



November 2016

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

- **Carmen Cagnetta**

on the election results,
analyzing the swing districts
on Staten Island, and
strategies for winning future
local elections



- **Nominating Committee
Report**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, 1001 Goethals Road North



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.

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

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President	Joann Olbrich	Member at-Large	Clara Ogburn
Vice President	Bobby Digi	Ex Officio	Michelle Akyempong
Executive Secretary.....	Dennis Brown	Ex Officio	Gary Carsel
Corresponding & Recording Secretary	Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio	Paul Cinquemani
Treasurer.....	Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio	Belinda Dixon
Social Secretary	Bryan Ellicott	Ex Officio	John Mancuso
Member at-Large	Carl Chew	Ex Officio	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large	Susan Chew	Ex Officio	John Mastellone
Member at-Large	Robert Holst	Ex Officio	John Sollazzo
Member at-Large	Roy Moskowitz	Ex Officio	Tom Shcherbenko

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

November 2016

By the time you read this, we will know if the country has been saved, or has gone down a very dark and dangerous path. All I can do at this point is work to help our Democratic candidates and hope for the best.

After the election is over, regardless of the outcome, there will be questions for how to proceed in the future. I have been so horrified and disheartened that millions of Americans could be seduced into supporting a man completely unfit for office, due to his appeals to the very worst in human nature: hate, fear, racism, bigotry, misogyny. What kind of people find this attractive? What kind of people find this presidential?

I saw a photo on Facebook, it said "Thanks to Facebook I now know which of my acquaintances are racists and bigots"! We can avoid friends and acquaintances, but what do we do about relatives? I cannot dismiss the horrifically racist comments of my Trump supporting cousins on both sides of the family. Discussing this matter with a like minded cousin recently, we agreed that reading such comments has made us want to cut off all contacts with such relatives. I certainly will never again feel the affection I used to have for such people

How do we go forth, with what this presidential election has taught us about the people in our lives, such as relatives, friends, neighbors, coworkers? Do we turn a blind eye to their ignorant, racist, hate filled attacks on President Obama and Hillary Clinton? I am finding it difficult to deal with such people in the same friendly manner as before. Hopefully, the results of the election will be for the better, and the built up animosities will lessen over time. But if the worst happens, I will not be able to forgive and forget.

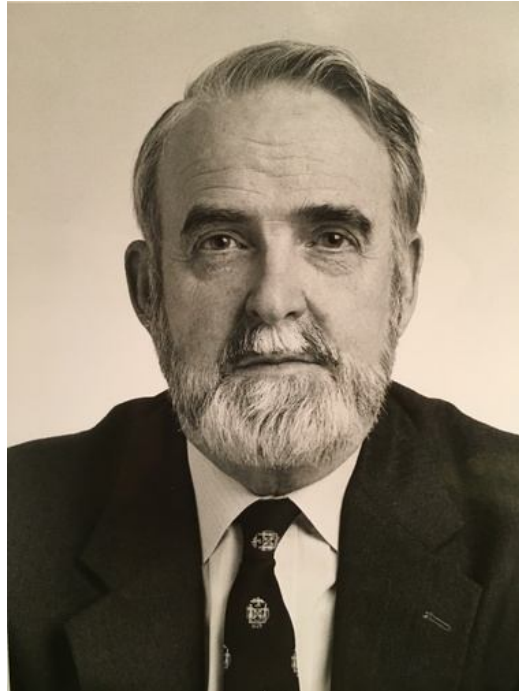
- Joann Olbrich
President



As this newsletter is going to print before the election, but you will be receiving it afterwards, let us honor the democratic process by congratulating the winners, thanking the losers for taking part and giving us a choice, and working together going forward, understanding that governing democratically by definition is a process of compromise, where all of us take part in determining the outcome, where the will of the majority is expressed but the rights of all, especially those in the minority, are protected.

David Seeley

David Seeley Memorial Service



Services will be held for David Seeley on Saturday, **November 26th at 11:00 a.m.** at Christ Church, 76 Franklin Avenue, Staten Island NY. There will be a luncheon at the Church after the service where people can share stories of David. After the luncheon (around 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.) family and friends are invited to continue celebrating the life of David at the home he loved so dearly - 66 Harvard Avenue. On Sunday, November 27th at 10:30 a.m. we will be laying his ashes to rest with his beloved wife, Mae, at Greenwood Cemetery. The Seeley plot is in Section 161. Here is a link for map of Greenwood: www.green-wood.com

Here is a link for David Seeley's obituary on www.silive.com:

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/11/david_seeley_85.html



Carmen Cogna

Carmen Cogna will be the guest speaker at our November 20 General Membership Meeting. He will speak about the election results, analyzing the swing districts on Staten Island, and strategies for winning future local elections. He provided the following biography for the newsletter.

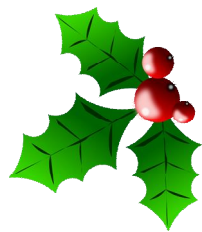
Carmen Cogna is a native Staten Islander who is a graduate of Port Richmond High School. He received a B.S. in Economics from Siena College and a J.D. from New York Law School.

He has served as an Assistant District Attorney in Richmond County, Assistant D.A. with the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and Deputy Inspector General for the New York City Fire Department. He was a Family Court Judge for 9 years, served as Counsel to Councilmen Michael McMahon, and Counsel to Congressman Michael McMahon. In the private sector he was in the private practice of law on Staten Island and served as Vice-President for the Institute for Community Living, a nonprofit organization that provided programs and housing for mentally ill chemical abusers.

He has volunteered his time for many organizations on Staten Island, most notably, was a founder of the Port Richmond High School Alumni Association, was a past President and currently serves as its Treasurer. He was president of the Community Residential Treatment Service Advisory Board at the South Beach Psychiatric Center that created the first successful, real business organization to employ consumers with mental illness diagnosis, now a million dollar a year operation on Staten Island known as Specialtees. He served as Treasurer of his church for 15 years and is currently on the board of Community Resources.

In the world of politics, except for the 9 years he served as a judge, he has been involved in political campaigns on every level, starting with handing out literature for John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign when he was 13 years old. Of late he has served as an adviser and treasurer for numerous campaigns and is a board member of the Democratic Organization of Richmond County Democratic Club.

Currently officially retired, although still active with many local organizations, Carmen resides in Randall Manor with his wife Christine. He has a daughter Catherine who is a public high school English Teacher.



**All Dems
Holiday Party
December 8, 2016
7:00 -10:00 p.m.**



(see page 13)

October 2016 S.ID.A. Minutes

General Meeting October 18, 2016 Charlie Brown's Steakhouse

President Olbrich called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Vice President Bobby Digi introduced the guest speaker Patricia Jones, an Industrial Hygienist for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). He explained that he met her when she provided some OSHA Courses at his Canvas Gallery.

Ms. Jones spoke to members about OSHA. OSHA is the main federal agency charged with enforcement of safety and health legislation to assure safe and healthful working conditions for men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, assistance and education. Her office, located in Avenel in New Jersey, has jurisdiction for Central New Jersey and Staten Island.

Ms. Jones spoke about the structure of the agency, their mission to protect over 130 million workers, and she provided various statistics. She explained that the agency helps get workers ready for jobs and that training helps prevent incidents. She spoke about various courses that OSHA provides. Ms. Jones explained that everyone has a right to a safe and healthy workplace.

After her presentation Ms. Jones took questions from several members. President Olbrich thanked Patricia Jones for her presentation and Carl Chew for arranging to have her come speak.

Nominating Committee Election

Bryan Ellicott made a motion to close ballots for the Nominating Committee at 9:15 p.m. Susan Chew seconded the motion. David Jones made a friendly amendment to close ballot at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried. Jill Latman, Paul Scublinsky and Pearl Minsky volunteered to count the ballots. Bobby Digi told members that his name as it appears on the ballot is Henry Olisa.

More Guest Speakers

The next guest speakers were Eamonn Carey, NYC District Council of Carpenters, and Lisa Ann Brooks, a trainee. Mr. Carey told members that a few years ago the city required that construction workers take the OSHA 10 hour construction course due to workplace fatalities. The OSHA 10 Hour Construction Industry Outreach Training Program is intended to provide an entry level construction worker's general awareness on recognizing and preventing hazards on a construction site.

He also spoke about how OSHA regulations help protect workers. He explained that anyone who wants to go into construction needs pre-apprentice programs. Mr. Carey introduced Lisa Ann Brooks, a first year apprentice with the carpenters union.

Lisa spoke about graduating from Non Traditional Employment for Women (NEW) in June. She is now working at the Build it Back Program. She says it is an awesome experience, that OSHA provides great training. Lisa spoke about how much she enjoys her job in this male dominated industry.

After their presentation Eamonn and Lisa Ann took questions from several members. Clara Ogburn, Chair of S.I.D.A.'s Human Rights Committee said she feels we all benefited from the

evening's OSHA presentation and from the information presented on a local level from Eamonn Carey and Lisa Ann Brooks.

Reichard Campaign

Clara encouraged members to help with Richard Reichard's campaign for Congress. She also mentioned that Pastor Smith from Shiloh A.M.E. Zion Church said he will provide transportation to help people get to polling sites to vote on Election Day. People can call Pastor Smith at (718) 442-2797 (Church) or (718) 447-9471. Clara encouraged members to get out to vote.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Bobby Digi presented highlights from the Executive Committee meeting held on October 6.

Newsletter

There was some discussion about whether we should continue to print and mail S.I.D.A.'s newsletter due to the cost and the fact that most people have email and can read it on line.

Bryan Ellicott made a motion to approve October's Minutes. Steve Schwall seconded the motion.

Peter Killen mentioned that he had not been included as a counter for the ballots for last month's endorsement ballot. The minutes were approved with this correction.

President Olbrich thanked Bryan Ellicott for all his hard work for their annual dinner.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Bryan Ellicott thanked all the members that helped him with the recent dinner. He also told members that the All Dems Holiday Party is scheduled for December 8 at Da Noi's Restaurant, and he told them to Save the Date.

Clara Ogburn mentioned that Bryan was going to have some surgery in November and she asked members to contribute if they could. She explained that Bryan has a "Go fund me" page set up for contributions.

Bryan announced that there will be a debate watch party at Charlie Brown's Restaurant on Wednesday, Oct 19. President Olbrich told members to make sure to order inside the room since the restaurant requires that we purchase at least \$300 in food and or beverages.

David Jones gave kudos to Chris Bauer for all his work as S.I.D.A.'s newsletter editor. He feels the newsletter is important and feels we should find a way to continue to print it. There was some additional discussion about this. President Olbrich said that she felt we should investigate ways to produce the newsletter for less money.

President Olbrich reminded members about County's Gala on October 20.

Sally Jones announced the "Make Peace not War Dinner" on Saturday, Oct 22, at Mt. Oliviet Presbyterian Church.

Maria Vella spoke about an event she attended at Gracie Mansion and she said that the First Lady is starting a program for people to become Mental Health Counselor's. They would have to take an 8 hour class. Maria encouraged members to speak to her for additional information.

Nominating Committee Election Results

*Susan Chew	20
Joann Olbrich.....	19
Dennis Brown	18
Carl Chew	17
Marie Dwyer	16
Mary Kain.....	15
Bryan Ellicott.....	12
Henry "Bobby" Olisa	13
Rosemary Palladino	16

* As the top vote getter Susan Chew is chair of the committee.

Steve Schwall thanked members for condolences and donation due to the recent passing of his Mother.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



Executive Committee Election

Below are excerpts from the S.I.D.A. by-laws pertaining to the election of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII Elections

Section 1: Time Officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the ieannual meeting. (Article IV, Section 1: Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the club shall be in January, on a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee.)

Section 2: Nominations

a) Nominating Committee At the October meeting there shall be elected by ballot a Nomination Committee of nine members of the club. Balloting for members of the Nominating Committee shall conform, as nearly as may be, to the procedure for election of members-at-large of the Executive Committee as set forth in Section 4b of this Article. The Nominating Committee shall select nominees for each of the offices and for members-at-large of the Executive Committee, which selection shall be made by majority vote of the Nominating Committee. At the November meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the members of the club a written report setting forth the nominees for various positions. If requested by two members of the Nominating

Committee, the report shall include a minority report in which additional nominations may be made for any position or positions and such nominees shall be deemed to have been nominated in addition to the nominees of the majority. The report shall also set forth the procedure for nomination by petition.

b) Nomination by Petition Additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is 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.

Traditionally the way the above by-laws have been implemented is that at the October meeting members in good standing in attendance are given a ballot listing all the club's members in good standing. (One must have been a member for at least 45 days in order to vote.) Members then mark up to nine people on the ballot, and the top nine vote-getters form the Nominating Committee, with the person getting the most votes being the chair. If there is a tie for the ninth place, all those in the tie get on.



Nominating Committee Report

The Staten Island Democratic Association Nominating Committee for 2016 (Susan Chew, Joann Olbrich, Carl Chew, Bobby Digi, Dennis Brown, Bryan Ellicott, Marie Dwyer, Mary Kain and Rosemary Palladino) presents the following slate for the Officers and at-Large Members of the Executive Committee for 2016:

President

Bobby Digi

Vice President

Bryan Ellicott

Executive Secretary

Dennis Brown

Social Secretary

Sharon Santana

Corresponding & Recording Secretary

Marie Dwyer

Treasurer
Bonnie Rothman

Member at-Large
*(in alphabetical order by last
name, five to be elected)*

Jill Latman
Pearl Minsky
Radhakrishna Mohan
Roy Moskowitz
Clara Ogburn
Jeff Stonehill

*Respectfully submitted,
The Nominating Committee*

[Editor: All candidates for the Executive Committee are invited to address the club at the December 20 General Membership Meeting and also submit a 200 word statement to newsletter editor Chris Bauer for publication in the January 2017 newsletter. Statements should be submitted by January 1, 2017 to cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.]



QR Codes

S.I.D.A.'s Twitter account:



S.I.D.A.'s website:



All Dems Holiday Party



All Dems Holiday Dinner

Thursday, Dec. 8th 2016

@

Da Noi

138 Fingerboard Rd

Dec. 8th 2016

7pm-10pm

\$55



Send responses & payments to
Staten Island Democratic Association
P.O Box 140371
Staten Island NY 10314
Treasurer- Bonnie Rothman
email- clubinfo@sidems.org

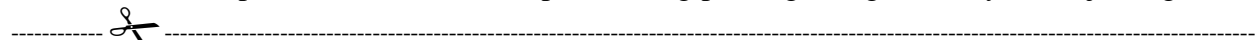
This year's Holiday Gift Recipient is
The Universal Temple of the Arts
<http://www.utasi.org/AboutUTA.html>
(donations are tax deductible)



November 15, 2016	December 20, 2016
General Meeting 8:00p.m. Charlie Brown's Steakhouse 1001 Goethals Road North	General Meeting 8:00p.m. Charlie Brown's Steakhouse 1001 Goethals Road North
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Cогnetta on Election Results and more • Nominating Committee Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates

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
_____ \$15 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$10 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ \$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.
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