



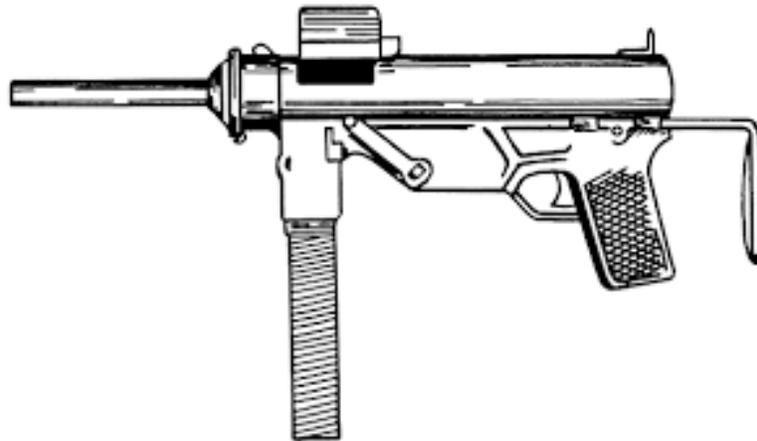
June 2018

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



Presentation of Federal Gun Control Position Paper

Tuesday, June 17, 2018, 8:00 P.M.

****PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATON****

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:

July	July 2
August	July 30

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

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

Janet M. Wilson

September 8, 1948 – May 15, 2018

Meeting Location

**** PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION ****

Oriental Plaza

1845 Richmond Avenue
Staten Island NY 10314



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

June 2018

Our Democracy Is At Stake: A Call To Action!

Too many of our citizens are unprotected from the political divisiveness that is tearing our democracy apart. These are independent and hardworking individuals who still have hope that their government can preserve their way of life and even improve it. However, the local political *old boys club*, fake news and party politics often cause a decrease in voter turnout and distrust in our local politicians.

The people and their concerns are worth protecting. Good public schools are essential so their children have a chance to advance. They need a competitive playing field for their small businesses, a fair shake in consumer disputes and a realistic shot at justice in the courts. They need a government to provide and ensure access to good healthcare, and which sees to it that no one goes hungry when temporary setbacks take away their jobs, or when disasters like Hurricane Sandy destroy their homes and businesses. They need a government that can ensure a safe workplace and a living minimum wage. They need a government to keep the political system fair and protect it from the dominion of those who give politicians the most money. They need fair labor laws and politicians willing to fight against income equality.

Within our own Democratic Party, our internal turmoil is causing us to lose sight of these important issues. This polarization is getting in the way of progress and change in our community. We are teaching the next generation of leaders and voters to vote only their own best interests and not the interests of the whole. We must fight against the establishment's hold on our belief that we are stronger when we listen to them; it is simply not true. Our local politics is a prime example of the extent of our divide. Within our own Democratic Party we have individuals fighting for power and self-interest over the progression of our own party. This summer is the season for politics and elections, change is at hand. And although this is exciting, it is also revealing as to how we Democrats on Staten Island are fighting among ourselves more than we are fighting to solve issues. This goes beyond race, gender, sexuality and religion, and cuts to the core of our democracy, the very heartbeat of our community. The effect this will have over time will be deadening and the death of true democracy.

To the Staten Island Democratic Association I say "not on our watch!" I am calling for us to be the agents of change. Not too long ago this country had a president who stood up against the establishment, often becoming a martyr for his beliefs in change, unity and equality while right-wing politicians worked against him and also downplayed his achievements.

We must organize and fight for our party to do the right thing. To stand up against the establishment; this must be our revolution. We have to fix the leaks within, before we fix the cracks in the Republican Party. And as radical as this may sound, we must fight the power structure within our party that continues to choose who gets a chance and who doesn't. The time is now.

- Bobby Digi
President



Federal Gun Control Position Paper

Issues Committee Chair Richard Reichard wrote the following position paper on federal gun control. It will be presented and voted on at the June 19 General Membership Meeting.

FEDERAL GUN CONTROL

Background Checks

In 1997, the Supreme Court in *Printz v. United States* ruled that the federal government cannot compel state and local law enforcement officials to submit records of prohibited persons to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

As a result of the *Printz* decision, NICS is missing records of those who should be prohibited from obtaining a weapon.

There also have been actions taken at the federal level that has resulted in records not being entered into or removed from the background check system.

For example federal domestic violence law does not capture all those who should be included in the FBI background check system. The policy change made by the Justice Department that defined “fugitive from justice” as someone having crossed state lines has resulted in outstanding warrant records being removed from the background check system. Legislation passed in 2017 rescinded the requirement that the Social Security Administration submit to the background check system the names of those who have been “adjudicated as a mental defective.”

The Gun Control Act of 1968 mandated the licensing of individuals and companies engaged in the business of selling firearms. Licensed firearm dealers were prohibited from doing business anywhere except the address listed on their Federal Firearms License. The Firearms Protection Act of 1986 permitted licensed firearm dealers to conduct business at gun shows and narrowed the definition of those required to buy a license to those who devote “time, attention, and labor to dealing in firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the repetitive purchase and resale of firearms.”

The Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act, which was signed into law by President Clinton on November 30, 1993, requires that background checks be conducted on individuals before a firearm may be purchased from a federally licensed dealer, manufacturer or importer.

Unlike a licensed firearms dealer, an unlicensed person is not required to perform a background check on the person he is transferring, selling, trading, giving, transporting, or delivering a firearm to. The only prohibition they have is if they know or have reasonable cause to believe the buyer does not reside in the same State or is prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing firearms.

According to a study released in 2017 by Northwestern University and Harvard University, 22% of gun transfers are made without a background check.

The FBI has three business days to complete a background check. The overwhelmingly number of background checks are completed instantly. If a denial is not issued by the FBI within those three business days, it is within the licensed gun dealer’s discretion whether or not to transfer the firearm, if permitted by state law.

The background check on the gunman at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina was not completed within the three business days. The gun dealer was therefore allowed to proceed with the sale even though the shooter should have failed a background because of his history of unlawful controlled substance use.

In 2014, the FBI determined that 2,511 background checks that were not completed within three business days resulted in the transfer of a gun to an individual, who would have failed a background check.

The Tiahrt amendment to the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires the FBI to destroy all approved background check gun purchaser records within 24 hours.

The Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act prohibits background check documents from being recorded or maintained by any Federal, State or political subdivision, and prohibits the establishment of any system for the registration of firearms, firearm owners, or firearm transactions or dispositions, except for those prohibited from owning a firearm, even though records of background checks of prospective firearms purchasers help law enforcement deter fraud and detect dealers who might be providing false information about the purchaser of a firearm.

As well, corrupt dealers engage in practices that federal law enforcement could uncover by looking at patterns in background check records.

The Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 limits the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) from inspecting gun dealers more than once a year. Follow-up inspections are allowed only if multiple violations are found.

The Tiahrt amendment prohibits the ATF from requiring gun dealers to submit their inventories to law enforcement.

In states where gun transfers between unlicensed individuals are not subject to a background check, the United States Postal Service allows the mailing of weapons (not handguns) between individuals inside state lines. FedEx and UPS both prohibit the shipping of weapons.

Policy Position

The Staten Island Democratic Association supports legislation to:

- amend federal domestic violence law to prohibit all domestic and intimate partner abusers and stalkers from possessing a firearm; define “fugitive from justice” to include those with outstanding warrants who have not crossed state lines;
- require the Social Security Administration to submit to the FBI background check system, the records of those who have been adjudicated by a court, board, commission, or other lawful authority as being a danger to himself or others; or lacks the mental capacity to contract or manage his own affairs;
- require a background check on all gun transfers, regardless of whether or not the seller is a licensed firearms dealer;
- allow the FBI sufficient time to complete a background check on all gun transfers;
- allow Federal, State or political subdivision’s to retain NICS documents for the purpose of detecting fraud and corruption by gun dealers;
- lift the limit on the number of inspections of gun dealers by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms;
- require gun dealers to submit their inventories to the ATF;
- prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from mailing all weapons to unlicensed persons.

Firearm Tracing

The Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 prohibits the federal government from creating a national registry of firearm ownership.

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act prohibits the establishment of any system for the registration of firearms, firearm owners, or firearm transactions or dispositions, except for those prohibited from owning a firearm.

When the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) receives a request from law enforcement to conduct a trace on a firearm, the ATF using the serial number, traces the firearm from the manufacturer or importer, through the wholesaler to gun shop. The gun shop goes to their ledger and provides the ATF with the name of the person the firearm was sold to. (They are not required to keep computerized records.)

If the gun shop went out of business, their records are shipped to the ATF Warehouse in West Virginia. The West Virginia facility has more than 285 million records from out-of-business gun shops.

The ATF cannot establish a computerized database of the records. They use a manual system to find the correct gun shop and the record of who bought the firearm.

There are no records for the 22% of firearm transfers that are not made through a licensed gun dealer.

The Tiahrt amendment prohibits the ATF from releasing firearm trace data for use by researchers, litigants and members of the public.

Policy Position

The Staten Island Democratic Association supports the establishment of a computerized registry of firearm ownership and to allow firearm trace data to be used by researchers, litigants and members of the public.

Assault-Style Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

The Assault Weapons Ban, which was a subsection of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, prohibited the manufacture, transfer, or possession of semiautomatic assault weapons, as defined by the Act. The Act also prohibited the transfer and possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices that accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition. It allowed for possession and transfer of semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines that "were otherwise lawfully possessed on the date of enactment", September 13, 1994.

The Assault Weapons Ban expired on September 13, 2004.

In the 10 years prior to the assault weapons ban going into effect there were 19 mass shooting incidents, defined as six or more people shot and killed. The number of mass shooting declined to 12 during the ten years the ban was in effect. The number of mass shootings increased by 183% to 34 during the ten years after the ban expired.

In the fourteen years since the assault-weapons ban expired, up until the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School, there have been twelve mass shootings (six or more people shot and killed), where the gunman used a semi-automatic rifle. These mass shootings have resulted in 237 killed and 1,379 wounded.

There have been twenty mass shootings since the ban on high capacity magazines expired where a semi-automatic handgun was used. Many models of semi-automatic handguns accept high-capacity magazines. These twenty mass shootings have resulted in 202 deaths and 123 wounded.

Policy Position

The Staten Island Democratic Association supports legislation to:

- ban the manufacture or transfer of semiautomatic assault-style weapons. A semi-automatic assault-style weapon shall be defined as any rifle built using the AR-15 or related platform that fires a single round for each pull of the trigger, automatically reloading in between each shot until the ammo is depleted.
- ban the manufacturer, transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices that accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Concealed Carry

There is an initiative in Washington to allow someone who has a concealed carry permit to carry in one state, to be allowed to legally conceal carry in all fifty states.

States, cities and localities have different requirements for obtaining a concealed carry permit. Allowing someone from one state to conceal carry in another state, city or locality would reduce the concealed carry requirements for all states, cities or localities to the state with the less stringent requirements.

Policy Position

The Staten Island Democratic Association opposes any legislation that would require states to allow someone with a concealed carry permit in one state, to be allowed to conceal carry in all fifty states.

Reporting Lost and

Stolen Weapons

There are between 300,000 and 600,000 weapons stolen every year in the U.S. Many of these weapons find their way into the hands of criminals.

Under federal law only licensed gun dealers are required to report lost or stolen weapons to the ATF within 48 hours of discovery.

Policy Position

The Staten Island Democratic Association supports legislation to require all gun owners to report a lost or stolen weapon to the ATF within 48 hours of discovery and to hold the gun owner criminally liable for failing to notify the ATF with the 48 hours.



**S.I.D.A.'s annual dinner
is scheduled for
Thursday, **September 6,**
at The Crystal Room.**

May 2018 Minutes

**General Meeting
May 15, 2018
Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Avenue**

President Digi called the meeting to order at 8:20 pm at the Oriental Plaza, a new meeting location. He spoke about the agenda for the evening.

Endorsement Vote – Part 1

President Digi reminded members that the club would be holding an endorsement vote for the contested November races. Dennis Brown made a motion to close the voting at 9:45 p.m. Phil Blitz seconded the motion. The motion carried with 13 in favor, 6 opposed and no abstentions.

April Minutes

Peter Killen made a motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Susan Chew seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Prisco Essay Contest

Chair Susan Chew announced that the Third Annual S.I.D.A. Loretta & Gene Prisco Memorial Essay Competition Awards Ceremony will be held on June 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at Congregation Ohel Abraham 136 Amador Street, off South Avenue. She requested that members who wish to attend please contribute \$5.00 to help cover refreshments. Susan also asked members planning to attend the ceremony to email her at schew61@aol.com.

Guest Speaker

Adam Barbanel- Fried of Changing the Conversation Together mentioned that he is a friend of Gabrielle and Re Horowitz-Prisco. Mr. Barbanel-Fried is a professional community organizer with 18 years of union, community, and political organizing experience in multiple cities and regions. He spoke about Changing the Conversation Together for Action which is a group of concerned citizens that use the evidence based strategy of “Deep Canvassing” to defeat Donald Trump and his Republican supporters. Deep Canvassing is an empathetic, listening based method that leads to respectful conversation. Mr. Barbanel- Fried explained that he provides free training and the next training will be held on June 3. His work has resulted in the building of schools, development of affordable housing, and expansion of health care to thousands of low income and marginalized people. He distributed information to S.I.D.A. members and guests and also encouraged them to sign up for the training. After his presentation he took questions from several members.

Endorsement Vote – Part 2

Dami, Dave, and Roy volunteered to count the ballots for the evening’s endorsement vote.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Radhakrishna Mohan provided members with a brief summary of important highlights from the Executive Committee meeting held on April 26.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown reported that the date of the next S.I.D.A. Executive Committee meeting was changed to May 23, 8:00 p.m. at Canvas Art Institute. The date was changed due to the fact that County would be holding a meeting for their Executive Committee members on May 24. Dennis also announced that the County Convention will be held on Wednesday May 30, at The Excelsior Grand.

Social Secretary’s Report

Social Secretary Sharon Santana announced that the Annual Club picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 15 at Willowbrook Park and the annual dinner is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, at The Crystal Room. Sharon asked for members to volunteer to help at the events. She also encouraged members to make suggestions for the various awards for the Dinner.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with the open and closing balances. She also mentioned the various upcoming expenses.

Issues Committee

Chair Richard Reichard made the following motions:

Motion # 1

Moving the US embassy to Jerusalem should be the result of a negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, the Staten Island Democratic Association opposes the action was taken by President Trump.

Amended Motion #1

Moving the US embassy to Jerusalem should be the result of a negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, the Staten Island Democratic Association opposes the process by which the action was taken by President Trump.

The motion carried with 25 in favor, 7 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Motion # 2

The Staten Island Democratic Association opposes the decision by President Trump to withdraw from the P5 +1 nuclear agreement with Iran. The motion carried.

Ranked Voting

Dan Chilton spoke to members about Ranked Choice Voting and he distributed information.

Endorsement Vote Results

There were 46 ballots cast:

Governor

Cynthia Nixon*27
Andrew Cuomo 19
No Endorsement.....0

Lieutenant Governor

Kathy Hochul.....8
Jumanne Williams*30
No Endorsement.....8

Surrogate Court Judge
 Anthony Catalano9
 Matt Titone*33
 No Endorsement.....4
NYS State Senator, District 23
 Jasmine Robinson 17
 Diane Savino*25
NYS Assembly, District 61
 Patricia Kane..... 14
 Charles Fall.....3
 Bobby Digi*24
 No Endorsement.....5

* All candidates with an asterisk received a majority of votes cast and were endorsed by the club

Janet Wilson

Joann Olbrich announced sad news that long time member Janet Wilson passed away and club members observed a moment of silence.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary


ENDORSED CANDIDATES

S.I.D.A. endorsed the following candidates at is May 15 Meeting. Please help their campaigns gather petitions to get them on the ballot for the September 13 primary.

Governor
 Cynthia Nixon

Lieutenant Governor
 Jumanne Williams

Surrogate Court Judge
 Matt Titone

NYS State Senator, District 23
 Diane Savino

NYS Assembly, District 61
 Bobby Digi



3rd Annual Mark Herman Memorial Picnic



Sunday, July 15, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Summer & the Memory of Mark Herman
at Our 3rd Annual Mark Herman Memorial Picnic!

Volunteers needed to prepare, set up, cook, clean up
and eat, drink and be merry. Come one, come all.
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME.

Willowbrook Park Barbecue Area

Driving Directions:

Richmond Avenue, turn east on Eton Place
Barbecue area is behind the carousel.



For information contact Social Secretary Sharon Santana
shubarubon@aol.com



June 19, 2018	July 19, 2018
General Meeting 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.	General Meeting 8:00p.m. TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Federal Gun Control Position Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker TBD

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.

✂

2018 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.
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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