



November 2014

## Staten Island Democratic Association

*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*

[www.sidems.org](http://www.sidems.org)

At our Next Meeting:

NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
for SYRIA



التحالف الوطني  
سوريا

### • Sarab Abu Adib Al-Jihakli



### • Ghanim Khalil

## • Nominating Committee Report

Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 8:00 P.M.

40 Bay Street, 718-720-4442



## Editorial Policy

Items for publication must 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

## Table of Contents

• All Dems Holiday Party .....	3
• S.I.D.A.President's Statement .....	4
• National Alliance for Syria.....	5
• Iraq Veterans Against the War .....	7
• Nominating Committee Report.....	8
• October 2014 Minutes .....	9
• Bulletin Board.....	12
• Henning Bauer .....	13
• Upcoming Meetings.....	14
• Join/Renewal Form .....	14

*"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

---

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

President .....	Tom Shcherbenko	Member at-Large .....	Roy Moskowitz
Vice President .....	Joann Olbrich	Ex Officio .....	Michelle Akyempong
Executive Secretary.....	Mark Herman	Ex Officio .....	Dennis Brown
Corresponding & Recording Secretary .....	Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio .....	Gary Carsel
Treasurer.....	Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio .....	Paul Cinquemani
Social Secretary .....	Liz Price	Ex Officio .....	Belinda Dixon
Member at-Large .....	Carl Chew	Ex Officio .....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large .....	Susan Chew	Ex Officio .....	John Mastellone
Member at-Large .....	Bobby Digi	Ex Officio .....	Richard McMahan
Member at-Large .....	Mary Kain	Ex Officio .....	John Sollazzo

---

All Dems Holiday Party



All Dems Holiday Party

Thursday, December 11, 2014  
7 – 11 pm

Da Noi, 138 Fingerboard Road

Salad, pasta, choice of three entrees, tiramisu  
or cheesecake, coffee/tea, wine, beer, soda

Cash bar available

\$50

RSVP by Dec 9 to [sidabanquet@aol.com](mailto:sidabanquet@aol.com)

SIDA

PO Box 140371

Staten Island NY 10314-0371



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

November 2014

**W**as this year's election a repudiation of the Democratic Party? Was it proof of a backlash against progressive policies? When people came out to vote, what were they thinking?

In Arkansas, voters chose to both elect Republicans and to increase the minimum wage. Not a single Democratic congressional candidate received more than 44% of the vote and the incumbent Democratic Senator lost re-election, but voters overwhelmingly – by a more than a two-to-one margin -- approved raising the minimum wage by 20%, despite electing a Republican Governor that was opposed to the referendum.

Voters in Nebraska placed a Republican Governor and Senator into open seats, but also approved an increase in the minimum wage. South Dakota elected a Republican Senator to replace a retiring Democrat, but voted to raise the minimum wage. Two weeks before the election, Chris Christie said “I’m tired of hearing about the minimum wage” – but we have yet to see one news story declaring “Voters Across the Heartland Repudiate Chris Christie.”

Approval of progressive policy – alongside Democratic defeats -- wasn't limited to the economy. In North Dakota, voters rejected a constitutional amendment to restrict abortions, the “fetal personhood” law, with the same large percentage that re-elected the Republican Congressman. In Colorado, voters rejected a similar amendment to the state's criminal code – but at the same time replaced the incumbent Democratic Senator with a Republican who co-sponsored the “Life At Conception Act.”

Who are these apparently schizoid voters that came out to increase the minimum wage, protect reproductive rights, and then vote for Republicans? There's evidence to suggest that Republicans were elected by masquerading as moderates, if not progressives. The newly elected Colorado Senator supported over-the-counter birth control and tried to disavow his earlier support of anti-choice legislation. The Republican candidate for Senate in Alaska came out in favor of raising the minimum wage – and the referendum to raise it to \$9.75 passed with almost 70% of the votes.

In North Carolina, incumbent Senator Hagan's victorious Republican opponent attacked her for supporting a sales tax that “harmed the poor and working families more than anyone else.” The newly elected Republican Senator from Oklahoma opened a debate by declaring, “We have income inequality” -- the progressive mantra that not long ago was vilified by the right-wing as fomenting class war. The Arkansas Republican candidate who defeated the incumbent Senator sounded like someone from Occupy Wall Street in their debate, decrying that while those who “make a living off of assets or investments ... the top 5%” are getting richer, people who “make a living by working ... labor is your means of putting food on your table ... your incomes are down.”

Some Democrats, meanwhile, were fuzzy about party politics. In Kentucky, Obamacare slashed the amount of the uninsured people from 20% to 12%, but the Democratic candidate for Senator – running against the Republican Senate leader – refused to say if she voted for President Obama. Some Democratic candidates in Republican districts did not mention Obama in their campaigns, despite being attacked by their opponents for being members of the President's party.

The path for us couldn't be clearer: Americans want government to increase the minimum wage, reduce income inequality, and protect the privacy of women's health. Progressives must use every opportunity to elaborate the myriad of improvements that came with Obamacare, promote the necessity for a higher minimum wage and expose the Republicans who oppose it.

We can increase voter turnout – perhaps the saddest commentary on this year’s election was that the majority of voters didn’t feel connected – if we base our campaigns on progressive issues and not on candidates.

- Tom Shcherbenko



---

## National Alliance for Syria

*Sarab Abu Adib Al-Jiakli of National Alliance for Syria will be a guest speaker at our November 18 General Membership Meeting. The following was copied from their website [www.allianceforsyria.org](http://www.allianceforsyria.org).*

### Mission

**G**rounded in the idea that the Syrian people, regardless of their location, background or connections have a moral obligation to support the revolution and the development of a new Syria.

- Provide to the **Syrian expat community** a national framework for collective action
- **Connect** all individuals, organizations and networks working towards a free and democratic Syria
- Act as a mouthpiece for the democratic aspirations of those **within Syria**

Through our work, we will focus on achieving these three goals:

- Mobilizing the Community
- Raising awareness
- Creating Influence

### F.A.Q.s

NAFS was created by Syrian organizers and activists in the diaspora. Here is more information about the Alliance:

- *What is NAFS?*  
The National Alliance for Syria is a network of Syrian activists, community groups, organizations all dedicated to the creation and development of a democratic Syria; free from sectarian privileges, a nation to represent the people, equally
- *Why was NAFS started?*  
To create cohesion and connectivity across the local networks and create a national voice for Syria
- *Where is NAFS based?*  
North America
- *What does NAFS believe?*  
The Assad regime must go. Now!
- *What is your '[Platform for Unity](#)' about?*  
We recognize that the richness of Syria comes from the diversity of our people - whether ethnically, religiously, socio-economically. With this diversity comes the need to articulate a shared vision that all Syrians can feel proud of, and more importantly take ownership of. The principles identified in the Platform for Unity provide the framework for this collective vision.
- *How is NAFS funded?*

100% through community member donations. We do not take money from governments or special interests groups.

- *What does the money go to?*  
Unless specifically stated (i.e. for charitable contributions for Syrians in need) the donations go to the activities of NAFS and development of our institution.
- *Who gave you this right to run an Alliance?*  
As Syrians, we did.
- *How NAFS connected to the 'people'?*  
Our structure is grounded in connecting local entities, nationally. We are in essence a bottom's-up, grass-roots Alliance.
- *What is your relationship with other organizations?*  
We are an Alliance of numerous organizations and independent entities. As long as an organization signs on to our mission they can join the Alliance.
- *What is your relationship with the Syrian regime?*  
We have no relationship, nor contact with them
- *How can I get involved?*  
4 ways - [learn more](#) on our website.
- *I want to organize a group locally - what can I do?*  
Become a [NAFS advocate](#) locally and organize your network to support the mission of NAFS.
- *I don't want to be known, can I stay involved?*  
Yes, by expressing yourself anonymously. [Learn more.](#)
- *What kind of events do you throw?*  
Vigils, protests, educational events, town halls, fundraisers - any tactic that supports our network.

### **Platform for Unity**

The vision of the revolution is grounded in recognizing and embracing a pluralistic society founded on democratic principles. The following 10 principles will be universally applied and are the basis for a new Syria:

- 1) Egalitarianism: All citizens are equal before the law.
- 2) Humanitarianism: All citizens are entitled to their human rights.
- 3) Civil Society: As intended since independence, the government of Syria will remain secular.
- 4) Freedom: All citizens will be guaranteed freedom of expression, religion, opinion, press - the right to assemble peacefully & pursue grievances.
- 5) Democracy: Syria will be organized on the basis of one person, one vote.
- 6) Economic Opportunity: Syrians will be allowed to exercise his or her own economic self-determination.
- 7) Resources: All proceeds from the nationalized resources will be re-invested in the Syrian economy.
- 8) Education: Education of its citizens is required as a safeguard of liberty and order.
- 9) Transparency: Representatives will be accountable for their responsibilities and to the transparency of all public sector activities.
- 10) Meritocracy: To ensure resources of the nation are properly managed, corruption eradicated and both public and private sector motivated.

This is a pathway for a new Syria.



# Iraq Veterans Against the War

*Ghanim Khalil of Iraq Veterans Against the War will be a guest speaker at our November 18 General Membership Meeting. The following was copied from their website [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org).*

## **Mission, Values, and Vision**

### *Our Mission*

**W**e work to build a service-member and veteran led movement that ends militarism by transforming ourselves, military culture and American society.

### *Our Values*

*1. We value **leadership** and act with **honesty** and **integrity** to build mutual **trust**.*

**Leadership** development forms the basis of our organizing model. We build our own personal power through transformation and growth as competent leaders, thereby building the power of our organization and movement. We work together from a place of **honesty**, communicating openly with sincerity and candor. We operate with **integrity**, holding ourselves accountable and creating mutual **trust**—the glue that holds our community together.

*2. We value our **community**, treating everyone with **dignity** and **respect**.*

We are not simply an organization. We function as a **community** built by our collective experiences as Global War on Terror veterans. As former and current members of the armed forces, we know the values currently underpinning American military culture dehumanize our so-called enemies, as well as ourselves. Everyone deserves **dignity** and **respect**; we recognize the humanity of all people.

*3. We value **solidarity** and seek **justice** with **compassion** for all those affected by U.S. wars and militarism.*

We share common human interests with all those affected by war and militarism. We understand militarism as a value system that prioritizes aggression, violence, and regimentation throughout many sectors of our society. We know that our own transformation is tied to the transformation of those we impact through war. **Compassion** guides us as we seek **transformative justice** and build **solidarity** with those affected by U.S. military intervention.

### *Our Vision*

We strive for a world free of unjust war—a world without the political and economic conditions allowing militarism to exist, and without structural forces pushing our youth, our poor and those facing incarceration into the military; We strive for a society that prioritizes care for its warriors—where all who serve receive adequate benefits and the highest standard of compassionate care regardless of discharge status; We strive for a society that holds political leaders, profiteers, and war criminals accountable for the consequences of their actions; We strive for a political and military culture that embraces full human rights for service-members, veterans and all people; We strive for a political culture that prioritizes nonviolence, open communication, and democratic decision-making over militarism—a culture committed to building peace and preserving life, solving international conflicts through diplomacy and alternative conflict resolution; We strive for a political culture that acknowledges our nation's moral responsibilities to the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, and all civilians adversely affected by U.S. military intervention. The United States must fully accept guidance from these affected

peoples and provide support they find valuable; Finally, we endeavor for our movement to be an ally to the oppressed—a community connected in solidarity with war torn peoples, working across differences for reconciliation, mutual healing and collective liberation.



---

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, which was selected at the October 21, 2014 General Membership Meeting, met on October 31 at the home of Chairwoman Susan Chew. Committee members Dennis Brown, Carl Chew, Marie Dwyer, Mary Kain, JoAnn Olbrich, Rosemary Palladino, Richard Reichard, and Bonita Rothman nominated the following candidates:

### **2015 SLATE**

#### **President**

JoAnn Olbrich

#### **Vice President**

Susan Chew

#### **Executive Secretary**

Mark Herman

#### **Corresponding & Recording Secretary**

Marie Dwyer

#### **Treasurer**

Bonita Rothman

#### **Social Secretary**

Roy Moskowitz

#### **Member At-Large**

Five to be elected (listed in alphabetical order by last name):

Carl Chew, Bobby Digi, Bryan Ellicott, Richard Florentino, Mary Kain, Rosemary Palladino, Jasmin Robinson, Sharon Santana, Sanjay Sharma, Rickie Lee Woytowich.

All nominees will have the chance to address the club at the December 16 General Meeting. In addition, each candidate will be expected to submit a 200-word statement for the January newsletter. Statements should be submitted to newsletter editor Chris Bauer at [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com) no later than January 1, 2015. Elections will occur at the Annual Meeting of the Association on January 20, 2015.

As stated in the S.I.D.A. bylaws, the Nominating Committee report shall set forth the procedure for nomination by petition. Therefore, if any additional people would like to run for a position on the Executive Committee, they may do so as explained by the following section of the bylaws:

*ARTICLE VIII Elections*

*Section 2: Nominations*

*b) Nomination by Petition Additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever are fewer, as of the final date for the submission of such petitions namely the December meeting at which all candidates shall be presented to the membership as an order of business. Nominating petitions shall be submitted to the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, or in his or her absence to an officer designated by the President or Acting President.*

*c) Nomination from the Floor Nominations from the floor may be made only in the event that no eligible candidate has been otherwise nominated for an office.*

*d) Notice All names of persons nominated will be included in the mailed notice of the annual meeting.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Chew, Chair  
Nominating Committee*



---

## October 2014 Minutes

### **General Meeting October 21, 2014**

President Shcherbenko called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. He announced that we would be having the Nominating Committee Election and told members that the ballots are printed on both sides. Joann Olbrich made a motion to close voting at 9:30 p.m. It was seconded by Bryan Ellicott. Mark Herman made a friendly amendment to change the time to 9:40 p.m. Joann accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously. Joy Robins made a motion to accept both August and September minutes as published in the October newsletter. The motion carried. Members who volunteered to count the ballots were Paul Scublinsky, Mary Kain, and Sharon Santana.

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

Vice President Joann Olbrich presented highlights from the recent Executive Committee meeting. She also announced that on Sunday, October 26 in Tappen Park at 2:00 p.m. there would be a Women's Rally in support of Domenic Recchia the Democratic Candidate for Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> District. She encouraged members to come out and invite others to attend.

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

Executive Secretary Mark Herman reminded members that this is the last call before the upcoming election. He urged members to help the various candidates. He said there was a good

chance we could elect Domenic Recchia. Mark added that there is a lot of work being done but the campaigns still need help.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman reported a balance as of October 2, 2014 of \$13,177.67 and a balance as of October 21, 2014 of \$12,259.00. Bonnie reported that she is still waiting for money to come in from the recent banquet.

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

Greg Mihailovich of Transportation Alternatives explained that Transportation Alternatives' mission is to reclaim New York City's streets from cars and to promote bicycling, walking and public transit. A committee of activists is working in every borough fighting for the installation of infrastructure improvements that reduce speeding and traffic crashes save lives and improve everyday transportation of all New Yorkers. Since the organization started in 1973 it has paved the way for many remarkable changes in New York City's infrastructure e.g. growth of bicycling, launch of Citi Bike and introduction of innovations to city streets, like Complete Streets, parking protected bike lanes, automated speed enforcement cameras, and much more. Currently Transportation Alternatives activists are leading the fight to improve infrastructure for bicycling and walking on many local streets and to change traffic enforcement policy and practices citywide.

Mr. Mihailovich explained that the goal is to achieve Vision Zero – the elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries on New York City streets. He spoke about T.A.'s two active campaigns on Staten Island. He explained that D.O.T. does traffic studies to try to make streets safer. Mr. Mihailovich asked members to sign a petition and coalition letters. He mentioned that Transportation Alternatives meet on the third Thursday of the month at 450 Front Street. After the presentation members had the opportunity to ask some questions.

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

Francesco Portelos of U.F.T. Solidarity Caucus left a successful career in environmental engineering and inspection and decided to become a teacher in an inner city school on Staten Island. After five great years he became a new father in the community and he decided to look more carefully at the school as a whole. He got involved with the Union and School Leadership team where he began to bring light to issues such as discipline, the budget and school goals. He was immediately retaliated against by his school principal and the system as a whole. He continued speaking about how he uncovered corruption and spoke of his fight back.

Due to this situation, he explained that a new U.F.T. Solidarity Caucus has formed that will focus on "teacher justice" not social justice and will act as a real trade union representing school staff in the New York City Public schools. The new caucus called "Solidarity" will represent the mainstream educators, the disenfranchised A.T.R.'s and those without tenure. He told members they could read more about his story on [www.educatorfightback.org](http://www.educatorfightback.org). After Mr. Portelo's presentation he took questions from members in attendance.

### **New Business**

Peter Killen made a motion to buy a ticket for \$150 to send President Shcherbenko to Richmond County's Democratic Gala being held on October 23. Belinda Dixon seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about Executive Committee members having chipped in to take an ad in the County's dinner journal.

Steve Schwall announced that since the Corner House changed ownership, DORC had to move their meeting place to the A.T.U. Union Hall located at Amboy Road and Giffords Lane in Great Kills.

Rosemary Palladino announced that the Political Memorabilia Auction held at our annual banquet, netted \$208.00, and she gave the check to Club Treasurer, Bonnie Rothman. She added that Marianne Brennick did a lot of hard work putting this auction together.

There followed several campaign updates. President Shcherbenko reminded members that the final Grimm - Recchia debate will be held on October 28 at the College of Staten Island. Gary Carsel, Democratic Candidate for New York State Senate in the 24<sup>th</sup> District, gave a brief update on his campaign activities. President Shcherbenko announced that The Young Dems Oktoberfest will be re-scheduled due to the fact that it conflicts with the Congressional Debate.

While waiting for Nominating Committee ballots to be counted, there was a discussion about the upcoming election. President Shcherbenko and Mark Herman urged members to volunteer for Domenic Recchia and the other campaigns. They added that volunteers are needed to do lit drops and make phone calls etc.

Anne Taylor reported that the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Committee would be meeting sometime after Election Day. She urged members to spread the word as the committee is looking for good candidates to apply for the award.

### **Nominating Committee Election Results**

The top nine vote getters were:

Susan Chew*	27
Mary Kain	23
Joann Olbrich	23
Richard Reichard	23
Dennis Brown	21
Rosemary Palladino	20
Carl Chew	17
Bonnie Rothman	17
Marie Dwyer	16

\* According to S.I.D.A.'s By-laws the person with the most votes, chairs the committee.

Susan told members she would be in touch by e-mail regarding a date for the meeting.

President Shcherbenko announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, at Bonnie Rothman's home. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Marie Dwyer*

*Corresponding &*

*Recording Secretary*



## Bulletin Board



**Staten Island Zoo**  
The Staten Island Zoo is looking for  
**Volunteer Docents**

**Description:**

- Assist the Education Department with interacting with guests while interpreting the Zoo's collection, and participating in the Zoo's educational programs.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Presentations (Education Animals, Exhibit Animals, and Biofacts)
- Participate in Special Events and/or Programs

**Requirements/Expectations:**

- Complete and pass Docent Course held in Feb and March (10 week course)
- Follow Zoo policies and standards
- Attend 5 out of 11 monthly docent meetings
- Must be 18 years of age (out of high school)

**Time Required:**

- A minimum of 6 hours a month

To get an application contact the **Education Department**  
**Ph:** 718-442-3174 x37  
**Fax:** 718-442-8492  
**E-mail:** [education@statenlandzoo.org](mailto:education@statenlandzoo.org)



### 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.

# **Henning Bauer**

**February 16, 1923 – November 5, 2014**

November 18, 2014	December 16, 2014
<b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarab Abu Adib Al-Jihakli, National Alliance for Syria</li> <li>• Ghanim Khalil, Iraq Veterans Against the War</li> <li>• Nominating Committee Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker TBD</li> <li>• Presentation of candidates for Executive Committee</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.



<b>2015 DUES</b>	<b>DONATION</b>
_____ \$15 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$10 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$5 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

For internal use only:  
Comp: \_\_\_\_\_ Received \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Deposited \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Entered Sht: \_\_\_\_\_ Computer: \_\_\_\_\_