



February 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



- **Gary Carsel Memorial Presentation**
- **Candidates for NYC Public Advocate have been Invited**
- **Constitution Amendment Vote**

Tuesday, February 19, 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.

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:

March	March 4
April	April 1

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President	Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large	Clara Ogburn
Vice President	Liz Price	Member at-Large	Emmanuel Domi
Executive Secretary.....	Dennis Brown		Ojo Powerson II
Corresponding & Recording Secretary	Marie Dwyer	Member at-Large	Jasmine Robinson
Treasurer	Bonita Rothman	Member at-Large	Sharon Santana
Social Secretary	Pearl Minsky	Ex Officio	Michelle Akyempong
Member at-Large	Patricia Kane	Ex Officio	Bobby Digi
Member at-Large	Phil Marius	Ex Officio	Belinda Dixon
Member at-Large	Roy Moskowitz	Ex Officio	Rosemarie Mangano
		Ex Officio	Joann Olbrich
		Ex Officio	John Mastellone

Gary Carsel

1955 - 2019

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

This is my first message as the new President of Staten Island Democratic Association. It is a great honor to have this opportunity and position bestowed on me to serve S.I.D.A. members to the best of my ability and to lead this Association. We must energize the growing blue wave that will eventually turn Staten Island from a Republican to a Democratic borough. I realize that just turning this into a Democratic Borough will not serve any purpose unless the middle class, Labor and all those who need assistance from the city and state receive what they truly deserve. That means we all have work to do.

To this extent, I encourage our new Executive Committee team to get ready to rise above and beyond, to meet the challenges to move ahead and fulfill the needs of the community by addressing issues such as health, transportation, education, economic wellbeing and other quality of life matters. The success of S.I.D.A. lies in highlighting these issues and making sure they are addressed in the best possible manner.

S.I.D.A. has multiple roles as we all know, and there is no silver bullet which will address all issues. To a certain extent, I understand the various issues, and with the help of the S.I.D.A. Executive Committee and its valuable members, we must try our best to make a difference in Staten Island community, the community that is dear to all of us.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our outgoing President Bobby Digi, during whose tenure a new dimension was established for S.I.D.A. with his activism that we are all familiar with. He stood up what we all believe in as the best of Democratic principles and for the good of the community. S.I.D.A. certainly exhibited this characteristic when we sent the letter to DCCC pointing out their high handedness in interfering with local politics.

I also recall fond memories of Gary Carsel, who was a very dynamic member of S.I.D.A. and whose passing has taken from us a great person whose straight forwardness, truth, and justice-seeking qualities are something which we all remember and cherish. I remember also, in July 2018, losing our dear friend Carl Chew, who was not only very active in S.I.D.A. but also a devoted Union member whose love for Labor Unions and the people they help and serve, was unparalleled. The legacy of S.I.D.A., was born and is sustained by the contributions of these and other great people whose passion and effort have helped our Association do great things from its founding in 1961 to the present time. It is this legacy that we all want to carry forward, and we will do our best to make S.I.D.A. an association of the people, by the people and for the people of Staten Island.

I truly believe, and follow as my guiding principle, in the words of our past President John F. Kennedy who said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country'.

In Unity,

*Radhakrishna Mohan
President*



N.Y.C. Public Advocate Special Election

Due to Letitia James leaving the office of New York City Public Advocate to become the New York State Attorney General there will be a special election to fill the Public Advocate's post on February 26, 2019. After the petitioning process there are 16 candidates remaining in the race:

1. former City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
2. Assemblymember Michael Blake
3. attorney Dawn Smalls
4. City Council Member Eric Ulrich
5. City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez
6. Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell
7. Assemblymember Ron Kim
8. City Council Member Jumaane Williams
9. City Council Member Rafael Espinal
10. activist Benjamin Yee
11. attorney Manny Alicandro
12. activist Nomiki Konst
13. Columbia history professor David Eisenbach
14. former City Council candidate Helal Sheikh
15. community activist Anthony Herbert
16. attorney Jared Rich.

There will be a seventeenth candidate on the ballot, Assemblymember Latrice Walker, who announced she is no longer seeking the position and tried to have herself removed from the ballot, to no avail given the election law at hand.

The following candidates plan to speak at our February 19 General Membership Meeting:

- Melissa Mark-Viverito
- Ron Kim
- Jared Rich
- Daniel O'Donnell

The following candidates already addressed the club at our January 15 Annual Meeting:

- Rafael Espinal
- Nomiki Konst
- Latrice Walker
- Michael Blake
- Benjamin Yee
- Ifeoma Ike.



Proposed Constitution Amendment

By-Laws Chair Joann Olbrich, per the December Executive Committee meeting, has made the following proposed amendment to the S.I.D.A. constitution. Here is the section of the constitution which lays out how to amend the constitution:

Article XIV Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by written petition signed by 15 members or 15% of the membership, whichever is the greater, and submitted to the Executive or Corresponding and Recording Secretary. To become effective, any amendment so proposed must be approved and adopted thereafter by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a single meeting of the club. The substance of the change(s) to be effected by such proposed amendment(s) must be included in the notice of the meeting.

What follows is the inclusion of the amendment in the February 19 meeting notice. Two-thirds of the members present at that meeting must vote to approve the amendment in order for it to be adopted.

Article III Membership

Current Constitution	Proposed Amendment
<p><u>Section 3:</u> Dues: Dues of the members shall be set by a vote the membership.</p> <p>Members in default in payment of dues on after the first day of April of any year shall cease to be members in good standing, provided, however, that any person first becoming a member after the first day of October of any year shall remain a member in good standing for the succeeding calendar year without the payment of additional dues.</p>	<p><u>Section 3:</u> Dues of the members will be set by a vote of the membership.</p> <p>Dues are due on January 1 of the calendar year. If you have not paid by January 31, your membership is in arrears.</p> <p>Members in default in payment of dues after the 31st day of January of any year shall cease to be members in good standing. However, any person first becoming a member after the first day of October of any year will remain a member in good standing for the next calendar year without the payment of additional dues.</p> <p>A person who has not paid dues for the current calendar year, but paid for the previous year is in arrears, and can restore “member in good standing” status by paying the dues for the current calendar year.</p> <p>A person who last paid dues prior to the previous calendar year is a lapsed member, and upon paying dues becomes a new member, subject to the 45 day restriction for voting.</p> <p>A person must be a member in good standing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make motions • Vote on motions • Vote for endorsements • Vote in club elections • Run in club elections

January 2019 Minutes

**Annual Meeting
January 15, 2019
Oriental Plaza
1845 Richmond Avenue**

President Bobby Digi called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. He called for a moment of reflection on the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pat Kane volunteered to take the minutes in the absence of the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Marie Dwyer who was unable to attend.

December Minutes

President Digi made a motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Pat Kane seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Executive Committee Election

The voting for Executive Committee opened. Because candidates for officer positions were running unopposed, they would be elected by acclamation, and there would be a paper ballot only for Members at-Large. President Digi invited members to obtain their ballots and cast their votes. He would now entertain a motion for the time to close the poll. Tom Shcherbenko made a motion to end balloting at 9:15pm which was seconded by Chris Bauer. The motion carried. President Digi then asked for three volunteers to serve as tellers. Paul Scublinsky, Diana Shcherbenko, and Ali Ansari volunteered.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Radhakrishna Mohan reviewed the ground rules for the meeting and gave a report on the Executive Committee meeting.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mohan announced that Executive Secretary Dennis Brown was unable to attend the meeting and sends his regards.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with an up-to-date report. She informed the club that the current printer of our newsletter had transferred our account to a different printer. She was given assurances by the current printer that the cost and services would be unchanged and this will be confirmed with the new vendor.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Sharon Santana reported that the banquet was successful and attendance exceeded expectations. She thanked the club and was honored to have served.

By-laws Committee

Chair Joann Olbrich reported on a proposed revision to the article dealing with membership which will be printed in the February newsletter and presented for a vote at the February meeting.

Human Rights Committee

Chair Clara Ogburn reported that the Committee will meet in February to finalize the proposal for the One Person One Vote Amendment (OPOVA) to the US Constitution which they will present at the March meeting. The Committee plans to present this at other organizations in addition to S.I.D.A., starting with the Staten Island N.A.A.C.P.

Media and Public Relations

Chair Roy Moskowitz reported that the club will discuss website improvements and whether we desire to hire a website designer at the February meeting.

Issues Committee Report

Co-Chair Richard Reichard reported that Dan Chilton continues to work on a paper concerning “Rank Choice Voting”. Co-Chair Phil Marius reported he is waiting to see the updated versions of the “Single Payer Healthcare” legislation before he completes a paper on that topic.

New Business

President Digi invited Pat Kane and Nick Popolo to speak about the process for S.I.D.A. members who are interested in serving on County Committee.

Candidates for N.Y.C. Public Advocate

President Digi, assisted by Vice President Mohan, provided guidelines for the candidates and introduced each of them in the order they arrived. The following candidates addressed the club:

- Councilmember Rafael Espinal
- Nomiki Konst
- Assemblymember Latrice Walker
- Assemblymember Michael Blake
- Benjamin Yee
- Ifeoma Ike.

Executive Committee Election Results

Paul Scublinsky announced the seven candidates for Member at-Large who had received the highest number of votes:

Sharon Santana	36
Clara Ogburn	29
Roy Moskowitz.....	27
Pat Kane	27
Emmanuel Dami Ojo-Powerson II.....	25
Phil Marius	25
Jasmine Robinson	20

President Digi called for a vote by acclamation for the Executive Committee Officers who had run unopposed: Radhakrishna Mohan for President, Liz Price for Vice President, Dennis Brown

for Executive Secretary, Marie Dwyer for Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Pearl Minsky for Social Secretary and Bonnie Rothman for Treasurer. The motion carried.

President Digi gave closing remarks and thanked the club for the honor of serving as president as well as all who had served with him. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Kane
Member at-Large



Past Presidents Nick Popolo, Rich Reichard, and Tom Shcherbenko will speak about Gary Carsel in a Memorial.



S.I.D.A. past president Tom Shcherbenko will be appearing in the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Company production



Historic Richmondtown
Third County Courthouse
441 Clarke Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306

Friday, March 29, 8 pm
Saturday, March 30, 2 pm & 8 pm
Sunday, March 31, 2 pm
Friday, April 5, 8 pm
Saturday, April 6, 2 pm & 8 pm
Sunday, April 7, 2 pm
(\$40 Ticket Special for Sunday, April 7)

Tickets at www.showclix.com

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.

February 19, 2019	February 19, 2019
General Meeting 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.	General Meeting 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates for NYC Public Advocate have been Invited • Gary Carsel Memorial Presentation • Constitution Amendment Vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPOVA Presentation

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
_____ \$15 - Senior, Student, or 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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