Olbrich for all her hard work with the county committee. He said that S.I.D.A. should be proud of her.

President Mohan mentioned that the Executive Committee Meeting will be re-scheduled because it falls on Thanksgiving. He will discuss alternate dates with committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website www.silive.com. Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.

Online December 4, 2019
Printed December 8, 2019

Was It a High Crime or Small Error?

There is only one question for the American people to answer regarding impeachment.

When Trump asked the Ukrainian president to do him a favor by investigating Joe Biden, a political opponent, did he commit a high crime and misdemeanor like Democrats say, or was it just an inappropriate request, like Republicans say?

When the Founding Fathers drafted our Constitution they successfully argued to include impeachment and against waiting for a general election to remove a president.

The Founding Fathers would have thought that asking a foreign government to investigate a political rival was a high crime and misdemeanor because it is an abuse of power that interferes with a fair election process.

Those who agree with the Founding Fathers therefore support impeachment.

Those who disagree with the Founding Fathers oppose impeachment.

Those who oppose impeachment need to understand that they are saying that all presidents can now go to a foreign government to assist them in getting re-elected.

- Richard Reichard



Please note
December 17 Location
Mimmo's
17 Gifford's Lane

LVMSF Letter



The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
A 501 (c) 3 Nonprofit Community Organization
P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304
www.lvmsf.org

January 2, 2020

Greetings,

Would you like to learn how to be more involved in the community? Would you like to take a course to learn how to campaign, to raise funds, to sharpen your organizing or campaigning skills? Do you know someone who might be interested in taking such a course?

Since 2004, the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund has been awarding scholarships to help those interested in attending programs in community organizing and electoral campaigning. We have given scholarships to a diverse and energetic mix of community activists who attended a wide range of programs.

The mission of the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund is to encourage grass-roots activism by underwriting the costs of programs that will train Staten Islanders in community organization, political candidacies and electoral campaigning.

The enclosed application contains a sample list of courses:

- Approved courses are not limited to those on the application, which are provided as examples. Applicants may suggest other courses
- There is no age restriction
- The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund is non-partisan, and the scholarships are available to those of all political persuasions

The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization registered with the Federal government and the State of New York.

We invite you to make a donation in support of the Fund's purposes by mail (with the enclosed form) or via PayPal (www.lvmsf.org). We also hope that you will join us at our fifteenth annual Awards Brunch and Fundraiser, currently scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2020, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Jade Asian Bistro, 331 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to apply. The deadline is February 15, 2020. To learn more about these awards, please visit our website, www.lvmsf.org.

Sincerely

Joann Olbrich, President

LVMSF Application



THE LATHROPE VOORSPUY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Inc.

A 501(C)3 Nonprofit Community Organization
P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304
www.lvmsf.org

The mission of the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund is to encourage grass-roots activism by underwriting community members in select programs that train for community organizing or running for office.

Application for the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship

Candidate applications must be submitted by February 15, 2020. For questions, call Elaine Croteau at 718-698-6056. Applications may be made by mail to LVMSF, P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304 or by e-mail to Ebcroteau@aol.com. Please include copy of your resume.

The winners of the scholarship will be announced at the Award Presentation on date and location to be announced. The event will be a fundraiser for the next round of awards in 2021.

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____

Please place your question responses on a second page.

Training Program you are applying for: _____

1. Do you have lodging in the location, if not included in the program, and a means of getting to the program?
2. Why are you interested in learning community organizing/campaign skills?
3. What do you hope to get out of the training program?
4. What previous social justice/organizing/campaign efforts have you been involved in, either as a volunteer or employee?
5. Thinking of your previous experiences tell more about one particular thing that you did. Explain why you either felt great satisfaction in the experience, or did not feel satisfied.
6. How would you apply the skills you learn in this program?
7. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?
8. How did you hear about this scholarship?

SAMPLE PROGRAMS: (Other programs will be considered at applicant's request)

<http://www.midwestacademy.com/> The Midwest Academy - Training That Works For Citizen Organizations
<http://www.southernempowerment.org/> Southern Empowerment Project

<http://www.wcsyale.org/> The Women's Campaign School at Yale University
http://www.wellstone.org/camp/category_page.aspx?catID=3752 Camp Wellstone

<http://www.highlandercenter.org> Highlander Center, New Market TN.

SEE OUR WEB SITE: www.lvmsf.org for additional programs



December 17, 2019	January 21, 2020
General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Mimmo's, 15 Gifford's Lane	General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYC Board of Elections Commissioner Patricia Anne Taylor on what to expect in 2020 • Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee Election

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.

✂

2020 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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