



July 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



**Tom Murphy on
Labor & Politics**
Past S.I.D.A. President

Tuesday, July 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.

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

• S.I.D.A. President’s Statement	3
• Tom Murphy	4
• June 2019 Minutes	5
• Congratulations	7
• S.I.D.A. Banquet Save the Date.....	8
• Mark Herman Picnic	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

August	August 5
September.....	September 2

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

July 2019

We Made History - Now Let Us Keep It!

By the time you read this message, I sincerely hope that you all had a wonderful July 4th. Congratulations to those who won as District Leaders, Convention Delegates, Judicial Delegates, and County Committee members in the June 25 primary.

The results are in from the Democratic County Committee elections: all seems to be well, in fact, too well; excellent performance by all grassroots workers to bring a change that was long overdue. Now, the most important factor is to come together to forge a future that is good for all grassroots people who will have a chance to make their voices heard, which was not something that happened when Party business occurred in the past.

At this point it is well known within our Democratic Party that S.I.D.A. past-President Nick Popolo and Assemblyman Michael Cusick are two leaders interested in becoming the next Staten Island Democratic Party Chair. I issued an open call in S.I.D.A.'s June Newsletter for all interested parties to meet and discuss the future of the Democratic Party and its leadership, in order to achieve the real goal of the change everyone is looking for.

I believe that in the next several weeks we will know the direction the Staten Island Democratic Party will head in, with the combined efforts of everyone working to achieve a positive outcome.

S.I.D.A. Future Events

Please mark your calendar for S.I.D.A.'s Annual Mark Herman Memorial Picnic to be held on Sunday, July 21, 2019 from Noon to 4:30 p.m, at Gateway's Miller Field Picnic Area. Take New Dorp Lane down to Cedar Grove Avenue, and make a left turn onto the field. Follow road around to the picnic area, Tables 25 - 26, right near the Ranger Station and restrooms.

We would appreciate any volunteers helping organize as well as participating in the picnic. We also welcome anyone wishing to bring specialties to add to the variety of items we normally order for the picnic.

Our S.I.D.A. Annual Banquet date has been **changed from September 19 to October 10** to avoid any conflict with the Democratic Party Convention to be called between mid-September and October 6. We have confirmed with the Crystal Room for the date change to October 10, and we hope you will attend.

In conclusion, while the Democratic Presidential debates are taking place, please try to watch them as the issues pertaining to our great nation are discussed. So, if you are looking for a change, be part of it, understand it and advocate for it. I looking forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting, Tuesday, July 16. "Ask not what your country can do for you-- ask what you can do for your country." - President John F. Kennedy

*Radhakrishna Mohan
President*



S.I.D.A. Banquet

New Date: October 10

(see page 8)

Tom Murphy

Past S.I.D.A. President Tom Murphy will be the guest speaker at our July 16 General Membership Meeting and will be speaking on Labor & Politics. He provided the following biography for publication in the newsletter.

Thomas V. Murphy

Retired Teachers Chapter Leader United Federation of Teachers

52 Broadway

New York, NY 10004

(212) 598-9576

E-mail: TMurphyUFT@aol.com

Lifelong, 3rd generation Dongan Hills, Staten Island, New York City resident. Educated at PS 111R, Dongan Hills (1956), St. Peter's High School, West Brighton (1960), BA Manhattan College (1964), MS College of Staten Island (1981). Taught Social Studies at Markham JHS 51 (1964-1967) and Tottenville High School (1967-1990). United Federation Teachers (UFT) Delegate, volunteer and Staten Island UFT Political Action Coordinator throughout that time period. UFT Chapter Leader at Tottenville High School (1986-1990). Appointed by Sandra Feldman, UFT President, to be the UFT's Director of Legislation/Political Action 1990-2006; also UFT COPE Director (Committee on Political Education). Appointed by UFT President Randi Weingarten as Assistant to the President and elected Trustee of the New York City Central Labor Council, April 16, 1998-2006. Elected to the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) Board of Directors, 2000-2006, 2009-present. Works closely with Staten Island resident, UFT President Michael Mulgrew.

The Director of Legislation/Political Action and COPE, as the UFT's Chief Lobbyist, facilitates the Union's support and relations with elected public officials of all political parties in New York City. Legislative and political issues of concern to the members of the United Federation of Teachers on the city, state and federal level are the responsibility of this department. The UFT, Local 2, is affiliated with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the New York City Central Labor Council, and the State and National AFL-CIO. Tom was the Congressional Liaison and Political Action Coordinator for the New York State AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council.

Elected in 2009, 2012 and 2015 as Chapter Leader of the approximately 65,000 member UFT Retired Teachers Chapter. This position involves advocacy for member benefits and concerns including speaking to retiree groups in the greater NYC area and in many parts of the U.S. where retired UFTers now reside. Serves on the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Retiree Executive Committee and the National Executive Board of the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) of the AFL-CIO.

Social, civic, political and union activist on Staten Island since the 1960s. President of the Staten Island Democratic Association (1973-1974) and elected to the Democratic County Committee and as Democratic Zone Leader.

Committees: Emerald Isle Immigration Center Board of Directors, American Federation of Teachers Human and Civil Rights Committee, Executive Committee Member of the Educators Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee AFL-CIO, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement AFL-CIO, UFT Irish American Studies Committee, UFT African American

Studies Committee, UFT Italian American Studies Committee, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance AFL-CIO. 1997 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Member of Irish American Labor Coalition, past chair of the Irish American Heritage and Culture Committee, Department of Education Inc. (IAHC), Member of the County Cork Association; chaired the Cork Association 2016 program committee for the centennial commemoration of Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa who died on Staten Island in 1916; member: Yeats Society, New York Irish History Roundtable, Ancient Order of Hibernians (John Kearney Division, Staten Island).

Staten Island Advance Opinion Columnist: writer, 2011-2013, of the monthly point/counterpoint opinion column representing the liberal, progressive viewpoint.

Tom's social and political consciousness can be traced to the low keyed Irish-American Catholic love and world view of his late parents, John and Gladys Murphy and the support of his siblings: Jack, Danny, Mary Anne, Kathy and Ed. Also inspired by the late Staten Islander Catholic Worker Activist, Dorothy Day.

Past member of the Advisory Council of Staten Island Historian under Borough Historian Dick Dickenson; past President of Staten Island Belles Lettres Society and is a founding member of the 35



June 2019 Minutes

General Meeting June 18, 2019 Oriental Plaza 1845 Richmond Avenue

President Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:28 p.m. He thanked members for coming out in spite of the bad weather. He announced that two of the three scheduled speakers, Jumaane Williams and Cynthia Davis, were unable to attend.

Guest Speaker

Boyd Melson gave an impassioned talk about the high suicide rate among veterans and urged members to put this issue at the forefront. He talked about the group that he is involved with, www.stopsoldiersuicide.org.

Democratic Primary

Nick Popolo, Candidate for Chair of the Democratic County Committee, reminded members about the upcoming primary on June 25. He mentioned he had palm cards available. Nick mentioned that postcards would be going out for candidates from the 61st, 63rd, and 64th Assembly Districts. Nick told members he wanted to make sure that people facing primaries got assistance. Finally, Nick reported that there is a bill in the State Assembly (A827B) to change the date of the County Convention from July to September. [Editor's note: This bill was passed and signed into law by Governor Cuomo.]

Executive Committee

Marie presented a brief report from the most recent Executive Committee held in May.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown mentioned that it was great to hear Boyd Melson speak. He said that our Association was born out of struggling to end the Vietnam War. Dennis mentioned that we held the 4th Annual Loretta and Gene Prisco Essay Contest earlier in the evening. He gave kudos to Susan Chew and the wonderful job she did. Dennis also mentioned that the winning essays on Climate Change are very impressive and they are in June's newsletter. President Mohan also gave kudos to Susan Chew and her committee for all the work they did for the Essay Contest.

Dennis reminded members to save September 19 for this year's SIDA Annual Banquet. [Editor's note: The Banquet date has been changed to October 10.] He also reminded members to go vote in the June 25 primary. He said that we are hoping to reform the County Committee and to change the date of the convention to sometime in September. He gave kudos to Nick Popolo and Chris Bauer for all their hard work. He said he wants to win elections and we are issue oriented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with an up to date treasurer's report.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky asked members to help with the picnic scheduled for July 21. She also reminded members that the Banquet is scheduled for September 19 at the Crystal Room. [Editor's note: The date has been changed to October 10.] She mentioned that there will be two performers and dancing.

Media and Public Relations Committee

Chair Roy Moskowitz asked members to be respectful when posting on the S.I.D.A. Facebook page. He urged members to refrain from attacking people on the page.

President Mohan reminded members that July 1 is the deadline to send newsletter items to Chris Bauer for the next newsletter. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 27 with location to be announced. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



Mark Herman

Picnic

July 21

(see page 9)

Congratulations

Congratulations

to all who

took part

in the June 25

Democratic Primary,

you demonstrated

what grassroots

democracy looks like!



**PLEASE NOTE
NEW DATE!**

**S.I.D.A.
Annual Banquet**

October 10, 2019

7:00 PM

Crystal Room

67 Olympia Boulevard

Awardees to be announced.



Mark Herman Picnic



Sunday, July 21, 2019

Noon – 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate Summer & the Memory of Mark Herman
at Our 4th Annual Mark Herman Memorial Picnic!

S.I.D.A. and Members of all Democratic clubs as well as family and friends all welcome - free event - beer, soft drinks and water plus barbeque foods and salads - bring a dish if you wish -
NO GLASS BOTTLES ALLOWED - you'll have to settle for beer in a can! We look forward to seeing you.

MILLER FIELD PICNIC AREA

Sections 25 & 26 next to Ranger Station & Rest rooms

Driving Directions:

Take New Dorp Lane down to Cedar Grove Avenue and make a left turn onto the field. Follow road around to picnic area.

For information contact
Social Secretary Pearl Minsky
tryminsky@aol.com



