



July 2020

## Staten Island Democratic Association

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*www.sidems.org*

At our Next Meeting:

# "Systemic Racism in America and the NAACP's Fight to Eliminate This Practice"

## Edward Josey,

President, Staten Island Branch of  
the NAACP



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## Charles D. Fall,

Assemblyman, 61<sup>st</sup> District



**Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 7:45 P.M.**

**Via Zoom, see page 3**



# **Jim Smith**

**March 4, 1941 - June 28, 2020**

## Instructions for Monthly Meeting via Zoom

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

**Staten Island Democratic Association  
General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, July 21  
7:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This meeting can be attended audio and video by computer, audio and video by cell phone, audio only by landline phone.

**AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE ZOOM MEETING  
BEING HACKED, THE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS  
WILL BE E-MAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND  
THE INVITEES THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.**



## 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

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

June .....	June 1
July .....	July 6

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

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large .....	Jasmine Robinson
Vice President .....	Member at-Large .....	Charles Roland
Executive Secretary .....	Member at-Large .....	Sharon Santana
Corresponding & Recording Secretary .....	Member at-Large .....	Tom Shcherbenko
Treasurer .....	Ex Officio.....	Michelle Akyempong
Social Secretary .....	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

July 2020

It is sad that one of the most advanced nations in the world, the United States of America, is not following even the rudiments of safety measures in curbing the spread of COVID-19. The image of a progressive and enlightened United States is fast disappearing in the eyes of the world. Most nations are looking in a different direction for leadership. The only way that this can be changed - all of this inept way of handling the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as our declining world stature -- will be a successful outcome in the November elections, less than four months away. At that time, we have to elect Joe Biden as our President and we have to take back the United States Senate as well. It would also be great if Staten Island can return Max Rose as our Democratic Member of Congress.

An interesting side note to the national crisis that we are going through is a war of words between Trump and Dr. Fauci playing out through interviews with the news media. The **President is making his own COVID-19 rules without expert input or the CDC.**

In the meantime, let's look at the statistics as of the writing of these remarks:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
<b>World</b>	
13 million +.....	571,133
<b>U.S.</b>	
3.3 million +.....	135,324
<b>New York</b>	
406,962.....	32,075
<b>Staten Island</b>	
14,104.....	1,063

Regardless of the above statistics, President Trump moved to pull the United States out of the World Health Organization in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic. The exit is slated to take effect next July, but Vice President Joe Biden has pledged that the United States would remain in the World Health Organization if he is elected our next President.

### Items of Interest

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 6, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and on August 8 a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Let us continue to work toward the time that our world will be rid of nuclear weapons, and we are able to peacefully co-exist.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden continues to look for a Vice Presidential pick and he has pledged that it would be a woman. We are all very interested in his final choice.

New York State and New York City are leading the country in responsible handling of pandemic issues, but there still remain issues such as indoor dining, malls, and schools reopening, and major budget problems that impact us directly here on Staten Island. City Councilmember Debi Rose fought successfully for the Summer Youth Employment Programs and her work will be a great help to Staten Island youngsters and families.

Senator Diane Savino won her Primary. Allyn Crawford, running for Civil Court Judge, had a successful virtual fundraiser on July 1. Congressman Max Rose has come out fighting against Nicole

Malliotakis, who won the Republican Primary. Brandon Patterson, who is running in the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, needs our support as he goes up against Republican Attorney Michael Tannousis, who won his Republican Primary.

**The Staten Island Democratic Association** should be very proud that its Executive Committee, in concert with Mr. Ed Josey, Staten Island Branch President of the NAACP and Rev. Dr. Terry Troia, President of CURT, (Citizens United for Respect and Trust) developed the concept for and planned **“The People’s Caravan of Conscience and Commitment to End Systemic Racism.”** This event, which was conceived two days after the tragic death of George Floyd due to police brutality, took place a month later, on June 28, 2020. A great deal of planning and work by S.I.D.A., the NAACP, and C.U.R.T. followed, and the People’s Caravan organized under the banner of NAACP, with support from SIDA, C.U.R.T., labor unions and many other grassroots organizations, was a great success. More than 300 cars joined the rally according to a report from *Staten Island Advance*. The **People’s Caravan of Conscience** will continue to Phase 2, which is the **Commitment to End Systemic Racism**, to build on the success of the initial event and develop a continuous dialogue and ongoing efforts to address systemic racism in Staten Island and throughout the country.

My good wishes go everyone and may you stay healthy and safe,

*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*



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## Edward Josey

*Edward Josey, President of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP, will be the guest speaker at our July 21 General Membership Meeting and will talk about "Systemic Racism in America and the NAACP's Fight to Eliminate This Practice"*

### Edward C Josey

**E**dward Calvin Josey was born September 22, 1940 in New York City to the late Anna and James Josey. As an infant, the Josey family moved to Tottenville and Edward has remained on Staten Island. He has been married to his wife Doreen for 45 years.

Edward received his education at P.S. 1 in Tottenville and the old Tottenville High School, class of 1958. He graduated from Staten island Community College/The College of Staten Island in 1964 with an Associate in Applied Science Degree. He went on to Study at the City College of New York (CCNY). A member of Bethel United Methodist Church for almost 60 years, he is the Chairman of the Church Council and also Chair of the Social Justice Committee.

After 36 years, Edward retired from Lucent Technology (a spinoff of A T & T) in August 2000. He was employed as a Customer Service Engineer. Edward is a longtime member of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP and in 1997 became the Branch President. Under Edward’s Presidency, the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP has dealt with issues of Police Brutality, Hate Crimes, Educations Issues, Housing Employment, Voter Education and whatever issues that

require assistance. Twice Sojourner, the monthly newsletter of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP has received national recognition, and three time the Staten Island Branch has received statewide and regional recognition of its programs.

### **Memberships and Affiliations**

- Member and President of the Staten Island League for Better Government
- Treasurer of the Brown Bombers S & A Club of Staten Island, Inc.
- Past Trustee of Bethel United Methodist Church
- Boy Scout Committeeman at Bethel United Methodist Church
- Board member of the College of Staten Island Alumni Association from 2001-2006 and also a member of the committee to select a new President for the College of Staten Island
- Member and former Board member of the Sandy Ground Historical Society
- Founding member of the Staten Island African-American Political Association
- Member Prejudice Reduction Program (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) from 2002-2008 visiting elementary schools
- Charter member of the North Star Lions Club, which was chartered in 2007.

### **Awards Received**

- 1997-NYPD certificate of Appreciation
- 1997-Distinguished Citizens Award from Tottenville High School
- 1998-Men's Club Award from Rossville AME Zion Church
- 1998-Superintendents Conflict Resolution Award from the NYC Board of Education
- 1999-12<sup>th</sup> PCT. Community Council Award
- 2000-Staten Island H.O.P.E. Achievement Award
- 2001 – Inducted into the College of Staten Island Alumni Hall of Fame
- 2001-BrownBombers Achievement Award
- 2004-369<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Association Distinguished Award
- 2005-National Council of Negro Women, Staten Island Section Community Service Award
- Celebrating the Martin Luther King Dream from Stapleton UAME Church January 2008
- The William A. Morris Humanitarian Award of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP in 2009
- Democratic Committee of Richmond County Community Leadership Award in 2009
- Keeping the Hope Award in 2009 from the Mt. Sinai United Christian Church
- NYPD Certificate of Appreciation in 2012
- 2012 S.I.D.A. Paul Dwyer Humanitarian Award.

In 2014 Edward received the “NYS E.T. Reed Achievement Award”, for the highest Achievement Service Award given by the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches.

In September 2017, City & State Magazine selected Edward as one of the 25 Staten Islanders you needed to know.

During February 2020, the Staten Island Black History Town Hall presented Edward with the “Legacy of Stellar Leadership Award”.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, under the Leadership of Ed Josey, the Staten Island NAACP Chapter has the biggest Car rally ever organized in Staten Island under the theme, “**The People's Caravan of Conscience and Commitment to End Systemic Racism**”, with the support of CURT, S.I.D.A. and other grass root organizations, to highlight the existence of Systemic Racism in the Country.



## Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

*Assemblyman Charles D. Fall will be a guest speaker at our July 21 General Membership Meeting. He provided the following biography for publication in the newsletter*

### **Charles D. Fall**

**A**ssemblyman Charles D. Fall represents New York's 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District covering the North Shore of Staten Island, where he has resided his whole life.

Fall is the first Muslim and African-American Assemblymember elected from Staten Island. He comes from a working-class family of seven. His parents immigrated to Staten Island from Guinea, West Africa, and displayed a commitment to improving the lives of those around them. Fall's legislative priorities revolve around comprehensive strategies to ensure stable and healthier communities. This includes expanding resources for teachers, parents and students to resolve academic disparities; creating affordable housing options; ensuring individuals and families have sufficient health coverage and access to vital services; improving transportation infrastructure and other long-standing community concerns on the North Shore.

Since his election into the New York State Assembly in 2018, Assemblyman Fall has passed 4 pieces of legislation. Marie's Law, A.4784-C, strengthens protections for minors against felony sex offenders by barring offenders from living in the same household or visiting with those they have abused. Fellow Staten Islander, Diane Savino, carried the bill through the senate. Assemblyman Fall was also able to extend the M.T.A. Small Business Mentorship Program for another 10 years under bill A.8020. Currently the majority of the program's 240 contracts go to minority and women owned businesses. This legislation extends the program to 2029. The Assemblyman also passed bill A.7250 which brings much needed regulation to trampoline parks throughout New York. Finally, the Assemblyman passed bill A.8035 which strengthens workers' rights by formally defining the title of employer so that every company can be held responsible for their workers health safety and benefits.

In addition to the Assemblyman's legislative initiatives, he was able to secure funding for several important projects throughout the Island. Specifically, he helped to secure over \$1 million for schools, disability organizations and cultural institutions across the North Shore of Staten Island. He has also worked with concerned community members to form a task force focused on improving youth opportunity and strengthening community unity in and around the Park Hill community.

Finally, the Assemblyman advocated for the North Shore to receive 10 million dollars in the N.Y.S. Downtown revitalization effort. He has also been a strong voice in securing the Verrazano Bridge tolls freeze for Staten Island residents.



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# **Wear a Mask**

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## June 2020 Minutes

### General Meeting June 16, 2020 Via Zoom

President Mohan called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. He reminded the S.I.D.A. members and the participants about the ground rules to conduct the meeting smoothly. He thanked all the participants for having taken time to attend the meeting. He requested that members observe a moment a silence to honor Rev. Maggie Howard of Staten Island U.A.M.E. Church who passed away recently. Rev Maggie Howard was a recipient of 2020 the *Staten Island Advance* Women of Achievement Award and President Mohan recalled meeting her at interfaith meetings and police community meetings. He added that Rev. Maggie Howard will be very missed and her legacy will live on in the community.

President Mohan spoke about the COVID-19 situation and provided members with some statistics. He added that New York State and City offices will be re-opening. Vaccine testing is progressing. President Mohan urged members to continue to take precautions so they can remain safe.

President Mohan mentioned that New York City is facing budget deficits and still hoping for an additional stimulus package. President Mohan shared the information on the repeal of 50-A and pointed to the ongoing unrest on racism and police brutality. He hopes people show respect to each other to alleviate further tension and hardship.

President Mohan also shared about the recent Supreme Court ruling 6-3 protecting gay and transgender workers from workplace discrimination and ensures that they can work without fear of losing their jobs as well as additional protections.

Lastly, President Mohan mentioned about S.I.D.A.'s role in supporting NAACP in organizing **"People's Caravan of Conscience and Commitment to End Systemic Racism"** car rally. He thanked both Executive Secretary Dennis Brown and Executive Committee member Clara Ogburn for having taken a lead role in planning and assisting NAACP. The event is scheduled to take place on June 28 and information will be sent to everyone.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker

President Mohan invited the first speaker Allyn Crawford, the Democratic candidate for Civil Court Judge, to share his campaign efforts for the Civil Court Judge and his goals for this office. Mr. Crawford spoke about his background, his legal experience, and his community activities.

He has served as a pro bono attorney helping people who are in need of legal help. After his presentation, Mr. Crawford answered questions from several members in attendance. He also invited members to his virtual fundraiser, scheduled for July 1, at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Guest Speaker

Wayne Spence, President of New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), was the second guest speaker. His union represents 54,000 New York State employees. Mr. Spence spoke about the Union's role to help members especially in this critical time.

Having lot of front-line workers, PEF made sure all the front-line workers are provided with P.P.E. and gloves and other necessary equipment needed to protect themselves. PEF also provided them hotel accommodations to make their stay convenient and provide safeguards.

PEF is making sure the Government provides additional death benefits to the front-line workers due to their critical nature of work. PEF is hoping that New York State gets stimulus funding so that the New York State Governor does not come down heavily with lay-off's, as he has been warning that more than 10% of state employees could be laid off. There is a long battle ahead and as a union president Mr. Spence said that he is doing everything to protect his members. Mr. Spence took some questions from members and shared his expertise in the field of labor unions and his close connection with other International Unions like S.E.I.U., A.F.C.I.O. and A.F.T.

President Mohan announced that he wanted to appoint Ruben Adeshuko to chair S.I.D.A.'s Labor Committee.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Guest Speaker**

Ms. Selena Grey of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) was the third speaker. Ms. Grey focused mainly on the front-line workers that her union represents. A lot of work needs to be done to make sure their return to work is safe and that all safety measures are addressed to provide them and others a safe environment. Ms. Grey's members, most of whom are nurses, have done remarkable work by saving the lives of many people suffering from COVID -19. They have made many sacrifices, working long hours to make sure the hospitals are sufficiently staffed. After her presentation, Ms. Grey took questions from several members.

### **May Minutes**

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

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

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

### **Executive Secretary's Report**

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown reported that two days after George Floyd was murdered, he spoke with NAACP President Ed Josey about an idea to hold a People's Caravan to End Systemic Racism. Mr. Josey consulted with Dr. Hazel Dukes who supported the idea. S.I.D.A. held meetings with NAACP and decided to work together to hold the People's Caravan and scheduled it for June 28. Dennis explained that S.I.D.A. partnered with NAACP and, CURT (Citizens United Respect and Trust). He told members that the caravan would meet at 2:00 p.m. on June 28, at the Home Depot on Targee Street, and they planned to pass various locations from the North Shore to the South Shore.

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

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky thanked Sharon Santana who has been working with her to help plan various events. She reported that due to the pandemic we may not be able to have the annual picnic which had been scheduled for August. Pearl also mentioned that we may not have the annual banquet. Sharon has been exploring having a virtual fundraiser with a murder mystery theme.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided the Treasurer's Report. She reported that there were no outstanding bills.

### **Human Rights Committee**

Chair Clara Ogburn reminded members about the People's Caravan event scheduled for June 28. She asked that anyone interested in participating email her at [jusclasu@yahoo.com](mailto:jusclasu@yahoo.com).

### **Media, Public Relations, and Web Design Committee**

Chair Roy Moskowitz reported that he has had conversations about changing the hosting company. He also mentioned that David Goldfarb is amenable to giving the club access to the domain name. There will be more information in the future.

### **Issues Committee**

Co-chairs are Richard Reichard and Jasmine Robinson. Jasmine reported that she is working on an Issues Paper, and Soji and Dami are also working on a paper. Richard and Jasmine urged members to let them know if they have an idea for a paper.

Jasmine made a motion that S.I.D.A. host a round table to discuss Criminal Justice. Soji seconded the motion. Jasmine wants to invite D.A. McMahon, N.Y.C. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Councilwoman Debi Rose, and N.Y.S. Attorney General Tish James to the event. The motion carried. President Mohan mentioned that this will be discussed further at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dwyer  
Corresponding &  
Recording Secretary*



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## Letters

*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](http://www.silive.com). Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.*

*On-line June 25, 2020*

*Printed June 28, 2020*

### **Confederates Shouldn't Have Statues**

**W**hy should the nation honor men who lead an insurrection against the country, many of whom violated the oath they took "to bear true allegiance to the United states of America," with a statue or having a military base or street on a military base named for them?

There are 10 military bases named for a Confederate general who took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the Confederate States of America, which protected the institution of slavery.

In the U.S. military, where one in six members is Black, why should any military base be named for a person who pledged allegiance to the institution of slavery?

In Fort Hamilton, there are streets named for Confederate Generals Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, both of whom violated their oath to the United States and took an oath to “yield obedience to the Confederate States of America.”

Don’t you think we can find two New Yorkers whose military service should be recognized by having a street named for them?

Benedict Arnold, while still recognized in history books for his role in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and other battles during the Revolutionary War, has no statues or plaques that bear his name because he betrayed America.

These members of the Confederacy, like Benedict Arnold, are traitors to the country. Their military careers will always be covered in history books, but, like Benedict Arnold, they should never receive the honor of having a statue or their name on a street or military base.

- Richard Reichard

*On-line June 25, 2020*

*Printed June 28, 2020*

### **Comparing Apples to Oranges is Risky**

I see Tom Wroblewski is at it again -- giving us a prescription for joining the recent surge in cases experienced by states who opened too early. We should be proud of our governor’s handling on the pandemic. The N.Y. “curve” is remarkable and your editorialist wants to put that at risk by again comparing apples to oranges.

People marching in his cover picture are 99 % wearing masks and are on the move in an outdoor

situation. This makes their risk extremely low, whereas videos of New Yorkers entertaining themselves show 99% of them not wearing masks, standing still and broadcasting potential contamination by being engaged in sustained conversation.

This is probably one of the reasons the Minnesota statistic is as low as it is. Protestors will respond as necessary to a social ill while being as careful as they can, while the revelers are just exercising their “right to have fun” and are being careless and irresponsible, as is Wroblewski, really endangering the rest of us.

- Michael Sirotta



NAN August 28 March on Washington



## **Commitment March: Get Your Knee Off Our Necks!**

**Instigated from the protest movement that has risen up since the police killing of George Floyd, the ‘Get Off Our Necks’ Commitment March on Washington will be a day of action that will demonstrate our commitment to fighting for policing and criminal justice.**

**The Commitment March will take place on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 — the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historical March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech.**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**To protect your health and the health of others, in compliance with COVID-19 Washington, DC Health Guidance for Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment, you are required to wear a PPE mask in public in Washington, DC.**

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges those participating in large gatherings to use face masks.**

**For more information or questions regarding the march, please call**

**1-877-626-4651 or visit**

**<https://nationalactionnetwork.net/register-for-nans-march-on-washington-get-your-knee-off-our-necks/>.**



July 21, 2020	August 18, 2020
<b>General Meeting, 7:45 p.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>• “Systemic Racism in America and the NAACP’s Fight to Eliminate This Practice,”  <b>Edward Josey</b>, President, Staten Island Branch of the NAACP</li> <li>• <b>Charles D. Fall</b>, Assemblyman 61<sup>st</sup> District</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
_____ - 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.  
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