



June 2020

**Staten Island Democratic Association**  
*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*  
[www.sidems.org](http://www.sidems.org)

**At our Next Meeting:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Allyn Crawford,</b> Candidate for Civil Court Judge</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wayne Spence,</b> NYS PEF President, on New York State Worker's Frontline Role during the Pandemic Time</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Selina Grey,</b> NYSNA Union Representative, on the COVID-19 Reopening</li></ul>	

**Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 7:45 P.M.**  
**Via Zoom, see page 2**



## Instructions for Monthly Meeting via Zoom

*Due to the shelter in place mandate in New York State the May 19 General Membership Meeting will take place via remote conferencing. The instructions are listed below.*

**Staten Island Democratic Association  
General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, June 16  
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*  
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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

### **Black Lives Matter George Floyd's Life Taken Away Right in Front of Everyone – Isn't It High Time for a Common Sense Police Reform Across US**

**I**t is excruciating, immensely painful and gut wrenching to watch George Floyd's life being leebbed away under the knee pressure of an insane police officer who doesn't know when to stop, to be inhumane and mainly oblivious of his solemn duty that demands from him to protect. The horrible painful death suffered by George Floyd, has moved the whole nation into riots and protests breaking all over U.S., the country that assured freedom and right to its citizens. It didn't stop there with looting of shops of the shops, businesses especially minority owned local businesses has opened another pain to those innocent community who are already reeling under COVID-9 crisis. The systemic racism lies unknown against Black Americans and minorities, which flares up now and then when incidents like Eric Garner's and now George Floyd's death happens. We are not sure, when as a society, as a community and as a nation, we are going to free from the clutches of human hatred and evil behavior especially from the police brutality, so that we can all breathe freely in the world, living in unity.

Finally, with former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was charged previously with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree murder and has had the charge elevated to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, and with all the other three officers, who are also now charged with aiding and abetting the murder, heading to Court, it still will be a long drawn process to convict them.

As President Obama spoke to the nation June 3<sup>rd</sup>, a sense of hope lightened up in the minds of those who watched it. "Every step of progress in this country, every expansion of freedom, every expression of our deepest ideals have been won through efforts that made the status quo uncomfortable," said Mr. Obama, "and we should all be thankful for folks who are willing, in a peaceful, disciplined way, to be out there making a difference."

The above speech from former President Obama is stark contrast in nature when compared with our current President Trump's speech who threatened to call the army to put down the riots and protests, by overruling state governors if necessary by invoking Insurrection Act of 1807. This is nothing but putting people against the U.S. Army. Thankfully and righteously the Defense Secretary Mark Esper has stated that he is not going support the idea of using active duty troops to quell the riots and protests. As usual, anyone who opposes the President for his own good, their days are numbered.

How do we heal from here and move on. We all have to hope and pray that we will soon overcome this difficult time as one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

**With COVID19**, winding down, with effective social distancing and other safety measures followed by most of the community members in most of the states, New York and New Jersey are planning to enter phase 2 with partial opening of businesses and other services as all these measures are data driven with scientific basis. A quick glance of this month's COVID-19 status compared to last month is as follows:

<b>June 10</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>World Cases</b>	
7.4 million.....	3.9 million
<b>World Deaths</b>	
404,000.....	273, 000
<b>U.S. Cases</b>	
2 million.....	1. 2 million
<b>U.S. Deaths</b>	
113,097.....	77, 298
<b>New York Cases</b>	
384,945.....	335,804
<b>New York Deaths</b>	
30,376.....	26,358
<b>Staten Island Cases</b>	
13,610.....	12,000
<b>Staten Island Deaths</b>	
1,015.....	800

One of the good news received on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, that there is no death reported due to Coronavirus with only 84 new hospital admissions in New York City. Coronavirus is declining but at the same time, people should be cautious as not to drop their safety and caution.

Unfortunately, new cases of the novel coronavirus are rising faster than ever **worldwide**, at a rate of more than 100,000 a day over a seven-day average.

Meanwhile aggressive efforts are underway to find a vaccine with the following companies leading the way for it - Moderna in partnership with NIAID, The University of Oxford, Eli Lilly and Company, and AstraZeneca vaccine with testing on humans being initiated in small number of people later to be expanded when they are ready.

## **NEWS ROUND UP**

### **US International News:**

- 1) President Trump, postponed the G7 summit and wants to invite Russia to rejoin the group. Making the announcement while returning from the SpaceX launch in Florida, he said he also planned to invite South Korea, Australia and India to the summit, with an adviser adding that the idea was to bring together traditional allies to discuss China.
- 2) President Trump wants to withdraw from WHO and defund them as he thinks that China is dominating World Health Organization.
- C) U.S. is to end special treatment toward Hong Kong in opposition to China's aggressive control of Hong Kong.

### **US National News:**

US made history after a 9 year lull, on Wednesday, June 3 at 9.25 p,m, SpaceX launched its eighth Starlink mission Falcon 9 which lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Falcon 9 carried two Astronauts, Robert L. Behnken and Douglas G. Hurley, arrived and locked with the Space Station on a precision time after 19 hours of journey. This expedition has the potential to pave way for space tourism.

### **New York State News:**

- 1) The primary is here on June 23 and people are encouraged to go apply for an absentee ballot.
- 2) Demand is growing for the repeal of 50-a section of the New York Civil Rights Law that deems the “personnel records” of police officers, firefighters and corrections officers “confidential and not subject to inspection or review” without the officer's permission which was enacted in the 1970’s.

### **Staten Island News**

- 1) The total Coronavirus death toll increased to 1,015 as of June 10<sup>th</sup>. 2). There were several George Floyd rallies and peaceful protest held in State Island as a mark of respect to the victim of police brutality.
- 3) NAACP is organizing “The People’s Caravan of Conscience and Commitment to End Systemic Racism” rally on June 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with CURT and S.I.D.A. helping to organize along with other grassroots organizations, labor unions and other activists in Staten Island, with a caravan route starting from Park Hill and ending in an area yet to be determined in the South Shore. A heartfelt thanks to our Executive Secretary Dennis Brown and Clara Ogburn who are taking a lot of initiative to coordinate with NAACP and CURT to make this mission a successful one.

As our Nation is in a historic turmoil with the continued unrest coupled with the Coronavirus pandemic, it is time for the lawmakers to come together to put an end to the systemic racism in the country, to let peace prevail in our country with all citizens living together in harmony. I hear the echo of Rev. Martin Luther King’s words “I have a Dream” still ringing in distance.

I wish everyone to 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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## **Allyn J. Crawford**

*Allyn Crawford is the Democratic Candidate for Civil Court Judge and will be a guest speaker at our June 16 General Membership Meeting. He provided the following biography for publication in the newsletter.*

**ALLYN CRAWFORD**  
★★★★★ **FOR CIVIL COURT JUDGE**

**A**llyn J. Crawford is a fourth generation Staten Islander who has practiced law for over 25 years, as a trial lawyer, litigator and business attorney. He has been a small business owner since 2006 when he founded his solo law practice. Over 14 years, that practice has grown to become one of Staten Island’s most prestigious law firms. A past President of the Richmond County Bar Association, he has devoted his career to seeking justice for his clients. From

individuals to small businesses to large institutions, banks and trade groups, his service to the people of Staten Island to ensure that their rights have been vigorously and fairly represented have established his reputation for hard work, humility and legal knowledge.

Outside of his professional life, he has devoted his time to numerous community organizations and groups and has volunteered his time, pro bono, to numerous not for profit organizations. The parent of two children, he gave his time as a baseball and softball coach, Boy Scout leader and watched them develop into successful adults. He and his wife Laurie are proud of their family and their professional success, and look forward to his election to the Civil Court, where he can continue to serve the people of Staten Island and continue his career in the law.

His official campaign website is <https://www.crawfordforcivilcourt.com/>



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## Selina Grey

*Selina Grey, a NYSNA Union Representative will be a guest speaker at our May 16 General Membership Meeting and will discuss post COVID-19 - the reopening during COVID-19 and what it will look like for the community. She provided the following biography for publication in the newsletter.*

### **Selina Grey**

Selina Grey was born to a union family and grew up in public housing attending local public schools. Following in her parents footsteps, Selina became a proud member of the United Steelworkers Union and married her soulmate who is a member of S.E.I.U./O.P.E.I.U. Today, she is political and community organizer for the New York State Nurses Association.

Under the mentorship of Marjorie Garvin, Selina became more active with local community organizations. She served on the Executive Board, SIAAPA (Staten Island African American Political Assoc.) which allowed her to come into contact with legendary Staten Island leaders who encouraged Selina to become a community advocate. Selina is a member of MOBB, and of the Staten Island Political Action Club. She is on the steering committee of the essential workers campaign and am an active participant in NY-11 for Healthcare.

Selina is an active member of the NAACP Staten Island chapter and a volunteer with the chapter's Youth Council to use her energy towards a world where the civil rights of all is protected. Selina has managed the campaigns of Debi Rose, Pat Kane and Edwina Martin, all women candidates with strong commitments to the people of Staten Island. Selina is a resident of Mariners Harbor, Staten Island and is committed to expand their work.



## Wayne Spence

*Wayne Spence, President of the N.Y.S. Public Employees Federation (PEF) will be a guest speaker at our May 16 General Membership Meeting and discuss New York State worker's frontline role during the pandemic time. He provided the following biography.*

### Wayne Spence

**W**ayne Spence, was born on the island of Jamaica. At the age of 10, he immigrated to the United States, and has called the New York City area home ever since.

During his 24 years in state government working as a parole officer, Wayne has been very active in the Public Employees Federation. Before being elected PEF's first African-American president in June of 2015, he held numerous leadership positions in the union, having served as PEF Vice President, Shop Steward, Division Health and Safety Chair, Executive Board Member, Long Island Political Action Co-Chair and Assistant Council Leader of Division 236 (DOCCS/Parole) for several years. He currently serves as an appointed member of N.Y.S. Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's Advisory Council (NYSLRS) and on the A.F.T. Nurses & Health Professionals Program Policy Council. Wayne has received the Beta Sigma Fraternity 2015 Service Award and is also a 2016 recipient of the City & State Albany Power 100 award, and recipient of the 2016 Cleveland Robinson Labor Award. He was elected Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers (A.F.T.), and is also an Executive Council member of the N.Y.S. A.F.L.-C.I.O. Wayne is an Executive Board member of S.E.I.U. and a card carrying member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (C.B.T.U.).

Wayne is known as a leader who demands the union and the state follow through on mandates, especially for member health and safety and community safety issues. He helped to change parole policies to ensure that pregnant officers were not required to place themselves and their unborn children at risk by executing felony warrants; and secured state management action to install metal detectors after incidents of violence with weapons had occurred.

Wayne graduated from a top public school, The Bronx High School of Science. He then went on to graduate from the New York Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Throughout college he was known as a student leader and respected for his passionate advocacy for the student body. He founded the NYIT/Central Islip Campus Caribbean Society in 1996.

Wayne is a certified Police Fire Arms Instructor and Instructor Evaluator. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care and sits on the First Baptist Church of Freeport Trustee Board.

Wayne is happily married and the proud father of three children.



## June 23 Primary, State Senate 23<sup>rd</sup> District

*On June 23 there will be a Democratic primary for the N.Y.S. Senate District 23. Rajiv Gowda is challenging incumbent Diane Savino. S.I.D.A. did not have an endorsement vote for this race. In order to aid our members the Executive Committee decided that the biographies of both candidates should be published in the newsletter. They are published here in order of last name. Mr. Gowda's is a reprint of his submission to the March newsletter, and Senator Savino's was taken from her Senate page.*



I would like to begin by thanking the Staten Island Democratic Association. For nearly 60 years, this organization has been a champion of democratic ideals and a beacon for those who believe in the important role the public plays in government.

My name is Rajiv Gowda and I am seeking the 2020 Democratic Party nomination for the 23<sup>rd</sup> New York State Senate District representing the North and East Shores of Staten Island and portions of Southern Brooklyn.

I am a former 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Local 375, D.C. 37, and a former delegate to both D.C. 37 and the Central Labor Council. With my history in Organized Labor and my experience building a family while working a union job, I know the importance of extending this same opportunity to as many New York workers as possible. As I have done for 20+ years of my life, I will continue to fight for union rights and the rights of our working class, for it is they who truly power the Empire State.

I am the former President of District 31, Community Educational Council. Staten Island is due millions of dollars for our schools, which can be used to improve the school grounds, for better equipment for all educational programs, to increase the wages of the teachers who mold our children, and to combat depression, bullying and violence.

I am a retired N.Y.C. engineer with nearly 30 years of experience and the former Chairman of the Transportation and Waterfront Committee of Community Board #1. I have the background to isolate the problems plaguing our communities and the experience to know how to best address them. These include confronting the increasing congestion in our neighborhoods and dealing with the B.Q.E.

I have lived on Staten Island for the last 25 years of my life. I know the issues that New Yorkers face on a daily basis, but even more specifically I know what is happening on our island. Staten Island has high rates of autism and asthma. I will fight for aggressively improving the air quality so that all families who seek to raise their children here will be healthy.

Based on my vision, background and experience I believe I am the strongest candidate in this election. I humbly request the endorsement of the Staten Island Democratic Association. May God bless Staten Island. May God bless the State of New York. And may God bless the United States of America.

New York State Senator Diane J. Savino (Democrat, Independent, Staten Island-Brooklyn) was born and raised in Astoria, Queens and was educated at Most Precious Blood Elementary School and Dominican Commercial High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from St. John's University and has a degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.

Diane Savino has dedicated her entire professional career towards improving the lives of working families. She began her career in public service as a caseworker for New York City's Child Welfare Administration, providing direct assistance to abused and neglected children.

An active member of her local labor union, the Social Service Employees Union, Local 371, DC 37 of AFSCME, she quickly rose through the ranks to become the Vice President for Political Action & Legislative Affairs, where she became one of the most respected labor leaders in New York State.

As a labor official, she successfully campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15 an hour—the first raise for New Yorkers in over a decade. As a Senator and Chair of the Labor Committee, she continued her commitment to workers by supporting and advocating for a further increase to \$9.00 an hour as part of the enacted in the 2013-14 State Budget.

In 2004, she was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District, which encompasses the North and East Shores of Staten Island and portions of Southern Brooklyn, including Bensonhurst, Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Dyker Heights, Gravesend and Sunset Park.

In their endorsement of Senator Savino, the New York Times described her as “scrappy and effective”. Her dedication to her constituents earned her the Staten Island Advance’s “strongest endorsement for a third term”, saying, “no lawmaker works harder and no lawmaker commits herself to the fight for her constituents more than Ms. Savino”. City and State Newspaper has rated her as one of the 100 Most Influential People in New York State (2013 and 2014) and one of the 100 Most Influential People in New York City (2014).

Senator Savino’s hard work and influence was evidenced as she championed the Compassionate Care Act through the legislative process despite opposition and a campaign of misinformation. The ACT will allow New Yorkers with serious medical conditions limited access to medical marijuana under the supervision of health care professionals and under strict state regulations.

Senator Savino has authored numerous laws protecting hard-working New Yorkers. Among the laws she has had enacted is the first in the nation Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, expanding basic worker protection rights to domestic workers; the Prompt Pay Bill, which ensures prompt payment to construction contractors and their employees; Wage Theft Prevention Act, assessing preventative and punitive measures on employers who steal income from their employees; and another national first, The New York State Commercial Goods Transportation Industry Fair Play Act, establishing new standards for determining whether a commercial truck driver is an employee or an independent contractor, helping to further protect workers' rights statewide.



## 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 May 22, 2020*

### **On Coronavirus, Trump Failed to Listen, Prepare**

At least a dozen times during the months of January and February, the intelligence community, through the "Presidential Daily Brief," made clear to Trump that China was suppressing information about how lethal the coronavirus was and how it was being passed from person to person. It also raised the prospect of dire political and economic consequences for failure to act.

However, during the same time period, Trump on numerous occasions was praising China and Chinese President Xi on their handling of the coronavirus outbreak.

On Jan. 24, Trump tweeted: "China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!"

During his State of the Union address on Feb. 4, Trump said: "We are coordinating with the Chinese government and working closely together on the coronavirus outbreak in China."

Trump tweeted on Feb. 7: "...President Xi of China. He is strong, sharp, and powerfully focused on leading the counterattack on the Coronavirus. ...Great discipline is taking place in China, as President Xi strongly leads what will be a very successful operation. We are working closely with China to help!"

During an interview with Fox News's Geraldo Rivera on Feb. 13, Trump said: "I think they've handled it professionally, and I think they're extremely capable, and I think President Xi is extremely capable...."

Speaking to reporters from India on Feb. 25, Trump said: "[Xi] is working very hard. He is very capable. The country is very capable. And it snuck up on him, but I think he's going to do well."

Now that his handling of coronavirus pandemic in the U.S. is being criticized, Trump is saying that China, and not he, is responsible for the spread of pandemic in the U.S.

True, China was not being transparent and honest, however, Trump was told on more than a dozen occasions that China was suppressing the truth.

For whatever reason, he ignored what the intelligence community was telling him.

Therefore, Trump must accept responsibility for his failure to listen to what the intelligence community was telling him and for his failure to prepare the country to address the coronavirus.

*- Richard Reichard*

*On-line June 4, 2020*

*Printed June 7, 2020*

### **White House COVID Response is a Tragedy**

The pandemic is a tragedy, as is the response from the White House. The disaster of more than 100,000 deaths was speeded up by Mr. Trump's firm belief that "only he can solve problems."

Narcissists don't need briefs or believe warnings. In fact, he doesn't need scientists, an intelligence community or ambassadors. He knows he has lackeys in place who will shut up and

carry out his wishes. If we don't die of corona, the environment will kill us if we follow his desired policies.

There's more at work along with, "only I can solve problems, or "I can do anything I want," and "I can shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and get away with it." Why would he, with these beliefs, explore history or reference anything outside of himself?

Another grave danger to us all is that safeguarding from independent sources are a threat to his desire for total authority. Note the newest firings of four independent safeguarding inspector generals.

He's finally being called on his never-ending lies. Twitter has alerted the public to begin fact checking his invented "facts." Let's all do that for ourselves and for our country and for protecting ourselves from his examples of handling COVID.

- Ira Goldstein



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## May 2020 Minutes

### General Meeting May 19, 2020 Via Zoom

President Mohan called the Zoom Meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. He hoped that everyone is following social distancing and taking necessary precautions to keep safe during this pandemic. President Mohan also announced that Tom Scarangella was unable to speak because he was busy helping set up COVID-19 testing on Staten Island. He also mentioned that the curve was flattening and that re-opening the state must be done carefully. Vaccines are being tested and there is information available for getting tested. President Mohan saluted the people working on the front lines. President Mohan gave kudos to Bobby Digi who has been delivering food to people in the community.

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

Councilwoman Debi Rose thanked S.I.D.A. for inviting her to speak. She added that she feels President Mohan is doing an excellent job as S.I.D.A. President. She also mentioned that she was glad to see S.I.D.A. member and former Staten Island resident Todd Turner. Councilwoman Rose reported that we are in the middle of a painful budget in N.Y.C. There is no money for youth programs and there is a hearing on May 20 to fight to restore these programs. She mentioned that she has asked for money from the Heroes Act for essential services. Councilwoman Rose spoke about the fact that the President has created a big divide and we have a big job this year to make sure the current occupant in the White House does not return. Councilwoman Rose also said that we need to focus on the Senate races too. She mentioned that she is personally traumatized by voter suppression, and that we need to galvanize our forces. Councilwoman Rose mentioned that there will be absentee ballot applications for the June 23 primary available online.

Councilwoman Rose reported that her office helped distribute over 300,000 remote learning devices to students. She said that free meals are available to anyone who needs them, and they can be delivered to the sick and infirmed. In addition, \$25 million was put into the food pantry. She also mentioned that the City Council passed five bills to protect small businesses. The

councilwoman said she has been making calls to make sure that the North Shore get their fair share of resources. Councilwoman Rose told members that she is fighting for testing. She mentioned that there is state run drive through testing available at South Beach Psychiatric Hospital. She also mentioned other testing sites at First Central Baptist Church, state testing at Gotham (Vanderbilt and Tompkins Avenue). Other testing sites include P.S. 21, St John's Villa, and Tottenville High School. Call 311 for more information.

Councilwoman Rose told members that it is very important to get out to vote. She also spoke about the fact that the pandemic has brought to light that certain communities are suffering and there is unequal distribution of resources.

Councilwoman Rose also spoke about the importance of the Census because it predicates the amount of money we receive for many programs, e.g. Medicaid, Section 8, SNAP, and unemployment as well as money to fix roads, for schools, hospitals, and housing. She urged members to take 10 minutes to fill out the Census so we are not undercounted. It will affect the next 10 years. Web site for the Census is [www.2020census.gov/](http://www.2020census.gov/). Councilwoman Rose mentioned that she has one-page information sheet which she plans to send to President Mohan.

After the informative presentation Councilwoman Rose took questions from many S.I.D.A. members in attendance. President Mohan thanked Debi Rose for her presentation.

### **April Meeting Minutes**

President Mohan made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 30 General Meeting. The motion carried.

President Mohan announced that the various Democratic clubs on Staten Island are holding weekly meetings and working together to do collective fundraising. He introduced KC Hankins (President of the Young Dems). Mr. Hankins reported that the All Dems crew goal is to get Dems elected. He mentioned that they created a shared calendar to avoid an overlap of events. He will continue to host All Dems Events. KC announced that a tentative virtual fundraiser is being planned for Allyn Crawford, Candidate for Civil Court Judge, on June 11. Mr. Hankins also reported that the Young Dems are holding virtual trainings on Wednesdays and they are organizing phone banks.

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

Bobby Digi, co-owner of O'Henry's Publick House and immediate Past President of S.I.D.A., thanked President Mohan for the opportunity to speak and mentioned that President Mohan is doing a great job. He mentioned that he has opened a clinic on Targee Street. He encouraged members to get tested for COVID-19. He also gave kudos to Councilwoman Debi Rose.

Mr. Dig spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses. He explained that his restaurant, which took two years to build, opened in January. Mr. Digi and his business partner spent a lot of money to open the restaurant and unfortunately due to the virus he was forced to close it. This closure has taken its toll on their 15 employees. He mentioned that the restaurant went to take out and delivery mode. Mr. Digi explained that even though the business was closed rent is still due and he is fortunate to have a good landlord.

Bobby Digi said that small businesses are the backbone of America. He added that help from the Federal Government has been very slow. He mentioned that he applied for help from the government, but the pot of available money disappeared quickly. Mr. Digi knows that unfortunately many small businesses have not been able to survive. He feels small business owners

were left out without a paddle. Adding that the City Council has legislation to protect business owners.

Going forward, Bobby explained that restaurant owners will have to allow six feet between customers, and it will adversely affect the business. He urged S.I.D.A. to rally, protest and push for change. Bobby encouraged members to patronize small businesses.

Bobby mentioned that there is a lot they can do. [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) is the web site to apply for P.P.P. E.I.D.L. loans of \$10,000. He added that the Small Business Administration has the best portal. Bobby Digi told business owners not to give up. He urged them to call Congressman Max Rose. He said that disparity is mind blowing. Bobby mentioned that he is hoping that the next wave of money will be better.

He also mentioned that there is a lot of information available through the Food and Drug Administration. Other resources, CDC website [www.cdc.com](http://www.cdc.com), National Restaurant Organization. Bobby told members that he hopes restaurants will re-open in June. In closing Bobby said that we must advocate for small businesses in black and brown communities. After his presentation, Bobby took questions from several members.

President Mohan announced that the U.A.U. hearing to restore the Summer Youth Employment is on May 20.

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

Vice President Liz Price provided members with a brief summary from the Executive Committee meeting held on May 3.

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

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown thanked the 54 members who came out to participate in the virtual meeting. He mentioned that all politics are local. He spoke about working hard for the upcoming elections. He also wants members to support Congressman Max Rose and help him get him re-elected. Dennis mentioned that he hopes people will not re-elect our current President.

Dennis told members that he is a proud member of S.I.D.A., and he commends other clubs and associations. He feels we have all become united and progressive. Dennis extended his congratulations to Congressman Max Rose and his wife on the arrival of their new baby.

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

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky mentioned that she does not know if we will be able to obtain a permit for the picnic, tentatively scheduled for August. She said if we can have the picnic, she would like to go back to Willowbrook Park, adding that she would like to include entertainment and play games. Pearl mentioned that the annual banquet is tentatively scheduled for October 15 at The Crystal Room.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman said that the bank balance remains the same because there were no bills to pay or deposits received. She added that the club has saved money since the newsletter has not been printed and mailed out. She added that we need to check with Post Office regarding requirements for bulk mailing.

### **By-Laws Committee**

Committee Chair Joann Olbrich mentioned that she has not checked with Roberts Rules for Zoom meetings. She also added that we may need technical assistance to do voting virtually and anonymously.

### **Human Rights Committee**

Committee Chair Clara Ogburn reported that her committee has not had any recent meetings. She urged members to complete their census.

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

Committee Chair Roy Moskowitz reported that we need to change the hosting company and that a lot of members are not receiving emails that he has sent out. President Mohan mentioned that we will discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting.

### **Issues Committee**

Committee Chairs are Richard Reichard and Jasmine Robinson. Jasmine told members to let her and Richard know if they have an idea for an issues paper.

### **New Business**

Dennis reported that Rajiv Gowda, candidate for N.Y.S. Senate District 23, was at the meeting and wanted to speak to members about his candidacy. President Mohan recognized Mr. Gowda. Mr. Gowda told members that everyone should have a choice. He added that he had initially been knocked off the ballot as Senator Savino challenged him stating that he did not have enough signatures, but Mr. Gowda won reinstatement. Mr. Gowda mentioned he wants Staten Island to have a public hospital and wants to see term limits for candidates. President Mohan thanked Mr. Gowda for sharing his thoughts.

### **Announcements**

President Mohan reported that information will be going out about the Presidential Primary. Richard Reichard announced that Laura Swords father passed away.

Councilwoman Rose reminded members to fill out their 2020 Census, wear masks, and stay safe. She also gave kudos to KC Hankins, other teachers, and parents who are working with children with distance learning. Councilwoman Rose urged members to write a letter to the Mayor demanding they keep the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Longtime S.I.D.A. member Todd M. Turner gave a shout out to his S.I.D.A. friends. He is a Member of the County Council for Prince George's County, Maryland. He thanked S.I.D.A. for allowing him to reminisce.

President Mohan announced that items for the newsletter need to be sent to Chris Bauer by June 1. He also mentioned that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 28.

Helen Settles announced that testing for COVID-19 will start on May 20 at the Central Family Life Center. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dwyer  
Corresponding &  
Recording Secretary*



## Early Voting Hours

Find your early voting site at [www.vote.nyc](http://www.vote.nyc)

<b>Hours:</b>		
Saturday	June 13, 2020	10:00AM - 4:00PM 
Sunday	June 14, 2020	10:00AM - 4:00PM 
Monday	June 15, 2020	7:00AM - 3:00PM 
Tuesday	June 16, 2020	12:00PM - 8:00PM 
Wednesday	June 17, 2020	12:00PM - 8:00PM 
Thursday	June 18, 2020	10:00AM - 6:00PM 
Friday	June 19, 2020	7:00AM - 3:00PM 
Saturday	June 20, 2020	10:00AM - 4:00PM 
Sunday	June 21, 2020	10:00AM - 4:00PM 

## Peace Action of Staten Island Annual Meeting

### Peace Action of Staten Island

#### Workers' Solidarity in the Time of Crisis

Saturday, June 13, 2020 @ 2 pm

Online Annual Meeting of Peace Action of Staten Island



*The Annual Meeting of Peace Action of Staten Island (PASI) will go online this year with a forum on "Workers' Solidarity in the Time of Crisis."*

*This will be a ZOOM meeting.*

The following panelists will describe the challenges that youth and workers face that have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways workers and their supporters can respond.

#### **PANEL**

**Larry Goldbetter**

President, National Writers Union

**Tatiana Arguello**

Director of Workforce Development at United Activities Unlimited

**Selina Grey Brown**

New York State Nurses Association representative

**Sneferu Boatwright**

TWU Caucus Progressive Action

**Steve Lawton**

President, Communications Workers of America Local 1102

Moderator: **Dave Poleshuck, PASI Board Member**

Go to [www.peacesi.org](http://www.peacesi.org) to register for the meeting



<b>June 16, 2020</b> <b>General Meeting, 7:45 p.m.</b> <b>Via Zoom, see page 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selina Grey, NYSNA Union Representative, on the COVID-19 Reopening</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allyn Crawford, candidate for Civil Court Judge</li> <li>• Wayne Spence, N.Y.S. PEF President, on New York State Worker's Frontline Role during the Pandemic Time</li> </ul>	<b>July 21, 2020</b> <b>General Meeting, 8:00p.m.</b> <b>Venue T.B.D.</b>
	<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
_____ \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

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