



May 2017

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club
www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

**Staten Island Democratic Association
Installation**

MAY 16, 2017

7:30pm
Daddy O's
181 Bay St, Staten
Island, NY 10301




Followed by a Mixer

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 8:00 P.M.
Daddy O's, 181 Bay Street
(***PLEASE NOTE LOCATION***)



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:

June	June 5
July	July 3
August	July 31
September	September 4

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

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

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

May 2017

This month's President's Statement is by guest columnist Roy Moskowitz.

*Thanks,
Bobby Digi
President*

The Republicans began demonizing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) before it was even formulated because it was more important to them to prevent Obama from attaining any success than insuring more people and controlling healthcare costs. Knowing the president would never repeal his crowning achievement, Congressional Republicans voted to repeal Obamacare more than fifty times, without worrying about replacing it with something that wouldn't bankrupt millions of their constituents and ultimately cost countless Americans coverage. It was political theater aimed at their base, some of whom found pleasure in the notion of the uninsured dying.

While the right-wing media complex succeeded in making ACA unpopular in the abstract, in reality, only the mandate was universally disliked and most provisions proved to be popular, particularly covering pre-existing conditions, which almost everyone except the insurance industry liked. The Republican plan, the American Healthcare Act (AHCA), which could cost close to 25 million people coverage, was universally panned.

Republican repeal plans combined with angst over Trump's election and Republican plans to dismantle consumer and environmental protections and ultimately the "Great Society" and "New Deal, inspired people nationwide to call their Representatives and Senators, participate in town halls, and protest outside their district offices. Staten Island was no different, as Democrats and other local liberals and progressives led by S.I.D.A. members put on a full court press and successfully pressured Congressman Dan Donovan, who during his first term would do his boss Paul Ryan's bidding, even when it conflicted with his constituents' needs, to vote against AHCA.

House Republicans added some window dressing to their original bill which lacked sufficient support to be worth voting on and narrowly passed their Obamacare replacement. While many GOP house members have safe seats in heavily conservative districts, Republican Senators, particularly those in swing states, could face electoral reprisals if they are perceived to remove healthcare from a significant number of voters, so maintaining the pressure on elected officials could still prevent AHCA from negatively affecting the privately insured and those on Obamacare alike.

This type of social and civic action has been a S.I.D.A. tradition since its 1961 founding. Speaking of tradition, S.I.D.A. is starting a new tradition: formal installation of the Executive Committee. They will be formally sworn in by a judge, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening, May 16, at Daddy O's, 181 Bay Street. A member of the media will MC and an elected official will deliver the keynote.

- Roy Moskowitz



April 2017 Minutes

General Meeting April 18, 2017 Charlie Brown's Steakhouse

President Digi called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. He announced that guest speakers would be Councilwoman Debi Rose and former S.I.D.A. President Rich Reichard.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Bryan Ellicott presented highlights from the recent Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided the closing bank balance and reported that she received money for dues and reported the various bills that she paid during the month.

Human Rights Committee

Chair Clara Ogburn gave a brief report on the status of her committee.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown wasn't able to attend meeting.

President Digi suggested having the S.I.D.A. Installation of Officers at a new venue on Bay Street Daddy O's. The event is scheduled for May 16.

Sally Jones spoke about money spent on the military. Cindy Voorspuy reminded members about the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Brunch scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at the Colonnade. Mohan reminded members that the South Shore Dems are sponsoring a fundraiser for Mayor de Blasio on April 19.

First Speaker

Vice President Bryan Ellicott introduced the first speaker Councilwoman Debi Rose, a founding member of the Progressive Caucus on the City Council. Councilwoman Rose mentioned that she was proud that her campaign was vindicated of the charges against David Thomas and David Jones. Councilwoman Rose is up for re-election for her city council seat this year.

She mentioned that she feels she has accomplished a lot during her years in the City Council. She said she is working to make the North Shore a better place. She mentioned she is working to help develop an educational complex, she also is working on building an annex at Curtis High School and St. Peter's girl's School.

The councilwoman said her term has been marked by the needs of her constituents, and her doors are always open to the community. She added that she is working to be able to provide affordable housing and to re-build the Cromwell Center. Councilwoman Rose mentioned that her district is the most diverse district in the city council. She said that she tries to address the needs of her district.

The councilwoman is asking S.I.D.A. to send her back to the City Council so she can continue to shepherd the projects that she started. She thanked members for their past support and she is asking members for their support for the upcoming primary in September. Councilwoman mentioned that her campaign headquarters will be located at Broad and Bay Street and it will open on May 1.

After her presentation Ms. Rose opened the floor to questions. Debra Ellicott made a point of thanking Councilwoman Rose for working with the Boro President to complete a memorial named for first responders from 9-11.

Second Speaker

Vice President Bryan Ellicott introduced Richard Reichard. Rich mentioned that Saturday April 22 is Earth Day and that the current administration is very hostile to the environment. He added that President Trump wants to cut the E.P.A. budget. He said funding is running out this month. He reported that President Trump wants to withdraw from former President Obama's clean power plan and roll back fuel efficiency standards. He explained that there is a direct correlation to health due to global warming. It increases asthma and allergies and is making people sick.

He announced that there will be an Earth Day rally on Saturday April 22 to protest cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency. It will be held from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Arthur Kill Road and Richmond Avenue. He urged members to come out to support this event and send a strong message to Congressman Donovan and ask him not to vote for these cuts.

March Minutes

Joy Robins made a motion to accept minutes from the March meeting as published in the newsletter. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Rose announced that she will be having a fundraiser on May 9 from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. at the Staaten.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



Letter to Senators

Letters with the following text were sent by the Staten Island Democratic Association to our two New York Senators, the Hon. Charles Schumer and the Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand.

The Republicans have said that one of their primary goals is to eliminate government regulations. We have already seen in the first couple of weeks of the current session, the Republicans vote to withdraw regulations put in place during President Obama's last six months in Office.

The next phase in the Republican plan is to make it easier to withdraw regulations and to make it more difficult if not impossible to put new regulations in place.

The Republican House has passed legislation that will allow them to bundle the regulations they want to withdraw into one bill, legislation that adds layers of red tape to slow down the regulation approval process, and legislation that will require Congress to approve a regulation within 70 legislative days in order for the regulation to take effect. If not approved by Congress within 70 legislative days, the regulation could not be considered again until the next Congress.

With the Republicans holding a majority in the Senate, if any of these three pieces of legislation reached the floor for a vote, they would pass.

The Staten Island Democratic Association therefore asks that you prevent the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 and the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017 from coming to the Senate floor for a vote.



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. Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.

On-line April 15, 2017

Congressman Should Back EPA Budget

We have seen firsthand how climate change affects our lives. Hurricane Sandy killed 24 people of Staten Island, decreased property values, increased flood insurance premiums and it is costing billions to restore what was destroyed by the storm and to protect us from future storms.

For example, the cost of restoring the South Ferry station was \$600 million; the cost of building the seawall is now projected to be \$615 million.

Rising sea levels caused by the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps contributed to the severity of the Sandy storm surge. Sea levels are projected to continue to rise unless we stop adding heat-trapping gases to the environment.

In addition to rising sea levels, climate change has an impact on health.

It will allow pests, such as the mosquito that carries the Zika virus, to move further north as the climate warms. How long before they are found on Staten Island?

Warmer weather increases pollen production and lengthens pollen season, therefore increasing asthma and allergy attacks.

President Obama's Clean Power plan and increased fuel mileage efficiency standards will not only address climate change, they will also reduce pollutants that have been linked to lung cancer and heart disease.

President Trump has proposed withdrawing from the Clean Power Plan, rolling back fuel mileage efficiency standards and reducing the EPA budget by 31 percent. The EPA is responsible for addressing climate change and pollution.

These actions will not only result in more illness and deaths, but will increase healthcare costs.

Haven't we just had a debate about reducing the cost of healthcare?

Congressman Donovan needs to vote against any budget or appropriations bill that cuts the EPA budget.

He also needs to publically state his opposition to withdrawing from the Clean Power plan and rolling back the fuel mileage efficiency standards.

- Richard Reichard

On-line April 6, 2017

Gorsuch is not Mainstream

Sorry, Congressman Donovan, but Judge Gorsuch is not mainstream.

His dissent in the "frozen truck driver" case demonstrates that he is out of touch with the average American.

My father was a truck driver. It's grueling, dangerous work. We don't need judges like Gorsuch making it worse.

- Tom Shcherbenko



Assemblyman Titone on Direct Care Worker Wages

Assemblyman Matthew Titone asked to convey the following message about wages for direct care workers.

Direct care workers perform demanding jobs and often work long hours providing care for individuals with developmental disabilities and those struggling with mental health or substance abuse challenges. Direct care workers provide services that many in our community simply cannot live without and need on a daily basis. Their work is deserving of more than the minimum wage.

After fighting hard for a wage increase direct care workers deserve, the Assembly Majority helped pass the final 2017-18 state [budget](#), which invests \$14 million and an additional \$146 million in 2018 to professionals supported by the State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities ([OPWDD](#)), the Office of Mental Health ([OMH](#)) and the Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services ([OASAS](#)).

Direct care workers and direct support staff will receive a 3.25% wage increase on January 1, 2018 and again on April 1, 2018. Clinical staff will receive a 3.25% wage increase on April 1, 2018.

This budget will ensure that these professionals, who provide demanding and vital care to our community, are more fairly compensated for the essential care they provide.

- Matthew Titone



S.I.D.A. Executive Committee Installation

The members of the Staten Island Democratic Association Executive Committee would like to invite you to their Installation to be followed by a mixer.

Staten Island Democratic Association Installation

MAY 16, 2017

7:30pm
Daddy O's
181 Bay St, Staten
Island, NY 10301



(PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING!)



Bulletin Board



Staten Island **PrideFest**

A production of Pride Center of Staten Island



Saturday, May 20

PrideFest Festival
12:00pm - 6:00pm
*Snug Harbor Cultural Center
& Botanical Garden*
1000 Richmond Terrace, SI NY

S.I.D.A.'s own **Bryan John Ellicott** is being honored as a Grand Marshal for his tireless work for transgender rights and visibility. He is joined by Grand Marshals Nancy Ellis and Michele Ellis, who are being honored for their commitment to the LGBTQ community.

For information, contact [Marcy Carr](mailto:marcy.carr@sida.org) 718.808.1373



Bulletin Board Policy

Items posted on the Bulletin Board are done so at the request of an S.I.D.A. member and are for informational purposes only. A posting on the Bulletin Board does not imply endorsement by S.I.D.A.

May 16, 2017	June 20, 2017
General Meeting 8:00p.m. Charlie Brown's Steakhouse 1001 Goethals Road North	Annual Meeting 8:00p.m. Charlie Brown's Steakhouse 1001 Goethals Road North
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee Installation followed by a mixer 	<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.

✂

2017 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.
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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