



November 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



- **Ernest Bailey**



- **Nominating Committee Report**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 8:00 P.M.

Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10314



Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.

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

Chris Bauer, Editor
(917) 576-9248

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“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”

- Thomas Jefferson
1787

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

December	December 2
January	January 6

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large	Clara Ogburn
Vice President	Member at-Large	Emmanuel Dami
Executive Secretary		Ojo Powerson II
Corresponding &	Member at-Large	Jasmine Robinson
Recording Secretary	Member at-Large	Sharon Santana
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

Verna Downes Campbell 1942-2019

Richard Florentino 1949-2019

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

November 2019

S.I.D.A.'s Annual Dinner which was held on October 10, 2019, was a great success given the number of attendees and the Honorees who has done a lot of public service in Staten Island and other parts of the city. A lot of teamwork made this event a successful one.

In close footsteps, the All Dems Holiday party is around the corner, set for Thursday, December 11, 2019 and soon communication will be sent out with the name and location of the venue. We encourage all S.I.D.A. members to attend this great fun-filled event.

While I am writing this message, the results of the November 5 elections are coming out. The following are the highlights of the results of the Five Proposals that New Yorker's were asked to vote in this election.

Proposal 1 (Elections) -- Yes

Voters decided in favor of changes to the parts of the city charter that dictate its election system. Most importantly, the proposal means the city will shift to a ranked-choice election system for the positions of mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president, and City Council starting in January 2021.

Proposal 2 (C.C.R.B.) -- Yes

Voters decided to change portions of the city charter governing the C.C.R.B., the independent organization responsible for investigating, mediating, and prosecuting N.Y.P.D. misconduct complaints. The vote will expand the board from 13 to 15 members with the two new seats being comprised of an appointment by the public advocate, and a joint-appointment by the mayor and speaker for the chair of the board.

Proposal 3 (COIB) -- Yes

Voters decided in favor of a proposal that covers several different ethical concerns among city officials, and the nature of city government. Voters chose to prohibit elected officials and senior appointed officials from appearing before the agency they served with, or in some cases the branch of government, for a period of two years starting in 2022.

Proposal 4 (City Budget) -- Yes

New Yorkers voted in favor of the fourth ballot proposal that brings changes to the city budget. Voters decided to create a "rainy day fund" that would allow the city to save money for use in future years, in the event of an unexpected financial downturn. State law will also need to be amended for this part of the proposal to take effect.

Proposal 5 (Land Use) -- Yes

Voters decided to amend the city's charter in relation to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), which is needed in potential rezoning and real estate projects. The vote requires the Department of City Planning to transmit a detailed project summary to the affected borough president, Borough Board, and Community Board at least 30 days before the application is certified for public review, and to post that summary on its website.

We have more work to do in the coming elections but first we need to organize. As a club it looks like we spend a good time in discussing and talking about issues but it is time to organize and get some grass-root work done for the Democratic Party and its candidates. We need to encourage more youngsters to join S.I.D.A. to be part of our campaigning effort. Besides, we can also actively engage in community services to make a difference.

Recently we lost an S.I.D.A. member who was very active and a great community activist who was there for everyone, which was rightly recalled by Ann Taylor of Verna Campbell's support when she ran for office. Verna Downes Campbell was a Union member of S.E.I.U. 1199, member of N.A.A.C.P., 120 Precinct Community Council and was a founder of the Staten Island African American Political Association. Her passing away is a big loss for Staten Island community, but Verna Campbell left a mark which inspires others in the community to do their best for their community. S.I.D.A. wishes this great person to rest in peace and deep condolences to her family members.

I also take this opportunity to pay our last respects to Richard Florentino, a long time S.I.D.A. member, who passed away couple of days back. Richard was a great community activist who worked hard to champion various causes that affected Staten island community. Staten Island Community and his democratic friends greatly miss this great person and his expert knowledge on important issues. S.I.D.A. wishes this beloved person to rest in peace and deep condolences to his wife and family members.

*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*



Ernest Bailey



Ernest Bailey of Progressiver Turnout Project will be a guest speaker at our November 17 General Membership Meeting.

Ernest Bailey
Regional Field Director

 [@ErnestPTP12](https://twitter.com/ErnestPTP12)

Ernest began his political career as a canvasser for The Working Families Party in his native state of Connecticut, where he quickly worked his way up to Field Manager and then Canvasser Director. He has organized for SEIU and the American Federation of Teachers and served as District Director for PTP's program in Ohio's 12th Congressional District in 2018.

Our Mission

Progressive Turnout Project is a grassroots-funded organization with a single mission: get Democrats to the polls. We design, test, and execute specialized voter turnout programs targeting inconsistent Democratic voters in the most competitive districts in the country.

Who Votes and Why That Matters for Progressives

When voters stay home, Republicans win. In 2016, Donald Trump was able to win the presidency with fewer total votes than Mitt Romney got in 2012. That's because turnout was the lowest in nearly two decades.

When voters turn out, Democrats win. 2018 saw the highest midterm turnout in 100 years*. It took a lot of hard work to achieve that – and if we want the same thing to happen in 2020, we need to double down on our investment and build an early presence in Key districts.

Why? Voter turnout actually changes the composition of the electorate: its makeup is more conservative when turnout is low, and more liberal when turnout is high. Low-turnout elections see an even larger dropoff in turnout for voters of color young voters, and low-income voters. There are many reasons for this divide in turnout. One main factor: laws that make it harder to vote disenfranchise large swath of voters. Another: sporadic voters are more mobile and harder for campaigns to reach.



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee was elected at the October 15 General Membership Meeting, consisting of Liz Price, Chair, and Tom Shcherbenko, Joann Olbrich, Dennis Brown, Radhakrishna Mohan, Sharon Santana, Marie Dwyer, Paul Scublinsky, and Clara Ogburn. The committee met on October 27 and nominates the following slate:

President

Radhakrishna Mohan

Vice President

Liz Price

Treasurer

Bonita "Bonnie" Rothman

Executive Secretary

Dennis Brown

Corresponding &

Recording Secretary

Marie Dwyer

Social Secretary

Pearl Minsky

Member at-Large

(7 to be elected)

Reuben Adeshuko, Nana Chilton, Ajoy George, Jill Latman, Roy Moskowitz, Clara Sue Ogburn, Olusoji Oluwole, Emmanuel Dami Ojo Powerson, Jasmine "Jasi" Robinson, Charles Roland, Sharon Santana, Tom Shcherbenko, David Wynyard

Additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is the 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 the Acting President. 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.

Each candidate for Executive Committee is invited to submit a 200 word statement for publication in the January newsletter. Statements should be submitted to the newsletter editor Chris Bauer at cmaxbauer@yahoo.com by January 1.



October 2019 Minutes

General Meeting October 15, 2019 Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.

President Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:21 p.m. He reminded members to follow the ground rules so that the meeting runs smoothly.

He reminded members about the Nominating Committee election that would be taking place. Joann Olbrich provided members with instructions about how to fill out the ballot. Clara Ogburn made a motion to close voting at 8:30 p.m. Joann made a friendly amendment to extend the time until 9:15 p.m. Richard Reichard seconded it. Clara accepted the friendly amendment. The amended motion to close voting at 9:15 p.m. carried. Paul Scublinksy, Diana Shcherbenko, and Ali Ansari volunteered to count the ballots.

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

Guest Speaker

Nicholas Zvengitzov, Transportation Chair of Community Board 1, spoke about the politics of transportation on Staten Island, adding that transportation is a continual battle to get around, to, from, and through the island, and around, to, from, and through the political jungle. He provided a slide show to discuss the various issues, completed studies and proposed solutions for the future. Mr. Zvengitzov concluded that we can look for improvements and that there are three M.T.A. projects for the foreseeable future. He invited members to attend a Public Scoping Meeting on October 17 to discuss the environmental review process for the proposed Staten Island North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (B.R.T.).

President Mohan made a motion that every vote on the nominating committee ballot should be counted whether it was checked or circled. The motion carried.

President Mohan made a motion to endorse Edwina Martin for Civil Court Judge by acclamation because she is running unopposed. The motion carried.

President Mohan reported that Pat Kane sent a message saying that the NYSNA contract has been ratified but she is unable to attend the S.I.D.A. meeting tonight because she is still busy with NYSNA.

Gun Control Position Paper

Richard Reichard presented the Federal Gun Control Legislation Position Paper. The paper was published in the September edition of the newsletter. Richard discussed all the issues that the paper supports. He mentioned three sources to check for gun control information: Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, The Brady Center, and The Trace.

Richard took questions from several members. Susan Chew made a motion to accept the paper as presented. Pearl Minsky seconded the motion, and it carried.

Nominating Committee Election

Paul Scublinsky provided results from the Nominating Committee election. The top nine vote getters were:

- Liz Price*16
- Tom Shcherbenko14
- Joann Olbrich11
- Dennis Brown11
- Sharon Santana.....10
- Radhakrishna Mohan9
- Marie Dwyer8
- Clara Ogburn.....8
- Paul Scublinsky.....8

* The person with highest number of votes becomes chair of the committee.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Liz Price provided highlights from the September 26th Executive Committee meeting. She gave kudos to Pearl Minsky, Dennis Brown and all the committee members for the hard work they did for the recent banquet.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown reported that the banquet was a successful event due to all the hard work of Social Secretary Pearl Minsky and many of the committee members. He reported that the journal generated approximately \$5,000 in income. Dennis mentioned that he brought extra copies of the journal for anyone that wanted one. He added that he felt we should go back to giving just 5 awards. He also mentioned that Joann Olbrich will be chairing county’s by-laws committee.

Treasurer’s Report

President Mohan provided members with a report he received from Treasurer Bonnie Rothman, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Social Secretary’s Report

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky

Pearl announced a J.C.C. Concert with the Staten Island Philharmonic November 20 and a Building Bridges Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration Sunday November 24, 7:00 p.m.

New Business

Joann Olbrich announced Peace Action's Make Food Not War dinner, Saturday October 26, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Joann made a motion that we purchase one ticket at \$50.00 to send President Mohan to the event. Liz Price seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

The DORC meeting will be October 21 at The Staaten, and the Young Dems Oktoberfest will be November 12.

President Mohan asked members to make sure to patronize the Oriental Plaza. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*

All Dems Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 11

7:00-11:00 pm

Da Noi

138 Fingerboard Road



\$60

\$65 at the door



Merry Christmas

Send payment to:

S.I.D.A.
PO Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314

*Donations of unwrapped toys for needy
children are appreciated*



Kwanzaa

For Info:
Email Pearl Minsky, SIDA Social Secretary
clubinfo@sidems.org

November 19, 2019 General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernest Bailey, Progressive Turnout Project • Nominating Committee Report 	December 11, 2019 All Dems Holiday Party, 7:00p.m. Da Noi, 138 Fingerboard Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See page 10
	December 17, 2019 General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave. <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.

✂

2020 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.
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